8 September 2023

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer,
National Science Foundation,
2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Suite E7400,
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
splimpto@nsf.gov

RE: Request for Comment Regarding Common Disclosure Forms for the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support

To: Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Common Disclosure Forms for the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support.

As you may be aware, ORCID, which stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID, is a US-based not-for-profit organization that seeks to reduce administrative burden for researchers and help organizations understand the impact of the research they are facilitating or funding by providing an unique identifier for individuals to use with their name as they engage in research and innovation activities, as well as the tools that enable transparent and trustworthy connections between researchers, their contributions, and affiliations. We are community-built, sustained by organizational members in 58 countries and governed by a Board of Directors representative of our membership with wide stakeholder representation. Our vision is a world where all who participate in research and innovation, from imagining to building and managing, are uniquely identified and connected to their research and contributions. ORCID. Currently, our membership includes 200 research-performing organizations in the United States, as well as 26 federal funding agencies, research facilities and affiliated laboratories.

Our technical infrastructure enables the exchange of metadata about researchers' profiles, their career histories and their scholarly contributions among over 5,000 interconnected systems, always subject to researchers' privacy controls. We commend NSF for making use of the SciENcv system in its grant administration processes, enabling the data in ORCID records to pre-populate forms, which in turn saves researchers and research administrators time and effort by facilitating the re-use of existing data, and increases the quality and accuracy of data submitted to the agencies.

We are pleased to see that per the current proposals, the data held in ORCID records can continue to be used to pre-populate aspects of the *Common Biographical Sketch* form as follows:

- Identifying Information
- Organization and Location
- Professional Preparation
- Appointments and Positions
- Products

Harmonizing the *Common Current and Pending (Other) Support* form provides further opportunities to utilize ORCID data for pre-population of the following elements of the form:

- Identifying Information
- Organization and Location
- Active Projects
- Current In-kind Contributions

This has the potential to deliver significantly increased value to both researchers, their institutions and the agencies involved through additional time savings and improvements to data accuracy.

We are committed to exploring how the ORCID system can be enhanced to provide even more of the required data in the *Common Current and Pending (Other) Support* form, and stand ready to engage in dialog with NSF, NIH and other agencies to discuss opportunities to support mechanisms for the provision of pending project and in-kind support data.

Feedback on Draft Common Forms

We respectfully submit the following feedback on the *Draft Common Form for Biographical Sketch*:

- Whenever organization information is required, for example in the Identifying Information, Professional Preparation and Appointments and Positions sections, in addition to the name and location of the organization, an optional Persistent Identifier (PID) for the organization should be requested.

We respectfully submit the following feedback on the *Draft Common Form for Current and Pending (Other) Support Information*:

- Whenever organization information is required, for example in the Organization and Location section, and the Source of Support element of Proposals and Active Projects and In-Kind Support sections, in addition to the name and location of the organization, an optional Persistent Identifier (PID) for the organization should be requested.

The adoption of standardized PIDs for organizations will eliminate the possibility of ambiguity when name variants are used for organizations, facilitating increased automated processing of the forms and enabling the generation of trends insights from the supplied information. Rolling out the new forms without adopting standardized PIDs for organizations, would, we feel, amount to a missed opportunity which we consider to be the only "fatal flaw" in the proposals as drafted.

We draw your attention to the Research Organization Registry (ROR — https://ror.org), a global, community-led registry of open persistent identifiers for research organizations, which is an emerging standard for identification of organizations involved in the research lifecycle.

Contributing Authoritative Data to ORCID Records
In order to maximize the burden reduction that can be achieved through pre-population of the *Biographical Sketch* and *Current and Pending (Other) Support* forms and to increase the accuracy and trustworthiness of data submitted to the agencies via these forms, we propose that NSF and other agencies that will be using the Common Forms encourage the various organizations involved in the research lifecycle that hold authoritative data about researchers to integrate with the ORCID system and contribute that data to researchers' ORCID records as follows:

Funders
1. Write funding award metadata to researchers' ORCID records
2. Write peer review activity to researchers' ORCID records
3. Assign PIDs (Grant DOIs) to awarded grants

Agency Research Facilities

1. Write data about awards of time or use of facilities to researchers' ORCID records.

Universities and research institutions

1. Write relevant *employment* data to researchers' ORCID records
2. Write relevant *education* data to students' ORCID records
3. Write relevant data to visiting researchers' ORCID records
4. Connect and synchronize Institutional and Data repositories with ORCID

Publishers

1. Include ORCID iDs in the published and publicly available versions of the work
2. Write the publication's metadata to the ORCID records of all authors and co-authors
3. Write peer review activity to researchers' ORCID records
4. Assign PIDs (DOIs) to all publications

ORCID is happy to work with staff involved in the development and adoption of the Common Forms to optimize the efficiency of trustworthy data transfer between systems in the research community.

I stand ready to speak with you further about our recommendation should this be useful,

Thank you,

DocuSigned by:

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Chris Shillum
Executive Director, ORCID

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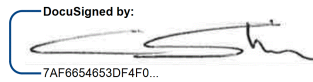| Signer Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Certified Delivered	Security Checked	9/8/2023 6:50:15 PM
Signing Complete	Security Checked	9/8/2023 6:50:26 PM
Completed	Security Checked	9/8/2023 6:50:26 PM

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