

We are contacting you because you had submitted a federal proposal within the past year that would involve human participants or animals in research. As you may know, the university is expecting some previously unfunded proposals to be reevaluated and possibly funded through the Recovery Act recently passed by Congress. **The funding agencies have indicated that they will be expecting principal investigators to secure necessary compliance approvals prior to being notified that a proposal will be funded so that research may begin immediately.** The NSF, in particular, has notified the university that IRB approval should be obtained by early April for any proposals currently under consideration. As a result, the Office for Research Protections wants to ensure that principal investigators are able to submit compliance applications and get them approved quickly.

If you are a principal investigator whose funding may be impacted by stimulus funding time constraints, we want you to know that the ORP will make your application a top priority and expedite your compliance approval as quickly as possible to ensure that no funding opportunities are lost. To do that, we would like to work in partnership with you.

In order for us ensure your application gets through the compliance system quickly, we ask that you consider the following:

- **Send all of your application documents to the ORP electronically in Microsoft Word format.** Electronic applications can be sent to [ORProtections@psu.edu](mailto:ORProtections@psu.edu).
- **Applicable signatures will still be needed for electronically submitted applications.** Signature pages can be mailed (201 Kern Building) or faxed (814-863-8699) separately.
- **When submitting an application, please be sure to tell us that your application is subject to stimulus fund time constraints so that we know to make it a top priority.**
- **Make sure you adequately answer all of the questions on the application.** If the review committee does not have enough information to conduct a review, we will have to come back to you for additional information, which will lengthen the review time. If you are unsure of what information is needed on an application or for a specific question, please call us for clarification.
- **If you have not previously submitted an IRB or IACUC application at Penn State, we strongly recommend that you schedule a meeting with a compliance coordinator** who can help guide you through the process and ensure your application provides adequate information.
- **If you will be submitting an application that may be subject to review by the full IRB, do not wait until the next full review deadline to submit your application.** Please submit your application as soon as possible. We are prepared to call some emergency IRB meetings, as needed, to approve applications subject to stimulus funding time constraints.

If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment with a compliance coordinator, please call 814-865-1775.