COVID-19 Guidance

COVID-19 Related Proposals, Awards and Subawards

Funding opportunities for COVID-19 related research have been communicated to faculty on campus. Many agencies have shortened proposal submission timelines for COVID-19 related research proposals, that require Principal Investigators to act expeditiously. SPO will prioritize the processing of these proposals, and accommodate Principal Investigators (PI) by eliminating the VCR Late Submission requirement for COVID-19 related research proposals only. Final proposals should still be submitted to SPO at least one full business day (8 working hours) before the submission deadline.

To help SPO prepare for compressed proposal review timelines, PIs or their Department Research Administrators should alert SPO of forthcoming proposals as soon as the decision to apply is made. An email with the following information should be sent to spo@ucmerced.edu:

- In the subject line include “COVID-19 Proposal” and Cayuse SP Number (if one has already been created)
- Principal Investigator Name
- Funding agency
- Proposal submission deadline
- Cayuse routing anticipated date

Award/subaward review, negotiation and setup for COVID-19 related research projects will also be prioritized and expedited.

April 10, 2020 Updates

NSF’s Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-20: Repurposing Existing Federal Financial Assistance Programs and Awards to Support the Emergency Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Colleagues:

The Foundation has issued guidance on NSF’s implementation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum (M-20-20), entitled, Repurposing Existing Federal Financial Assistance Programs and Awards to Support the Emergency Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). NSF remains committed to working with the Administration, other federal
agencies, and the research community to effectively respond to the COVID-19 national emergency. This guidance is to implement the flexibility class exception authorized by OMB Memorandum M-20-20 that allows Federal awarding agencies to repurpose their Federal assistance awards (in whole or part) to support the COVID-19 response, as consistent with applicable laws. This will certainly help address questions that recipients may have regarding the donation of items/resources from NSF awards.

Any questions about the policies described in the NSF Guidance should be directed to policy@nsf.gov. Questions specific to a particular award should be directed to the cognizant NSF Program Officer. NSF is working to update existing FAQs and other resources to reflect NSF’s new guidance and will keep you informed on our website at: nsf.gov/coronavirus.

Jean Feldman
Head, Policy Office
Division of Institution and Award Support
Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
National Science Foundation

April 9, 2020 Updates


April 8, 2020 Updates

NSF: Impact on Existing Deadline

UCOP: COVID-19 Updates

CA DWR: The 2020 Final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the Drainage Reuse Grant Program has been released for the public to submit proposals. The following link provides detailed information. https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/AgDrainage-204

DWR is working on making the forms that are attached to the PSP electronically fillable with ADA Compliance. The current PSP on the webpage will be replaced with the updated version as soon as possible. We will notify you via email when the new version is available.

As stated on the above webpage, DWR decided to add the email option (pdf format) for accepting proposals due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic situation. The complete application package can now be sent either by postal service or via email at AgDrainageGrants@water.ca.gov. A confirmation email will be sent for the application packages that are submitted via email. Please let me know if you have any questions.
April 6, 2020 Updates

The UC Research Grants Program Office has just issued a funding opportunity for grant funding related to COVID-19. $2,000,000 in funding is being made available for brief projects of no more than $25,000. Award turn-around time will be within two weeks of proposal submission.


COGR’s Web Page on Institutional and Agency Responses to COVID-19 and Additional Resources (Including COGR’s FAQs)

April 2, 2020 Updates

Council on Governmental Relations: COVID-19 Agency Guidance Matrix

AFOSR guidance: https://afresearchlab.com/afosr-covid

April 1, 2020 Updates

NSF Updates:

The Foundation has issued a revision to NSF’s implementation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum (M-20-17), entitled, Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations. Revisions include:

- **Prior approval requirement waivers** (# 8) has been revised to update the specific situations that require NSF prior approval. Additional guidance also has been added for Major Facility Recipients;

- **Extension of financial and other reporting** (# 10) has been supplemented with information on the processing of payments via NSF’s Award Cash Management Service; and

- **Extension of closeout** (# 12) has new guidance extending award closeout from 120 days to 180 days.

Questions about the policies described in the NSF Guidance should be directed to policy@nsf.gov. NSF is working to update existing FAQs and other resources to reflect NSF’s new guidance and will keep you informed at: nsf.gov/coronavirus.
UCOP: COVID-19 Updates

Sandia National Lab: Mission Essential Subcontract Activities During COVID-19 Response

March 31, 2020 Updates

UC MEXUS: Automatic grant extension

California Strategic Growth Council:

CCR: COVID-19 Grantee Guidance

CCR: Grantee_COVID-19_Letter

CCR: COVID-19 Impacts and adjustments to Research Grants Form

March 30, 2020 Updates

UPDATE: NIH Late Application Policy Due to Public Health Emergency for United States for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

American Institute of Physics

USAMRAA Update: Supplemental Guidance on Administrative Flexibilities for Grants and Cooperative Agreements in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

March 26, 2020 Updates:

NIFA Coronavirus Resources

UCOP: COVID-19 Updates

UCOP: Federal Resources

March 25, 2020 Updates:

SFPHF Subcontractor Guidance

S-STEM Community Update

Council On Governmental Relations
March 24, 2020 Updates:

UCOP: Charging grants and contracts costs to Federal sponsored awards during COVID-19

DOD: Frequently Asked Questions for DOD Research Proposers and Awardees Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

March 23, 2020 Updates:

UCOP - RGPO Message regarding COVID-19 Pandemic

FDP: COVID-19 Impact on Subaward Performance

OMB M-20-18 Memorandum to the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

NSF: Implementation of OMB Memo M-20-17:
The National Science Foundation has issued Important Notice No 146 to the Community Regarding COVID-19. NSF has also issued additional guidance on NSF’s implementation of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum (M-20-17), entitled, Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations. NSF has implemented flexibilities authorized by OMB from specific administrative, financial management and audit requirements contained in 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards without compromising accountability requirements.

Any questions about the policies described in the NSF Guidance should be directed to policy@nsf.gov. Questions specific to a particular award should be directed to the cognizant NSF Program Officer. NSF is working to update existing FAQs and other resources to reflect NSF’s new guidance and will keep you informed on our website at: nsf.gov/coronavirus.

March 20, 2020 Updates:

OMB M-20-17 Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial

“This memorandum provides similar administrative relief listed in M-20-11 to an expanded scope of recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. Many of the operational impacts and costs are unknowable at this point, as they will depend on the spread of the coronavirus and response dictated by public health needs. This memorandum provides short term relief for administrative, financial management, and audit requirements under 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, without compromising Federal financial assistance accountability requirements. As program managers are considering administrative relief, they should be prudent in their stewardship of Federal resources which includes giving consideration to potential offsets-e.g.
reduction in training and travel. In addition, the flexibilities provided within this memorandum, agencies are reminded of their existing flexibility to issue exceptions on a case-by-case basis in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.102, Exceptions. M20-11 shall continue to apply, and Appendix A describes the exceptions granted under this memorandum to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity. These exceptions are time limited and will be reassessed by OMB within 90 days of this Memo.”

1. Flexibility with SAM registration. (2 CFR § 200.205)
2. Flexibility with application deadlines. (2 CFR § 200.202)
3. Waiver for Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) Publication. (2 CFR § 200.203)
4. No-cost extensions on expiring awards. (2 CFR § 200.308)
5. Abbreviated non-competitive continuation requests. (2 CFR § 200.308)
8. Prior approval requirement waivers. (2 CPR § 200.407)
9. Exemption of certain procurement requirements. (2 CPR§ 200.319(b), 2 CPR§ 200.321)
11. Extension of currently approved indirect cost rates. (2 CPR§ 200.414 (c))
12. Extension of closeout. (2 CPR§ 200.343)

UCOP Coronavirus/COVID-19 Updates

Agencies and entities are issuing guidance on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Guidance and announcements received by the Sponsored Projects Office are posted below. This page will be updated as new information is available.

Also see:

- Vice Chancellor for Research: COVID-19 and Research Continuity at UC Merced
- UC Merced: Coronavirus Information

Reminder: Biosafety Review

Note that all principal investigators must have institutional biosafety committee approval prior to performing any coronavirus research or work on campus (including to help state and federal
agencies to screen patient samples), and must undergo Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) review and approval. This includes requesting or accepting COVID-19 samples (patient or otherwise).

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**Federal**

**National Institutes of Health**

**General Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Proposal Submission and Award Management Related to COVID-19 (NOT-OD-20-083)**

**NIH Extramural Response to Natural Disasters and Other Emergencies**

**NIH Late Application Policy Due to Public Health Emergency for United States for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) (NOT-OD-20-082)**

**Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

**NIAID: Coronaviruses: Information for Researchers**

**NIAID’s Multi-Pronged Response to the COVID-2019 Outbreak**

Fogarty International Center: [Coronavirus news and resources for global health researchers](https://www.fogartyinternational.org/coronavirus)

**Funding Opportunities**

- **Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) (NOT-AI-20-030)**

  The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences are issuing this NOSI to highlight the urgent need for research on the 2019 novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). NIAID is particularly interested in projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against 2019-nCoV. NIGMS is specifically interested in incorporation of data from the 2019-nCoV into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of Coronaviruses and related pathogens.

- **NIAID: Partnerships for Countermeasures against Select Pathogens (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)**

  This initiative will support development of new or improved therapeutics for emerging viral pathogens of public health concern. Note that this FOA will support development of a candidate therapeutic against severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), the virus that causes COVID-19. Deadline: 6/29/2020.
National Science Foundation

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for National Science Foundation (NSF) Proposers and Awardees**

**Statement on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**
Includes impact on NSF’s acceptance and review of proposals, impact on award oversight, impact on meetings funded via a grant from NSF, etc.

**Detailed Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Funding Opportunities**

- **Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):**
  NSF is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge.

- **Dear Colleague Letter: Provisioning Advanced Cyberinfrastructure to Further Research on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19):**
  The Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure is inviting RAPID proposals and supplemental funding requests to existing awards that address COVID-19 challenges through data and/or software infrastructure development activities.

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**OTHER**

**NASA:** Coronavirus Information:  Message to NASA Contractors - Assistant Administrator for Procurement Message on Coronavirus

**DOE:** Memorandum for Applicants and Awardees

**USAMRAA:** USAMRAA’s COVID-19 FAQs

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**Office of Management and Budget**
M-20-11 Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

On this page

- NIH
- NSF
- NASA
- OMB
- Other Entities

RELATED INFORMATION

- VCR: COVID-19 and Research Continuity at UC Merced
- UC Merced Coronavirus Information
- CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)