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From the Director's Office

Aloha,

As the end of the semester draws near, the nation's research enterprises are rapidly gearing up to respond to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA/ Recovery Act) of 2009. ORS has been closely monitoring the information surrounding ARRA and will continue to filter and forward pertinent information as it is received through the ORS Announcement LISTSERV.

Several ARRA related proposals have been submitted in the past couple of weeks and we expect a significant increase in the near future. We urge the Principal Investigators (PIs) to notify the ORS Helpline of the "intent" to submit proposals including but not limited to Recovery Act funds. This will aid in our efforts to plan accordingly for staffing. It is through these advance notices, that we are currently anticipating (60+) ARRA proposals to be submitted during the last weekend of April. Thank you for your continued support and open communication.

ORS is committed to review and submit your proposals on time with our existing staff and resources. To provide ORS staff with ample lead time for thorough review, it is strongly recommended that PIs submit proposals to ORS (5) working days prior to the deadline, especially during peak periods. We are mindful of the challenges facing Grants.gov for proposal submissions and will keep you abreast of any alternative plans made by the individual federal agencies.

Please also find in this issue useful ARRA Web sites. The pages are updated frequently so please bookmark them and check back regularly.

Good luck to you on your future proposal submissions!

Mahalo, Yaa-Yin Fong, Director

National Science Foundation (NSF) Programs Receiving Recovery Act (ARRA) Funding

National Science Foundation (NSF) Director - Dr. Arden L. Bement, Jr., indicated that NSF's portion of the ARRA (\$3 billion) is "...sorely needed to ensure that America remains a leader in science and engineering research and education. That investment of 3 billion dollars will have an immediate impact on investigators, post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students, and teachers throughout the nation. NSF funding now helps to support nearly 200,000 individuals every year."

Dr. Bement described the rapid timeline and extensive planning under way at NSF to implement the ARRA:

- NSF will define its ARRA funding and accountability processes on NSF.gov and Recovery.gov, and will begin to implement tracking and monitoring procedures immediately.
- NSF already has many highly rated research proposals in hand to consider for funding with ARRA funds. Some research proposals have already been reviewed and others are in the review process. NSF is planning to use the majority of the \$2 billion available in Research and Related Activities for proposals that are already in house and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to Sept. 30, 2009.
- Grants funded under ARRA will be awarded quickly in order to contribute to new job creation and reinvestment.
- All grants issued with Recovery Act funds will be standard grants with durations of up to 5 years. This approach will allow NSF to structure a sustainable portfolio.
- Funding of new Principal Investigators and high-risk, high-return research will be a top priority.
- NSF will use ARRA funds to increase the number of The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) and Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) awards. CAREER grants support the research and education activities of junior faculty and IGERT grants support interdisciplinary research and training of graduate students.
- In addition to Research and Related Activities (R&RA) grants, the ARRA also allocated funding for NSF's Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) program and an Academic Research Infrastructure (ARI) program. NSF plans to issue new solicitations for proposals for these programs soon.
- NSF also will consider proposals declined on or after October 1, 2008. Reversals of declined proposals will be based on both the high quality of the initial reviews, and the lack of available funding at the time of the original decision. NSF program officers will contact institutions when a reversal is up for consideration.
- NSF is currently working on a solicitation for a Science Masters Program, a new activity created under ARRA.
- NSF does not intend to provide any supplements to existing grants under ARRA.

The article can be viewed on the NSF Web site at: http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?org=NSF&cntn_id=114483&preview=false

For more information, contact Kathy Yoshinaga, ORS Pre-Award Specialist at kyoshina@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-4057.

Recovery Act Implementation – Improving Grants.gov and Other Critical systems

Effective implementation of the Recovery Act is a critical part of the effort to jumpstart economic activity and a top priority for the Administration. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has been working closely with Federal agencies to identify system risks that could result in the disruption of effective Recovery Act implementation.

One area of risk that has been identified is in Grants.gov.

The Recovery Act is expected to result in an approximate 60 percent additional increase in application volume, putting the system at a significant risk.

As a result:

- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) - the Federal agency that maintains Grants.gov and the General Services Administration (GSA) - which facilitates E-gov solutions have been asked to work together to initiate immediate improvements to critical systems.
- Federal grant-making agencies have also been instructed to immediately identify alternative methods for accepting grant applications to reduce demand on Grants.gov's limited resources.

Full OMB Director's memo can be viewed at: <http://www.research.uci.edu/news/FederalActionRelatedtoGrantsgov.pdf>

U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Deemed Exports FAQs

What is a deemed export?

Any release of technology or source code subject to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR) to a foreign national inside the United States is deemed to be an export to the home country or countries of the foreign national.

What is the definition of release?

- Visual inspection (e.g., reading technical specifications, plans, or blueprints) by foreign nationals.
- Providing technical assistance (including oral exchanges) to foreign nationals.
- The application to situations abroad of personal knowledge or technical experience acquired in the United States.

Who is subject to the deemed export rule? Are all foreign nationals subject to the rule?

The foreign national is subject to the deemed export rule unless the foreign national is (1) granted U.S. Citizenship; (2) granted permanent residence, as demonstrated by the issuance of a permanent resident visa (i.e., "Green Card"); or (3) granted status as a "protected person."

U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Deemed Exports FAQs - Continued -

What technologies are subject to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR)?

Generally, technologies subject to the EAR are those that are in the United States or of U.S. origin, in whole or in part. Technologies which tend to require licensing for release to foreign nationals are also dual-use (i.e., have both civil and military applications) and are subject to one or more control regimes, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime and the Australia Group (chemical/biological items).

What types of information are not subject to the EAR or export controls?

- Publicly available information: generally accessible to the interested public in any form.
- Fundamental research: basic and applied research in science and engineering where the resulting information is ordinarily published and shared broadly within the scientific community. Note: if pre-existing export-controlled technologies will be used to conduct the research, then the fundamental research exemption does not apply to those technologies.
- Educational information: released by instruction in catalog courses and associated teaching laboratories of academic institutions.
- Patent applications: information contained in a patent application prepared wholly from foreign origin technical data where the application is sent to a foreign inventor to be executed and returned to the United States for subsequent filing with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Are certain types of organizations exempt from the deemed export rule?

No. A deemed export license is issued to an exporting organization. The license permits that organization to release technology or source code subject to the EAR to a specific foreign national. Deemed export licenses are not issued to individual foreign nationals; a license is voided when the foreign national leaves the employment of the licensed exporter. Provisions of the EAR apply equally to all organizations inside the United States. These may include private industry, accredited academic institutions, and local, state and federal government agencies.

How long does the licensing process take? When should an application be submitted?

Assuming BIS has received all of the required information, a deemed export license application is generally completed within 40 days. The application process includes an extensive review by multiple government agencies, including agencies in the law enforcement and intelligence communities. If unfavorable information is uncovered during the interagency review, the processing times can be longer. Commerce advises exporters to build license-processing times into their hiring processes.

What does the term EAR 99 signify?

Items subject to the EAR that are not specifically listed on the Commerce Control List are designated as EAR99. These items are often, but not always, exportable without a license under the designation No License Required (NLR).

For more information, please visit: <http://www.bis.doc.gov/deemedexports/> .

Supporting Documents Requested for State Invoices

The State Department of Transportation and Department of Health have requested supporting documents pertaining to submitted invoices. The reason for the additional request is to meet program review and audit requirements.

In some instances, the following have been requested:

- Detailed spreadsheets by line item;
- Request for receipt copies; or
- A line-by-line review of expenses compared to budget.

In most cases, payment was rendered following the receipt of required information by the state.

We empathize that this could incur additional burden on the field. We ask however, for your understanding in providing the requested state documentation to ensure timely payment. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

For more information, contact Joanne Yama, ORS Accounting Manager at jyama@hawaii.edu or (808) 956-8163.

Advanced Notice Request

Several federal agencies have announced special funding opportunities and submission deadlines relating to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) of 2009.

For information on these programs, go to: www.recovery.gov .

There you will find Web links to participating federal agencies. We encourage you to bookmark and visit these sites regularly as information is continuously updated.

Principal Investigators (PIs) are asked to submit proposals to ORS as early as possible in addition to notifying ORS of the ‘intent’ to submit an application involving Recovery Act funds. This will aid in our efforts to provide continued service in accommodating expected increases in volume.

Please send the following information to: helpline@ors.hawaii.edu

1. Principal Investigator’s (PIs) name and contact information;
2. PIs campus and school;
3. Sponsor information;
4. Submission deadline;
5. Title of the Request for Application (RFA) or program announcement

Please forward any questions to ORS Helpline at helpline@ors.hawaii.edu or (808) 956-5198.

E-Verify Requirement Effective 5/21/09

As it currently stands, the implementation of the final rule requiring federal contractors and subcontractors to begin using U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) E-Verify system will be in effect on 5/21/09.

The rule requires use of the federal internet-based system E-Verify to verify the employment eligibility of existing employees (hired after 11-06-86) and new hires that are directly performing work under the award.

Federal contracting officers will not begin to insert the new E-Verify clause into federal contracts and solicitations until 5/21/09.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem>

ORS Helpline Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I register with an electronic Research Administration (eRA) Web site such as: NIH eRA Commons, NSF FastLane, NOAA Grants Online, NASA NSPIRES, etc?

ORS facilitates the registration process. Send your request to register to the ORS Helpline at: helpline@ors.hawaii.edu . Please allow for a turn-around time of one business day.

Please note: only those that are Board of Regent appointed may register. This can be verified through your Fiscal or Personnel Officer.

I forgot my account information, how can I recover this?

For NSF FastLane you can click on the "NSF ID lookup" link that is located on the FastLane login area. Enter your information in the required fields exactly as it appears in your account. The system will email your NSF ID.

For the other systems, the easiest way to recover a lost password would be to email the ORS Helpline to request a password reset.

How do I register with Grants.gov?

ORS is the overall UH representative registered with Grants.gov. PIs need not register individually.

The formal submission of the application package through Grants.gov is handled by ORS after receipt of the entire package, review and packet approval.

Save your application package and upload any supporting files to the ORS Web site via Adobe Acrobat/Reader or PureEdge viewer program. Your ORS proposal submission should also include a signed ORS Form 5.

To complete the process, print all documents and deliver hardcopies to Sakamaki D-200.

How do I track my application status in Grants.gov without an account?

Once your application has been submitted you will receive several emails that will update you on the status of your application.

Useful American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA/Recovery Act) Web sites

Here are several Web sites related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA/Recovery Act) that we thought would be of value to you.

Sign up for email alerts from Recovery.gov: <http://www.recovery.gov/>

National Science Foundation (NSF) ARRA funding updates: <http://www.nsf.gov/recovery/>

NSF American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsf09038/nsf09038.jsp?govDel=USNSF_25

NSF describes how it intends to implement the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, March 27: http://www.nsf.gov:80/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=114483&govDel=USNSF_51

NSF Important Notice To Presidents of Universities And Colleges American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in131.pdf>

National Institutes of Health (NIH) to Hold ARRA Planning Meeting on April 16. The Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institutes of Health will hold a meeting to discuss implementation plans associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: <http://acd.od.nih.gov> and <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-6472.pdf>

National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) Competitive Revision Application Information Now Available - Application Due Date: April 21, 2009 or July 10, 2009: <http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/recovery/revisions/details>

Recovery Act Limited Competition: Biomedical Research Core Centers to Enhance Research Resources (P30) Letters of Intent - Receipt Date: April 18, 2009; Application Receipt Date: May 18, 2009: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-005.html>

Recovery Act Limited Competition for NIH Grants: Research and Research Infrastructure “Grand Opportunities” (RC2) - Application Due Date: May 27, 2009: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-004.html>

NIH Announces the Availability of Recovery Act Funds for Administrative Supplements Providing Summer Research Experiences for Students and Science Educators - Release Date: March 18, 2009; Receipt Date: OPEN (See Institute/Center Web sites for specific deadlines): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-060.html>

NIH Announces the Availability of Recovery Act Funds for Competitive Revision Applications - Release Date: March 18, 2009; Application Due Date: April 21, 2009: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-058.html>

NIH Announces the Availability of Recovery Act Funds for Administrative Supplements - Release Date: March 18, 2009; Open response: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-056.html>

RFA-RR-09-007, Recovery Act Limited Competition: Core Facility Renovation, Repair, and Improvement (G20): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RR-09-007.html>

Useful American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA/Recovery Act) Web sites - Continued -

RFA-RR-09-008, Recovery Act Limited Competition: Extramural Research Facilities Improvement Program (C06): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RR-09-008.html>

PAR-09-118, Recovery Act Limited Competition: High-End Instrumentation Grant Program (S10): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-118.html>

Recovery Act Limited Competition: National Institutes of Health (NIH) Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research (RC1): <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-003.html>

NIH Announcement: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009: http://www.nih.gov/about/director/02252009statement_arra.htm

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Final Stimulus Bill Updates: <http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/stim09c.htm>

National Science Board to Discuss Spending and Oversight of NSF's \$3 Billion Stimulus to Invest in America's Scientific Enterprise:

<http://www.nsf.gov/news/newsroom.jsp>

<http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/meetings/index.jsp#recent>

Education Department: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: <http://www.ed.gov:80/policy/gen/leg/recovery/index.html>

U.S. Department of Education (ED): Major RSS Communications on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: <http://www.ed.gov/rss/arracomms.xml>

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act State Tables for the U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov/about/overview/budget/statetables/recovery.html>

Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Chu Announces Changes to Expedite Economic Recovery Funding Restructuring will lead to new investments in energy projects within months: <http://www.energy.gov/news2009/6934.htm>

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE): The EERE News site offers a variety of resources and news for media and others who are interested in learning more about the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). Here you'll find press releases, newsletters, speeches, featured stories and links from the EERE home page, and other resources detailing EERE's most recent activities and efforts: <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/>

DOE provides a variety of materials via e-mail and RSS:

http://www.energy.gov/news2009/email_updates.htm

<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/rss/>

Do you have a Question or Comment for ORS?

Please feel free to contact us at: ORS Helpline at helpline@ors.hawaii.edu or (808) 956-5198.