



Commenting On the OMB Proposed Rule

Background: A sweeping [new proposed rule](#) from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) would significantly reshape how all federal grants and other financial assistance are awarded and managed across the entire government. These changes pose a serious risk to scientific independence, public health, the integrity of evidence-based decision-making, and community mental health services. Learn more through our [APA / APA Services summary](#), and our [Response Center](#). **Your action can help protect scientific integrity, critical research, workforce development, and access to mental health care.**

[OMB Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance, Docket Number: 2026-10817](#)

Key Points to Consider for Psychologists Submitting Public Comments

Focus your comments on:

- 1. Scientific integrity & peer review**
 - Highlight risks of reducing peer review authority in funding decisions
 - Emphasize the importance of expert-driven, evidence-based evaluation
 - Explain how reduced scientific oversight could compromise research quality
- 2. Impact on research scope**
 - Describe potential chilling effects on studying disparities, equity, and social determinants of health
 - Share how limits could restrict innovation and real-world problem solving
- 3. Training pipeline**
 - Address consequences for preparing psychologists to serve all populations
 - Connect impacts to long-term workforce readiness
- 4. Continuity of care**
 - Identify risks to stable funding for mental health services and community programs, particularly for vulnerable populations
 - Explain how disruptions could harm patient outcomes and access to care

How to Write Effective Comments

- Keep your comments concise and direct.
- Do not use overly technical language or jargon.
- Highlight the harms of this proposal to our national interests.
- Personalize and individualize your comments as much as possible.
- Give concrete examples. To the extent possible, be sure to underscore the local and community implications of this proposal, specifically how it impacts your work, your university, your hospital, your research, your students, your trainees, your patients.

If you are concerned with submitting comments with your name, you can do so anonymously.

Guidance on Submitting Comments to Regulations.Gov

Note: All federal proposed rules are shared and can be commented on at regulations.gov. The instructions below will take you to the relevant OMB proposed rule, and walk you through submitting a comment once there. We provide talking points which you can use to inform your comments in the next section. In this policy landscape, your personal narrative will be far more impactful than a pre-written message would be.

STEP 1. VISIT THE OMB PROPOSED RULE PAGE ON REGULATIONS.GOV

[This link](#) will take you directly to the page for the proposed rule, formally titled “Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance”.

STEP 2. CLICK ON THE COMMENT BUTTON.

It will be beneath the title of the proposed rule, on the right side. See the screenshot below.

The screenshot shows the Regulations.gov page for a proposed rule titled "Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance". The page is posted by the Office of Management and Budget on May 29, 2026. A blue "Comment" button is circled in red. To the right of the button, a comment period end date is shown: "Comment Period Ends: Jul 13, 2026 at 11:59 PM EDT". Below the button, there are tabs for "Document Details" and "Document Comments" (5.1K). The page also displays a docket number (OMB-2026-0034) and a "Document ID" (OMB-2026-0034-0001). The "Comments Received" section shows 5,269 comments. The "Document Details" section includes the "Comment Due Date" (Jul 13, 2026), the "Federal Register Number" (2026-10817), and the "CFR" link. The "Content" section contains the "ACTION:" (Proposed rule) and "SUMMARY:" (The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposes to revise the Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance to improve government-wide policies and requirements related to the management of grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance. OMB is proposing revisions that would improve transparency, accountability, and oversight for Federal awards across the Federal Government. This includes ensuring that American tax dollars are not wasted or misused, activities performed under Federal awards are consistent with law and policy, and recipients are held accountable when they fail to meet relevant standards. The revisions also aim to ensure that basic American principles of equality and equal opportunity are upheld throughout all stages of the award making process and that unlawful discrimination is no longer permitted. Proposed changes also include providing further clarification on the regulatory status of the OMB requirements and on the process for future updates to the government-wide requirements. Finally, OMB also proposes changes to reduce recipient burden. The listed Federal grant-making agencies propose conforming changes to their respective adopting regulations, or, in the case of some agencies and other entities, establishing new adopting regulations or policies. The proposed changes reflect the administration's commitment to transparency, accountability, and proper oversight for the Federal grantmaking process. The proposed regulations seek to ensure that American tax dollars are ultimately used to serve the needs of the American public.)

STEP 3. INSERT YOUR COMMENTS

The “Comment” button will take you to a form where you can submit your comment. You can do so in two ways:

- A. Directly type or copy-paste your comments in the provided text box (see top half of screenshot below). This option is limited to 5,000 characters including spaces (e.g. roughly 2 pages single-spaced); **OR**
- B. Write your comments in a word processor (see bottom half of screenshot below) and upload them as an attachment in any of the following formats: bmp, docx, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, pptx, rtf, sgml, tif, tiff, txt, wpd, xlsx, xml. There is a 10MB limit on file sizes (e.g. 400-500 pages of plain text in Word or 3-4 pages of text with many high-resolution graphics).

Regardless of the format you choose, consider starting your comment with the sentence: “As an ally of psychology, I am concerned about how this proposed rule will affect the entire field of psychology.” This will allow APA Services to get a sense of how many people submitted comments using our guidance.

Once your text is in, it enables an optional box you can check to receive proof of submission to the email address of your choice.

The screenshot shows the Regulations.gov website interface for submitting a comment. At the top, there is a blue header with the logo and a 'SUPPORT' button. Below the header, a grey box indicates the user is commenting on a proposed rule by the Office of Management and Budget, with a 'Comment Period Ends: 39 Days' timer. The main content area is titled 'Write a Comment' and includes a 'Commenter's Checklist' and a link to 'Public Comments on Federal Regulations'. A large text input field is labeled 'Comment*' and contains the placeholder text 'Start typing comment here...'. To the right of the text box is a character count '5000'. Below the text box is an 'Attach Files' section with a note: 'You can attach up to 20 files, but each file cannot exceed 10MB. Valid file types include: bmp, docx, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, pptx, rtf, sgml, tif, tiff, txt, wpd, xlsx, xml'. A dashed box contains the text 'Drop files here or' and a 'Browse...' button. Below this is an 'Email Address' field with a placeholder 'Email Address'. At the bottom, there is a checkbox for 'Opt to receive email confirmation of submission and tracking number?' with a note: '(We will never post the email address entered in the field above on Regulations.gov nor share it with anyone else.)'




STEP 4: CHOOSE WHETHER TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF OR REMAIN ANONYMOUS

The form will ask you to click one of three boxes to identify yourself as either an individual, an organization, or remain anonymous. Once you select the box, a short form will appear asking for your contact information to establish you as a stakeholder. You will also need to check the reCAPTCHA box to confirm you are not a bot. See screenshot below for an example of the form for individuals.

Finally, hit submit to complete the process. Remember to do so before 11:59PM Eastern time on July 13, 2026, as your comment will not be processed after that deadline.

Tell us about yourself! I am...*

(Select an identity below)


 <p>An Individual Yourself or another person whom you represent with their consent</p>	 <p>An Organization A company, organization, or government agency</p>	 <p>Anonymous A person who does not want their name associated with the comment</p>
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Your Contact Information

First Name *	Last Name *		
First Name	Last Name		
City	State	Zip	Country
City	Select a State	Zip	United States
Phone			
Phone			

Note: If you choose to identify as Anonymous, the option to enter your email address for submission confirmation is not available.

reCAPTCHA *

<input type="checkbox"/> I'm not a robot	
<small>reCAPTCHA is changing its terms of service. Take action.</small>	<small>reCAPTCHA</small>

! Do not submit personally identifiable information through this form. Any personally identifiable information (e.g., name, address, phone number) included in the comment form or in an attachment may be publicly disclosed in a docket or on the Internet (via Regulations.gov, a federal agency website, or a third-party, non-government website with access to publicly-disclosed data on Regulations.gov). By submitting a comment, you agree to the [terms of participation and privacy notice](#).

Submit Comment

Sample Text to Inform Your Comments

Purpose: The sample text will provide you with arguments and data points you can incorporate into your narrative for why this proposal carries harmful consequences for the whole field of psychology, including: research; psychology education, training, and workforce development; access to behavioral health services. You do not have to use all or any of these talking points - select the ones that resonate the most with you. **As a reminder, your personalized, “real world example” message will be far more impactful in this policy landscape.**

Stable, evidence-driven federal investment is critical for psychological science and the behavioral health services it informs. The impact of which extends beyond academia to education, workforce training, and behavioral health services nationwide. Proposed changes to federal grant policies could significantly affect what research is funded, how it is conducted, how results are applied in communities and how behavioral health services are delivered, and how the behavioral health workforce is educated and trained.

Impacts on Federal Grant Funding for Psychological Science

1. Preserve Scientific Integrity and Expert Review

- America’s competitive peer review system is widely respected as a rigorous, merit-based process that ensures the most promising and impactful research receives funding. Undermining this system risks politicizing science, weakening public trust, and slowing progress on critical health challenges that affect millions of Americans.
- Decisions about research funding should remain grounded in scientific expertise and peer review, which ensures quality, rigor, and innovation. Shifting decision authority toward political appointees and aligning it with the whims of whomever holds political power in the moment risks undermining trust in the objectivity of federally funded science.

2. Avoid Overly Restrictive Limits on Research Topics

- Psychological research must be able to examine the full range of factors affecting human behavior and health, including social, environmental, and identity-related influences. Restrictions on how topics are framed could limit the ability to study health disparities, prevention, and real-world outcomes.

3. Ensure Stability and Continuity in Research Funding

- Midstream grant termination authority introduces uncertainty that can disrupt long-term research projects, waste resources, and delay findings. Scientific progress often requires multi-year investments and continuity. Stable funding supports efficient use of taxpayer dollars and reliable outcomes.

4. Support International Collaboration Where Scientifically Necessary

- U.S. leadership in science has historically depended on global collaboration and shared expertise. While prioritizing domestic investment is important, policies should not create unnecessary barriers to international partnerships that advance discovery. Collaboration should be evaluated on scientific merits and necessity.

Impacts on Education and Training of Psychologists

1. Protect the Quality and Scope of Training Programs

- Federally funded training programs prepare the next generation of psychologists and behavioral health professionals. Limits on training content could reduce exposure to evidence-based approaches necessary to address behavioral health needs of all populations, and risk worsening the nation's long-running shortage of mental and behavioral health providers, including psychologists. Training should remain comprehensive and aligned with evolving workforce and public health needs.

2. Maintain Flexibility for Innovation in Education and Training

- Standardization and rigid outcome metrics may constrain innovative or interdisciplinary approaches, including with respect to prevention, early intervention, and integration of primary and behavioral health care. Programs need flexibility to adapt to emerging science and local needs.

Impacts on Behavioral Health Services (State & Community Level)

1. Safeguard Community Behavioral Health Services

- Many community-based behavioral health programs rely on federal grants to provide outreach, prevention, and culturally responsive care. Narrow definitions of allowable activities may lead to cuts in services that are critical for vulnerable populations, particularly in rural and frontier communities, where access to services remains limited. Stability and flexibility are essential to ensure continuity of care at the state and local level.
- Behavioral health services in rural and frontier communities could be especially vulnerable to the broad scope of this proposed rule. For example, grant funding for programs that expand access to broadband, such as the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and Digital Equity Act programs, could be impacted. Rural and frontier communities rely on this funding for key services such as telehealth, school-based services, and more.

2. Avoid Disruptions to Service Delivery from Funding Instability

- Expanded termination and shifting priorities could interrupt ongoing behavioral health programs, affecting patients and providers alike. Predictable funding is key to maintaining consistent, accessible care at the community level.