

Tue, Feb 11, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to share some updates regarding recent developments in the ongoing federal administration transition. As you are likely aware, many federal agencies are going through periods of significant transition and disruption.

In recent days, we have been working closely with the faculty and staff members impacted by the stop-work orders issued on grants from the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development, and we will continue to do so as the future of these agencies, their purview, and the research they support evolves.

More recently, the National Institutes for Health (NIH) issued a notice limiting indirect costs on current awards and new proposals to 15%, effective Monday, February 10, 2025. Legal challenges have commenced. While these are debated in the courts ND researchers with existing NIH funding should continue to work on NIH awards. Faculty working on new NIH proposals should consult with their assigned pre-award program manager regarding budget expectations. Any new NIH awards or funding increments on existing awards that cap indirect costs at 15% will be placed on administrative hold until this issue is resolved.

During this time of uncertainty, you should continue to work on your federal grants and contracts unless you have received a specific stop work order or award-specific suspension notice from your federal program or contracting officer. If you have specific questions regarding an activity or part of your grant program as it relates to the evolving federal guidance, please send your questions to [federalresponse-list@nd.edu](mailto:federalresponse-list@nd.edu). This list is managed by senior leadership within Notre Dame Research (NDR) and the Office of Federal and Washington Relations.

Further, unless you receive instructions from your federal program officer or guidance from NDR, you should continue working on and submitting your grant proposals. You are encouraged to check the funding opportunity announcement / solicitation frequently for possible changes in due dates, proposal components, or other requirements of the proposal.

Please also note that over the last couple of weeks we have seen intermittent outages with federal agency systems used for proposal submission and award management. It continues to be important to start early and complete your work well ahead of deadlines given this system instability. Also, be aware that a late progress report or deliverable may be used as a reason to terminate an award. Please continue to submit required reports on time. We have also seen that some requests for no-cost extensions may be on hold or the process for requesting the extension may have changed. We have received information from federal agency representatives that it would be wise to initiate requests three months prior to the current end date. Faculty with pending or upcoming no-cost extension requests should contact their assigned grants program manager.

As a reminder, we continue to request that all researchers and administrators share agency communications related to their sponsored research projects with NDR at [federalresponse-list@nd.edu](mailto:federalresponse-list@nd.edu). We also request that you document any disruptions to your work, such as delays in funding or staffing. It is suggested that you begin to prepare impact statements that include, among other things, disruptions to students, staffing issues, and/or disruptions in potentially life-saving research and educational programming.

Your research matters not only to the University, but to our nation and the world. Notre Dame is working hard to document the impacts thus far and is coordinating with key partners, such as the Association of American Universities (AAU), the Science Coalition, and our partners across Indiana. Please know that we are working hard for you, and are grateful for the hard work you are doing during this rapidly evolving period of time.

Sincerely,

Jeff Rhoads  
Vice President for Research