

DHHS Information

Noncompeting Continuation Awards

The “Application for Continuation of a Grant” (PHS-2590) or equivalent documentation must be submitted to, and be approved by, NIH to noncompetitively fund each additional budget period within a previously approved project period. Except for awards subject to SNAP, the application includes an updated budget, progress report, and other required information.

Noncompeting continuation applications must be submitted directly to the IC GMO two months before the beginning date of the next budget period, unless instructed otherwise. Late submission or receipt of an incomplete noncompeting continuation application will result in delaying the issuance and funding of the noncompeting continuation awards and may result in a reduced award amount.

Streamlined Noncompeting Award Process

NIH grantees (including those participating in the FDP) are expected to follow the streamlined noncompeting process (SNAP) for mechanisms routinely covered under expanded authorities except Program Project Grants (P01s) and Outstanding Investigator Grants (R35s).

Any additional activity that has been included under expanded authorities at the discretion of an IC (e.g., centers, training grants or cooperative agreements) will be excluded under SNAP unless inclusion is specifically footnoted as a term or condition of the award.

Any award excluded from expanded authorities is routinely excluded from SNAP unless specifically included in SNAP (and expanded authorities) on the basis of the following criteria:

- ◆ Grants that require close project monitoring or technical assistance, e.g., clinical trials, high-risk grantees, certain large individual or multi-project grants, or grants with significant unobligated balances.
- ◆ Grantees that have a consistent pattern of failure to adhere to appropriate reporting or notification deadlines.

Under SNAP, the GMO negotiates the direct costs for the entire competitive segment at the time of the competing award or, in the case of modular awards, determines the applicable number of modules for each budget period within the competitive segment. This eliminates the need for annual budget submissions and negotiations, if applicable, and reduces the information NIH requires to review and approve noncompeting continuation applications and to monitor these awards. As a result, for awards under SNAP, grantees are required to submit only limited portions of the PHS 2590, including an annual progress report. If there is a change in performance site and/or anticipated program income, grantees also must submit the PHS-2590 checklist and, if program income is anticipated, the application should reflect the estimated amount and source of the income. Grantees (other than foreign grantees and Federal institutions) also are required to submit a quarterly Federal Cash Transactions Report (FCTR) (SF-272) to PMS.

As part of the progress report, grantees must answer the following questions:

- ◆ Has there been a change in the “other support” of key personnel since the last reporting period? If so, the change(s), including termination of a previously active grant or activation of a previously pending grant, must be explained. If not the grantee must so state.
- ◆ Will there be in the next budget period a significant change in the level of effort for key personnel from what was approved for this project? A "significant change" is a 25% percent or greater reduction in time devoted to the project. If so, the grantee must explain: if not, the grantee must so state.
- ◆ Does the grantee anticipate that it will have an estimated unobligated balance (including prior year carryover) that will be greater than 25 percent of the current year's total budget? If so, the grantee will be required to explain why there is a significant balance and how it will be spent if carried forward into the next budget period. If not, the grantee shall so state.

The IC will rely on the grantee's assessment of whether significant changes have occurred or will occur in these areas; however, the GMO may require additional information in order to evaluate the project for continued funding. Failure to provide this information will result in a delayed award.

For awards under SNAP (other than awards to foreign organizations or Federal institutions), a Financial Status Report (FSR) is required only at the end of a competitive segment rather than annually. This FSR must be submitted within 90 days after the end of the competitive segment and must report on the cumulative support awarded for the entire segment. An FSR must be submitted at this time whether or not a competing continuation award is made. If no further award is made, this report will serve as the final FSR.