



RELEASE: Friday, May 9

Lobo Researchers,

If it seems like we are perpetually bobbing and weaving in response to the daily, sometimes hourly, updates from various funding agencies, that's because we are! This week has been no different.

NSF Updates:

First, on Monday (May 5), the Association of American Universities (AAU), the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), along with thirteen research universities [filed a lawsuit](#) contesting the cutting of F&A reimbursement rates for National Science Foundation (NSF) grants and cooperative agreements. Ultimately, although UNM was not among the lawsuit plaintiffs, we did provide a declaration of impact to the legal team coordinating this action.

In other NSF news, UNM has now received 8 terminations on NSF grants for which we are the lead institution and an additional 5 for grants on which we are a subaward from another institution. Our research offices and UNM's Office of University Counsel continue to work with affected PIs on potential appeals for these terminations (where possible) and to inform our state partners as well as members of our congressional delegation. One opportunity we've recently learned about is the Spencer Foundation Bridge funding for [STEM education projects](#) terminated by NSF.

NIH Updates:

Second, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has updated its [Policy on Foreign Subawards](#) (NOT-OD-25-104), which went into effect May 1. The new policy halts new, renewal, or continuation awards with foreign subawards until a new structure is released by NIH (expected by Sept. 30). On the upside, NIH is allowing some renegotiation and reallocation of funds if possible to meet the aims of the project. Researchers with foreign subawards should work with their program officers and relevant sponsored projects office personnel.

An additional notice this week from NIH alerted the research community that NIH has temporarily disabled the no-cost extension (NCE) functionality in eRA Commons; [Updated NIH Processes for No-Cost Extension](#) (NOT-OD-25-110). As NIH continues to review extant grants and cooperative agreements to ensure compliance and alignment with NIH mission and agency priorities, NCEs must be submitted as a prior approval request in eRA Commons. Again, please work with OSP/SPO personnel if you have questions or concerns. As a reminder, **please spend the money you have to complete the proposed activities by the original end date on your grants! Do not count on any federal agencies granting NCEs moving forward.**

**Research Data Security:**

Finally, UNM provides researchers with robust data security. Although external factors may seem a bit chaotic, UNM will continue to safeguard research data in compliance with federal, state, and institutional policies and regulations. PIs should continue to use approved data storage systems, including but not limited to UNM Qualtrics (non-PHI data only), REDCap, UNM OneDrive, and UNM provided shared drives (e.g., N drives). PIs should not store data on their individual computers or servers as these may not be as secure, making our valuable research data less protected.

As we head into graduation week, we hope you all take a moment to celebrate with our students and trainees who have reached major milestones. Commencements are both beginnings and endings - they should be recognized, honored, and appreciated with joy.

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