

Sponsor Salary Restrictions: National Institutes of Health, AHRQ, and SAMHSA

Purpose

This document describes salary limitations imposed by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA).

Background

The Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 (Public Law 109-149) limits the direct salary under a grant or applicable contract to a rate not in excess of Executive Level I of the Federal Executive Pay Scale. This is the seventeenth consecutive year for which there is a legislatively mandated provision for limitation of salary.

Salary Limitations

Salary limitations included in appropriations bills are effective for awards made in the related fiscal years. The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2006 continues to restrict the amount of direct salary of an individual under an NIH grant or cooperative agreement to Executive Level I of the Federal Executive pay scale.

A summary of the NIH Salary Caps is available at:

https://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm.

Applicability

The salary limitations apply to grant and cooperative agreement awards (hereafter referred to as grants) and extramural research and development contract awards.

Further Information

The NIH Guide provides the following additional information:

- Definitions of terms such as salary, direct salary, and institutional base salary
- Examples of adjustments that will be made when salaries exceed the limitation
- Frequently asked questions for revised budgets and re-budgeting.

The "[NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#)" is fully searchable online.

References

Salary Limitation on Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts
(released March 11, 2004, see Archive Ending the Week of March 12, 2004)

<https://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-04-025.html>

Change History

- **February 29, 2008**- Removed Executive Level I salary rate for 2006-2007 and "fiscal years 1990-2006" for NIH salary caps.
- **January 30, 2007**- Revised based on changes in Federal government Executive Level I salary restrictions.
- **January 18, 2006**- Revised based on changes in Federal government Executive Level I salary restrictions.
- **February 18, 2005**- Revised based on changes in Federal government Executive Level I salary restrictions.
- **April 26, 2004**- Revised based on changes in Federal government Executive Level I salary restrictions.
- **April 2, 2003**- Revised based on the approved federal budget and updated NIH Guide.
- **February 24, 2003**- Revised to provide updated salary restrictions.
- **May 16, 2001**- Revised to update salary restrictions based on the DHHS Appropriation Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (Public Law 106-554) and Executive Order 13182.