

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Date: March 12, 2026

**Financial Assistance Regulations
Other Transaction Regulation**

No: FAL 2026-07

No: OTL 2026-05



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE LETTER/ OTHER TRANSACTION LETTER

This Financial Assistance Letter and Other Transaction Letter is issued under the authority of the Senior Procurement Executives of DOE and NNSA. It is intended for use by the procurement professionals of DOE, primarily Grants and Agreements Officers, and other officials of DOE that participate in the acquisition process. Other parties are welcome to its information, but definitive interpretation of its effect on DOE Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcements, Awards, and other related procedures and actions may only be made by DOE Grants and Agreements Officers.

Subject: Implementation of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, Division B (Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026), Title III and Title V of Pub. L. No. 119-74; and Division E (Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2026), Title VII of Pub. L. No. 119-75.

References:

Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026, Division B, Pub. L. No. 119-74

Title III, Sections 301, 304, 307, and 313; and Title V Sections 501 and 503

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, Division E (Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2026), Pub. L. No. 119-75

Title VII, Sections 724, 738, 742, 743, 744, 745, and 750

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, Pub. L. No. 114-113

Division D, Title III, Section 306

When is this Financial Assistance Letter (FAL) / Other Transaction Letter (OTL) effective?

The statutory provisions addressed in this FAL/OTL were effective-as of January 23, 2026, for Pub. L. No. 119-74 and February 3, 2026, for Pub. L. No. 119-75.

When does this FAL/OTL expire?

This FAL/OTL is in effect for fiscal year (FY) 2026. This FAL/OTL and all previous FALS/OTLs on appropriations will be archived after the end of the applicable FAL/OTL and a new FAL/OTL on appropriations is issued. Generally, the guidance will remain in effect when obligating dollars appropriated under that applicable appropriation Act. Please request assistance from your local General Counsel for applicability after the end of a fiscal year.

Who is the point of contact?

DOE questions regarding this FAL/OTL should be sent to the Contract and Financial Assistance Policy Division at DOE_OAPMPolicy@hq.doe.gov.

NNSA questions regarding this FAL/OTL should be sent to the Acquisition Policy and Oversight Division, Policy & Oversight Branch (NA-PAS-111), at (505) 845-5639.

Entity of Concern-Research Security (Section 307) or Research, Technology and Economic Security (RTES) review questions should be sent to the RTES Office (IA-63) at RTESOfficeInternal@hq.doe.gov.

Who is the intended audience?

Department of Energy (DOE or Department) and National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Contracting Officers, Grants Officers, and Agreements Officers. Any reference in this guidance to Contracting Officer should be understood to include Grants Officer. Any reference in this guidance to the DOE should be understood to include the NNSA, unless otherwise indicated.

What is the purpose?

The purpose of this FAL/OTL is to provide information and guidance regarding DOE's implementation of the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026, Division B (Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026), Title III and Title V of Pub. L. No. 119-74; and Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, Division E (Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2026), Title VII of Pub. L. No. 119-75 (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act").

The Congressional Notification requirements of Pub. L. No. 119-74, Division B, Title III, Sections 301(b) and 301(c) will be addressed in a separate Acquisition Letter/Financial

Assistance Letter/Other Transaction Letter (AL/FAL/OTL).

What types of actions are affected by this FAL/OTL?

This FAL/OTL applies to all DOE and NNSA Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) and financial assistance actions funded with fiscal year 2026 appropriated funds. For NOFOs and financial assistance actions funded in whole or in part with previous fiscal year funds or other Act funds and guidance is not provided in this FAL/OTL, please refer to the corresponding FAL/OTL for appropriate guidance or contact your local General Counsel’s Office. For example, if an award is made with fiscal year 2016 appropriated funds, please see FAL 2016-01 for appropriate guidance.

What guidance is included in this FAL/OTL?

Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026, Pub. L. No. 119-74, Division B - Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026

Title III – Department of Energy – Energy Programs

- I. Section 301(a) Unfunded Requests for Proposals/Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)¹**
- II. Section 301(c) Multiyear Award Funding for DOE—Energy Programs; and Section 306 Multiyear Award Funding for DOE—Energy Programs—Science (From Section 306 of Division D of the 2016 Act)**
- III. Section 304 Use of Independent Project Management Procedures in Awards that Exceed \$100,000,000 in Federal Funding**
- IV. Section 307 Entity of Concern – Research Security**
- V. Section 313 Indirect Rates**

Title V – General Provisions

- VI. Section 501 Lobbying Restrictions**
- VII. Section 503 Computer Network Restriction**

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, Pub. L. No. 119-75, Division E- Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2026

Title VII – General Provisions-Government-Wide

- VIII. Section 724 Federal Funds Source Information**
- IX. Section 738 Reporting on Conference Spending**
- X. Section 742 Confidentiality Agreements Prohibiting Whistleblower Activities**
- XI. Section 743 Prohibition on Funding For Certain Nondisclosure Agreements**

¹ The Act uses the term “funding opportunity announcements” or FOAs. This FAL will utilize the term “notices of funding opportunity” UNLESS Section 301 (a) is being discussed where the term “FOA” will be used.

- XII. Section 744 Unpaid Federal Tax Liability**
- XIII. Section 745 Felony Criminal Violations**
- XIV. Section 750 Congressional Earmarks and Congressionally Directed Spending**

NOTE: The congressional notification requirements of Sections 301(b) and 301(c) will be addressed in a separate AL/FAL/OTL.

I. SECTION 301(a) UNFUNDED REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS/FOAs

What is the law?

301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 301(a) in Title III of Division B of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires that appropriations, funds, or authorities made available by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act shall not be used to initiate or resume any program, project or activity or to prepare, initiate, or publicize Requests for Proposals (RFP), Requests for Information (RFI), Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA), Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs), Requests for Applications (RFA), Broad Agency Announcements (BAA), or similar arrangements for any program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

Before preparing, initiating, or publicizing RFPs, RFIs, FOAs, NOFOs, RFAs, BAAs, or similar arrangements in support of a program, project, or activity, the Contracting Officer shall work with the program office and the program office budget officials to ensure that the program, project, or activity has been funded by Congress.

II. **SECTION 301(c) MULTIYEAR AWARD FUNDING FOR DOE—ENERGY PROGRAMS; and Section 306 MULTIYEAR AWARD FUNDING FOR DOE—ENERGY PROGRAMS—SCIENCE (From Section 306 of Division D of the 2016 Act)**

What is the law?

301(c). The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs”, enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

- (1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or
- (2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, provided that none of the funds made available under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science” in this **or any subsequent Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations Act for any fiscal year** may be used for a multiyear contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or Other Transaction (OT) Agreement of \$1,000,000 or less unless the contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or Other Transaction Agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 301(c) of Division B of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires multiyear contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or other transaction agreements awarded with budget authority or funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs” be funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or the contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other transaction award include a clause conditioning the Federal Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority **and** the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

Furthermore, Section 306 of Division D of the 2016 Act requires that multiyear contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or other transaction awards of \$1,000,000 or less awarded **with funds appropriated by the 2016 Act or any subsequent Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations Act for any fiscal year** under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science” **be funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award.**

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

Contracting and Grants Officers awarding multiyear contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or other transaction awards with budget authority or funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs” must ensure that the funds for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award are available prior to award and obligated at award **or** the contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or other transaction award includes a clause or term conditioning the Federal Government’s obligation on the availability of future year budget authority **and** the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance of award.

Furthermore, Contracting Officers and Grants Officers awarding multiyear contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, or other transaction awards of \$1,000,000 or less **with funds appropriated by the 2016 Act or any subsequent Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies appropriations Act for any fiscal year** under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Science” **must ensure that the funds for the full period of performance, as anticipated at the time of award, are available prior to award and obligated at award.**

“Multiyear grant or multiyear cooperative agreement award” or “Multi-year grant or multi-year cooperative agreement award” means a new or renewal award with a project period greater than 12 months, excluding continuation amendments.

III. SECTION 304 USE OF INDEPENDENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES IN AWARDS THAT EXCEED \$100,000,000 IN FEDERAL FUNDING

What is the law?

304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to support a grant allocation award, discretionary grant award, or cooperative agreement that exceeds \$100,000,000 in Federal funding unless the project is carried out through internal independent project management procedures.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 304 of Title III of Division B of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to awards of DOE financial assistance (grant allocation, discretionary grant or cooperative agreement awards) exceeding \$100 million in FY26 funds.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

Program offices that intend to make financial assistance awards that exceed \$100 million in Federal funding must have internal independent project management procedures that the

program will use while administering the project under the award.

COs should work with Program Officials to ensure that they have internal independent project management procedures established and the NOFO, and resulting award, contains the specific project requirements consistent with the project management procedures. Awards cannot be made unless there are internal independent project management procedures in place for the project.

For additional project management resources and principles see Chapter 2.1.6 Project Management in the Guide to Financial Assistance and DOE O 413.3B Chg 7 (LtdChg), *Program and Project Management for Acquisition of Capital Assets*.

IV. SECTION 307 ENTITY OF CONCERN – RESEARCH SECURITY

What is the law?

307. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Energy to award any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan of \$10,000,000 or greater to an entity of concern as defined in section 10114 of division B of Public Law 117–167.

(b) The Secretary shall implement the requirements under subsection (a) using a risk-based approach and analytical tools to aggregate, link, analyze, and maintain information reported by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act.

(c) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under applicable international agreements.

(d) The Secretary shall have the authority to require the submission to the agency, by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act, documentation necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

(e) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), shall not apply to the implementation of the requirements under this section.

(f) The Secretary and other Federal agencies shall coordinate to share relevant information necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 307 of Title III of Division B of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to awards of DOE financial assistance (competitive and noncompetitive grant or cooperative agreement awards) of \$10 million or more in federal funds that include any FY26 funds. Existing awards of \$10M or more in federal funding that were not previously funded with FY26 dollars, but which add FY 26 funds, are also subject to Section 307 of the Act.

To manage and mitigate research, technology and economic security risks, it is DOE policy that all Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) undergo a risk-based review by the Office of Research, Technology and Economic Security (RTES Office) to determine whether an RTES due diligence review is needed before selections are made. The RTES Office will apply a risk-based approach to determine which NOFO selections and resulting awards require a review by the RTES Office. The implementation of Section 307 and the RTES review process is explained further below.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

A. Implementation of Section 307 in the RTES Review Process

As part of the risk-based review by RTES (see part B. The RTES Review Process), the RTES Office will review NOFOs in phase 1 and, if applicable, the selections for awards of \$10 million or more in FY26 funds in phase 2, for any “Entities of Concern” as required by Section 307. For existing awards of \$10M or more in federal funding that were not previously funded with FY26 dollars, but which add FY26 funds, the RTES Office will review for any “Entities of Concern” as part of phase 3 review. As part of the review process, the RTES Office may develop specific NOFO provisions and award terms to ensure that DOE can take appropriate action to enforce the Section 307 prohibition regarding “Entities of Concern.”

COs must ensure that:

- (1) The RTES Office has completed their review of the NOFO and any comments, provisions, or edits provided by the RTES Office have been addressed or included prior to publication;
- (2) The RTES Office has completed their review of selectees and alternates prior to sending out any applicant notification letters and any award terms developed by the RTES Office are included in the award
- (3) For existing awards that were not previously reviewed by the RTES Office for “Entities of Concern”, refer the award to RTES for review if:
 - (a) A modification to an award of \$10M or more federal funds that did not previously include FY26 dollars is adding FY26 funding for the first time.
 - (b) A modification to an award funded with FY26 funds causes the federal share to breach the \$10M threshold.

B. The RTES Review Process

The United States and our allies continue to face serious research, technology, and economic security (RTES) risks as some foreign governments are working aggressively to acquire our most advanced technologies and dominate strategic supply chains. To combat these risks, DOE implemented a risk-based review policy for all DOE-funded financial assistance awards/projects.

The RTES Office (IA-63) supports DOE programs’ compliance with the risk assessment and risk mitigation policy to ensure our national security, economic competitiveness, and technological leadership imperatives are duly incorporated into DOE’s financial assistance

and loan activities. The RTES Office's responsibilities include identifying and addressing potential security risks that threaten the scientific enterprise; establishing best practices for programs; conducting outreach activities for stakeholders; educating DOE programs on potential security risks; and conducting or facilitating risk assessments by reviewing NOFOs prior to publication, the application selectees and alternates prior to sending applicant notifications, and any award changes to the project, personnel, or ownership/control that could affect RTES.

Each departmental element (e.g., SC, NE, CMEI, etc.) has identified one or more people to serve as program office POCs for their respective office. The program office POCs are designated to facilitate the RTES review process. The RTES financial assistance risk assessment review is conducted in three phases.

Phase 1 is applicable to all draft NOFOs for all funding sources (Base Appropriations, BIL, IRA, CHIPS) and all project types (R&D, demonstration, etc.). The Phase 1 RTES review of NOFOs must be completed prior to posting a NOFO to ensure that applicants submit the appropriate application documents needed for DOE to conduct its due diligence and to set expectations for the impact to the application selections schedule in Phase 2 of the RTES review process.

Phase 2 is applicable to all recommended applicant selections and alternates from NOFOs identified for RTES Review Phase 2 as an outcome of Phase 1. The Program Office POC must submit the recommended selections to the RTES Office for review as soon as the Federal Consensus Board identifies the list of recommended selections and alternates, prior to issuing any applicant notifications. The Phase 2 RTES review of selectees and alternates must be completed prior to issuing any notifications to applicants regarding the status of the application to ensure that DOE mitigates any anticipated risks, any red flags identified during this review do not adversely affect the project outcomes, and the appropriate terms and conditions are included in the resulting awards.

Phase 3 is applicable to financial assistance projects, both during award negotiation and during the life of the project (post-award). A Phase 3 RTES review may be triggered in situations where there are changes to the project, personnel, or ownership/control that could affect RTES. The entities selected for funding are responsible for notifying DOE of these types of changes, as outlined in their agreements with DOE. The RTES Office, in turn, conducts its own due diligence to verify the information and will take a risk-based approach to continuous monitoring.

When a NOFO Manager is ready for RTES Phase 1, 2, or 3 review, they should contact their Program Office POC, who will request RTES Office review. For additional information on the RTES review process, the required documents for review, and the review format, DOE staff should visit the RTES Office website on energyhub.

COs must ensure that (1) RTES has completed their review of the NOFO and any comments or edits provided by RTES have been addressed prior to publication, (2) RTES has completed their review of selectees and alternates prior to sending out any applicant

notification letters, and (3) RTES-related award changes are referred to the RTES Office for review (using the latest guidance on RTES Office website on energyhub).

V. SECTION 313 INDIRECT RATES

What is the law?

313. In making Federal financial assistance, the Department of Energy shall continue to apply the indirect cost rates, including negotiated indirect cost rates, as described in section 200.414 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, including with respect to the approval of deviations from negotiated indirect cost rates, to the same extent and in the same manner as was applied in fiscal year 2024: Provided, That none of the funds appropriated in this or prior Acts or otherwise made available to the Department of Energy may be used to develop, modify, or implement changes to such negotiated indirect cost rates.

What is the scope of the requirement?

Section 313 of Division B of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to all Notice of Funding Opportunity announcements (NOFOs), other funding announcements, and all awards of DOE financial assistance to which funds appropriated under the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act, or prior Acts, are obligated. Section 313 requires DOE to examine, negotiate, accept, use, deviate and apply indirect rates and reimburse indirect costs in its financial assistance awards in accordance with the regulations, terms and conditions, policies and procedures used by DOE in FY2024.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

This section describes how DOE must manage indirect costs and non-federal entity indirect cost rates when providing and administering federal financial assistance. Indirect cost are those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. An indirect cost rate is a percentage used by organizations to fairly allocate shared overhead costs—such as rent, utilities, and administrative salaries—to specific projects, financial assistance awards, or contracts. It is calculated by dividing the total indirect cost pool by a direct cost base (e.g., total direct salaries), allowing for equitable recovery of indirect expenses. For Institutions of Higher Education, Nonprofit Organizations, States/Local Governments and Indian Tribes indirect rates are approved by the Cognizant Agency for Indirect Costs in accordance with 2 CFR 200 by issuance of a Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement (NICRA). For-Profit entities must follow the appropriate cost principles contained in 48 CFR part 31 for development and use of an indirect cost rate and reimbursement of indirect costs. In essence, this section ensures that DOE maintains consistency in how it applies the indirect cost rate and manages indirect costs (including fringe benefits) in its financial assistance awards, and how it approves deviations to the approved NICRA and indirect rates following the requirements provided in 2 CFR 200.

Continuation of Current Practices: DOE must continue to examine, negotiate, accept, use, deviate, and apply indirect rates and reimburse indirect costs in its financial assistance awards consistent with the regulations, terms and conditions, policies and procedures used by DOE in FY2024. These rates include those that have been negotiated, are current and approved, and agreed upon for use in financial assistance awards.

Approval of Deviations: Deviation from using approved NICRAs or indirect rates must follow 2 C.F.R part 200 or 48 CFR part 31.

Restriction on Changes: DOE is not allowed to use any funds from this or previous appropriations to develop, modify, or implement changes to the application of indirect rates provided in approved, current NICRAs and reimbursement of indirect costs without following the regulations, terms and conditions, policies and procedures used by DOE in FY2024.

After the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act was enacted, DOE issued Policy Flash PF 2026-30 on January 27, 2026, stating that the Policy Flashes related to indirect cost reimbursement limits (PF 2025-38, PF 2025-27, PF 2025-26, PF 2025-25, and PF 2025-22) are no longer in effect.

For current NOFOs/funding announcements, COs must remove provisions (including any Program Policy Factors) implementing or using any of the indirect cost reimbursement limits provided in Policy Flashes PF 2025-38, PF 2025-27, PF 2025-26, PF 2025-25, and PF 2025-22.

For NOFOs/funding announcements that have closed and contained provisions or Program Policy Factors implementing or using any of the indirect cost reimbursement limits issued in Policy Flashes PF 2025-38, PF 2025-27, PF 2025-26, PF 2025-25, and PF 2025-22, COs must work with the Office of General Counsel (OGC) and Program Officials to determine an appropriate course of action depending on where the application(s) is in the financial assistance review/selection/award process. COs must ensure that no Program Policy Factor related to limits of indirect cost reimbursement was used in the selection process and the selected project/award budget: supports the proposed project activities, correctly identifies/documents/applies the current approved indirect cost rate and associated costs, and does not include any indirect cost reimbursement limits.

For all awards, including current awards, no funds appropriated under the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act, or prior Acts, may be obligated or used where the indirect cost rate, including a cost rate negotiated in accordance with section 200.414 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, is applied inconsistently with the manner that it was applied in FY2024. Therefore, no award terms or conditions shall be included in any financial assistance awards that use any of the indirect cost reimbursement limits provided in Policy Flashes PF 2025-38, PF 2025-27, PF 2025-26, PF 2025-25, and PF 2025-22 or that are inconsistent with the regulations, terms and conditions, policies and procedures used by DOE for indirect rate use and reimbursement in FY2024.

For all awards, including current awards, that were selected, negotiated and awarded utilizing the indirect cost reimbursement limits provided in Policy Flashes PF 2025-38, PF 2025-27, PF 2025-26, PF 2025-25, and/or PF 2025-22, COs must work with OGC and Program Officials to determine an appropriate course of action to take on the awards to comply with Section 313 of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act and the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. § 1341), taking into consideration the status of the award, funding available to the Program Office, and the award/project objectives.

The Anti-Deficiency Act prohibits making or authorizing the making of an expenditure or obligation in excess of amounts available or involving the government in an obligation in advance of an appropriation unless authorized by law. Because awarding financial assistance is an obligation of Federal funds, financial assistance may not be awarded, as well as any modifications to the award that increase the Total Award Value, by DOE unless the funds are currently available in a DOE appropriation or fund. Questions concerning the Anti-Deficiency Act should be referred to the OGC for General Law.

VI. SECTION 501 LOBBYING RESTRICTIONS

What is the law?

501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. § 1913.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 501 of Division B of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to all NOFOs, and awards of DOE financial assistance to which funds appropriated under the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act are obligated.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

Contracting Officers shall ensure that the standard provision “**Lobbying Activities**” and award term entitled “**Lobbying**” are incorporated into all NOFOs, and awards of financial assistance that use funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

VII. SECTION 503 COMPUTER NETWORK RESTRICTIONS

What is the law?

503. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 503 of Division B of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to all awards of DOE financial assistance to which funds appropriated under the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act are obligated.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

Contracting Officers shall ensure that the standard provision and award term entitled “**Computer Network Restrictions**” are incorporated into all awards of financial assistance that use funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act.

COMPUTER NETWORK RESTRICTIONS

The Recipient shall not expend any Federal funds to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography. This prohibition does not apply when carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

VIII. SECTION 724 FEDERAL FUNDS SOURCE INFORMATION

What is the law?

724. Any request for proposals, solicitation, grant application, form, notification, press release, or other publications involving the distribution of Federal funds shall comply with any relevant requirements in part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations: *Provided*, That this section shall apply to direct payments, formula funds, and grants received by a State receiving Federal funds.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 724 of Division E of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act requires that Federal forms used to distribute Federal funds to a State must comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. part 200, as implemented by 2 C.F.R. part 910, and requires identification of (1) the Federal agency providing Federal funds and (2) the amount of Federal funds provided for all proposals, solicitations, grant applications, forms, notifications, press releases, or other publications related to the distribution of funding to States.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

NOFOs, grant applications, Federal forms, notifications, DOE press releases, or other DOE publications involving the distribution of DOE funds to a State through direct payment, formula

funds, or grants, that are obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act must comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. part 200, as implemented by 2 C.F.R. part 910 and clearly identify DOE as the funding agency and the total amount of DOE funds being obligated.

IX. SECTION 738 REPORTING ON CONFERENCE SPENDING

What is the law?

738. (a) The head of any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this or any other appropriations Act shall submit annual reports to the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, regarding the costs and contracting procedures related to each conference held by any such department, agency, board, commission, or office during fiscal year 2026 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$100,000.

(b) Each report submitted shall include, for each conference described in subsection (a) held during the applicable period— (1) a description of its purpose; (2) the number of participants attending; (3) a detailed statement of the costs to the United States Government, including— (A) the cost of any food or beverages; (B) the cost of any audio-visual services; (C) the cost of employee or contractor travel to and from the conference; and (D) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to the conference; and (4) a description of the contracting procedures used including— (A) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis; and (B) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the departmental component or office in evaluating potential contractors for the conference.

(c) Within 15 days after the end of a quarter, the head of any such department, agency, board, commission, or office shall notify the Inspector General or senior ethics official for any entity without an Inspector General, of the date, location, and number of employees attending a conference held by any Executive branch department, agency, board, commission, or office funded by this or any other appropriations Act during fiscal year 2026 for which the cost to the United States Government was more than \$20,000.

(d) A grant or contract funded by amounts appropriated by this or any other appropriations Act may not be used for the purpose of defraying the costs of a conference described in subsection (c) that is not directly and programmatically related to the purpose for which the grant or contract was awarded, such as a conference held in connection with planning, training, assessment, review, or other routine purposes related to a project funded by the grant or contract.

(e) None of the funds made available in this or any other appropriations Act may be used for travel and conference activities that are not in compliance with Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-12-12 dated May 11, 2012, or any subsequent revisions to that memorandum.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 738 of Division E of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to all solicitations, NOFOs, and awards of financial assistance or contracts funded by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act, or any other appropriations act and requires reporting to the Inspector General on expenditures for DOE conferences.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

Contracting Officers shall ensure that the “**Conference Spending**” term is incorporated into all new financial assistance solicitations and NOFOs that will result in financial assistance awards as well as in all new financial assistance awards that are obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other appropriations act. Contracting Officers shall also ensure that financial assistance awards are not made or amended to defray conference costs to DOE and/or circumvent the requirements for approval of DOE conferences.

X. SECTION 742 CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENTS PROHIBITING WHISTLEBLOWER ACTIVITIES

What is the law?

742. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be available for a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with an entity that requires employees or contractors of such entity seeking to report fraud, waste, or abuse to sign internal confidentiality agreements or statements prohibiting or otherwise restricting such employees or contractors from lawfully reporting such waste, fraud, or abuse to a designated investigative or law enforcement representative of a Federal department or agency authorized to receive such information.

(b) The limitation in subsection (a) shall not contravene requirements applicable to Standard Form 312, Form 4414, or any other form issued by a Federal department or agency governing the nondisclosure of classified information.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 742 of Division E of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to all applicants for and recipients of new DOE grant, cooperative agreement, and other transaction agreements, and any current, renewal or continuation awards that are funded by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or funds from any other Acts. This requirement includes no dollar value threshold and does flow down to subawardees (e.g., subrecipients, subgrantees, subcontractors) to ensure that employees of applicants, recipients, and subawardees are not prevented from reporting waste, fraud, or abuse by signing confidentiality agreements that would prohibit such disclosures.

Standard Form (SF) 312 is the Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

For entities that wish to apply for DOE financial assistance opportunities, SAM.gov's *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* contain a statement that the entity "will comply with all limitations imposed by annual appropriations acts". Contracting Officers need to confirm that the entity has completed its *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* prior to awarding a grant, cooperative agreement, or other discretionary award, or OT award that is obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Acts.

The Contracting Officer shall ensure that the awarded entity's representation is current at award by including the "**Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Assurances**" in new, current and renewal/continuation grant, cooperative agreement, or other discretionary award and OT awards that are obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Acts. To ensure that Recipients of previously awarded grants, cooperative agreements or OT awards do not prohibit or otherwise restrict their employees or contactors from lawfully reporting waste, fraud, or abuse, Contracting Officers shall include the "**Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Assurances**" in the next award modification that is executed and funded after enactment of this Act with funds from this 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Act.

XI. SECTION 743 PROHIBITION ON FUNDING FOR CERTAIN NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS**What is the law?**

743. (a) No funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to implement or enforce the agreements in Standard Forms 312 and 4414 of the Government or any other nondisclosure policy, form, or agreement if such policy, form, or agreement does not contain the following provisions: "These provisions are consistent with and do not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the employee obligations, rights, or liabilities created by existing statute or Executive order relating to (1) classified information, (2) communications to Congress, (3) the reporting to an Inspector General of a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or mismanagement, a gross waste of funds, an abuse of authority, or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or (4) any other whistleblower protection. The definitions, requirements, obligations, rights, sanctions, and liabilities created by controlling Executive orders and statutory provisions are incorporated into this agreement and are controlling.": *Provided*, That notwithstanding the preceding provision of this section, a nondisclosure policy form or agreement that is to be executed by a person connected with the conduct of an intelligence or intelligence-related activity, other than an employee or officer of the United States Government, may contain provisions appropriate to the particular activity for which such document is to be used. Such form or agreement shall, at a minimum, require that the person will not disclose any classified information received in the course of such activity unless specifically authorized to do so by the United States Government. Such nondisclosure forms shall also make it clear that they do not bar disclosures to Congress, or to an authorized official of an executive

agency or the Department of Justice, that are essential to reporting a substantial violation of law.

(b) A nondisclosure agreement may continue to be implemented and enforced notwithstanding subsection (a) if it complies with the requirements for such agreement that were in effect when the agreement was entered into.

(c) No funds appropriated in this or any other Act may be used to implement or enforce any agreement entered into during fiscal year 2014 which does not contain substantially similar language to that required in subsection (a).

Section 743 of Division E of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to non-Federal nondisclosure policies, forms, or agreements in use while performing under a Federal award (grant, cooperative agreement or other transaction) and prohibits the expenditure of Federal funds for the implementation of agreements in certain nondisclosure policies unless certain provisions are included in the policies.

SF312 is the Classified Information Nondisclosure Agreement.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

For entities that wish to apply for DOE financial assistance opportunities, SAM.gov's *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* contain a statement that the entity "will comply with all limitations imposed by annual appropriations acts". Contracting Officers need to confirm that the entity has completed its *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* prior to awarding a grant, cooperative agreement, or other discretionary award, or OT award that is obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Acts.

The Contracting Officer shall ensure that the awarded entity's representation is current at award by including the "Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Assurances" in new, current, and renewal/continuation grant, cooperative agreement, or other discretionary award and OT awards that are obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Acts. To ensure that Recipients of previously awarded grants, cooperative agreements or OT awards do not use funds appropriated in this or any other Act to implement or enforce any nondisclosure policy, form, or agreement if such policy, form, or agreement does not contain the appropriate provisions, Contracting Officers shall include the "**Nondisclosure and Confidentiality Agreements Assurances**" in the next award modification that is executed and funded after enactment of this Act with funds from this Act or any other Act.

XII. SECTION 744 UNPAID FEDERAL TAX LIABILITY

What is the law?

744. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or

provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 744 of Division E of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to all new DOE grant, cooperative agreement, loan, and loan guarantee awards, and renewal or continuation awards to corporations that are funded by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Act. This requirement prohibits providing funds to any corporation with certain unpaid Federal tax liabilities unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interest of the Government. This requirement has no dollar value threshold and does not flow down to subawardees (e.g., subrecipients, subgrantees, subcontractors).

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

For entities that wish to apply for DOE financial assistance opportunities, SAM.gov's *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* contain a statement that the entity "will comply with all limitations imposed by annual appropriations acts". Contracting Officers need to confirm that the entity has completed its *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* prior to awarding a grant, cooperative agreement, or other discretionary award, that is obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Acts.

The Contracting Officer shall ensure that the corporation's representation is current at award by including the "**Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Assurances**" in new and renewal/continuation awards to corporations that are obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Act. See note on Sections 744 and 745 below.

XIII. SECTION 745 FELONY CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS

What is the law?

745. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within the preceding 24 months, where the awarding agency is aware of the conviction, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 745 of Division E of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to all new DOE grant, cooperative agreement, loan, and loan guarantee awards, and renewal or continuation awards to corporations that are funded by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Act. This requirement prohibits providing funds to any corporation that has been convicted of a felony criminal violation within the preceding 24 months unless the agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interest of the Government. This requirement has no dollar value threshold and does not flow down to subawardees (e.g., subrecipients, subgrantees, subcontractors).

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

For entities that wish to apply for DOE financial assistance opportunities, SAM.gov's *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* contain a statement that the entity "will comply with all limitations imposed by annual appropriations acts". Contracting Officers need to confirm that the entity has completed its *Financial Assistance General Certifications and Representations* prior to awarding a grant, cooperative agreement, or other discretionary award, or OT award that is obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Acts.

The Contracting Officer shall ensure that the corporation's representation is current at award by including the "**Corporate Felony Conviction and Federal Tax Liability Assurances**" in new and renewal/continuation awards to corporations that are obligated with funds appropriated by the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other Act.

See note on Sections 744 and 745 below.

FOR SECTIONS 744 and 745:

A Corporation includes any entity that has filed articles of incorporation in any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States [but not foreign corporations]. It includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

If the applicant (corporation) makes an affirmative response to the representation (it is a corporation with felony convictions in the past 24 months and/or is a corporation with an unpaid Federal tax liability), the awarding official (e.g., the contracting officer or grants officer) shall consult with the DOE Suspension and Debarment Official (SDO) to determine what, if any, steps have been taken by that official, or by another agency's SDO. The awarding official shall not make an award to the corporation that has responded affirmatively unless and until the lead agency SDO, which may not be the DOE SDO, has: (1) considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and (2) made a determination that further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the government. The agency may determine whether it is appropriate to proceed with making awards to other applicants prior to receiving a definitive resolution from the SDO.

XIV. SECTION 750 CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS AND CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING**What is the law?**

750. (a) Any non-Federal entity receiving funds provided in this or any other appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026 that are specified in the disclosure table submitted in compliance with clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives or Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate that is included in the report or explanatory statement accompanying any such Act shall be deemed to be a recipient of a Federal award with respect to such funds for purposes of the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.334, regarding records retention, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.337, regarding access by the Comptroller General of the United States.

(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit, amend, supersede, or restrict in any manner any requirements otherwise applicable to non-Federal entities described in paragraph (1) or any existing authority of the Comptroller General.

What is the scope of this requirement?

Section 750 of Division E of the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act applies to the non-Federal recipients of DOE awards (grant, cooperative agreement or other transaction awards) as a result of congressional earmarks and congressionally directed spending items (as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, respectively) included in the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or the explanatory statement to which funds appropriated under the 2026 Consolidated Appropriations Act or any other FY 26 appropriations act are obligated. This requirement is for the retention of congressionally directed spending award documents and the access to those documents by authorized entities in order to perform audits.

See the attachment for a list of Congressional Directed Spending for DOE.

What procedures need to be followed to implement this requirement?

Contracting Officers must ensure the records retention and access requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.334, *Record Retention Requirements*, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.337, *Access to Records*, are enforced on awards to non-federal entities identified in the attached list of Congressional Directed Spending for DOE. In addition to the 2 C.F.R. part 200 and 2 CFR 910 requirements included by reference in DOE awards, Contracting Officer shall ensure the following award terms (*Record Retention and Access; Audits; and Allowable Costs*) are included in Congressional Directed awards to the non-Federal entities in the attached list:

Record Retention and Access

The Recipient is required to retain, and allow access to, records relating to this Award consistent with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.334 through 200.338.

Audits

A. Government-Initiated Audits

The Recipient must provide any information, documents, site access, or other assistance requested by DOE or Federal auditing agencies (e.g., DOE Inspector General, Government Accountability Office) for the purpose of audits and investigations. Such assistance may include, but is not limited to, reasonable access to the Recipient's records relating to this Award.

Consistent with 2 CFR part 200 as amended by 2 C.F.R. part 910, DOE may audit the Recipient's financial records or administrative records relating to this Award at any time. Government-initiated audits are generally paid for by DOE.

DOE may conduct a final audit at the end of the project period (or the termination of the Award, if applicable). Upon completion of the audit, the Recipient is required to refund to DOE any payments for costs that were determined to be unallowable. If the audit has not been performed or completed prior to the closeout of the award, DOE retains the right to recover an appropriate amount after fully considering the recommendations on disallowed costs resulting from the final audit.

DOE will provide reasonable advance notice of audits and will minimize interference with ongoing work, to the maximum extent practicable.

B. Annual Independent Audits (Single Audit or Compliance Audit)

The Recipient must comply with the annual independent audit requirements in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.500 through .521 for institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, and state and local governments (Single audit), and 2 C.F.R. 910.500 through .521 for for-profit entities (Compliance audit).

The annual independent audits are separate from Government-initiated audits discussed in part A. of this Term and must be paid for by the Recipient. To minimize expense, the Recipient may have a Compliance audit in conjunction with its annual audit of financial statements. The financial statement audit is not a substitute for the Compliance audit. If the audit (Single audit or Compliance audit, depending on Recipient entity type) has not been performed or completed prior to the closeout of the award, DOE may impose one or more of the actions outlined in 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, Remedies for Noncompliance.

Allowable Costs

DOE determines the allowability of costs in accordance with 2 C.F.R. part 200 as amended by 2 C.F.R. part 910. The Recipient must document and maintain records of all project costs, including, but not limited to, the costs paid by Federal funds, costs claimed by its subrecipients and project costs that the Recipient claims as cost sharing, including in-kind contributions. The Recipient is responsible for maintaining records adequate to demonstrate that costs claimed have been incurred, are reasonable, allowable and allocable, and comply with the appropriate cost principles. Upon request, the Recipient is required to provide such records to DOE. Such records are subject to audit. Failure to provide DOE adequate supporting documentation may result in a determination by the Contracting Officer that those costs are unallowable.