

## § 22.315

## 32 CFR Ch. I (7–1–14 Edition)

the case of a new grant for research and development to an entity other than an institution of higher education, such provision of law specifically:

(A) Identifies the particular entity involved;

(B) States that the award to that entity is required by such provision of law to be made in contravention of the policy set forth in 10 U.S.C. 2374(a).

(ii) *Exception.* The requirement of paragraph (c)(3)(i) of this section does not apply to any grant that calls upon the National Academy of Sciences to:

(A) Investigate, examine, or experiment upon any subject of science or art of significance to the Department of Defense or any Military Department; and

(B) Report on such matters to the Congress or any agency of the Federal Government.

### § 22.315 Merit-based, competitive procedures.

Competitive procedures are methods that encourage participation in DoD programs by a broad base of the most highly qualified performers. These procedures are characterized by competition among as many eligible proposers as possible, with a published or widely disseminated notice. Competitive procedures include, as a minimum:

(a) *Notice to prospective proposers.* The notice may be a notice of funding availability or Broad Agency Announcement that is publicly disseminated, with unlimited distribution, or a specific notice that is distributed to eligible proposers (a specific notice must be distributed to at least two eligible proposers to be considered as part of a competitive procedure). Requirements for notices are as follows:

(1) The format and content of each notice must conform with the Governmentwide format for announcements of funding opportunities established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in a policy directive entitled, “Format for Financial Assistance Program Announcements.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup>This OMB policy directive is available at the Internet site [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants\\_docs.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_docs.html) (the link is “Final Policy Directive on Financial Assistance Program Announcements”).

(2) In accordance with that OMB policy directive, DoD Components also must post on the Internet any notice under which domestic entities may submit proposals, if the distribution of the notice is unlimited. DoD Components are encouraged to simultaneously publish the notice in other media (*e.g.*, the FEDERAL REGISTER), if doing so would increase the likelihood of its being seen by potential proposers. If a DoD Component issues a specific notice with limited distribution (*e.g.*, for national security considerations), the notice need not be posted on the Internet.

(3) To comply with an OMB policy directive entitled, “Requirement to Post Funding Opportunity Announcement Synopses at Grants.gov and Related Data Elements/Format,”<sup>3</sup> DoD Components must post on the Internet a synopsis for each notice that, in accordance with paragraph (a)(2) of this section, is posted on the Internet. The synopsis must be posted at the Governmentwide site designated by the OMB (currently <http://www.FedGrants.gov>). The synopsis for each notice must provide complete instructions on where to obtain the notice and should have an electronic link to the Internet location at which the notice is posted.

(4) In accordance with an OMB policy directive entitled, “Requirement for a DUNS Number in Applications for Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements,”<sup>4</sup> each notice must include a requirement for proposers to include Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) numbers in their proposals. If a notice provides for submission of application forms, the forms must incorporate the DUNS number. To the extent that unincorporated consortia of separate organizations may submit proposals, the notice should explain that an unincorporated consortium

<sup>3</sup>This OMB policy directive is available at the Internet site [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants\\_docs.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_docs.html) (the link is “Office of Federal Financial Management Policy Directive on Use of Grants.Gov FIND”).

<sup>4</sup>This OMB policy directive is available at the Internet site [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants\\_docs.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/grants_docs.html) (the link is “Use of a Universal Identifier by Grant Applicants”).

would use the DUNS number of the entity proposed to receive DoD payments under the award (usually, a lead organization that consortium members identify for administrative matters).

(b) At least two eligible, prospective proposers.

(c) Impartial review of the merits of applications or proposals received in response to the notice, using the evaluation method and selection criteria described in the notice. For research and development awards, in order to be considered as part of a competitive procedure, the two principal selection criteria, unless statute provides otherwise, must be the:

(1) Technical merits of the proposed research and development; and

(2) Potential relationship of the proposed research and development to Department of Defense missions.

[63 FR 12164, Mar. 12, 1998, as amended at 70 FR 49464, Aug. 23, 2005; 72 FR 34988, June 26, 2007]

#### § 22.320 Special competitions.

Some programs may be competed for programmatic or policy reasons among specific classes of potential recipients. An example would be a program to enhance U.S. capabilities for academic research and research-coupled graduate education in defense-critical, science and engineering disciplines, a program that would be competed specifically among institutions of higher education. All such special competitions shall be consistent with program representations in the President's budget submission to Congress and with subsequent Congressional authorizations and appropriations for the programs.

#### § 22.325 Historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and other minority institutions (MIs).

Increasing the ability of HBCUs and MIs to participate in federally funded, university programs is an objective of Executive Order 12876 (3 CFR, 1993 Comp., p. 671) and 10 U.S.C. 2323. Grants officers shall include appropriate provisions in Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs) or other announcements for programs in which awards to institutions of higher education are anticipated, in order to promote participation of HBCUs and MIs in such pro-

grams. Also, whenever practicable, grants officers shall reserve appropriate programmatic areas for exclusive competition among HBCUs and MIs when preparing announcements for such programs.

### Subpart D—Recipient Qualification Matters—General Policies and Procedures

#### § 22.400 Purpose.

The purpose of this subpart is to specify policies and procedures for grants officers' determination of recipient qualifications prior to award.

#### § 22.405 Policy.

(a) *General.* Grants officers normally shall award grants or cooperative agreements only to qualified recipients that meet the standards in § 22.415. This practice conforms with the Governmentwide policy to do business only with responsible persons, which is stated in OMB guidance at 2 CFR 180.125(a) and implemented by the Department of Defense in 2 CFR part 1125.

(b) *Exception.* In exceptional circumstances, grants officers may make awards to recipients that do not fully meet the standards in § 22.415 and include special award conditions that are appropriate to the particular situation, in accordance with 32 CFR 32.14, 33.12, or 34.4.

[63 FR 12164, Mar. 12, 1998, as amended at 70 FR 49464, Aug. 23, 2005; 72 FR 34988, June 26, 2007]

#### § 22.410 Grants officers' responsibilities.

The grants officer is responsible for determining a recipient's qualification prior to award. The grants officer's signature on the award document shall signify his or her determination that either:

(a) The potential recipient meets the standards in § 22.415 and is qualified to receive the grant or cooperative agreement; or

(b) An award is justified to a recipient that does not fully meet the standards, pursuant to § 22.405(b). In such cases, grants officers shall document in the award file the rationale for making