



RELEASE: Thursday, Dec. 4

Lobos,

We hope all of you enjoyed a bit of a break last week and were able to spend time doing things you enjoy with people you enjoy being with.

There are several updates from various funding agencies as they continue to ramp back up after the shutdown:

NIH/HHS Updates

Shutdown Resumption: Information concerning how the National Institutes of Health is resuming normal operations.

Change to NIH Review Process: NIH recently announced new steps toward implementing a funding framework, effective for the January 2026 Advisory Council Round, that indicates they will be moving away from “paylines” or cutoffs based on peer review scores or percentiles.

Expanded Termination Authority: Effective Oct. 1, NIH Notice **NOT-OD-26-009** updates award terms to allow NIH to terminate grants that no longer align with program goals or agency priorities, in addition to existing reasons such as funding or compliance issues. Notices of Award will now reference **2 CFR 200** and any termination enjoined by court order **will not** be enforced. Meaning, NIH awards that were terminated in the spring and reinstated this past summer will remain reinstated unless a higher court overturns the lower court order.

Extramural Recipients Compliance Requirements: Reminder to NIH awardees that changes in scope represent new terms and conditions for grants, cooperative agreements, and other transactions with which recipients must comply.

Common forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support: NIH will be adopting the common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (other) Support. This will be effective for application due dates and Research Performance Progress Report submissions on or after Jan. 25, 2026.

HHS Adoption of Uniform Guidance: On Nov 18, the Department of Health and Human Services released updates to its adoption of Federal grant regulations in the Uniform Guidance. This resulted in changes to conflicts of interest reporting, inclusion of for-profit entities, and adherence to national policies, among other issues.

National Science Foundation updates

Resumption of Operations: The most recent information, including FAQs concerning how NSF is approaching the backlog of work resulting from the shutdown.



NSF Relocation: NSF recently announced it will be relocating its offices in the coming months, which may also affect operations.

Archived Opportunities: Recent information circulated from AAAS suggests that NSF is archiving some of its doctoral dissertation research improvement grants (DDRIGs) in some areas like anthropology.

Department of Energy Updates

Agency Realignment: DOE recently announced a complete reorganization that includes a unit focused on artificial intelligence and quantum, as well as one focused on geothermal energy along with the elimination of units focused on other forms of renewable energy.

We hope everyone enjoys a smooth, low-stress conclusion to the fall semester. We will continue to monitor agency announcements as well as judicial decisions affecting our research enterprise and will keep you apprised of any changes as they arise.

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