On January 25, 2023, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) implemented a new Data Management and Sharing (DMS) Policy. Costs associated with data management and sharing should be included in grant budgets and explained in the justification section of the application.

Here are some tips for creating an effective plan:

| Get Organized | • Identify an appropriate template to use. Since the new policy was implemented, plans that use an established template have been more successful.  
|               |   • NIH template  
|               |   • Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)/NIH pilot templates  
|               |   • List the costs that will be incurred to comply with the policy. These may include:  
|               |     • Curation  
|               |     • Developing supporting documentation  
|               |     • Local data management activities  
|               |     • Repository fees  
|               |     ...and any other relevant cost categories  
| Be Specific and Clear | • Identify likely repositories, being sure to include which data goes where. The NIH website guides on selecting an established repository.  
|                    | • Provide detailed descriptions of which data will be shared and why certain data may not be shared.  
|                    | • Distinguish between data underlying publications and data that will likely not be published.  
| Make it Comprehensive | • Be sure to include data management AND sharing in your plans. Applications commonly cover data management specifics while overlooking sharing details. Plans must address both.  
|                        |   • Include mention of persistent identifiers/DOI.  
|                        |   • Include all DMS-related costs that you listed when getting organized in the budget and justification sections.  
|                        |     • Generally, costs are not expected to be $0 even if the repository used is free, as there are always expenses associated with data management, preservation, and storage. If noted as $0, this will need to be justified.  
| Keep Consistent | • Review your plan to ensure that there is no conflicting information and that an element in one section is not contradicted in another.  