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Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI) Perspective on OMB Grant Reform

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AIRI Background



- Founded in 1961, more than 80 private, non-profit, independent research institutes (IRI) conducting biomedical and behavioral research
- IRIs complement university-based research; research-only missions and small size foster innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration
- IRIs receive approximately 9 percent of NIH extramural support; one-third AIRI members receive NSF funding; also funded by DOD, DOE, CDC, NASA, NOAA, ED, foundations, and corporations
- Members include: Fred Hutch, Salk, Cold Spring Harbor,
 Jackson Lab, smaller organ- and disease-specific institutes

AIRI FY 2012 NIH Statistics



- IRIs received approximately 10 percent of NIH RPGs and more than 10 percent of research center awards
- 13.3 percent of NCI; 12.6 percent of NIA; 11.7 percent of NIAID
- Average research grant received by IRIs in FY 2012 was \$560K – second highest of all organization types
- IRIs' 18.1 percent success rate higher than 17.6 percent for all organizations



AIRI Cost Policy History



- IRIs governed by A-122; no cap on administrative costs; interest reimbursement on qualified capital debt secured in 1995
- Periodically fix misunderstandings of IRIs by federal agencies (confused with industry labs - NRC, EPA, DOD)
- AIRI works closely with COGR on many issues of mutual interest, including OMB grant reform, export control, core facilities, and interest swaps



Omnicircular: AIRI Key Issues



- Relationship of financial and performance reporting
- Depreciation on capital assets purchased with nonfederal funds
- Subrecipient monitoring and management
- Participant support costs
- Procurement standards
- Trustee travel and subsistence expenses



Omnicircular: Other Issues



- Audit standards
- Effort reporting
- Effect of voluntary committed cost sharing on proposal review
- Four-year predetermined rates
- Depreciation on institutional contribution to equipment or renovation grants



Looking Ahead



- AIRI to closely examine omnicircular for effect (including unintended) on our members
- Work with COGR and others to ensure fair and transparent implementation by agencies
- Seek formal appeal process with OMB in event of agency misinterpretations
- Educate IRIs on effect of changes





Thank you!

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