NIH DATA MANAGEMENT AND SHARING (DMS) POLICY

WHO needs to comply?

Anyone conducting NIH-funded research that generates scientific data

- "Scientific data" are defined as "recorded factual material commonly accepted in the scientific community as of sufficient quality to validate and replicate research findings, regardless of whether the data are used to support scholarly publications."
- Scientific data can also result from secondary research, i.e., research using preexisting primary data.
- Be sure to check out specific NIH notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) for additional data sharing requirements.

WHERE can data be stored and shared?

NIH strongly encourages investigators to use an established repository to maximize the sharing of scientific data. Some NOFOs may require the use of a specific repository.

Need help identifying an appropriate repository for your data?

- Visit the NIH scientific data sharing website, https://sharing.nih.gov, for key considerations when selecting a repository, and browse through the list of NIH-supported Scientific Data Repositories.
- Contact a program director from NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) at https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/about-dccps/about-division/who-we-are.

WHAT does the policy require?

- Investigators must develop a plan for managing and sharing scientific data as part of a funding application or proposal, addressing the key recommended elements. The DMS plan should also include data sharing requirements from other policies (e.g., Genomic Data Sharing [GDS] Policy—see below) and the NOFOs, if applicable.
- Investigators can submit a budget to cover costs of data management and sharing, with a brief justification (half page) outlining the budget items. Investigators whose research projects are also subject to the GDS Policy should also include requested costs for genomic data management and sharing (see https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-198.html for more details).

1 Investigator uploads the DMS plan to the new "Other Plan" section of the grant application.*

2 Program staff reviews the DMS for completeness and acceptability. If needed, program staff contacts investigator to provide updated DMS plan to ensure compliance.

3 Program staff approves the DMS plan.

4 Recipients must follow through with the approved plan and report on progress.

*Investigators are encouraged to contact one of the DCCPS program staff for guidance on how to write the DMS plan before submitting the grant application.

WHAT about the GDS policy?

- The 2015 GDS Policy remains in effect for relevant data. For more information, review the NIH notice on the implementation changes for genomic data sharing plans in https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-22-198.html.
- When the GDS policy also applies, GDS Policy requirements should be addressed in the DMS Plan; a separate GDS Plan should not be submitted. GDS Policy requirements include data to be submitted, repository, timelines for data submission/release, informed consent, and institutional certification.

WHAT are the key elements of a DMS plan?

The DMS plan will need to address the following elements:

- Data type and amount that will be preserved and shared
- Related tools, software, code needed to access, manipulate, and analyze data
- Standards to be applied to scientific data and metadata
- Data preservation, access, timelines - repository to be used, persistent unique identifier, and when/ how long data will be available
- Access, distribution, reuse considerations - description of factors for data access, distribution, or reuse
- Oversight of data management and sharing - description of how plan compliance will be monitored/ managed and by whom

Additional details can be found in the NIH supplemental information on Elements of an NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan on https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-21-014.html.

WHAT are some available resources?

Visit DCCPS Resources for Investigators

- https://epi.grants.cancer.gov/funding/resource-data-sharing-plan.html
- https://epi.grants.cancer.gov/funding/biospecimen-sharing.html
- https://healthcaredelivery.cancer.gov/funding/data-sharing.html#PreparingDMSPlans
- https://healthcaredelivery.cancer.gov/prospr/datashare/

Visit the NIH Scientific Data Sharing website (https://sharing.nih.gov/) to learn more about the new policy requirements, FAQs, and implementation changes including NIH research grants subject to the DMS policy.

Visit notices for information on your application

- Where to place your plan: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-012.html
- What to include in your budget: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-23-161.html

For questions on the new DMS policy or additional guidance on preparing a DMS plan, contact a DCCPS program director (https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/about-dccps/about-division/who-we-are)