

NIH MODULAR GRANT OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF CHANGES

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The National Institutes of Health is implementing its modular grant application process for all competing research project grant mechanisms (RO1, RO3, R15, R21, R41 and R43) as well as for Request for Applications (RFAs) requesting direct costs up to \$250,000 in any year. RFAs exceeding \$250,000 per year may use the modular grant mechanism at the discretion of the program officer as published in the RFA.

Implementation begins with the June 1, 1999 application deadline for all competing individual research project grants (RO1), small grants (RO3), and exploratory/developmental grants (R21).

Implementation begins with the May 25, 1999 application deadline for Academic Research Enhancement Awards (R15). Small Business Technology Transfer grants, Phase I ((R41) and Small Business Innovation Research grants, Phase I (R43) due April 1999 were submitted under the Modular Grant Application and Award Process.

The NIH recently added a question and answer document to its modular grant website at http://www.nih.gov/grants/funding/modular/modular_faq_pub.htm (Enclosure 1).

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- Modular features may apply to PHS 398, PHS 6426-1 and PHS 6426-3 applications. Applications that use the PHS 6426-1 and PHS 6426-3 forms will include modular grant instructions in the solicitations.
- Modular proposals will request direct costs in \$25,000 modules. A typical application will request the same number of modules in each year. An atypical application contains categories of costs that affect the modified total direct cost base such as equipment and patient care costs. (Refer to the NIH Modular Grant website).
- There will be no future year budget escalations.
- Non-competing applications and awards will follow the SNAP process.
- Cost Principles and Cost Accounting Standards apply.
- The significant rebudgeting requirement is eliminated.

PHS 398 Application Highlights:

- The Detailed Budget for Initial Budget Period, Form 4-DD and The Budget for Entire Proposed Period of Support, Form 5-EE will not be used. All other PHS 398 Forms are submitted under the Modular Grant Application and Award Process.
- Use a new Modular Grant Budget Justification Page to submit summary total direct cost yearly budget amounts in modules of \$25,000 and the budget justification. The budget justification will include information on key personnel and consortium/contractual costs when applicable. Under Personnel, provide the names, percent of effort and roles on the project. Do not provide individual salary information. (See <http://www.nih.gov/grants/funding/modular/modular.htm> for sample pages).
- The Biographical Sketch, Form 6-FF (Rev. 4/98) will contain a new section "Research Projects Ongoing or Completed During the Last Three Years". The page limit has been increased from 2 to 3. The information provided in the new section on "Research Projects" should include specific aims, overall goals and responsibilities for Federal and non-Federal Support.
- The Other Support page, Form 7-GG will be submitted "Just in Time" to determine overlap for likely award candidates.
- The Checklist, Form II will include the modified direct cost base, the facilities and administration rate and the total facilities and administration costs for each of the years for which funding is requested.