



## KEEPING NIH AND NSF SALARY LEVELS STRAIGHT

National Institutes of Health (NIH) has increased what it allows for salaries. Awardees can now pay up to \$199,300 in salary for an individual. However, paying this much may not be realistic, can take up too much of your budget and should only reflect the effort on the proposal.

NIH does not limit how much consultants are paid except that it must be “reasonable” and be based on what the consultant would normally charge.

As for National Science Foundation, NSF does not have a limit but the proposed salary must be based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics median wage by geographic region for specific labor categories.

For example, the median wage for a biochemist in Lansing, Michigan will potentially be different from an electrical engineer. And the median wage for both might be entirely different in another part of the country.

In a nutshell NSF salary limits depend on what a person does and where they live.

The NSF limits what you can pay consultants up to \$1,000 for an eight hour day, the equivalent of \$125 an hour.

For additional guidance on NIH salary limits, [visit their web site](#).