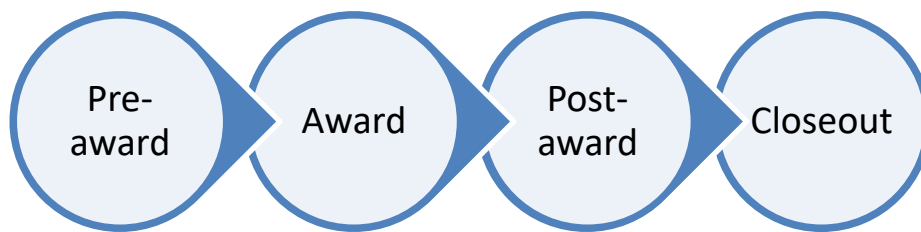# NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Life Cycle

NASA Grants Policy and Compliance

The life cycle of grants and cooperative agreements and their associated activities can be grouped into four phases:

Pre-award → Award → Post-award → Closeout

Pre-award

- The pre-award phase represents the beginning of the award life cycle, which includes:

  - Determining the appropriate funding mechanism (e.g., grant, cooperative agreement, or contract) based on the beneficiary of the funding, and

  - Developing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) 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 funding organizations review and assess the technical merits of the proposals and submit a recommendation for funding to a NASA Grant Officer (GO) once the application submission deadline passes.

  - Proposals that were not selected for funding will receive a notice of non-selection from the funding organization.

- The specific process for reviewing proposals at NASA varies based on the funding mechanism assistance applied for.

Award

- NASA GOs review the funding organization'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 award document, 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:

  - o TOs and Program Managers monitoring project implementation and the submission of performance reports, and

  - o GOs addressing recipient requests for administrative award modifications, monitoring compliance with Federal government regulations and NASA policies, and ensuring submission of required financial reports.

- Post-award activities also include verifying recipient audit reports. The Grants Policy and Compliance team ensures that recipients that expend $1,000,000 or more in Federal awards in a given fiscal year submit audit reports to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse in accordance with requirements in 2 CFR 200.

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, performance, and other required reports within 120 days after the award period of performance 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 life cycle again.