

Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding Related to COVID-19

Updated 06-15-2020

Patient Care and Researcher Safety is the First Priority

- The NIH is deeply concerned for the health and safety of people involved in NIH research, and about the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency on the biomedical enterprise.
- NIH is providing many administrative flexibilities to help the research continue.

Stay Up to Date

- This is a rapidly evolving situation.
- Information provided is current as of June 15, 2020.
- Latest information may be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/coronavirus.htm>

NIH is Open for Business

- Extramural staff are working remotely
- We continue to process applications and make awards
- We are conducting peer review meetings virtually
- We are working diligently to provide funding opportunities to support COVID-19 research

COVID-19 Funding Opportunities and Other Information for Applicants and Recipients

- Funding through competing supplements, administrative supplements, new awards
- Many opportunities listed on [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#) website

Donating Research Supplies

- To meet immediate and emergency needs, recipients may donate PPE and other research supplies purchased with NIH grant funds in support of efforts related to COVID-19 (e.g. to hospitals and local healthcare facilities).
- Recipients may:
 - re-budget grant funds to repurchase supplies at a later date
 - use large unobligated balances
 - or submit an administrative supplement request
 - Note: NIH can only provide additional funds to support supplies that are directly charged to the project(s).
- Reach out to your NIH program officer and grants management staff with specific questions.
- Learn more: FAQs grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

Application Deadlines

- NIH accepted late applications through May 1 for deadlines between March 9 and May 1
- NIH will accept late applications for the May 25 due date for T32 and T35 institutional training grants through June 30
- Late application deadlines also being extended further via notice for select FOAs
- Late application policy notices are listed on the [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#) website

Post Submission Materials

- NIH has implemented a special exception to allow preliminary data as post submission materials:
 - For applications submitted for January 2021 Council dates (application submission dates beginning May 25 for fall 2020 review meetings)
 - Must be submitted at least 30 days before review meeting
 - Funding opportunity must allow preliminary data
- Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-123](#)

Salaries and Stipends

- If unable to work on grant or training activities, salaries and stipends may be charged to NIH grants
 - only, if your organization's policy allows such charges from all funding sources, federal and non-federal
- Prior approval is not required to divert faculty from research to clinical work related to COVID-19 until the end of the public health emergency period.
- Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-086](#) and FAQs at grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

Guidance on Human Subjects Research affected by COVID-19

- Ensure the safety of all human participants and research staff involved in clinical trials and human subjects' studies.
- Consult with IRBs and institutions about protective measures, such as:
 - Limiting study visits to those needed for participant safety or coincident with clinical care.
 - Conducting virtual study visits
 - Implementing flexibilities for required laboratory tests or imaging needed for safety monitoring
- NIH will be flexible regarding project extensions and accommodating unanticipated costs
- Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-087](#) and FAQs at grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

Guidance for IACUCs

- Facility inspections may be extended by 30 days beyond the six-month interval
- IACUC can determine the best means of conducting the facility inspections, to include ad hoc consultants
- IACUCs may institute virtual meetings
- The number of IACUC meetings may be reduced to as few as one every six months
- The IACUC may choose to expand their use of designated member review
- Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-088](#) and olaw.nih.gov/covid-19.htm

Administrative Flexibilities

- OMB has authorized agencies to utilize administrative flexibilities to recipients conducting COVID-19 research and recipients affected by COVID-19
- NIH is allowing pre-award costs to be incurred
- Extensions of post-award reporting
- Prior approval requirement waivers
- Numerous flexibilities regarding expenditures of funds
- Learn more: [NOT-OD-20-086](#) and FAQs at grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

Accommodations for Loss of Time for Investigators Early in their Careers

- Extensions for early stage investigator eligibility due to COVID-19-related disruptions will be considered

- NIH will be flexible with extending time constraints for fellowship, career development and training awards, including phased awards
- Learn more: FAQs at grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm

Final Advice

- For general questions regarding these flexibilities contact the NIH Office of Extramural Research at grantspolicy@nih.gov
- For questions specific to your NIH award contact the grants management and program staff of the funding institute or center.
- Monitor [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\): Information for NIH Applicants and Recipients of NIH Funding](#) website for new information