**Sponsored Research Administration**

**Guidance on an Allowable Start Spending Date**

Below is the method SRA uses to determine the ‘allowable start spending date’ for awards that have a defined period of performance start date ***prior*** to the date of award receipt.

1. For new awards set up in Advance, the ‘allowable start spending date’ will remain as the Advance Start Date.
2. For new awards that are NOT set up in Advance, the ‘allowable start spending date’ will depend on the type of award and whether a UFT and/or negotiations were required.
3. For grants (NSF, NIH, etc.) and unilateral awards (no signatures required) with acceptable terms and conditions, the ‘allowable start spending’ date will be the date SRA received the award.
4. If the award is unilateral (e.g., a purchase order), and negotiations and/or a UFT were required, the ‘allowable start spending date’ will be the date on which all issues were resolved.
5. For bilateral agreements (signatures required), the date will be that of the last required signature which signifies full execution.

**Exception:** When an award is received prior to the start date of the award, an allowable start spend date will ***not*** be necessary if the award is setup within 2 weeks of the actual award start date. If the award is setup beyond 2 weeks of the actual award start date an “allowable start spend date” will be required.

If the department requests an allowable start spending date outside of this guidance, Post Award Management will need to approve the requested date through the Ancillary Review process in RAMP.

***Work should not begin on a project without an Advance or a project set up in RAMP. An Advance is appropriate when the sponsor indicates that an award will be coming, and the PI needs to start working on the project. If the award has been received with a defined period of performance (not ‘upon execution’) and the negotiations have not been completed, an Advance is necessary to start working on the project.***