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| **FINANCIAL SERVICES CONNECTION**  Office of Grants and Contracts |

**Project Status Funding/Spending Controls**

**Have you heard about the initiative to add Funding/Spending controls to projects based on end dates?**

An important change is coming this Fall 2018 (October 22nd) to control spending on sponsored projects after the end date of a project. This change will offer better systematic controls for expenses incurred beyond the sponsor’s end date, and will assist with timely reporting and closing of sponsored projects. The system changes are occurring University-wide as the last phase of the PeopleSoft implementation.

This update will have a large impact on campus business practices, so it is very important that all are engaged in this change.

Why is a change needed?

* Compliance concerns as expenses after the end date may be disallowed by sponsors.
* Federal sponsors announced increasing unilateral closeouts when final reports are not submitted timely.
* Federal sponsors are removing our ability to draw cash for projects once we are 120 days past the end date.
* Review and handling of project expenses past the end date has increased administrative burden along with compliance and fiscal risks.

Who are we engaging about the change?

* College and School Leadership
* College and School Administrators for sponsored projects
* Payroll Liaisons entering funding for sponsored projects
* Faculty groups

How is OGC communicating about the change?

* OGC Newsletters
* OGC Team Talks
* VC Research newsletters
* Departmental Partner Meetings and Working Groups
* One-on-one Interviews
* Post Award Check-ins with OGC Grant Accountants

If you missed the [May 2018](http://www.ucdenver.edu/research/OGC/training/Documents/OGC%20News_May%202018.pdf) newsletter, please review the article on PeopleSoft project status and the upcoming controls for those statuses. All prior newsletters and Team Talks presentations can be found at <http://www.ucdenver.edu/research/OGC/training/Pages/default.aspx>. The June OGC Team Talks will dive deeper into change. Dates for Team Talks for each campus can be found in this edition of the newsletter.

OGC wants to ensure the campus is fully educated and ready for this change as we approach the fall. Many outreach communications have already taken place and more will continue to take place throughout the months of June and July. If you are concerned we are not reaching your area, or would like more info, please contact Ginger Acierno at [ginger.acierno@ucdenver.edu](mailto:ginger.acierno@ucdenver.edu).

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**NIH Policy Updates**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recently published the following [Notices](https://grants.nih.gov/policy/notices.htm):

* [NOT-OD-18-175](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-175.html) – Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels for FY 2018
* [NOT-OD-18-179](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-179.html) – Transition from Inclusion Management System to New Human Subjects System (HSS) as of June 9, 2018
* [NOT-OD-18-180](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-180.html) – Notice of Fiscal Policies in Effect for FY 2018
* [NOT-OD-18-181](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-18-181.html) – Notice of Legislative Mandates in Effect for FY 2018

## **NOT-OD-18-175**

The Notice establishes stipend levels for FY 2018 Kirschstein-NRSA awards for undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral trainees and fellows, as shown in the tables in the Notice.  In addition, the Training Related Expenses and the Institutional Allowance for postdoctoral trainees and fellows have been increased.  The Training Related Expenses and Institutional Allowances for predoctoral trainees and fellows and the Tuition and Fees for all educational levels remain unchanged.  This Notice reflects the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141), signed into law on March 23, 2018.

The budgetary categories described in this Notice apply only to Kirschstein-NRSA awards made with FY 2018 funds.  All FY 2018 awards previously issued using [NOT-OD-17-084](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-084.html) and [NOT-OD-17-003](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-17-003.html) will be revised to adjust funding to the FY 2018 levels.  Appointments to institutional training grants that have already been awarded in FY 2018 must be amended to reflect the FY 2018 stipend levels once the training grant award has been adjusted by the NIH.  Amended appointments must be submitted through xTrain in the eRA

Commons.  Retroactive adjustments or supplementation of stipends or other budgetary categories with Kirschstein-NRSA funds for an award made prior to October 1, 2017 are not permitted.

# **NOT-OD-18-179**

The Notice explains the new Human Subjects System (HSS), which consolidates human subjects and clinical trial information in one place. Information captured in HSS is generally submitted on the PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials Information form in application packages submitted for due dates January 25, 2018 or later and Research Progress Performance Reports (RPPR).  Post-submission updates to human subjects and clinical trial-related information (including human subjects protections, participant and enrollment information, and Clinicaltrials.gov registration and reporting information) must be made in HSS via the eRA Commons Status page after June 9, 2018.

The NIH developed training resources for the HSS system, which are located at: <https://era.nih.gov/hss_training.htm>.

# **NOT-OD-18-180**

The Notice summarizes the implications of the FY 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

* **NIH Budget.** Congress increased NIH funding by 9% over FY 2017.
* **Award Funding.** Non-competing continuation awards that have already been made in FY 2018 were generally funded at levels below that indicated on the most recent Notice of Award (generally up to 90% of the previously committed level). In general, such reductions will be fully restored, and non-competing continuation grants (research and non-research) including those that remain to be issued in FY 2018 will be made at the commitment level indicated on the Notice of Award.
* **Next Generation Researchers Initiative Policy.** NIH will prioritize meritorious R01- equivalent applications from Early Stage Investigator (ESI) PIs.
* **Salary Cap.** Effective January 7, 2018, the salary cap was raised from $187,000 to $189,600.

# **NOT-OD-18-181**

The Notice summarizes the Legislative Mandates contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act. The Act retains the existing mandates, while adding an additional requirement that for-profit recipients of funding related to opioid addiction from NINDS and NIDA provide 50% cost share for the award.

**RAWC Course and Sponsored Research Training Programs**

This fall Financial Services will be piloting two new training programs --

First is the Research Administration Workforce Committee (RAWC) certification course. The RAWC is a department initiated task force which was chaired by Rob Stiner, Department of Physiology. This course will be geared towards current campus employees who are not currently in research administration roles, but desire to gain experience before pursuing a research administration role. The course will include ten 2-hour trainings (20 hours total) that cover topics ranging from pre-award to post-award to compliance. The course will also include a practicum where the trainee will participate in a mentorship program (also a 20 hour commitment) with someone currently in research administration. Details are still being finalized, but the hope is for the trainings to start in the fall of 2018 (tentatively September) and the practicum to start in January of 2019. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of the entire program.

To facilitate the mentorship piece, we are currently looking for volunteer mentors from all departments on campus. In exchange for your time and efforts, we plan to offer trainer/mentorship training as well as a thank you event (details TBD). We hope that this endeavor will also build networks of research administrators across campus, create a pipeline of new research administrators for departments who need to hire in the near future, as well as create opportunities for those in the research community to connect and provide shared knowledge to the community as whole. If you have interest in participating as a Mentor, please reach out by 7/16/18 to TK Keith at [Thomas.Keithiii@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Thomas.Keithiii@ucdenver.edu).

The second training program is that Financial Services will also be offering all of the same trainings created for the RAWC course to anyone on either campus (Anschutz and Downtown) who is interested. Anyone can sign up for one, several, or all of the courses being offered. These courses will be useful to many members of the campus community including those who are already in research administration roles on campus who want to learn about a new area, or get a refresher for work they are already doing. We hope to expand the trainings to advanced courses and specific departmental trainings in the future.

The trainings under both programs will be offered for free, and include the following topics:

1. Introduction
2. Cost-principles
3. Preaward Administration #1
4. Preaward Administration #2
5. Post-Award Administration#1
6. Post-Award Administration #2
7. Compliance
8. Products of Research
9. Contracts, Clinical Trials, and Other Award Agreements
10. Department Best Practices

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions ([Thomas.KeithIII@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Thomas.KeithIII@ucdenver.edu)) about either program, and we will continue to provide updates as we finalize details.

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**InfoEd V15 Survey**

Please take a moment to complete this brief [4-question survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JQR8YFF) regarding our current version of InfoEd and the support you’ve received. We appreciate any feedback you can provide!

**Community Working Group Update**

In our efforts to enhance our customer service to faculty and administrators, OGC initiated a series of collaborative community working group meetings last fall to identify opportunity areas for improvement, brainstorm new business processes and solicit feedback on potential changes within OGC and department operations as related to post award and closeout.  Our FY18 sessions wrapped up on June 19th and FY19 sessions will begin again in early August after a short summer break for year end. Thank you to all of the participants!

If you have interest in joining this group, or finding out which of your colleagues are involved, please contact Stephanie Chandler‐Thompson, [stephanie.thompson@ucdenver.edu](mailto:stephanie.thompson@ucdenver.edu). We will continue to share the focus of this group with our broader community as we progress.

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