Data Management and Sharing Plans

Required by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for all proposals submitted after May 2024.

Review the below summaries of the NSF and NIH policies. The template following these policies can be used to assist investigators in crafting their plans for either organization. The Sponsored Research Office is happy to assist in reviewing these plans prior to submission.

National Institutes of Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Policy for Data Management and Sharing reinforces NIH's longstanding commitment to making the results and outputs of NIH-funded research available to the public through effective and efficient data management and data sharing practices. Data sharing enables researchers to rigorously test the validity of research findings, strengthen analyses through combined datasets, reuse hard-to-generate data, and explore new frontiers of discovery. In addition, NIH emphasizes the importance of good data management practices, which provide the foundation for effective data sharing and improve the reproducibility and reliability of research findings. NIH encourages data management and data sharing practices consistent with the FAIR data principles.

Under the DMS Policy, NIH requires researchers to proactively plan for how scientific data will be preserved and shared through submission of a Data Management and Sharing Plan. Upon NIH approval of a plan, NIH expects researchers and institutions to implement data management and sharing practices as described. The DMS Policy is intended to establish expectations for Data Management and Sharing Plans, which applicable NIH Institutes, Centers and Offices (ICO) may supplement as appropriate. [NOT-OD-21-013]

National Science Foundation

Proposals must include a document of no more than two pages uploaded under 'Data Management and Sharing Plan' in the supplementary documentation section of Research.gov. A valid Data Management and Sharing Plan may consist of the statement that 'no detailed plan is needed', for example, if no data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, or other materials are to be produced during the project. However, such a statement must be accompanied by a clear justification.

Data management and sharing requirements and plans specific to the relevant Directorate, Office, Division, Program, or other NSF unit, are available on the NSF website. If guidance specific to the type of proposal is not available, then the requirements established generally apply. [PAPPG, II.D.2.i.(ii)]