



Defining “Notice of Funding Opportunity”

A NOFO refers to a formal announcement of the availability of Federal funding through a financial assistance program from a Federal awarding agency.

NASA has referred to NOFOs as ‘solicitations’ in the past, but the Grants Policy and Compliance team (GPC) is now encouraging the use of the term “NOFO” to be consistent with language in 2 CFR 200 and other Federal regulations.

Types of NOFOs at NASA include Program Announcement (PA), NASA Research Announcement (NRA), Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), Broad Agency Announcements (BAA), and Cooperative Agreement Notices (CAN).

Resources available to assist in NOFO creation and clearance

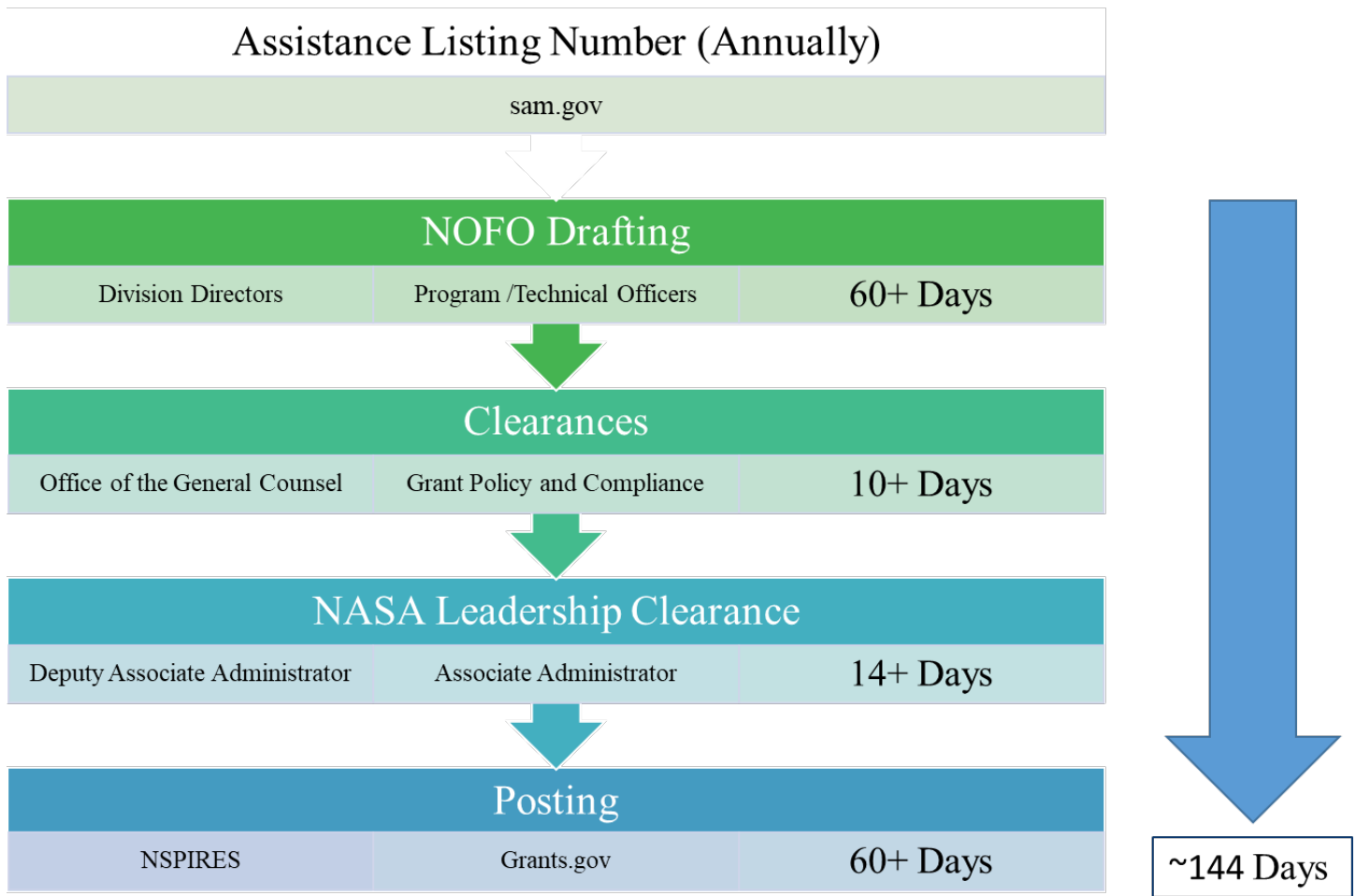
- [2 CFR 200.203](#) – Details the requirement to provide public notice of Federal financial assistance programs in SAM.gov. These public notices, known as assistance listings, provide information to the public about the purpose of the program, the total amount of available funds, eligibility requirements, and other data points.
- [2 CFR 200.204](#) – Outlines required information the Federal awarding agency must provide in the NOFO for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements that are competed.
- [Appendix I to 2 CFR Part 200](#) – Provides a full description of the information from 2 CFR 200.204 for requirements of a NOFO.
- [NASA Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manual \(GCAM\) Appendix A](#) - Adopts the requirements in Appendix I of 2 CFR 200 and details additional NASA requirements in NOFO development.
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity Checklist](#) – Lists requirements for successful submission to GPC. The checklist is a tool for program officers to ensure the inclusion of required information and for GPC to evaluate compliance with Federal regulations.

Roles and Responsibilities in NOFO creation and clearance

- **GPC** – Responsible for providing guidance on the government-wide and NASA-specific NOFO requirements. GPC will also ensure information regarding changes to NOFO creation and submission is disseminated to the program offices and mission directorates that may arise from changes from the Office of Management and Budget or other Federal government directives. GPC is also available to answer questions about the NOFO development and clearance process found in the GCAM and the NOFO checklist. Additionally, GPC will coordinate annually with the program offices to update the information found in the NASA assistance listings.
- **Mission Directorates/Program Offices** – Responsible for drafting and clearing NOFOs and incorporating the needs of the program in accordance with government-wide and NASA-specific requirements. Additionally, mission directorates and program offices at NASA are responsible for updating and maintaining their assistance listings in SAM.gov on an annual basis.
- **NSPIRES Team** – Responsible for posting NOFOs in the NSPIRES system for the minimum required 60-day solicitation application period. The NSPIRES system posts NOFOs to Grants.gov approximately 3 business days after NSPIRES posting.
- **Office of the General Counsel** (optional) – Provides legal guidance and clearance for NASA NOFOs if required by center, mission or program office clearance policy.

- **Deputy/Associate Administrator** (optional) – Provides political advice, guidance and clearance for NASA NOFOs if required by center, mission or program office clearance policy.

NASA NOFO anticipated creation and clearance process timelines



Note: OGC, DAA and AA clearance is optional and based on the program office’s clearance policies and procedures.

Obtaining clearance from the Grants Policy and Compliance Team

Once all of the programmatic elements of the NOFO are included in the NOFO package and the program offices have completed their internal clearance processes, the program offices shall submit the final NOFO, associated appendices, and NOFO Checklist to GPC at HQ-dl-Grants-Policy-Compliance@mail.nasa.gov. GPC will acknowledge receipt of the NOFO package and subsequently provide comments and guidance on required corrections within 10 business days.