NIH Notice of Potential Lapse in Appropriated Funds

The Office of Grant and Contract Administration has posted on its website a notice from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) regarding a potential government shutdown this week. Excerpts are included below. If there is a lapse in funding, the Grants.gov system will still be operational and applications will be accepted. We will post additional information as we learn more from NIH and other federal sponsors.

September 26, 2013

As you are aware, the Government Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 ends on September 30, 2013 and an Appropriation Act for FY2014 has not yet been passed. The Administration strongly believes that a lapse in appropriations should not occur, and that there is enough time for Congress to act to prevent a lapse. However, prudent management requires that we prepare for an orderly execution of contingency plans in the unfortunate event of a lapse. In the event a continuing resolution or a FY2014 budget is not passed and a lapse of funding occurs, I wanted to provide you with information related to our grant administration processes.

If you are considering submitting an application for additional HHS federal assistance funding, please be advised that the Grants.gov system will be operational during a lapse in funding and will be accepting applications from prospective grantees. However, for NIH applications the Grants.gov system will only accept and store applications. Applications will not be processed further until such time as the authority and funding to return to normal business operations are restored.

Please check the website at www.hhs.gov for updates. Thank you for your assistance with this period of a potential government shut-down and your ongoing support of the NIH.

Please contact your GCA Reviewer with any questions you may have.

FORMS-C Major Changes

As a reminder, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) modified its electronic forms packages to FORMS-C for all proposals that were due on or after September 25, 2013, with the exception of Individual Research Career Development Award Programs (Ks), Institutional Training and Career Development Programs (Ts and Ds), and Individual National Research Service Awards (Fs) which will transition to FORMS-C packages for proposals due on or after January 25, 2014.

Attachment 1 highlights the major changes to IRES Proposal Development (PD) due to the FORMS-C implementation.

Please contact your GCA Reviewer if you have any questions about these changes.
Impact of Government Shutdown on NSF Proposals

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has provided guidance regarding the impact of a Government Shutdown on NSF proposals (see Attachment 2). During a shutdown, NSF has advised that they will not be available to respond to emails or phone calls. As well, they have stated that the NSF website including FastLane and Research.gov will be unavailable.

Please note that IRES Proposal Development (PD) should not be used to prepare a system to system proposal to NSF, if there is a government shutdown tomorrow. All proposals to NSF will need to be submitted to NSF using a Grants.gov SF424 application package, not IRES PD.

Please contact your GCA Reviewer if you have any questions about this guidance.