



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Washington, DC 20546

Grant Information Circular

GIC 21-08
August 5, 2021

PURPOSE: To inform NASA programs, Grant Officers, and Technical Officers of new language that shall be inserted into all NASA notice of funding opportunities (NOFO). The new language is applicable to all NASA NOFOs published on or after this Grant Information Circular's (GIC) effective date.

BACKGROUND: On January 25, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order (EO) 13985, *Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, outlining a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality. Given that advancing equity requires a systematic approach to embedding fairness in the decision-making process, the EO instructs agencies to recognize and work to redress inequities in their policies and programs that serve as barriers to equal opportunity.

In response to EO 13985, NASA is working to identify and address barriers that underserved communities and individuals may face in taking advantage of procurement, contracting, or grant opportunities. As such, the Grants Policy and Compliance Branch (GPC) has reviewed NASA's grants management policies and procedures to identify actions that can be taken to reduce barriers for and enhance outreach to underserved communities. A first step in addressing barriers to equity is ensuring that all NASA NOFOs explicitly express NASA's commitment to nondiscrimination and encourage applications from underserved communities.

GUIDANCE: In accordance with EO 13985, NASA program offices shall ensure that all newly issued NOFOs for grants and cooperative agreements include the following language in the NOFO's eligibility section:

“NASA recognizes and supports the benefits of having diverse and inclusive scientific, engineering, and technology communities and fully expects the reflection of such values in the composition of all panels and teams, including peer review panels, proposal teams, science definition teams, and mission and instrument teams. Per Federal statutes and NASA policy, no eligible applicant shall experience exclusion from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NASA on the grounds of their race, color, creed, age, sex, national origin, or disability. NASA welcomes proposals from all qualified and eligible sources, and strongly encourages proposals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), small disadvantaged businesses (SDBs), veteran-owned small businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses (SDVOSB), HUBZone small businesses, and women-owned small businesses (WOSBs), as eligibility requirements allow.”

GPC has updated the relevant section of the NASA NOFO Checklist to reflect the language above, and the checklist is available to NASA personnel on GPC's [Max.gov website](#).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This GIC is effective August 19, 2021.

REGULATION OR TERM AND CONDITION CHANGES: No.

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