

[Title Slide.]

Hello and welcome to another presentation hosted by the UCLA CTSI Grant Submissions Unit. My name is Kelly Lozo and I will be walking you through major changes that the NIH is implementing for training Grant programs effective for applications being submitted on or after January 25th 2025. [Next Slide.]

These changes affect institutional training programs that use data tables such as T-Series grants, international institutional training grants like D43s, D71s, and U2Rs, and institutional career development awards (your K12s and KL2s). The NIH has stated that these changes are to reduce applicant and reviewer burden, further support the development of a diverse biomedical research Workforce, and align SF424 updates with relevant NIH training grant NOFOs and requirements. [Next Slide.]

These are the areas most affected and I will be digging into each one in more detail. [Next Slide.]

First, formal and ongoing mentor training with periodic refreshers is now required for all mentors within the program faculty section. Describe how mentors are trained in evidence informed practices promoting the development for trainees from all backgrounds, and how mentoring will be monitored. Suggested topics for training include aligning expectations, maintaining effective communication, fostering independence, assessing understanding, enhancing professional development, addressing equality and inclusion, and articulating your mentorship philosophy and plan. [Next Slide.]

Relatedly, the recruitment plan to enhance diversity is now a completely separate document from the 25-page program plan. This document has a three-page limit, aligning with the plan for instruction in the responsible conduct of research and methods for enhancing reproducibility. To accommodate those changes, the review criteria has also been updated. Both the recruitment plan to enhance diversity and responsible conduct of research documents now contribute to scientific and technical merit considerations for the overall impact score. [Next Slide.]

On to changes to the data tables. Please note that the coming slides include fictional examples and are not to be used to replace NIH or departmental guidelines. Applicants should always review the NIH's most up-to-date policies guidelines and instructions before submitting an application and are encouraged to connect with GSU for any questions. You can download the NIH's full instructions and templates using the shown QR code or link. [Next Slide.]

Beginning with table one, only include parts for the training stages reflected in the proposed program. So, a pre-doc only program will omit part two. [Next Slide.]

To see what this may look like in your submission: if you are submitting a pre-doc only program you would omit part two as shown. So only including part one. And likewise for post-doc only programs: just submit part two. [Next Slide.]

The NIH has also clarified that only full-time faculty should count in the total faculty column, and if pre-docs have affiliations in more than one participating department you may list them according to their primary affiliation. [Next Slide.]

On to table two. Here, only provide data for the programs relevant training stages. So for pre-doc only programs, this means including just pre-doc columns. And the same goes for post-doc only programs.

The only grants that should include both pre and post-doc columns are those training both career stages. [Next Slide.]

So table two will look like this for programs that serve pre- and post-docs. [Next Slide.]

But be cut back for a grant that serves just pre-docs as shown. [Next Slide.]

Likewise for post only programs. [Next Slide.]

For grants that have more than one institution participating, like if your UCLA T32 has a partnership or mentors from Charles Drew University, part two must be included to report those non UCLA mentors. If the grant only has UCLA mentors you may omit part two. [Next Slide.]

So here's an example of what the optional part two looks like. Note that this column differs from part one slightly and that it lists the primary organization as well as the mentors' department. [Next Slide.]

Onto table three. In the title they have replaced institution with organization and made grants plural. Overall the NIH seems to be shifting to use the word organization more over institution. [Next Slide.]

The NIH has also clarified that regardless of what training stage your grant is supporting, applicable grants that support pre-docs, postdocs, or both should be reported. In other words, do not report grants that support other training stages such as high school, undergraduate, or post-bac students and only count the number of trainees supported by these programs per year. [Next Slide.]

Essentially, ensure that there is at least one trainee to populate these columns and that they are just counted once on a yearly basis. [Next Slide.]

For table four, add active to the start of the title and, for multi-institutional programs, as with table 2, there's now an optional part two to house partner program mentors funding. So non-UCLA mentors should be listed there instead of part one. A new column has also been added to clarify the mentors applicable organization. [Next Slide.]

This is what part two may look like for multi-institutional grants, noticing this added column to report the mentors university since they may differ between faculty. [Next Slide.]

Then, finally, current direct cost is now current budget period direct costs. This is a standardization of the time frame used to determine what the current year is only report costs associated with the awards fiscal year at the time of submission. [Next Slide.]

For a visual of the updated header language, it will look like this. [Next Slide.]

Table five has more significant changes. For its title, replace those in training with trainees supported by this program. And they're now very specific about renewals only listing trainees who are appointed to the training grant at any time during the time 10-year time frame. So even if they left the program, they should be listed if they were appointed as such. Trainees listed in table 5 and 8 should match for that time 10-year time frame. They've also shifted the columns around a little bit to help refocus the table away from the mentors. It is now led by the trainee name column, meaning the trainees really drive this information. The faculty member column is now second. [Next Slide.]

So this is what the table looked like back before 2025. [Next Slide.]

And here you can see the new column ordering with trainees going first. It's possible for renewals that previous appointees would have been mentored by faculty no longer participating in the grant. If that's the case, you may now denote former mentors with an asterisk. [Next Slide.]

So just like this. [Next Slide.]

And finally, gone are the convoluted sorting instructions. I am happy to say that the data now only needs to be sorted sequentially by training period start year. They've also expanded allowable publications to include interim research products or preprints following NIH guidelines. [Next Slide.]

You can see how things are sorted chronologically by training period. [Next Slide.]

And an example of a preprint. [Next Slide.]

Table six also went through an overhaul. First, applicants have been replaced with training program candidates in the title. Then, essentially all portions of part two except for the percent from underrepresented groups row has been removed. So for pre-doc serving programs, this means that mean months of prior full-time research experience, prior institutions, and mean GPA are gone. And for post-doc serving programs, the mean number of publications, mean number of first author publications, and prior institutions are also gone. Instead they have combined the percent from underrepresented groups rows into part one and retitled the whole thing counts and characteristics. [Next Slide.]

So this is how things used to look previous to the 2025 changes. [Next Slide.]

And this is the new simplified format without part two and the URM data being moved into what used to be part one. So much less information! Remember to repeat these subtitles four more times for a total of five yearly tables alongside the final means table, so a total of six tables. I only included one here for space on the slide. [Next Slide.]

They've also adjusted the second and third column headers, including replacing total applicant pool with training program candidates applied. And then instead of applicants eligible for support, it is now training program candidates eligible so for support. So hopefully these headers are a little bit more intuitive. [Next Slide.]

So they look just like this. [Next Slide.]

Finally, the most recently completed year time frame has been specified to be the academic year or, for renewals, grant year. Whichever is more recent. Remember to keep in mind that UCLA's Academic Year runs from September to August. [Next Slide.]

For a visual, this is where the most recently completed year will be reported. [Next Slide.]

Last but not least, data table 8. In order to keep lettering conventions consistent, post-dos are now reported in table 8B just like they are in table 5B and 6B. 8C is now reserved for short-term trainees. They've also completely done away with the clearly associated with the training grant table, so renewals should no longer include this information. Since that table was previously numbered part two, the recent graduates and program statistic tables have been renumbered to accommodate the shift. So part one is still those appointed to the training grant for renewals, part two is now recent graduates for new programs, and part three is program statistics for renewal pre-doc programs. [Next Slide.]

So here's what the table used to look like and what they look like now without those clearly associated with a training grant. Please note those updated numbering. [Next Slide.]

Finally, they've added research education awards, or R 25s, as a type. In the summary of support during training column and for subsequent grants/role/year/awarded columns, awards may be included from the time they entered training. So this is an expansion, as previously it was from when they exited training. [Next Slide.]

So here you can see an R25 is listed. [Next Slide.]

And these subsequent awards will align with the time they entered the training program. [Next Slide.]

There are numerous further resources you can access if you're interested in learning more, including the NIH's own instructions and templates, our website, the Minerva database if you'd like to pull some of this information in a data table format, and then, of course, contacting my team directly. Thank you so much for watching and best of luck on your upcoming submission. [End Presentation.]