

Topics

System Reform Creating the Grant-in-Aid Fund

System reform implemented by establishing new Grant-in-Aid Fund

- ◆ **The Fund allows grants to be used over multiple years starting from FY2011 selections in the categories Scientific Research C, Challenging Exploratory Research, and Grant-in-Aid for Young Scientists B.**

Up till now, research grants under Japanese government regulations have been issued on a single accounting year basis, requiring researchers to divide their research plans into one-year units when applying for a grant. However, scientific research based of flexible ideas and methodologies does not necessarily follow the initial research plan in its pursuit of pioneering and innovative results.

So as to allow researchers usage of their grants unrestricted by fiscal year, the law governing the Grant-in-Aid Program was amended and a Fund established within the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. Grants issued from the Fund can be executed in a flexible manner that assures optimal use of the funds over multiple years of a project's duration.

- ◆ **Grant usage may be accelerated or shifted in line with how the research advances.**

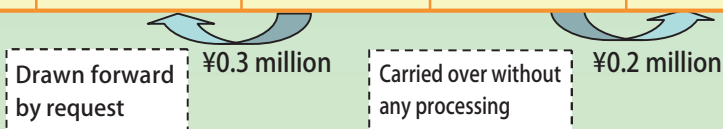
Under the Grant-in-Aid system to date, research had to be carried out within the limits of the grant disbursement for each fiscal year even when unanticipated turns occurred in its implementation. Now with the Grant-in-Aid Fund, a request can be made to draw funds forward from one year into the previous year, allowing them to be spent in line with shifts and advances in the research implementation.

- ◆ **Funds may be carried over into the next fiscal year without any advance processing.**

Researchers can carry over unused funds from one fiscal year to the next, allowing them to advance their projects unaffected by the accounting year. With grants selected in FY 2010 and before and all grants in other categories, the conventional system for carrying over funds remains in force.

Image of improved funding system

	1st year	2nd year	3rd year	4th year
Scheduled grant usage	¥1 million	¥1 million	¥1 million	¥1 million
Actual usage based on needs	¥1.3 million	¥0.7 million	¥0.8 million	¥1.2 million



- ◆ **Materials may be ordered and purchased across fiscal year lines**

Materials ordered in one fiscal year may be paid for and received in the next fiscal year without any restriction.



The following advantages are gained over the standard Grants-in-Aid system:

- (1) **Research activities are invigorated by allowing grant usage adjusted to the research advancement.**
- (2) **Grants can be used more effectively and efficiently by eliminating wasteful year-end spending.**
- (3) **The administrative burden on researchers and research institutions is lightened by not having to conform to accounting years or process the carry over of grant funds.**

These various merits are expected to spur the advancement of scientific research.