

§ 437.31

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by at least one of the following SSA officials:

(1) The responsible SSA Grants Management Officer; or

(2) The SSA Commissioner or subordinate official with proper delegated authority from the Commissioner.

(b) *Relation to cost principles.* The applicable cost principles (see § 437.22) contain requirements for prior approval of certain types of costs. Except where waived, those requirements apply to all grants and subgrants even if paragraphs (c) through (f) of this section do not.

(c) *Budget changes*—(1) *Nonconstruction projects.* Except as stated in other SSA regulations or an award document, grantees or subgrantees must obtain prior approval from SSA whenever any of the following changes is anticipated under a nonconstruction award:

(i) Any revision which would result in the need for additional funding.

(ii) Unless waived by SSA, cumulative transfers among direct cost categories, or, if applicable, among separately budgeted programs, projects, functions, or activities which exceed or are expected to exceed ten percent of the current total approved budget, whenever SSA's share exceeds \$100,000.

(iii) Transfer of funds allotted for training allowances (*i.e.*, from direct payments to trainees to other expense categories).

(2) *Construction projects.* Grantees and subgrantees must obtain prior written approval for any budget revision that would result in the need for additional funds.

(3) *Combined construction and nonconstruction projects.* When a grant or subgrant provides funding for both construction and nonconstruction activities, the grantee or subgrantee must obtain prior written approval from SSA before making any fund or budget transfer from nonconstruction to construction or vice versa.

(d) *Programmatic changes.* Grantees or subgrantees must obtain the prior approval from SSA whenever any of the following actions is anticipated:

(1) Any revision of the scope or objectives of the project (regardless of whether there is an associated budget revision requiring prior approval).

(2) Need to extend the period of availability of funds.

(3) Changes in key persons in cases where specified in an application or a grant award. In research projects, a change in the project director or principal investigator always requires approval unless waived by SSA.

(4) Under nonconstruction projects, contracting out, subgranting (if authorized by law) or otherwise obtaining the services of a third party to perform activities that are central to the purposes of the award. This approval requirement is in addition to the approval requirements of § 437.36 but does not apply to the procurement of equipment, supplies, and general support services.

(5) Providing medical care to individuals under research grants.

(e) *Additional prior approval requirements.* SSA may not require prior approval for any budget revision that is not described in paragraph (c) of this section.

(f) *Requesting prior approval.* (1) A request for prior approval of any budget revision will be in the same budget format the grantee used in its application and must be accompanied by a narrative justification for the proposed revision.

(2) A request for a prior approval under the applicable Federal cost principles (see § 437.22) may be made by letter.

(3) A request by a subgrantee for prior approval must be addressed in writing to the grantee. The grantee will promptly review such request and must approve or disapprove the request in writing. A grantee may not approve any budget or project revision that is inconsistent with the purpose or terms and conditions of the Federal grant to the grantee. If the revision requested by the subgrantee would result in a change to the grantee's approved project that requires Federal prior approval, the grantee must obtain SSA's approval before approving the subgrantee's request.

§ 437.31 Real property.

(a) *Title.* Subject to the obligations and conditions set forth in this section, title to real property acquired under a

grant or subgrant will vest upon acquisition in the grantee or subgrantee respectively.

(b) *Use.* Except as otherwise provided by Federal statutes, real property will be used for the originally authorized purposes as long as needed for that purpose, and the grantee or subgrantee may not dispose of or encumber its title or other interests.

(c) *Disposition.* When real property is no longer needed for the originally authorized purpose, the grantee or subgrantee must request disposition instructions from SSA. The instructions must provide for one of the following alternatives:

(1) *Retention of title.* Retain title after compensating SSA. The amount paid to SSA is computed by applying SSA's percentage of participation in the cost of the original purchase to the fair market value of the property. However, in those situations where a grantee or subgrantee is disposing of real property acquired with grant funds and acquiring replacement real property under the same program, the net proceeds from the disposition may be used as an offset to the cost of the replacement property.

(2) *Sale of property.* Sell the property and compensate SSA. The amount due SSA is calculated by applying SSA's percentage of participation in the cost of the original purchase to the proceeds of the sale after deduction of any actual and reasonable selling and fixing-up expenses. If the grant is still active, the net proceeds from sale may be offset against the original cost of the property. When a grantee or subgrantee is directed to sell property, sales procedures must be followed that provide for competition to the extent practicable and result in the highest possible return.

(3) *Transfer of title.* Transfer title to SSA or to a third-party designated/approved by SSA. The grantee or subgrantee must be paid an amount calculated by applying the grantee or subgrantee's percentage of participation in the purchase of the real property to the current fair market value of the property.

§ 437.32 Equipment.

(a) *Title.* Subject to the obligations and conditions set forth in this section, title to equipment acquired under a grant or subgrant will vest upon acquisition in the grantee or subgrantee respectively.

(b) *States.* A State will use, manage, and dispose of equipment acquired under a grant by the State in accordance with State laws and procedures. Other grantees and subgrantees must follow paragraphs (c) through (e) of this section.

(c) *Use.* (1) Equipment must be used by the grantee or subgrantee in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by Federal funds. When no longer needed for the original program or project, the equipment may be used in other activities currently or previously supported by a Federal agency.

(2) The grantee or subgrantee must also make equipment available for use on other projects or programs currently or previously supported by the Federal Government, providing such use will not interfere with the work on the projects or program for which it was originally acquired. First preference for other use shall be given to other programs or projects supported by SSA. User fees should be considered if appropriate.

(3) Notwithstanding the encouragement in § 437.25(a) to earn program income, the grantee or subgrantee may not use equipment acquired with grant funds to provide services for a fee to compete unfairly with private companies that provide equivalent services, unless specifically permitted or contemplated by Federal statute.

(4) When acquiring replacement equipment, the grantee or subgrantee may use the equipment to be replaced as a trade-in or sell the property and use the proceeds to offset the cost of the replacement property, subject to the approval of SSA.

(d) *Management requirements.* Procedures for managing equipment (including replacement equipment), whether acquired in whole or in part with grant funds, until disposition takes place