Data Sharing and Data Management Plan Policies from Funding Agencies

OSTP-Mandated Funder Data Sharing Plans

In February 2013 the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) released a memorandum requiring federal agencies supporting research to create plans for increased public access to research data.

Several funding agencies in the United States have established data sharing or data management policies, but since the OSTP memo release, many more funding agencies have implemented or are in the process of implementing data sharing and data management plan (DMP) requirements.

Funder Policies

Listed below are several funder requirements for data sharing or DMP documentation required for grant proposals.

For a full list, please consult the SPARC web resource on data policies.

Top funders for Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine research

NIH

- Since 2003, for proposals requesting >500k, a 2-paragraph "data sharing statement" is required for each proposal.
- Genomic Data Sharing policy (GDS):
  For all genomic data (regardless of requested funding amount), a data sharing statement is required for each proposal.
- The NIH developed a plan describing the definitions of sharing, appropriate methods and repositories for sharing data.
- Relevant links:
  - [2003 Data Sharing Policy](#)
  - [Genomic Data Sharing policy](#)
  - [2015 NIH Public Access plan](#) (including data sharing - See Section III)

NSF

- Since 2011, a 2-page data management plan (DMP) is required for all new proposals.
  - Proposals lacking a DMP will not be accepted for submission
- Relevant links:
  - [Dissemination and Sharing of Research Results](#)
Applicants should also check additional guidelines from individual NSF directorates and divisions:

- **Astronomical Sciences (AST)**
- **Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences (AGS)**
- **Biological Sciences (BIO)**
- **Biological and Chemical Oceanography (BCO-DMO NSF OCE)**
- **Chemistry Division (CHE)**
- **Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)**
- **Earth Sciences (EAR)**
- **Education and Human Resources (EHR)**
- **Engineering (ENG)**
- **Geosciences**
- **Materials Research (DMR)**
- **Mathematical Sciences (DMS)**
- **Physics (PHY)**
- **Social, Behavioral, Economic Sciences (SBE)**

### Other funding agencies (alphabetical)

#### U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- The AHRQ's Public Access Policy went into effect in October 2015
- All AHRQ-funded researchers are required to include a DMP for sharing final research data in digital format or state why data sharing is not possible
- Related links:
  - [AHRQ Public Access to Federally Funded Research](#)

#### American Heart Association

- The AHA requires a data sharing plan for each funding proposal
- Data required for independent verification must be publicly shared within 12 months of publication
  - Rationale must be made for opting out
- Data must be shared in one of a list of approved repositories
- Related links:
  - [AHA Open Science Policy](#)
  - [Sample data plans](#)

#### CDC (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)

- CDC has a data release and sharing policy for use of CDC data
- A data management plan requirement for all CDC funding proposals is forthcoming
- Related links:
  - [CDC Policy on Releasing and Sharing Data](#)
  - [CDC Public Access Plan](#)

#### Department of Agriculture (USDA)

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The USDA requires a data management plan for researchers seeking National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) funding
The USDA is working on requirements for data management plans for other funding
Related links:
  - Data Management Plan for NIFA-Funded Research Projects
  - Implementation Plan to Increase Public Access to Results of USDA-funded Scientific Research

Department of Defense

- The Department of Defense encourages data management plans for all funding proposals, but has not yet enacted a requirement for DMPs
- The DOD provides guidance and definitions of metadata standards, plans for archiving and preserving datasets and conditions for use and re-use of data in its public access plan dated February 2015
- Related links:
  - Department of Defense Plan to Establish Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research

Department of Energy

- The DOE requires data management plan for all proposals for research funding
- The DMP should describe how digital research data will be made publicly available, “machine readable”, and how data can be validated at the time of publication; or the DMP should provide a rationale for why data cannot be shared
- Related links:
  - DOE Policy for Digital Research Data Management
  - DOE Public Access Plan
  - DOE Suggested Elements for a Data Management Plan
  - DOE FAQs for Digital Research Data Management

Department of Transportation

- The DOT Data Release Policy is to "disseminate data...subject only to the limits imposed by resources, technology, authority, regulation and data quality while protecting security, privacy and confidentiality"
- The DOT plans to require DMPs in all funding proposals
- Related links:
  - U.S. Department of Transportation Public Access Plan: Increasing Access to Federally Funded Research Results
  - DOT Departmental Data Release Policy (available from SPARC)

Food & Drug Administration

- The FDA expects all intramural and extramural research proposals to include a DMP which should include types of digital data to be collected, digital metadata used to describe publicly stored data, the researcher's commitment to make digital data supporting published manuscripts freely available upon publication (if appropriate), data structuring, data security and plans for storage and archiving of digital data
- Intramural DMP requirements were put into action December 29, 2015
- Extramural DMP requirements were expected to be put into action for proposals submitted in and after October 1, 2016
- Related links:
  - Plan to Increase Access to Results of FDA-Funded Scientific Research
NASA

- All grant applications require a DMP
- Project data should be made accessible through NASA repositories when possible (at minimum, data associated with published manuscripts should be made accessible)
- NASA has a data sharing web portal, as well as a manuscript portal (PubSpace)
- Related links:
  - NASA’s Data Management Plans page
  - NASA Plan for Increasing Access to the Results of Scientific Research
  - NASA-Funded Research Results web page (including links to PubSpace and NASA’s Data Portal)

NOAA

- NOAA has a data sharing requirement: data must be made available no later than publication of a peer-reviewed article based on the data, or two years after the data are collected and verified, or two years after the original end date of the grant
- DMPs area required for all funding proposals after June 2016
- NOAA maintains the NCEI data archive to assist researchers in making their data publicly available
- Related links:
  - Data Sharing Directive for NOAA Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts
  - NCEI data archive
  - NOAA Plan for Increasing Public Access to Research Results

Finding Metadata Standards that Support Sharing Required by Funders or Journals

biosharing.org

biosharing.org is a web platform that enables researchers and data curators to search and find metadata standards by journal or funder recommendations, type of data or by standard name.