

January 7, 2015

Dear Research Community:

On December 30, 2014, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) issued three important notices related to FY 2015 fiscal policies. The following notices are summarized below:

- [NOT-OD-15-048](#) – *Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Stipends, Tuition/Fees and Other Budgetary Levels Effective for Fiscal Year 2015*
- [NOT-OD-15-049](#) – *Notice on Salary Limitation on Grants, Cooperative Agreements and Contracts*
- [NOT-OD-15-050](#) – *NIH Fiscal Policy for Grant Awards – FY2015*

NOT-OD-15-048 (this notice applies to NIH, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Health Resources Services Administration)

Stipend Levels for Kirchstien-NRSA awards made with FY 2015 funds (awards made on or after October 1, 2014) have increased as noted in the table below. Tuition and Fees, Training Related Expenses, and Institutional Allowances remain unchanged.

Revised NGAs will be issued for FY 2015 awards that were previously issued using FY 2014 stipend levels to adjust to FY 2015 levels. Appointments for FY 2015 that have previously been accepted at the FY 2014 levels will need to be amended, using xTrain, to reflect FY 2015 levels once the revised NGA is issued. *

**Reminder: “Once the appropriate stipend level has been determined, the fellow must be paid at that level for the entire grant year. The stipend for each additional year of Kirschstein-NRSA support is the next level in the stipend structure and does not change mid-year.”*

For applications that are currently under consideration for funding, FY 2015 stipend levels will be applied by the funding agency. FY 2015 stipend levels should be used when preparing future competing and non-competing applications. S2S Grants has been updated to reflect these levels.

CAREER LEVEL	YEARS OF EXPERIENCE	ANNUAL STIPEND LEVEL	MONTHLY STIPEND LEVEL
Freshman/Sophomore		\$8,640	\$720
Junior/Senior		\$12,096	\$1,008
Predoctoral	All	\$22,920	\$1,910
Postdoctoral	0	\$42,840	\$3,570
	1	\$44,556	\$3,713
	2	\$46,344	\$3,862
	3	\$48,192	\$4,016
	4	\$50,112	\$4,176
	5	\$52,116	\$4,343
	6	\$54,216	\$4,518
	7 or more	\$56,376	\$4,698

Refer to the full text of [NOT-OD-15-048](#) or [Questions and Answers Related to NRSA Tuition, Fees, and Health Insurance Policies](#) for more information.

NOT-OD-15-049

The DHHS salary cap is established as Executive Level II of the Federal Executive pay scale. The *Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015* (Public Law 113-235), which was signed into law on December 16, 2014, increases Executive Level II pay scale from \$181,500 to **\$183,300 effective January 11, 2015.**

- All new and competing NIH applications should reflect the new cap of \$183,300. The S2S Grants system has been updated with the new cap.
- **Salary earned** between October 1, 2014 and January 10, 2015 is capped at \$181,500.
- **Salary earned** between January 11, 2015 and September 30, 2015 is capped \$183,300.
 - For awards that were proposed at the previous rate of \$181,500, but are awarded at the new rate of \$183,300, NIH generally will not increase awards to cover the cap. In most cases, PIs may rebudget under NIH Standard Terms.
 - Refer to the Notice of Award and [NIH Grants Policy Statements](#) for specific information pertaining to each award.

Refer to the full text of [NIH-OD-15-049](#) or the [NIH Salary Cap Summary](#) for more information. Please refer to the [ORA Portal Salary Cap Tool](#) to ensure appropriate Salary Cap Rate is applied.

NOT-OD-15-050

In addition to the notices above, this notice implements the following fiscal policies for FY 2015 (October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015):

FY 2015 Funding Levels:

Non-competing continuation awards that have already been made FY 2015 were generally awarded at levels below what is indicated on the most recent NGA (generally up to 90% of what was previously committed). These reductions may be fully or partially restored, depending on the issuing Institute or Center.

Non-competing continuation awards that have not yet been issued for FY 2015 may be reduced by up to 3% of previously committed levels.

Out-year commitments for non-competing continuation awards for FY 2016 and beyond remain unchanged at this time.

Individual Institutes and Centers will develop and post their fiscal policies.

New Investigators: NIH will continue to support new investigators on R01 equivalent awards at success rates comparable to that of established investigators submitting new (Type 1) R01 equivalent applications in accordance with policies established in 2009 (see: [NOT-OD-09-013](#) and [NIH New and Early Stage Investigator Policies](#)).

Other Legislative Mandates: Other statutory requirements will be described in a notice to be released in early January.

Refer to the full text of [NIH-OD-15-050](#) for more information.

Please contact your [OCGA Team](#) for further clarification or assistance regarding any of these notices.

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