Guidance for Reviewers:
Budget and Period of Support Information

Reviewer Information

- The reviewer should evaluate whether the budget and requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research. It is the Scientific Review Group (SRG) that makes a committee recommendation on the budget request and project period requested. Budget recommendations may be made to adjust the level of support to that appropriate for the work recommended.

- Reductions may be recommended under circumstances such as:
  - the budget is considered to be insufficiently justified by the project described in the application;
  - insufficient information is provided in the application about the work to be done in later years of the project;
  - the reviewers deem that the project can be completed in fewer years or for a smaller budget than requested.

- If recommending reductions or increases in time or amount, please provide comments in the review critique template (the Scientific Review Officer will summarize the discussion of the budget and project period in the budget paragraph of the summary statement).

Reviewing the Data Management and Sharing Justification

- Only applicable for applications that include a 'Data Management and Sharing Plan' (see Data Management and Sharing Policy for more information).

- As part of the budget considerations the reviewer should consider the 'Data Management and Sharing Justification'. Reviewers will not have access to the full Data Management and Sharing Plan, so their assessment of this aspect of the budget will only include information from the Data Management and Sharing Justification.

Reviewing Applications with Modular Budgets

- The SRG may recommend:
  - the elimination or addition of one or more $25,000 modules or specific budget items;
  - the budget is judged to be adequate to support the proposed work without recommending changes in modules or other budget item.
- Note that applications from foreign institutions with budgets of any size must use budget requests that are itemized and justified (see NOT-OD-06-096).
- See NIH Modular Research Grant Applications for general information about modular budgets.

Reviewing Applications with Non-modular Budgets

- The SRG may recommend:
  - additions or increases to the budget request, if it is judged to be insufficient to support the work proposed;
  - certain positions or other requests be deleted from the budget or reduced if they do not appear necessary to conduct the research;
  - the percent effort to be devoted to the project by certain individuals be reduced if judged to be insufficiently justified by the needs of the project;
  - the budget is judged to be adequate to support the proposed work without recommending any line item changes.
- Reductions of salary rates may not be recommended by the SRG.

Reviewing Budget Requests for Revision Applications

- Reviewers must include comments on the revision budge in relation to the budget originally approved for the parent application.

Identifying Budget Overlap

- Overlap may be difficult to identify since applicants are not required to list all active or pending research grants.

- If potential overlap is identified by reviewers, it should be indicated in the comments on the review critique template.

- The Scientific Review Officer will include overlap concerns in an administrative note in the Summary Statement.