
NCI Cancer Centers Working Group

Phase II: Streamlining the CCSG Application and Evaluation Process

**Joint NCAB/BSA
June 24, 2015**

Membership

- Mary Beckerle, PhD (Huntsman/Utah), Co-Chair
- Brian Springer, MHA (Moffitt), Co-Chair
- Frederick Appelbaum, MD (Fred Hutchinson) 9 Center Dir.
- Kevin Cullen, MD (Greenebaum/Maryland) 4 Assoc. Dir. Admin.
- Chi Dang, MD, PhD (Abramson/Pennsylvania)
- Robert Gerlach, MPA (Norris Cotton/Dartmouth) 3 NCI Staff
- Stanton Gerson, MD (Case Western)
- Lauren Hackett, MPA (Vanderbilt-Ingram)
- Anita Harrison, MPA (Hollings/Med Univ of South Carolina)
- Michelle LeBeau, PhD (Univ of Chicago)
- Craig Thompson, MD (Memorial Sloan-Kettering)
- Kristiina Vuori, MD, PhD (Sanford-Burnham)
- George Weiner, MD (Holden/Iowa)
- Sonya Roberson, PhD (NCI) - Liaison
- Shamala Srinivas, PhD (NCI) - Liaison
- Linda Weiss, PhD (NCI) – Executive Secretary

Goals

- Enhance CCSG application and review process
- Amplify referee ability to assess impact and innovation
- Reduce administrative burden and streamline the process

Timeline

- April-May 2014
 - Preparation/planning and committee recruitment
- June-August 2014
 - 4 working subgroups
 - 8 team calls
 - E-mail dialogue
- September-October 2014
 - Final report/recommendations assembled
- December 11, 2014
 - Discussion at Subcommittee A “Parent Committee”
- February 9, 2015
 - Review at Center Director’s meeting

Recommendations in 4 Major Areas:

- 1. Explore value and enhance efficiency of the site visit**
- 2. Increase clarity of requirements and review criteria**
- 3. Streamline data collection**
- 4. Streamline annual CCSG progress report**

The Working Group also assembled a collection of specific suggestions for improvement of CCSG application and review guidelines. (Appendix document)

All final recommendations
were discussed & endorsed by
participants of

- ✓ Working Group (unanimously)
- ✓ Subcommittee A
- ✓ Center Directors

Summary of WG Recommendations

1. Explore Value & Efficiency of the Site Visit

--Evaluate impact and merit of site visit

- Document and collect metrics on the value of site visit
 - *Other mechanisms (U, P, etc) have eliminated site visits*
 - *Significant time and cost savings for Centers and NCI*
 - *Scoring impact may balance out*

– Eliminate site visit tours and poster presentations for Shared Resources

– Replace with Q&A session for Shared Resources

– *Parent committee comments:*

- *Teambuilding value of site visit for Centers*
- *Site visit provides opportunity to answer questions*

Recommendations

2. Increase Clarity of Requirement/Review Criteria

- Modify instructions and review criteria to eliminate redundancy
- Restore individual review of Shared Resources
 - eliminate current “grouping” approach
- Better define eligibility requirements for “comprehensive” designation while avoiding “one size fits all” approach
- *Parent Committee comments:*
 - *Redundancy has some value for reviewers*
 - *Individual review of Shared Resources is preferred*
 - *Added specificity may constrain Centers and reviewers*

Recommendations

3. Streamline Data Collection

- Make greater use of direct data acquisition methods for Data Tables to reduce administrative burden
 - Tap existing systems (e.g., CTRP, RePORTER)
- Use *electronically available resources for Biosketches*
 - *Consider My NIH Biosketch for non-key personnel*
 - *Enhance utilization of existing central NIH resources*
- *Parent Committee comments*
 - *No concerns raised*
 - *Several of these actions already underway*

Recommendations

4. Streamline Annual CCSG Progress Reports

- Simplify process for annual Progress Report
 - Reduce narrative length to emphasize key accomplishments & major changes
 - Provide annually updated Data Tables to enable Program staff to track progress
 - Annual Progress Reports are time-consuming to produce and don't have actionable consequences
 - NCI Office of Cancer Centers utilizes progress reports in many ways

- *Not discussed by the Parent Committee.*

Next Steps

- National Cancer Advisory Board review
 - today
- Final report to Dr. Paulette Gray, Division of Extramural Activities
- Office of Cancer Centers implementation

Implementation timeline

“When issued” update by OCC for elements not defined in the CCSG FOA

Progress report & site visit structure

CCSG FOA “Guidelines” reissue

September 2016

First new format CCSG submission

January 25, 2017

Discussion and vote