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

UPDATED JUNE 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 in this presentation is current as of June 15, 2020

Visit our page and check back often for updates!
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

• 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
RADx-UP Notice of Special Interest

Funding Opportunity
Emergency Competitive Revisions for Community-Engaged Research on COVID-19 Testing Among Underserved and/or Vulnerable Populations

Open: June 12, 2020
Deadline: August 7, 2020
Visit: nimhd.nih.gov/funding/nimhd-funding/notices.html

Recognizing the urgent need to understand and address COVID-19-related health disparities in the United States, NIMHD is supporting community-engaged Testing Research Projects through the RADx-UP initiative. These projects will examine COVID-19 infection patterns and efforts to increase access and effectiveness of testing among underserved populations. Learn about a new Testing Research Project #FundingOpportunity that supplements eligible, active research grants with community collaborations or partnerships to support COVID-19 testing for underserved and/or vulnerable populations. #NIMHCCOVID19

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Learn more: NOT-OD-20-121
Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) and RADx Underserved Populations (UP)
NIH Point-of-Care Technology Research Network Opportunities

Learn more: NIH POCTRN
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 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](https://www.nih.gov) 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
Donating Research Supplies

• To meet emergency needs, recipients may donate PPE and other research supplies purchased with NIH grant funds to support COVID-19 efforts (e.g., to hospitals and local healthcare facilities).

• Recipients may:
  • rebudget grant funds to repurchase supplies at a later date
  • use large unobligated balances
  • submit administrative supplement requests
    • 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.

FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm
Salaries & Stipends

• If unable to work on grant or training activities, salaries and stipends may be charged to NIH grants
  • Ensure that your organization’s policy allows such charges from federal and non-federal funds

• 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
FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm
Guidance on Human Research Affected by COVID-19

• Ensure the safety of all human participants and research staff involved in clinical trials and human subject 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
FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm
Guidance to Help IACUCs Prepare for and Cope with the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 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
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
FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm
Accommodations for Loss of Research Time

• 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

FAQs: grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm
Advice for Applicants & Recipients

- For general questions regarding COVID-19 flexibilities, contact NIH’s Office of Extramural Research at grantspolicy@nih.gov
- For questions specific to your NIH award, contact the grants management or program staff at the funding institute or center

FAQs frequently updated. Check back often!