

required by law to award if the applicant meets all applicable requirements for entitlement.

(c) *Exemption of certain subgrants.* Sections 3015.113 through 3015.115 do not apply to subgrants from States to their local governments under a mandatory or formula grant, if the local government is not required to apply for the subgrant on a project basis. Generally, such exempt subgrants will occur under a State plan which provides for local administration of a State-wide program under State supervision.

#### § 3015.111 Cost principles.

(a) The cost principles prescribed by subpart T of this part require prior approval of certain types of costs. Except when waived, those prior approval requirements apply to all grants and subgrants, whether or not §§ 3015.113 through 3015.115 apply.

(b) Procedures for prior approvals required by the cost principles are in § 3015.196. Procedures for prior approvals required by this subpart are in § 3015.112.

#### § 3015.112 Approval procedures.

(a) *For grants or cooperative agreements.* When requesting a prior approval required by this subpart, recipients shall address their requests to the responsible official of the awarding agency. Approvals shall not be valid unless they are in writing and signed by either the responsible officer, the head of the awarding agency, or the head of the awarding agency's regional office.

(b) *For subgrants.* Recipients shall be responsible for reviewing requests from their subrecipients for the approvals required by this subpart and for giving or denying the approval. A recipient shall not approve any action which is inconsistent with the purpose or terms of the Federal grant or cooperative agreement. If an action by a subrecipient will result in a change in the overall grant project or budget requiring approval from the awarding agency, the recipient shall obtain that approval before giving its approval to the subrecipient. Approvals shall not be valid unless they are in writing and

signed by an authorized official of the recipient organization.

(c) *Timing.* Within 30 days from the date of receipt of a request for approval, the approval authority shall review the request and notify the recipient of its decision. If the request for approval is still under consideration at the end of 30 days, the approval authority shall inform the recipient in writing as to when to expect the decision.

#### § 3015.113 Programmatic changes.

(a) *Scope.* This section contains requirements for prior approval of departures, other than budget revisions, from approved project plans. In addition to the requirements in this section, awarding agencies may require prior approval for other kinds of programmatic changes to an approved cooperative agreement, grant, or subgrant project.

(b) *Changes to project scope or objectives.* The recipient shall obtain prior approval for any change to the scope or objectives of the approved project. (For construction projects, any material change in approved space utilization or functional layout shall be considered a change in scope).

(c) *Changes in key people.* This section applies to grants, subgrants, and cooperative agreements for research. This section does not apply to other types of grants, subgrants, or cooperative agreements unless other terms of the award make it apply. The recipient shall obtain prior approval:

(1) To continue the project during any continuous period of more than three months without the active direction of an approved project director or principal investigator;

(2) For its selection of a replacement for the project director or principal investigator;

(3) For its selection of a replacement for any other persons named and expressly designated as key project people in the grant, subgrant, or cooperative agreement award document; or

(4) To permit the project director or principal investigator (or anyone covered by paragraph (c)(3) of this section) to devote substantially less effort to the project than was anticipated when the award was made.