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Agenda

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Common Problems (not Exhaustive)



Common Problems – Limited Resources

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Limited Resources – Best Practices

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Common Problems – Standardization

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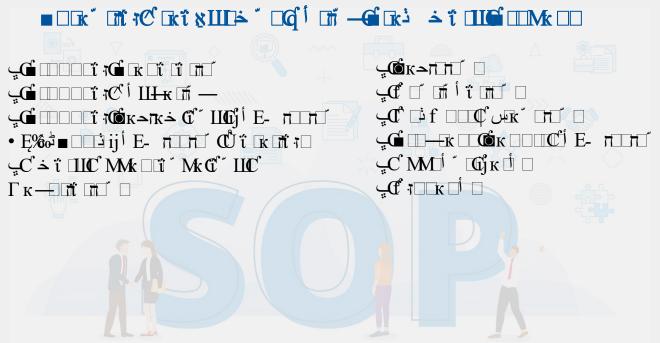
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Common Problems – Standardization





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Common Problems – Compliance



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Common Problems – Compliance

2 CFR §200 Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, And Audit Requirements for Federal Awards

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Common Issues - Compliance

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Best Practices – Compliance

Stop Work Orders and Terminations

- Uniform Guidance
 Pre and Post April 22, 2024, revisions
 (applicable to awards on or after 10/01/2024)
- Agency Regulations NIH, NSF, USAID, NEH, etc.
- Award Terms and Conditions
 Grant, Agreement, Subcontract, etc.

UG 200.340 – Termination

Federal Awards may be terminated in part or its entirety:

- (1) By the federal agency for the recipient's non-compliance with the award terms and conditions
- (2) By federal agency with the recipient's consent;
- **(3)** By the recipient with justification to the federal agency;
- (4) By the federal agency if "an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities."

 2 CFR § 200.340(a)(4)



Best Practices – Compliance

<u>Terminations – Appeal Process</u>

Uniform Guidance and Agency Process

Notification (UG 200.341)

"Must provide written notice of termination" (reason for termination, effective date)

Opportunities for objection, appeals, and hearing (UG 200.342)

Federal Agency must:

- "maintain written procedures for processing objections, hearings, and appeals"
- "provide the recipient with an opportunity to object and provide information challenging the action"
- "comply with any requirements for hearings, appeals, or other administrative proceedings"

NIH:

- Within 30 days, first appeal to designated NIH official specified in the notification of an adverse determination
- Then, appeal the decision to the Departmental Grant Appeals Board. (NIH Grants Policy Statement § 8.7)

USAID:

- First appeal to be filed with the Agreement Officer (AO).
- Then, an adverse decision of an AO can be appealed to the Assistant Administrator within 30 days. (See 2 C.F.R § 700.15)

NSF FAQ 16 - Terminations of awards on the basis that they no longer effectuate program goals or agency priorities are the final agency decision and are not appealable to NSF.



Best Practices – Compliance

Termination - Allowable Costs

Effects of Suspension and Termination Costs (UG 200.343)

- Costs during a suspension or after termination of a Federal award or subaward are not allowable "unless expressly authorized by the federal agency"
- Exception for costs resulting from obligations "properly incurred" before the effective date of suspension/termination

Termination and Standard closeout costs (UG 200.472)

- "the incurrence of costs or the need for special treatment of costs, which would not have arisen had the federal award not been terminated.
- "costs must be reasonable, and grantees must use best effort to minimize the costs"
- "closeout costs allowable until the due date of final reports (new revision in 2024)

200.472 Termination

Allowable costs can include:

- · Labor costs
- · Legal costs
- · Disposition costs
- Rental costs
- Subaward costs
- · Idle time
- Transportation and storage costs
- · Equipment costs
- · Accounting and administrative costs
- · Costs to provide final deliverable
- Other costs to support termination and closeout



Common Problems – Communication

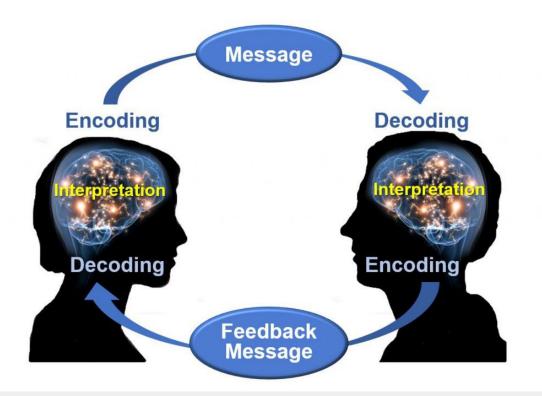
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Common Problems – Communication





Common Problems – Communication





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Common Problems – Complex Funding

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Common Problems – Complex Funding

Problematic Terms and Conditions







RIGHTS IN DATA



PUBLICATION RIGHTS



DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY



LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION



CHOICE OF LAW/ VENUE



Common Problems – ERA Systems





Best Practices – ERA Systems



Electronic research administration should fully integrate into the institution's overall sponsored program administration processes.



The institution must stay current with respect to the electronic research initiatives of sponsors. (sponsor portals, systemto-system)



Principal investigators must be aware of the sponsor guidelines to prepare proposals, reports, and other documentation in electronic formats, as required.



Internal ERA systems should interact with the institution's financial system. (Banner, PeopleSoft, Workday, etc.)



Multiple modules, SP, 424, COI, IRB, Agreements, etc., should be connected.



Invest in software that can manage the entire lifecycle of a grant.



Common Problems – Training



- Lack and/or Insufficient training for PIs and Admin staff
- Lack of onboarding and training for new Research Administrators
- Lack of regular updates to training materials
- Have not identified the required training needs for new faculty staff (some institutions require training, some do not).
- FCOI IRB- IACUC- RCR Training



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Best Practices—Training



Identify who you will be training:

Faculty, Research Administration Staff, or both?



Conduct
Assessments Focus Groups –
Surveys to
determine what your
target audience
needs to learn.



Hold in-person, virtual, and recorded trainings.



Consider what policy documents and manuals already exist and where there are gaps.



Make all trainings available via the website.



Use Scribe or ClickUp to create guides and videos quickly.



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1. Reviews

- Internal
- External



2. Benchmarking

- Surveys
- Volume of complaints
 - Staff turnover





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