

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

STRIDES INITIATIVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR EXTRAMURAL INSTITUTIONS

Who is eligible to use the STRIDES Initiative?

National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded researchers with an active NIH award may take advantage of the STRIDES Initiative for their NIH-funded research projects.

What is included in the STRIDES Initiative?

The STRIDES Initiative offers the following benefits:

- Favorable pricing on computing, storage, and related cloud services for NIH-funded institutions
- Access to training for researchers, data owners, and others to help ensure optimal use of available tools and technologies ranging from free, web-based training to custom-scoped, paid training engagements
- Access to professional service consultations and technical support from the STRIDES Initiative partners ranging from technical resources and best practices to custom-scoped, paid technical engagements

What do I need to do to get access to the STRIDES Initiative benefits?

In order for your institution's NIH-funded researchers with active NIH awards to get access to the STRIDES Initiative and take advantage of its benefits, there are two steps involved:

1. **Enrolling** – Your institution will need to choose a STRIDES Initiative partner(s) (Amazon Web Services or Google Cloud) to move forward with and sign an agreement with their respective billing and administrative partner (Four Points Technology or Carahsoft, respectively). These agreements enable your NIH-funded researchers with active NIH awards to take advantage of the favorable pricing and resources offered. There is no financial obligation by signing an agreement.
2. **Provisioning** – Once the agreement is signed, NIH-funded researchers with active NIH awards can 1) create a new account or 2) link an existing account to access to the favorable pricing and other benefits offered through the STRIDES Initiative.

Who do I contact when I am ready to move forward?

If you have decided to move forward with a partner(s), please contact the appropriate billing and administrative partner:

- **Four Points Technology** – FPT_NIH_STRIDES@4points.com (for Amazon Web Services)
- **Carahsoft** – NIHSTRIDES@carahsoft.com (for Google Cloud)

For general questions about the STRIDES Initiative, please visit datascience.nih.gov/STRIDES or email the NIH STRIDES Initiative team at STRIDES@nih.gov.

I already have an agreement with a STRIDES Initiative partner that offers my institution better pricing. Can I keep those discounts or combine the discounts?

NIH has pre-negotiated discounts that participants will receive when enrolling in the STRIDES Initiative. Therefore, existing agreements (and their associated discounts) will not apply to or be combined with accounts leveraging the STRIDES Initiative.

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I already have a different reseller I work with for my Amazon Web Services or Google Cloud accounts.

How will this work?

- **Amazon Web Services** – If you have accounts with Amazon Web Services, you will not be able to stay with your current reseller as part of the STRIDES Initiative. You can still enroll in the STRIDES Initiative by using the billing and administrative partner, Four Points Technology, who is the sole reseller for STRIDES Initiative-eligible accounts and keep your current reseller for your other AWS accounts.
- **Google Cloud** – If you have accounts with Google Cloud, there is some flexibility and certain resellers can enter into an agreement with Carahsoft. You can reach out to Carahsoft at NIHSTRIDES@carahsoft.com to learn more.

Do I need to sign a business associate agreement (BAA) with the STRIDES Initiative partner and/or billing and administrative partner?

If your data includes protected health information (PHI) then you need a BAA for your workloads. There are several options:

- You can sign a new BAA with the billing and administrative partner (Four Points Technology and/or Carahsoft);
- You can sign a new direct BAA with the STRIDES Initiative partner (Amazon Web Services and/or Google Cloud) for the accounts that are moving to the STRIDES Initiative; or
- You can transfer an existing BAA to the billing and administrative partner (Four Points Technology and/or Carahsoft).

What safeguards/guardrails are available on the cloud platforms to limit accidental cost overages?

Both STRIDES Initiative partners have native tools that monitor and alert your institution based on spend; however, these tools alone will not prevent accidental cost overages. There are other tools and applications offered by the partner as well as third-party applications that can be used to create guardrails that can mitigate cost overages. Similar to information security, cost control should be viewed as a shared responsibility between the partner (who will provide you with some tools and recommendations) and your institution (who is responsible for implementing code wisely and for regular monitoring and awareness of their accounts).

How are facilities and administrative (F&A) or indirect costs applied to cloud costs under the STRIDES Initiative?

F&A and indirect costs are applied to cloud costs according to your institution's policy.

What happens to my information if I no longer have an active NIH award?

Once you no longer have an active NIH award, the storage of your information must be funded through another source, or moved, unless you make other arrangements with NIH.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE STRIDES INITIATIVE, VISIT [DATASCIENCE.NIH.GOV/STRIDES](https://datascience.nih.gov/strides).