

NSF has updated both their Grant Proposal Guide and their Award Administration Guide to include the requirement for a Data Management Plan for the management and sharing of the products of research, or an assertion for the absence of the need for such plans. The Data Management Plan 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.

Below are excerpts from the NSF website:

NSF Data Sharing Policy

Investigators are expected to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the primary data, samples, physical collections and other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of work under NSF grants. Grantees are expected to encourage and facilitate such sharing. See Award & Administration Guide (AAG) Chapter VI.D.4. http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/aag_6.jsp#VID4

NSF Data Management Plan Requirements

Beginning January 18, 2011, proposals submitted to NSF must include a supplementary document of no more than two pages labeled "Data Management Plan". This supplementary document should describe how the proposal will conform to NSF policy on the dissemination and sharing of research results. See Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) Chapter II.C.2.j for full policy implementation. http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/gpg_2.jsp#dmp

Requirements by Directorate, Office, Division, Program, or other NSF Unit

Links to data management requirements and plans relevant to specific Directorates, Offices, Divisions, Programs, or other NSF units, are provided below. If guidance specific to the program is not provided, then the requirements established in Grant Proposal Guide, Chapter II.C.2.j apply. Please note that if a specific program solicitation provides guidance on preparation of data management plans, such guidance must be followed. http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/gpg_2.jsp#dmp

Some added and/or repeated key points:

- Actual effective date is really January 14, 2011 because of January 18, 2011 falling on a holiday weekend.
- Fastlane will not permit submission of a proposal that is missing a Data Management Plan.
- Proposals for supplementary support for an existing proposal are not required to submit a Data Management Plan.
- Simultaneously submitted collaborative proposals and proposals that include subawards should include only one supplemental combined Data Management Plan.
- The Data Management Plan should be provided as a Special Information and Supplementary Document no more than two pages in length.
- Cross-references should be included in other sections of the Proposal, as appropriate.
- A valid Data Management Plan may include only the statement that no detailed plan is needed, as long as the statement is accompanied by a clear justification.

The NSF link that follows will take you to the overall requirements, the data management requirements and plans specific to the Directorate, Office, Division, Program, or other NSF unit, relevant to a proposal and the FAQ's: <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp>.

There are a number of universities, including UMCP, that are putting together committees and compiling resources for models of data management plans. We'll be watching for those, but I also ask that if anyone finds a good source that should be shared, please let me know. We'll emails those links and post those resources on the MyUMCES ORAA section for reference. In the meantime, I think this site is very helpful:

<http://libraries.mit.edu/guides/subjects/data-management/#guides>