

Effort Reporting NIH Training and Career Development Awards

What are NIH Training and Career Development Awards?

NIH offers a number of training-related grants and fellowships such as the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Institutional training grant (T), NRSA Fellowship (F), Career Development (K) Funding Awards and other training-related programs. These projects may include special requirements that may raise questions about effort reporting and other issues. This Reference Guide addresses some common questions.

Trainees and Effort Reporting

Trainees (on T grants or F fellowships) are not subject to effort reporting because they are not considered Columbia employees; they receive a stipend rather than a salary. However, principal investigators still must ensure that trainees meet their programs' minimum time commitments and comply with restrictions on other employment and other similar requirements.

Mentors and Effort Reporting

Typically, NIH T or F awards do not provide funding to cover the effort of a trainee's mentor or project director. In some cases, the time devoted to these activities may be insignificant, and therefore can be ignored. If not, such effort is typically treated as a non-sponsored activity (and therefore cannot be charged to your research or other grant). On the other hand, if the mentor committed to provide effort in the grant proposal, then the effort should be treated as committed cost sharing.

How should effort on a K Award be allocated?

K Awards typically require a significant effort commitment, often of 75%. Effort on activities that are within the scope of the career development plan for the K Award should be reported as effort devoted to the K Award. Effort that is devoted to other projects should be reported as effort devoted to the other projects. For recipients with private practice activities, if the private practice work is within the scope of the K Award, then there should be no issue. However, if the private practice work is essentially supplemental income but does not relate to the work required under the K award, then this could require a reduction of private practice efforts in order not to violate the minimum effort requirements of the K award.

Resources

Additional information about effort reporting, career development awards and training grants is available in the Frequently Asked Questions tab on the Effort Reporting website:
<http://effortreporting.columbia.edu/faq.html>.

If you have questions about effort reporting in relation to career development awards and/or training grants, contact the Effort Reporting Team at effort-reporting@columbia.edu.

For more information about training grants and K Awards, contact Sponsored Projects Administration, or visit the NIH Research Training and Career Development Programs website: <https://researchtraining.nih.gov/programs>.