

Federal Guidance to Grantees and Applicants RE: COVID-19

Updated April 7, 2020

Agency-Specific Guidance:

NSF: https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/

NIH: <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus.htm>

USDA/NIFA: <https://nifa.usda.gov/coronavirus>

NEA: <https://www.arts.gov/COVID-19-FAQs>

Other federal agencies:

<https://www.cogr.edu/sites/default/files/COVID19AgencyGuidanceMatrix%20v7%20April%201%202020%20%28003%29.pdf>

Salary-Specific Guidance:

NSF

“Recipients are authorized to continue to charge salaries, stipends, and benefits to currently active NSF awards consistent with the recipients’ policy of paying salaries (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal. The recipient also is authorized to charge other costs to NSF awards that are necessary to resume activities supported by the award, consistent with applicable Federal cost principles and the benefit to the project. **Recipients must not assume that supplemental funding will be available should the charging of such costs or other fees result in a shortage of funds to eventually carry out the project. If a shortfall is anticipated, recipients must contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer to discuss the situation.**”

Source: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.pdf

NIH

“NIH understands that many researchers may be unable to work as a result of or related to the effects of COVID-19. If a recipient organization’s policy allows for the charging of salaries and benefits during periods when no work is performed due to the effect of COVID-19, regardless of the funding source, including Federal and non-Federal, then such charges to NIH grant awards will be allowable.

Reminder: NIH awarding Institutes/Centers (ICs) may request documentation to confirm the requirements of institutional policies.”

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-086.html>

Application Deadlines:

NIH

“... [A]ll grant applications submitted late for due dates between March 9, 2020, and May 1, 2020, will be accepted through May 1, 2020. This notice applies to all relevant funding opportunity

announcements, including those that indicate no late applications will be accepted. Institutions need not request advance permission to submit late due to this declared emergency and a cover letter providing a justification is not required.”

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>

NSF

“NSF has extended the deadline dates for specific funding opportunities. A listing of these extensions is available on the Foundation’s COVID-19 webpage. Deadline dates for funding opportunities that do not appear on the list remain unchanged. Recipients who are unable to meet stated deadlines should contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer to discuss the issue. NSF will consider extensions on a case by case basis.”

Source: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf

Reporting Deadlines:

NIH

“If your institution is unable to complete and submit financial and Research Progress Performance Reports (RPPR) by the scheduled due date, due to the effects of COVID-19, please be sure to contact the assigned grants management and/or program official to let them know the reports will be late. NIH will accept these late reports but will delay issuing grant awards until the reports are received and accepted by the appropriate Institute or Center (IC).”

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-086.html>

NSF

“NSF... has automatically extended the due date for submission of all annual project reports and final reports due between March 1 and April 30, 2020, by 30 days. These project reports must continue to be submitted via Research.gov. Recipients are reminded that NSF cannot make any new award or supplement any existing award, if the principal investigator (PIs) or any co-PI(s) has an overdue annual project report; therefore, it is vital that annual reports are submitted by the revised due date.”

Source: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.pdf

Non-refundable travel, registration, and/or hotel costs:

NIH

Travel:

Non-refundable costs associated with grant-related travel that has been cancelled due to COVID-19 may be charged to the NIH award if they would have otherwise been allowable. See [NIH GPS 7.9.1](#) for detailed information on the allowability of travel expenses.

Conference Registration Fees:

Non-refundable registration fees for conferences, symposiums or seminars that have been cancelled due to COVID19 may be charged to the NIH award if they would have otherwise been allowable (e.g. necessary to accomplish program objectives).

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-086.html>

NSF

Recipients who incur costs related to the cancellation of events, travel, or other activities necessary and reasonable for the performance of the award, or the pausing and restarting of grant funded activities due to the public health emergency, are authorized to charge these costs to their award without regard to 2 CFR § 200.403, *Factors affecting allowability of costs*, 2 CFR § 200.404, *Reasonable costs*, and 2 CFR § 200.405, *Allocable costs*. Recipients may charge the full cost to the award when the event, travel, or other activities are conducted under the auspices of the grant. Recipients must not assume that supplemental funding will be available should the charging of cancellation or other fees result in a shortage of funds to eventually carry out the event or travel. If a shortfall is anticipated, recipients must contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer to discuss the situation.

Source: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.pdf