



Data Scientists, Data Management and Data Policy

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New NSF Policy Implementation: Data Management Plans

NSF has changed the implementation of its long-standing policy on data sharing

- Existing policy requires awardees to share their data within a reasonable length of time & incremental cost.
- This is the first step in what will be a more comprehensive approach to data.
- The changes are designed to address trends and needs in the modern era of data-driven science.
- NSF wants to avoid a one size fits all approach to address the issue of data sharing.

Data Management Plans

NSF requires that all proposals include a data management plan in the form of a supplemental document (maximum of 2-pages)

- Describe how the proposal will conform to NSF policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results.
- May include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed, as long as the statement is accompanied by a clear justification. The statement will be evaluated by peer review & program management.

New Implementation (Cont'd)

Data Management Plans

Will be reviewed as an integral part of the proposal, coming under Intellectual Merit or Broader Impacts or both, as appropriate for the scientific community of relevance.

NSF uses an automated approach in FastLane to check compliance

- Blocked submission for missing document

Implementations will be reviewed in Annual Reports and Final Reports by Program Officers

Data sharing and access will become part of the Results of Prior NSF support

Generic Content Examples

The types of data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project;

The standards to be used for data and metadata format and content (where existing standards are absent or deemed inadequate, this should be documented along with any proposed solutions or remedies);

Policies and provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives; and

Plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of access to them.

Policies for access and sharing including: provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, or other rights or requirements.

FAQ Page

- http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dm_pfaqs.jsp
- Individual programs may have very specific instructions. **READ THE SOLICITATION!**

Points to Remember

Requirements for content in Data Management Plans can be specific to Directorates, Offices, Divisions, Programs, or other NSF units.

NSF Policy Office has a single, searchable website that links to relevant guidance documents and examples.

<http://www.acpt.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp>

Emerging Practices - not the last word - just like Broader Impact.