

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding a Federal Government Shutdown

During a federal government shutdown, several agencies that support important work on campus, such as NIH, NSF, NASA, DOD, and HRSA, will be impacted.

Please refer to the guidance at <https://www.downstate.edu/research/administration/index.html>

### Q. What is the impact on federally funded research projects?

A. No new grants or contracts are awarded during a shutdown. Researchers can likely submit proposals, but the applications will not be reviewed until the government is operational again.

### Q. Should I stop working on my active projects?

A. Work may continue for most active, federally funded projects. Routine administrative and support services provided by federal agencies to grant and contract recipients will not be available. Projects may be disrupted during a shutdown if they are housed in a federal facility, if the project includes federal personnel, and/or if an award includes restrictive terms and conditions that require administrative review (i.e., approval of milestones or incremental funding).

### Q. Can I contact the sponsor during a shutdown?

A. Federal agency staff likely will not be available during a shutdown. You should expect that any requests made for no-cost extensions, grant transfers, rebudgeting or carryover will be addressed when the agency resumes normal operations.

### Q. Can proposals be submitted to federal agencies during a shutdown?

A. Some sponsors will continue to accept proposals via automated systems during a shutdown, but others may not. Those that do accept proposals may not be staffed to answer questions or assist with system issues. Check the sponsor's website for clarification or contact your Sponsored Programs Administrator.

### Q. I am anticipating a new award. Should I proceed with hiring staff?

A. Plan to start your project later than expected. If personnel have been hired or are expected to be hired immediately, you may wish to inform them that a federal shutdown has prevented the project from starting and you will contact them when the issue is resolved.

### Q. I have a progress report due to a federal sponsor. Should it be submitted after a shutdown ends?

A. Principal Investigators should be able to submit progress reports in eRA Commons and Research.gov during a shutdown and should adhere to original due dates.

Q. I requested a no-cost extension for my award. Can my project continue during a shutdown?

A. No-cost extensions requiring sponsor approval will likely not be processed until a shutdown ends and operations resume. In the meantime, federal funds cannot be used for expenses incurred beyond the current, approved end date.

Q. I am a participant in a Loan Repayment Program (LRP). How does this affect me?

A. Any individuals participating in NIH's Loan Repayment Program will be most directly impacted as they receive funds directly from the federal entity. These payments will be on hold until the federal shutdown has ended.

Q. I am collaborating with a National Lab. Can my project continue?

A. Both Cold Spring Harbor and Brookhaven are National Laboratories. Both labs will be closed in the event of a federal shutdown; however, if you have an active award, you should consider reserving your available balance, review expenditures, encumbrances and personnel to determine how long you can continue the project.

Q. I have employed someone on an Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA). How does this impact them?

A. IPAs are established to assign employees to a federal agency for a specific period and purpose. Those RF employees assigned to Veteran's Affairs (the VA) through the IPA mechanism will not be affected by the federal shutdown and will continue to be paid through the Research Foundation. The Research Foundation will not be reimbursed for these expenses until after the shutdown ends.

Q. What is the impact of a federal shutdown on immigration services?

A. Because these activities are funded by fees, most of these services are expected to remain operational during a shutdown.