



RELEASE: Friday, April 25

Lobo Researchers,

In keeping you up to date on the federal funding research landscape, there has been lots of activity this week with a variety of agencies responding to the changes in administration policies.

The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) announced last Friday (April 18) that they were updating guidance on the [priorities of the agency](#). Concomitant with the updated priorities was the termination of hundreds of NSF grants that were viewed as not aligned with the priorities. UNM had three grants that were part of this first round of cuts. In other NSF news, *Science* reported yesterday (April 24) that the NSF director [announced his resignation](#) well in advance of the end of his term.

In a similar vein, *Science* also announced Monday (April 21) that the **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA) is cancelling ~\$40M in [research grants](#) to universities and other institutions focused on pollution reduction. It remains unclear exactly when these grant cancellations will be effectuated, and if any affected grants are currently in our UNM portfolio. We will continue to monitor this situation closely.

On Monday (April 21), the **National Institutes of Health** (NIH) announced a change to their [award terms and conditions](#) that seeks to impose new constraints on all NIH grants, cooperative agreements, and other transaction awards. This new guidance is undergoing review by University leadership, in consultation with our Office of University Counsel, to understand how best to respond at the institutional level.

Given the rapidly changing requirements and adjustments to how federal funding agencies are responding to the administration's priorities, we believe it is important for PIs to have the most up-to-date guidance. Thus, it is imperative that all PIs notify their respective sponsored projects offices (awards@unm.edu for main and branch campuses; hsc-preaward@salud.unm.edu for Health Sciences campus) if any of the following are true:

- You are planning to submit a proposal to any sponsor, including private foundations, federal agencies, and state agencies, especially if the proposed project or opportunity pertains to diversity, equity, and inclusion or activities that may appear **not** to be in alignment with the agency or the federal administration's priorities.
- You receive a communication from a sponsor requesting certification or confirmation of information regarding preferential treatment, access to resources, or any other activity that could be perceived as a term or condition of receiving the funds from the sponsor as that could have legal ramifications. Feel free to



talk with program officers and sponsors, but if it is in writing, it's best to coordinate a response with OSP/SPO staff.

- You have any questions regarding any of the above or any other funding opportunities you may be considering.

As the UNM Research Rapid Response Team continues to stay informed on all these changes, we also know that many of you may also be interested in connecting and strategizing with others. Here's a few ways you can connect with others:

- The Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC): Group on Research Advancement and Development (GRAND) [webinars](#).
- The American Association of Universities (AAU) maintains a [news page](#) with press releases and updates on various issues affecting higher education and has a weekly update you can sign up for [here](#).
- The Association of Public and Landgrant Institutions (APLU) is tracking their involvement in various legal actions [here](#).
- The American Council on Education also has [resources](#), including a podcast that could be useful and informative.

We also encourage you to share any information you might learn from other connections you make (e.g., from study sections or review panels) that would be useful for our sponsored projects teams or other research offices.

As we approach the end of this semester, we recognize the dedication and hard work you have all put in during the last few months. Remember, we are in this together; we are here to support you every step of the way, providing you with timely updates and resources to help you succeed. Together, we will navigate this crucial period and celebrate the many accomplishments of our Lobo researchers.

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