

Important updates for NIH and NSF data management and sharing plans (DMSP).

This spring there will be two changes to NSF and NIH DMSPs. The new DMSP templates will go into effect in April and May. Help is available from the University Libraries – resources and contact information provided below.

Here is a breakdown of the changes based on the agency.

NSF changes:

- For proposals submitted on or after **April 27, 2026**, NSF announced a new DMSP form will need to be completed on research.gov.
- According to NSF:
 - The new form will be a structured survey.
 - Data sharing is expected for funded research.
 - Reasons for not sharing data must be described.
 - Individual NSF directorates may provide guidance or impose their own criteria beyond the general NSF requirements. As usual, pay attention to any additional information from the directorate and follow those guidelines.
- [Detailed information about the NSF changes and what to expect can be found in their policy change announcement.](#)
- For proposals submitted **before** April 27, continue preparing the DMSP as a PDF upload.

Related to sharing research, a reminder that on January 22, 2026, NSF eliminated the 12-month embargo period for sharing publications. For grants awarded on or after January 22, [author accepted manuscripts \(AAMs\) must be submitted to NSF-PAR at the time of publication.](#)

NIH DMSP changes:

- Effective **May 25, 2026**, NIH will be implementing a new DMSP template. Proposals submitted on or after May 25 must use the new NIH template. The new template applies to DMSPs and the Genomic Data Sharing policy.
 - [NIH description of the change.](#)
- The DMSP template will be structured.
 - [Preview the pending new template.](#)
- For proposals submitted **before** May 25, [continue to use the current templates.](#)

The University Libraries have updated their research guides to reflect these changes. The two resources below can assist you with data management plans and public access policy requirements.

- [Research Data Management Basics: Data Management Plans](#) - provides information about funder data management plans and tools to help with writing plans and understanding requirements and terminology.
- [Public Access Policies](#) has information to help with understanding publisher and funder policies, AAMs, persistent IDs (PIDs), research repositories, and more.

Feel free to use these research guides for additional information or reach out to datahelp@gmu.edu with questions about DMSPs, publication and data sharing requirements, publisher policies, research repositories, and related information.