



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

# ***Impacts of Government Shutdown***

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## Government Shutdown

Following the shutdown of the federal government on October 1, 2013, we have been receiving communications from some of our sponsor agencies as to the impact of the shutdown on various services relating to proposal submissions and grants management.

Our Office of Research Administration has prepared a summary table and certain Q&As with respect to the guidance circulated today from our two major sponsors, NIH and NSF.

Please reference:

[Summary table and the Q&As](#)

[NIH Contingency Plan](#)

[NSF Contingency Plan](#)

We will keep you posted as we receive updates. All agency contingency plans are posted to the [OMB website](#).

Should you have any specific questions, please contact your SPA or CTO Project Officer.

**NIH-specific guidance**

**NSF-specific guidance**

**Communication**

- Contact with NIH and NSF staff by phone, email, fax, USPS mail, FedEx, UPS will not be possible during the funding lapse. We recommend holding off on all communications until after operations resume.

**Proposal Submission**

**Until normal operations resume:**

- Grants.gov will accept electronic applications for submission. Applications will not be processed for review.
- eRA Commons is inaccessible, therefore applications cannot be reviewed
- Multi-project submissions through ASSIST is unavailable
- No paper applications should be submitted.

**Until normal operations resume:**

- No new funding opportunities will be released.
- Proposals cannot be submitted or prepared in FastLane
- Grants.gov is operational, however no applications will be checked for compliance until operations resume.
- Notification on the approval or disapproval of an application can take up to six months after the deadline, target date, or receipt date

**E-system Support**

- Helpdesk support for eRA Commons, Grants.gov will not be available.
- eRA Commons is not accessible during the lapse.

- Helpdesk support for Research.gov and FastLane will not be available

## NIH-specific guidance

## NSF-specific guidance

### Reporting of Safety Issues

- Serious adverse events involving human safety should be reported to Dr. Sally Rockey by email at: [rockey@od.nih.gov](mailto:rockey@od.nih.gov)
- No guidance provided as yet.

### Peer review, Panels Council Advisory Meetings, and Grant Scores

- No peer reviews or council meetings until normal operations resume
- E-systems that support these activities will not be available
- Peer review/council meetings will be re-scheduled
- Summary statements and final impact scores will not be disseminated

### Awarded grants (progress reports)

- Continue performance on grant, business as usual.
- No NIH/NSF systems will be accessible to submit any progress reports.
- No NIH/NSF staff will be available to review these reports, please submit as soon as systems become available.

### Notices of Award (NoA)

- No JIT requests or NoAs will be released during funding lapse (pending NoAs will be released once operations resume). Start dates for projects **will not be affected by delayed NoAs**.

	<b>NIH-specific guidance</b>	<b>NSF-specific guidance</b>
<b>No Cost Extension (NCE)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First time NCEs cannot be submitted electronically through the Commons.</li> <li>• Send all NCE requests to SPA, addressed to the GMO but to the attention of your Project Officer, and we will submit paper requests to the NIH once business operations have resumed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cost extensions (whether Columbia University approved or NSF-approved) cannot be submitted or processed.</li> <li>• Funds cannot be obligated beyond the award expiration date.</li> </ul>
<b>HHS Payment Management System</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMS will be open.</li> <li>• Draw-downs can continue as long as no federal staff action is required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No payments will be made during the shutdown.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal Welfare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No activities associated with the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) will continue during lapse.</li> <li>• OLAW will extend deadlines for the submission of assurances and all reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
<b>Contracts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OMB guidance suggests contractors will be contacted directly on how to proceed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contractors will be notified if work on contracts can continue.</li> <li>• No new contracts will be issued during shutdown.</li> <li>• Performance on contracts may be authorized if sufficient funds were available prior to the shutdown.</li> </ul>

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### **What is the status of Grants.gov? Can I submit a proposal?**

According to the NIH announcement, [NOT-OD-13-126](#), “For the duration of the funding lapse, applicants are strongly encouraged **not** to submit paper or electronic grant applications to NIH during the period of the lapse. Adjustments to application submission dates that occur during the funding lapse will be announced once operations resume.” However, Grants.gov will be open and can accept electronic applications.

**Year 4 of my 5 year grant had an end date of September 30, 2013 and my NoA for the project period beginning October 1 was not released prior to the shutdown. May I charge salaries to year 5 of my grant and purchase supplies?**

Yes.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**I planned to submit a first time no-cost extension request to SPA for processing. Can this request be submitted during the federal shutdown?**

The NIH/NSF systems used to submit first time no cost extensions is inaccessible during the funding lapse. NIH guidance recommends submitting a paper request for approval of an NCE once systems are back up and running. Please submit the paper NCE request to SPA, addressed to the GMS listed on the NoA and we will sign and hold the letter until normal operations resume. Paper NCE letters will need to be mailed to the NIH agency after normal operations resume.



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**I have been working on a grant submission for the October 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. As per recent NIH guidance we are encouraged to not submit and to wait for normal business operations to resume at the agency. What should I do?**

**NIH:** You should continue to route and submit your NIH grant applications to SPA for review. As stated by NIH, “Adjustments to application submission dates that occur during the funding lapse will be announced once operations resume.”

**NSF:** Please hold off on submitting NSF applications until further notice.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**I have a progress report due in the upcoming weeks, what should I do?**

NIH: The eRA Commons will be unavailable during the shutdown, please hold off on submitting progress reports until normal operations resume.

NSF: FastLane/Grants.gov is unavailable during the shutdown, please hold off on submitting progress reports until normal operations resume.

Please be prepared to have your reports ready for immediate submission once normal business operations resume at the NIH and NSF.