

# The NCI Office of Cancer Centers Learning Series

## The 2013 CCSG Guidelines: Objectives, Themes, and Changes

**Dial In: 888-566-6190**  
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## The 2013 CCSG Guidelines: Objectives, Themes, and Changes

Thursday, November 15, 2012  
2:00 to 3:30 pm EDT

### Featured Presenters

#### Moderator

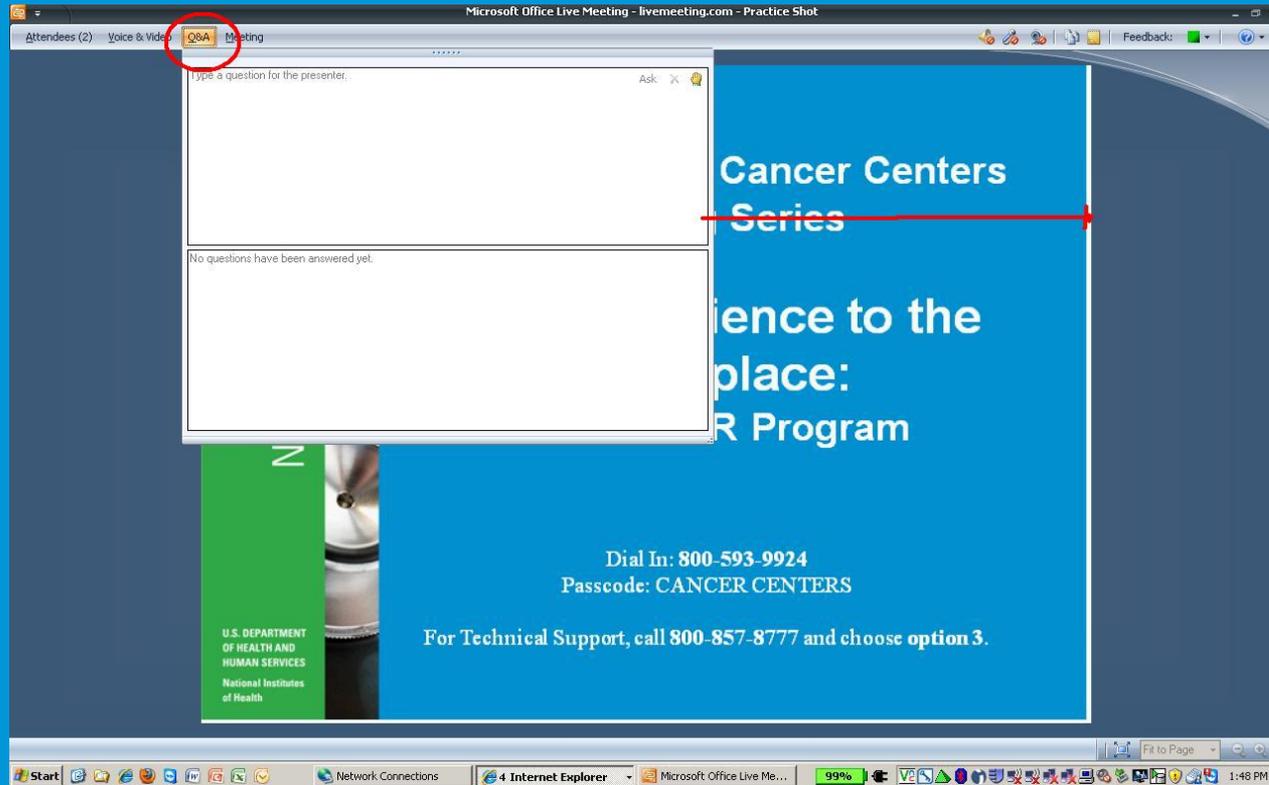
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Director, Office of Cancer Centers  
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Bethesda, MD

# A Quick Guide to Your Screen

- Please submit your question via the Q & A box on the right hand side of your screen. If you do not see the Q&A box, you can expand it by clicking the Q&A on the top navigation panel and dragging the box that opens to the right side of your screen.



# 2013 Cancer Center Support Grant Guidelines: Major Themes, Changes, and Common Questions

Linda Weiss, Ph.D.  
Director, Office of Cancer Centers

Office of Cancer Centers Webinar  
November 1, 2012  
[weissl@mail.nih.gov](mailto:weissl@mail.nih.gov)  
<http://cancercenters.cancer.gov>

# Overview

- Major Themes
  - Strengthening the focus on the quality of the science
  - Emphasizing harmonization and collaboration
  - Facilitating infrastructure for clinical and translational research
  - Aligning Stage II requirements for comprehensiveness with center scientific goals
- Other Changes in the Guidelines
  - Eligibility to Apply, Budget Requests, and Funding
  - Application Requirements
- Modifications in Review Process/Procedures
- Common Questions

# Major Themes: Strengthening the Focus on the Quality of Science

- *Issues: Focus on the quality of the science and the value added by the CCSG instead of process and metrics. Strengthen role of senior leadership for advancing center priorities. Clarify scientific and other requirements for consortium partners.*
- Changes
  - Greater emphasis on
    - scientific impact, practice changing research
    - strategic value of shared resources to science of the center's Research Programs
    - impact/quality of trials rather than accrual
    - movement of findings through the translational continuum
    - investigator initiated trials capitalizing on center scientific strengths
  - More accountability required of senior leaders, including the director for establishing scientific direction, priorities and strategies
  - Clarification/strengthening of consortium partner requirements

## Major Themes: Emphasizing Harmonization and Collaboration

- *Issues: Recognize scientific collaborations with partners outside the center. Allow sharing of specialized core resources not available in all centers. Clarify use of institutional resources supported by other NIH mechanisms. Harmonize guidelines across NCI mechanisms. Recognize contributions of clinical staff investigators to collaborative efforts.*
- Changes:
  - Emphasis on how the Center facilitates scientific advancement via coordination across NCI mechanisms & collaborations with external partners
  - Sharing of resources across centers allowed
  - Recognition of leadership and participation in NCTN trials
  - Standardization of summary data definitions with CTRP
  - Recognition of team science in institutional promotion and tenure policies and encouragement of research program membership for clinical staff
  - Addition of global health projects
  - Recognition of participation in trials involving rare cancers

## Major Themes: Facilitating Clinical and Translational Research

- *Issues: Provide more options for support of clinical and translational research within existing CCSG components and eliminate unclear and outdated data requirements.*
- Changes
  - Support for a broader array of functions in the clinical trials office, e.g., protocol writers, database tracking programs, CTRP reporting, legal/contracting staff
  - Encouragement of PRMS processes that assess and foster efficiency, e.g., 2 stage reviews , limiting full review to institutional and industry trials
  - Expansion in use of funds for early phase clinical research activities, e.g., IND/IDE applications, imaging scans, pharmacodynamic studies
  - Simplification of reporting measures
  - Recognition of unique accrual issues in trials of rare cancers and targeted therapies

# Major Themes: Aligning Stage II Requirements for Comprehensiveness with CCSG Objectives and Center Scientific Goals

- *Issues: Provide greater context to the evaluation of training and education and 'service' to the catchment area by integrating it with scientific requirements.*
- Changes
  - Now a 1 stage review focusing on
    - Scientific requirements (no changes)
    - Effectiveness in defining and serving the catchment area via the research supported
      - Reflected in research programs, senior leadership, organizational characteristics
    - Effectiveness in enabling the scientific mission of the cancer center via the training and education of biomedical scientists and health care professionals
      - Reflected in Summary 2 funding list, senior leadership, organizational characteristics

## Other Changes: Eligibility to Apply, Budget Requests, and Funding

- *Issues: Raise the requirement for eligibility to apply to ensure applications can meet requirements and are competitive in review. Eliminate the benchmark ratio and provide new guidance on budget requests for re-competing centers.*
- Changes
  - Eligibility requirement for CCSG applications increased to \$10 M DC in peer-reviewed, cancer-related funding
  - Applications with an existing award equal to or greater than \$6 M DC capped at their current DC level
  - Applications below the \$6 M DC level capped at a total DC budget of \$1.0 M, or 10% above the DC level of the last year of their non-competing project period, whichever is greater
  - Requests for larger budget increases only under *specified* circumstances and after consultation with program staff

## Other Changes: Application Requirements

- *Issues: Modify or terminate requirements that are duplicative, inadequately defined, at too great a level of detail, or irrelevant to the overall goals of the grant.*
- Changes
  - Elimination of
    - Redundancies across components
    - Usage and capacity tables in shared resources
    - Requirements for meeting agendas, other inconsequential data
  - Simplification of data tables in clinical components

## Changes in Review Process/Procedures

- *Issues: Provide a replacement option for the limited site visit, which adds minimal value. Focus review/site visit time on updates, clarifications, and response to reviewers questions regarding the science. Offer more flexibility in how presentations are scheduled to allow for differences in scope and complexity of components.*
- Changes
  - Addition of an 'application only' option
  - Site visit logistics
    - More flexibility in scheduling of presentations
    - Usually a maximum of 5 hours on site (excluding breakfast)
      - » Actual time frame will be decided in consultation with SRO
    - 30 minutes allotted for poster session and/or Q & A
  - Shared resources
    - Review will be based on paper application, plus site visit updates
    - Will be voted on by group, not individually

# Common Questions

- Addressing research in the catchment area
  - How is it catchment area defined?
  - What may be included under 'research in the catchment area'?
  - How does this fit in with the focus on global health and broader cancer research?
  - Will each scientific program be required to support cancer research relevant to the catchment area?
  - How is a cancer health disparity defined?
- Addressing training and education
  - What information is required in the program write-ups?
- Budget requests
  - Can centers apply to be exceptions to the caps?
- Review
  - Is lunch included in the 5 hour time frame?
  - Will there still be tours?
  - How will reviewers be trained in the new guidelines?
  - What is the purpose of grouping shared resources and how do you suggest they be grouped? How is one merit descriptor determined for several shared resources?

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# Disclosures

- Linda Weiss, Ph.D.: no financial disclosures.



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**If you have further questions, please contact**

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This webinar was created by the Office of Cancer Centers in the  
National Cancer Institute

<http://cancercenters.cancer.gov/>

For more information about 2013 CCSG Guidelines, visit  
[http://cancercenters.cancer.gov/grants\\_funding/index.html](http://cancercenters.cancer.gov/grants_funding/index.html)

# NCI's Cancer Information Service

- Offers comprehensive, research-based information in English and Spanish for patients, the public, health professionals, and cancer researchers
- **Phone:** 1-800-4-CANCER
- **Online Chat:** [www.cancer.gov/livehelp](http://www.cancer.gov/livehelp)
- **Email:** [cancergovstaff@mail.nih.gov](mailto:cancergovstaff@mail.nih.gov)
- **Web:** [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov) and [www.cancer.gov/espanol](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol)
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