Submit proposals 2 business days before deadline

To ensure timely processing, researchers are encouraged to submit their completed proposals to the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) two business days prior to the deadline. This is critical for applications going through Grants.gov.

As the volume of proposals submitted through this required portal increases, universities are experiencing slower processing times resulting in proposals being processed shortly after the cut-off time and not being accepted by the sponsor. Recently, we submitted one proposal that processed one minute after the cut-off and the sponsor would not accept the proposal because its policy is to use the cut-off time as an absolute measure for acceptance.

With many deadlines for proposals falling on a single day, the system processing time increases. Many sponsors are not granting allowances for slow processing times. Grants.gov packages must be reviewed and checked for errors by OSP before submittal.

Please forward the package to your grant coordinator at least two business days before the deadline to ensure proper review. If you have all the pieces of your proposal ready five business days before the deadline, your grant coordinator will download the Grants.gov package and complete it for you. The name of your grant coordinator and other information needed to complete the package is available at http://research.unl.edu/sp1/index.shtml.

Background:

Grants.gov was established as a governmental resource named the E-Grants Initiative, part of the President's 2002 Fiscal Year Management Agenda, to improve government services to the public. Its mission is to eliminate the need for grant seekers to learn and comply with multiple agency systems and requirements. Federal agencies are required to use Grants.gov as their proposal processing system and have been migrating to it since it was established.

The concept has its origins in the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, also known as Public Law 106-107. Public Law 106-107 has since sunset and is now known as the Grants Policy Committee (GPC).

Today, Grants.gov is a central storehouse for information on more than 1,000 grant programs and provides access to approximately $500 billion in annual awards.

On Sept. 22, 2008, Grants.gov received the 200,000th electronic grant application submission for fiscal year 2008, far exceeding a core program milestone in the fourth quarter and reflecting a significant increase from last year. During the same period of fiscal year 2007, Grants.gov received 172,058 submissions, which reflected a 16 percent increase.