

NSF Prior Approval Matrix for State and Local Governments and For-Profit Organizations

May 20, 2024

		Reference	NSF
Prior Written Approval (prior approval)*		200.407	
Use of grant agreements (including fixed amount awards), cooperative agreements, and contracts		200.407(a)	
Changes in principal investigator (PI), project leader, project partner, or scope of effort.		200.201(b)(5)	Required
Cost sharing or matching		200.407(b)	
Use of unrecovered indirect costs, including indirect costs on cost sharing or matching.		200.306(c)	Waived
Use of current fair market value to determine the value of non-Federal entity contributions of services and donations of property for the purposes of cost sharing or matching.		200.306(d)(2)	Waived
Costs of the fair market value of equipment or other capital assets and fair rental charges for land when the Federal award supports activities that require use of equipment, buildings or land.		200.306(h)(2)	Required
Program Income		200.407(c)	
Use of program income during the period of performance (additive method).		200.307(e)(2)	Waived
Revision of budget and program plans		200.407(d)	
Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program.		200.308(c)(1)	Required
Change in a key person specified in the application or Federal award.		200.308(c)(2)	Required ⁵
Disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project by the approved Project Director (PD) or PI.		200.308(c)(3)	Required ⁵
Inclusion, unless waived, of costs that require prior approval in accordance with Subpart E -- Cost Principles.		200.308(c)(4)	Waived ¹
Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense.		200.308(c)(5)	Required ²
Subawarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a Federal award, including fixed amount subawards as described in 200.333. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment or general support services.		200.308(c)(6)	Required
Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-Federal entity.		200.308(c)(7)	Required
Need for additional Federal funds to complete the project.		200.308(c)(8)	Required
Incur project costs 90 calendar days before the Federal awarding agency makes the Federal award.		200.308(e)(1)	Waived
Incur project costs more than 90 calendar days pre-award.		200.308(e)(1)	Required
Initiate a one-time extension of the period of performance by up to 12 months.		200.308(e)(2)	Waived
Subsequent no-cost extension or extension of more than 12 months.		200.308(e)(2)	Required
Carry-forward of unobligated balances to subsequent budget periods.		200.308(e)(3)	Waived
Transfer amounts budgeted for indirect costs to absorb increases in direct costs, or vice versa.		200.308(e)(4)	Waived
Restrict the transfer of funds among direct cost categories or programs, functions and activities for Federal awards in which the Federal share of the project exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold and the cumulative amount of such transfers exceeds or is expected to exceed 10 percent of the total budget as last approved by the Federal awarding agency.		200.308(f)	Waived
Making any fund or budget transfers between construction and non-construction work.		200.308(h)(5)	Required
Real Property		200.407(e)	
Encumber real property acquired with Federal funds.		200.311(b)	Required
Transfer of title to the Federal awarding agency or to a third party.		200.311(c)(3)	Required

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	Special arrangements and alterations costs incurred specifically for a Federal award.	200.462(a)	Required ³
Equipment		200.407(f)	
	Encumber equipment acquired with Federal funds.	200.313(c)(1)	Required
Fixed amount subawards		200.407(g)	
	Subawards based on fixed amounts up to the Simplified Acquisition Threshold, provided that the subawards meet the requirements for fixed amount awards in 200.201.	200.333	Required
Direct Costs		200.407(h)	
	Direct charge the salaries of administrative and clerical staff if all conditions in 200.413 are met, excluding 200.413(c)(3).	200.413(c)	Required
Compensation -- personal services, paragraph (h)		200.407(i)	
	Directly charge payments of incidental activities for which supplemental compensation is allowable under written institutional policy (at a rate not to exceed institutional base salary).	200.430(h)(1)(ii)	Not Applicable
	Faculty salary in excess of Institutional Base Salary (IBS).	200.430(h)(2)	Not Applicable
	Intra-IHE faculty consulting on a Federal award that exceed a faculty member's base salary.	200.430(h)(3)	Not Applicable
Compensation -- fringe benefits		200.407(j)	
	Severance payments to foreign nationals employed by the non-Federal entity outside the US that exceed the amounts customary in the US.	200.431(i)(4)	Required
	Severance payments to foreign nationals employed by the non-Federal entity outside the US due to termination of the foreign national as a result of the closing of, or curtailment of activities by, the non-Federal entity in that country.	200.431(i)(5)	Required
Entertainment costs		200.407(k)	
	Inclusion of costs of entertainment, including amusement, diversion, and social activities and any associated costs that have a programmatic purpose.	200.438	Required
Equipment and other capital expenditures		200.407(l)	
	Direct charge capital expenditures for general purpose equipment.	200.439(b)(1)	Waived
	Direct charge capital expenditures for buildings and land use.	200.439(b)(1)	Required
	Capital expenditures for improvements to land, buildings, or equipment which materially increase their value or useful life.	200.439(b)(3)	Required
Exchange rates		200.407(m)	
	Exchange rate fluctuations that result in the need for additional Federal funding, or a reduction in the scope of the project.	200.440(a)	Required
Fines, penalties, damages and other settlements		200.407(n)	
	Costs resulting from non-Federal entity violations of, alleged violations of, or failure to comply with, Federal, State, tribal, local or foreign laws and regulations.	200.441	Required
Fund raising and investment management costs		200.407(o)	
	Fund raising costs for the purposes of meeting the Federal program objectives.	200.442(a)	Required
Goods or services for personal use		200.407(p)	

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	Costs of housing (e.g. depreciation, maintenance, utilities, furnishings, rent), housing allowances and personal living expenses).	200.445(b)	Required
Insurance and indemnification		200.407(q)	
	Costs of insurance or of contributions to any reserve covering the risk of loss of, or damage to, Federal Government property.	200.447(b)(2)	Required
Memberships, subscriptions, and professional activity costs, paragraph (c)		200.407(r)	
	Costs of membership in any civic or community organization.	200.454(c)	Required
Organization costs		200.407(s)	
	Costs such as incorporation fees, brokers' fees, fees to promoters, organizers or management consultants, attorneys, accountants, or investment counselor, whether or not employees of the non-Federal entity in connection with establishment or reorganization.	200.455	Required
Participant support costs		200.407(t)	
	Transfer of funds into the participant support cost category.	200.456	Waived ⁴
	Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense.	200.308(c)(5)	Required
Pre-award costs		200.407(u)	
	Inclusion of allowable pre-award costs.	200.458	Waived
	Incur project costs 90 calendar days before the Federal awarding agency makes the Federal award.	200.308(e)(1)	Waived
	Incur project costs more than 90 calendar days pre-award.	200.308(e)(1)	Required
Rearrangement and reconversion costs		200.407(v)	
	Direct charge special arrangements and alterations costs incurred specifically for a Federal award.	200.462(a)	Required ³
Selling and marketing costs		200.407(w)	
	Costs of selling and marketing any products or services of the non-Federal entity (unless allowed under § 200.421).	200.467	Required
Taxes (including Value Added Tax)		200.407(x)	
	Use of foreign tax reimbursement for approved activities under the Federal award.	200.470(c)	Required
Travel costs		200.407(y)	
	Inclusion of travel costs for officials covered by 200.444 General costs of government.	200.474(a)	Required
	Travel costs for dependents for travel of duration of six months or more.	200.474(c)(2)	Required
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* Any of the authorities may be over-ridden by a special term or condition of award.			
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¹ Except where specified otherwise in this matrix, the terms and conditions of award, or the applicable program solicitation or award notice.			
² This action requires the prior written approval of the cognizant NSF Program Officer.			
³ Rearrangement and reconversion costs under \$25,000 may be approved by grantees.			
⁴ Unless funds are being moved into the "Other" category of participant support.			
⁵ This also is required for any co-PI/co-PD on the project.			