

NIFA Data Management Plan Frequently Asked Questions

These are some Frequently Asked Questions about [Data Management Plans](#):

What is a Data Management Plan?

Does the project director (PD) need to submit a data management plan for the programs that require a data management plan, even if it is not appropriate for the project?

Does an application with sub-awards need to have separate data management plans?

Does the DMP count towards the project narrative page limitation?

What components need to be included in the DMP?

Is it possible to submit a data management plan that exceeds the 2- page limit?

May the applicant use the data management plan pages to circumvent the project narrative limitation?

Will the data management plan be considered as one of the criteria for review?

How can the grantee(s) share the data generated from NIFA-funded project with others who require them?

How shall the grantee(s) release privileged or confidential data information?

Should the implementation of the DMP be included in the project budget?

Are there any examples of a Data Management Plan?

What is a Data Management Plan?

A Data Management Plan (DMP) is a document that outlines the handling of data generated by NIFA-funded projects during and after the completion of the project including details on how the data will be produced or acquired, managed, stored, shared, and protected.

Does the project director (PD) need to submit a data management plan for the programs that require a data management plan, even if it is not appropriate for the project?

Yes, the project director needs to submit a data management plan document with a statement “No data will be produced,” along with a clear justification why the project will not lead to the production or collection of any data.

Does an application with sub-awards need to have separate data management plans?

No, regardless of the number of sub-awards, only one DMP must be submitted by the lead project director and must cover data collected by all collaborators within the 2-page limit provided. Some programs may have different standards for DMPs and those will be outlined in the specific request for applications.

Does the DMP count towards the project narrative page limitation?

No, it does not count against the project narrative page limitation.

What components need to be included in the DMP?

Details on DMP request can be found in the applicable Request for Applications and on the [NIFA website](#).

Is it possible to submit a data management plan that exceeds the 2- page limit?

If you submit a data management plan that exceeds the required 2-page limit, only the first two pages will be considered for review.

May the applicant use the data management plan pages to circumvent the project narrative limitation?

No, the applicant must not use the data management plan pages to circumvent the project narrative page limitation.

Will the data management plan be considered as one of the criteria for review?

Yes, it will be considered as one of the criteria for scientific merit in applicable programs.

How can the grantee(s) share the data generated from NIFA-funded project with others who require them?

The grantees are expected to share the data with others within a reasonable period of time by giving proper authorship/credit to the contributors that accurately reflect their work. If there are limitations on project data sharing, the application must clearly justify those limitations in the DMP, including confidentiality, privacy, proprietary interests, business confidential information, and intellectual property rights, and/or avoiding significant negative impact on intellectual property rights, innovation, and U.S. competitiveness.

How shall the grantee(s) release privileged or confidential data information?

Grantees should release the information only in a form that protects the confidential or privileged information.

Should the implementation of the DMP be included in the project budget?

Projects must budget sufficient resources to implement the proposed data management plan.

Are there any examples of a Data Management Plan?

Yes, DMPTool.org provides sample data management plans submitted to NIFA and other federal agencies, along with other resources and guidance on data management. [DMPTool](http://DMPTool.org) is maintained by the University of California Curation Center of the California Digital Library. In addition, Guidance on developing a data management plan can be found at the [NIFA website](#) and the National Agricultural Library website.