

NIH Updates - Effective January 25, 2026

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released several notices detailing significant changes to application forms, funding strategies, and administrative procedures. Please review the summary below, which highlights critical changes to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support forms, as well as shifts in how funding decisions will be made starting in 2026.

A. Implementation of Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support

For due dates on or after January 25, 2026, the NIH is requiring use the Common Forms generated in SciENcv for the **Biographical Sketch**, which will be paired with an "**NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement**." While these will be completed together in a single interface within SciENcv to produce one PDF, the specific requirements for each section have changed significantly. The implementation date applies to the submission of proposals, Just In Time submission, RPPRs and prior approval requests. You can read the full Notice NOT-OD-26-018 [here](#).

Biosketch

Part A: The **Common Form** collects standardized facts required by all federal agencies.

- **Professional Preparation:** Replaces "Education/Training".
- **Appointments:** You must only list professional appointments held outside of your primary organization (e.g., dual appointments, adjacencies). Domestic and foreign positions must be listed, but only for up to three years.
- **Products & Honors:** Lists of your products (citations) and honors (max 15) reside here,.

Part B: The "**NIH Supplement**" This section is unique to NIH and provides the context for your data.

- This section contains your Personal Statement and Contributions to Science in narrative form only
- You strictly **cannot include citations within your narrative text** in the Supplement.
- Instead of citing papers in the text, you must refer to the items listed in the "Products" section of the Common Form described above.

Current & Pending (Other) Support Changes

- Also generated using SciENcv
- Person Months: Effort must be reported strictly in "person months." The distinction between calendar, academic, and summer months is eliminated.
- In-Kind Contributions: Only report in-kind contributions if they are valued at \$5,000 or more and require a commitment of your time.

IMPORTANT: While a preview of the new forms is currently available in SciENcv for familiarization, the final templates required for submission are not expected to be released until the week of December 15, 2025

ORCID ID

Once NIH adopts the new forms, all senior/key personnel listed on an application must have an ORCID ID and the ID must be linked to their eRA Commons Personal Profile.

You will be required to enter your ORCID ID in the Persistent Identifier (PI) section of the Common Forms.

You can review FSU's ORCID resources [here](#).

B. New Unified Funding Strategy (Effective Jan. 2026 Council Round)

The NIH is implementing a unified strategy that moves away from using paylines (strict peer review score cutoffs) as the primary determinant for funding. For full details, please visit the [announcement](#). See also VP Patterson's message in the [Federal Updates](#) webpage on the Office of Research website.

Main takeaways:

- While peer review scores remain essential, Institutes and Centers (ICOs) will weigh them alongside other factors to develop pay plans rather than relying on a specific cutoff score.
- Funding decisions will be based on a standardized set of tenets, including scientific merit, the breadth of research topics, investigator career stage, and the geographic balance of funding

C. Immediate Reduction in Administrative Burden (Effective Dec. 3, 2025)

Effective immediately, the NIH has removed two pre-application requirements (formerly required for specific mechanisms, now no longer required). Full details described [here](#).

- **Letters of Intent (LOI):** The NIH will no longer request or accept LOIs. Any LOIs previously submitted will not be reviewed or acknowledged.
- **Large Budget Requests:** Applicants requesting \$500,000 or more in direct costs in a single budget period are no longer required to contact Institute or Center (IC) staff for approval prior to submission, nor do they need to provide a cover letter documenting such approval.

D. Research Security Training Requirements for NIH (Effective May 25, 2026)

NIH applicants will be required to have completed the research security training before proposal submission starting May 25, 2026. The Research Security training available in FSU's Citi portal fulfills this requirement. Information for completing this training can be found on the RISE website [here](#).