PART 52h—SCIENTIFIC PEER REVIEW OF RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATIONS AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT PROJECTS

§ 52h.2 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) Act means the Public Health Service Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

(b) Appearance of a conflict of interest means that a reviewer or close relative...
or professional associate of the reviewer has a financial or other interest in an application or proposal that is known to the reviewer or the government official managing the review and would cause a reasonable person to question the reviewer’s impartiality if he or she were to participate in the review; the government official managing the review (the Scientific Review Administrator or equivalent) will evaluate the appearance of a conflict of interest and determine, in accordance with this subpart, whether or not the interest would likely bias the reviewer’s evaluation of the application or proposal.

(c) **Awarding official** means the Secretary of Health and Human Services and any other officer or employee of the Department of Health and Human Services to whom the authority involved has been delegated; except that, where the Act specifically authorizes another official to make awards in connection with a particular program, the awarding official shall mean that official and any other officer or employee of the Department of Health and Human Services to whom the authority involved has been delegated.

(d) **Budget period** means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

(e) **Close relative** means a parent, spouse, domestic partner, or son or daughter.

(f) **Contract proposal** means a written offer to enter into a contract that is submitted to the appropriate agency official by an individual or nonfederal organization which includes, at a minimum, a description of the nature, purpose, duration, and cost of the project, and the methods, personnel, and facilities to be utilized in carrying it out. A contract proposal may be unsolicited by the federal government or submitted in response to a request for proposals.

(g) **Development** means the systematic use of knowledge gained from research to create useful materials, devices, systems, or methods.

(h) **DHHS** means the Department of Health and Human Services.

(i) **Director** means the Director of the National Institutes of Health and any other official or employee of the National Institutes of Health to whom the authority involved has been delegated.

(j) **Grant** as used in this part, includes cooperative agreements.

(k) **Peer review group** means a group of primarily nongovernment experts qualified by training and experience in particular scientific or technical fields, or as authorities knowledgeable in the various disciplines and fields related to the scientific areas under review, to give expert advice on the scientific and technical merit of grant applications or contract proposals, or the concept of contract projects, in accordance with this part.

(l) **Principal investigator** has the same meaning as in 42 CFR part 52.

(m) **Professional associate** means any colleague, scientific mentor, or student with whom the peer reviewer is currently conducting research or other significant professional activities or with whom the member has conducted such activities within three years of the date of the review.

(n) **Project approach** means the methodology to be followed and the resources needed in carrying out the project.

(o) **Project concept** means the basic purpose, scope, and objectives of the project.

(p) **Project period** has the same meaning as in 42 CFR part 52.

(q) **Real conflict of interest** means a reviewer or a close relative or professional associate of the reviewer has a financial or other interest in an application or proposal that is known to the reviewer and is likely to bias the reviewer’s evaluation of that application or proposal as determined by the government official managing the review (the Scientific Review Administrator, or equivalent), as acknowledged by the reviewer, or as prescribed by this part. A reviewer shall have a real conflict of interest if he/she or a close relative or professional associate of the reviewer:

1. Has received or could receive a direct financial benefit of any amount deriving from an application or proposal under review;
2. Apart from any direct financial benefit deriving from an application or proposal under review, has received or could receive a financial benefit from
§ 52h.4 Composition of peer review groups.

(a) To the extent applicable, the selection and appointment of members of peer review groups and their terms of service shall be governed by chapter 9 of the DHHS General Administration Manual.

(b) Subject to paragraph (a) of this section, members will be selected based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific or technical fields, or upon their qualifications as authorities knowledgeable in the various disciplines and fields related to the scientific areas under review, taking into account, among other factors:

(1) The level of formal scientific or technical education completed or experience acquired by the individual;

(2) The extent to which the individual has engaged in relevant research, the capacities (e.g., principal investigator, assistant) in which the

(u) Scientific review group has the same meaning as peer review group, which is defined in paragraph (k) of this section.

(v) Solicited contract proposal has the same meaning as the definition of offer in 48 CFR 2.101.

(w) Unsolicited contract proposal has the same meaning as unsolicited proposal in 48 CFR 15.601.