



NIH COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES

RAC Forum
April 8, 2020

Flexibilities are granted to:

Entities that have been closed or business activities have been hindered due to COVID-19 precautionary measures and/or illnesses.

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

Late Proposals

- All grant (not contract) applications submitted late for due dates between March 9, 2020, and May 1, 2020, will be accepted through May 1, 2020.
 - *FOAs expiring within this time period will be extended*
- Institutions do not need to request advance permission to submit late due to this declared emergency and a cover letter providing a justification is not required. (New)
- Applicants should assume that late applications submitted after May 1 may not be reviewed until meetings for the January 2021 council round (e.g., October-November 2020).

Delayed Reports

- PIs that are unable to complete and submit financial and/or Research Progress Performance Reports (RPPR) by the scheduled due date, should:
 - *Contact their Grants Management Specialist to describe the barriers that have or will contribute to a delay in submitting these report/s.*
 - Example Introduction on the SPO website:
<https://spo.berkeley.edu/procedures/covid19communication.html>
 - Delays may not exceed one year.

Salaries

- **Salaries:** NIH allows project personnel salaries and benefits to continue to be charged if a recipient organization's policy allows for the charging of salaries and benefits during periods when no work is performed.
- If an Institute/Center requests documentation that institutional policy allows for the charging of salaries and benefits due to the effect of COVID-19:
 - *Link to institutional policy: <https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/policies-guidance/coronavirus/032420-charging-grants-and-contracts-costs-to-federal-sponsored-awards-during-covid-19.pdf>*

Stipends

- **Stipends:** If fellows and trainees are unable to work as a result of or related to COVID-19, stipend payments may continue to be charged to the NIH award if:
 - *The PI notifies the assigned grants management official, and provides documentation demonstrating the effect of COVID-19, and how long the institution will be affected.*
 - *Example Introduction on the SPO website:*
<https://spo.berkeley.edu/procedures/covid19communication.html>

Travel Cost Flexibilities

- Non-refundable costs associated with grant-related and non-refundable registration fees for conferences, symposiums or seminars that have been cancelled due to COVID19 may be charged if they would have been otherwise allowable.
- For an administrative supplement to cover non-refundable costs associated with travel to NIH supported meetings and conferences:
 - *Contact the assigned Grants Management Specialist and provide documentation of the effect of COVID-19 on project travel.*
 - Example Introduction on the SPO website:
<https://spo.berkeley.edu/procedures/covid19communication.html>

Other Cost Flexibilities

- PIs that will need additional cost-related flexibilities to successfully carry out their NIH supported project should:
 - *Contact both their assigned Grants Management Specialist and Program Official to provide a detailed justification outlining the effect of COVID-19 and the flexibility required.*
 - *Example Introduction on the SPO website:*
<https://spo.berkeley.edu/procedures/covid19communication.html>

Submitting a request to NIH...

- Use the example Introduction on the SPO website:
<https://spo.berkeley.edu/procedures/covid19communication.html>
- Ask the NIH representative to confirm via email that your request has been received.
- Forward any notices of approval received from NIH to your [SPO Contract and Grant Officer](#) to document approval has been granted.