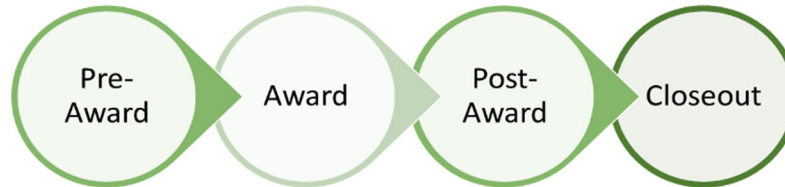# NASA Grants and Cooperative Agreements Lifecycle

The lifecycle of grants and cooperative agreements and their associated activities are grouped into four main phases:

Pre-award
- The pre-award phase represents the beginning of the award lifecycle, which includes:
  - determining the funding mechanism (grant, cooperative agreement, or contract) based on the beneficiary of the assistance, and
  - developing NOFOs based on the availability of funding and programmatic need, publicly announcing funding opportunities on the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES) and Grants.gov.
- NASA Technical Officers (TOs) and Program Officers review and assess the technical merits of the proposals and submit a recommendation for funding to NASA Grant Officers (GO) once the application submission deadline passes.
  - Proposals that were not selected for funding will receive a notice of non-selection from the program office.
- The specific process for reviewing proposals at NASA varies based on the funding mechanism assistance applied for.

Award
- NASA GOs review the program office's recommendations, conduct a financial review, and perform a risk assessment that determines the level of oversight in the post-award phase or the need for additional terms and conditions placed on the award.
- Additionally, NASA GOs will determine the appropriate terms and conditions of the award informed by the award type (commercial, research, education, etc.)
- Once the final award decisions are made, NASA GOs send a Notice of Award (NOA) to the entities selected for funding. The NOA is the official, legally binding issuance of the award, and it may only be signed by a NASA GO.

Post-award
- The post-award phase begins the work of verifying progress on the funded project during the award's period of performance, which includes:
  - TOs and Program Managers monitoring project implementation and the submission of programmatic progress reports, and
  - GOs addressing recipient requests for administrative award modifications, monitoring compliance with Federal government regulations and NASA policies, and ensuring submission of required financial reporting.
- Post award also includes verifying recipient audit requirements. The Grants Policy and Compliance team ensures that recipients that expend $750,000 or more in federal awards in a given fiscal year submit audit reports to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse to comply with federal regulations.

Closeout
- The closeout phase is where the award process ends. In order to complete a closeout, GOs and TOs ensure that the award recipient submits all final financial, final performance, and other required reports within 120 days after the award expires or is terminated.
- NASA then assesses the outcomes achieved under the award and uses this information to inform future iterations of their programs, thus starting the lifecycle again.