



Dec. 20, 2024

Dear Campus Research Community,

As many of you are aware, the Federal government has not yet passed a federal spending bill to fund government operations after today, Dec. 20, 2024. Given the current political climate, a full or partial shutdown is possible. Each Federal agency will likely handle the nuances of a government shutdown and determination of essential personnel differently.

You can read about how each agency operates in a shutdown by looking at the agency contingency plans on the White House Office of Management and Budget website and the congressional research services:

Link: [Agency Contingency Plans](#)

Link: [Potential Effects of a Government Shutdown](#)

In general, during a government shutdown, no new awards will be created by Federal sponsors. Projects where the Federal sponsor has already obligated funds will be allowed to continue spending, unless informed differently by either the agency sponsor or by the OVPR. As such, these projects should continue unless advised otherwise by the federal sponsors.

For example, NSF's contingency plan notes that there will be personnel available to process cash payments to grantees for existing awards, and that awardees may continue performance under their NSF awards during a lapse in appropriations to the extent funds are available and the period of performance has not expired.

Notably, we would likely not be able to receive technical assistance from federal agencies, although reporting and submission portals may remain open during a lapse in appropriations. In addition, we know from previous shutdowns that a short funding lapse (i.e., shutdown) can result in missed panels, a backlog of proposal actions at the agencies, and delays that ultimately could result in the cancellation of some research and related activities. Research agencies will not be able to begin new programs, issue new grants, enter into new contracts, or review existing applications during a shutdown.

At this time, it is not clear whether a shutdown would delay deadlines for grant proposals. As such, unless you hear differently from a sponsor, we recommend you continue to prepare proposals and proceed as if there will be no change in grant submission deadlines.

Here are proactive tips for December (if possible):

- Identify federally funded grants that expire from December 2024 – January 2025 and request extensions if needed. You may submit a request to spend funds (RTSF) now to continue to spend on the award while the extension is in process, **if your department/college supports it**.
- Resolve pending programmatic issues with your program officials before Dec. 20, 2024, anticipating potential Federal office disruptions.
- Be aware that some federal contracts contain a clause that gives the federal agency sponsor the right to order the university to stop performing work; **check with OSP** and/or your program



officials to understand whether the agency is likely to exercise this right, which would impact reimbursements for expenses during the shutdown.

- Adhere to currently posted guidelines for grant submissions. Deadlines after Dec. 20, 2024 may be affected, **monitor submission portals or agency websites** for updates.
- Prepare for potential impacts on future sponsor award issuances by submitting a Request to Spend Funds (RTSF) **if supported by your department/college**.

Additional guidance can be found on the [OSP](#) website. We will continue to provide updates on how UNM will be responding to the shutdown. In the event of a long duration shutdown, additional guidance will be issued.

Please direct specific proposal or project inquiries to osp@unm.edu

Respectfully,

VPR Ellen Fisher & AVPR Om Perumal