

Division of Earth Sciences, Virtual Office Hours APRIL 2020

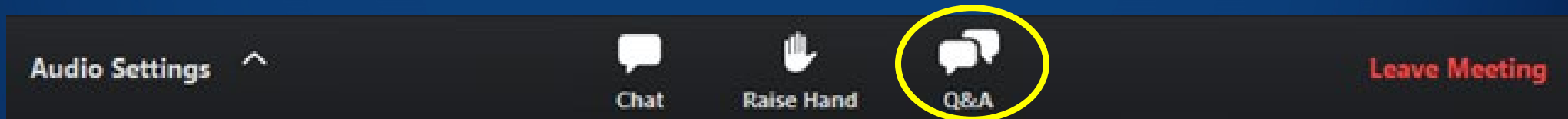


COVID-19 impacts to research
community



Virtual Office Hours Set-up

- Attendee audio and video functions disabled.
- Please use Q&A button at the bottom of your screen to submit questions. Set to “send Anonymously.”
 - Questions will be answered after our brief presentation, but you may submit questions at any time.



- If you have questions specific to your project, please contact your cognizant Program Officer.
 - Unsure who to ask? Email ear-communication@nsf.gov
- Presentation will be posted on our website -- nsf.gov/EAR



We are here for you! – NSF is Open for Business

- We recognize how challenging this time is for you personally and professionally.
- NSF staff are working and available to answer your questions.
- EAR staff participating in the Virtual Office Hours this week:
 - Staff: Diana Hernandez-Garcia, Uebonda McGee, Lindsay Martin, Beth Zelenski
 - Program Officers: Jennifer Wade, Dennis Geist, Robin Reichlin
 - Division Director: Lina Patino



NSF Letter to the Community from Dr. France Cordova

(Important Notice No. 146, March 23, 2020)

- “Our thoughts are with teachers struggling to teach in new environments in new ways, and with students who want to continue learning. Our thoughts are with parents trying to explain to their children why everything will be different for a while and why home is the safest place they can be.”
- “we are committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work”
- “NSF is also accepting proposals for non-medical, non-clinical-care RAPID research on coronavirus...”



NSF Community Guidance

Email or Call your NSF Program Officers.

Go to [nsf.gov/coronavirus](https://www.nsf.gov/coronavirus) and check frequently for updates.

- Important Notice No. 146 - NSF Letter to Community Regarding COVID-19 (March 23, 2020)
- NSF Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-17 (April 01, 2020)
- Impact on Existing Deadline Dates (April 07, 2020)
- FAQs About COVID-19 for NSF Proposers and Awardees (April 02, 2020)
- FAQs About COVID-19 for NSF Panelists (March 23, 2020)
- FAQs About COVID-10 for REUs, RETs, IRES, etc. (March 31, 2020)
- NSF Guidance for Major Facilities and Contracts Regarding COVID-19 (March 09, 2020)



No-Cost Extensions and Salaries

No-cost extensions: follow policies in NSF PAPPG.

1. *Grantee approved extension:* Grantees may authorize a one-time extension of the end date of the grant of up to 12 months.
2. *NSF-Approved Extension:* If you need additional time beyond the 1st extension, a formal request must be signed and submitted by the AOR, must explain the need for the extension and include an estimate of the unobligated funds remaining and a plan for their use.

Salaries and other project activities:

- Recipients are authorized to continue to charge salaries, stipends, and benefits to currently active NSF awards consistent with the recipients' policy of paying salaries (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal.
- If a shortfall is anticipated, recipients must contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer to discuss the situation.
- Recipients are required to maintain appropriate records and cost documentation.



Allowability of Costs not normally chargeable to awards

- Recipients who incur costs related to the cancellation of events, travel, or other activities necessary and reasonable for the performance of the award, or the pausing and restarting of grant funded activities due to the public health emergency, are authorized to charge these costs to their award without regard to 2 CFR § 200.403.
- Recipients may charge the full cost to the award when the event, travel, or other activities is conducted under the auspices of the grant.
- If a shortfall is anticipated, recipients must contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer to discuss the situation.
- Recipients are required to maintain appropriate records and cost documentation.



Prior approval requirement waivers

Recipients are only required to obtain NSF prior approval for the following reasons specified in 2 CFR § 200.308(c):

- Change in the scope or the objectives of the project;
- Change in a Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI specified in an NSF award;
- The transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense;
- Unless described in the proposal and funded in the approved NSF award, the sub-awarding or transferring out of any work under an NSF award; and
- The need arises for additional NSF funding to complete the project.

The above requests for prior approval must be submitted via [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov).





Reporting, Indirect Cost Rates, Closeout

- **Financial and other reporting:** NSF has automatically extended the due date for submission of all annual project reports due between March 1 and April 30, 2020, by 30 days.
- **Currently approved indirect cost rates:**
 - Recipients may continue to use the currently approved indirect cost rates to recover their indirect costs on Federal awards.
 - Recipients may request an extension on the use of the current rates for one additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
- **Closeout:** NSF also has automatically extended the closeout period for awards that ended between November 30, 2019 and April 30, 2020 to 180 days.



FAQs NSF Proposers and Awardees

- **Cancelled conference:** contact your Program Officer about changes to your plans.
- **Future/proposed conference:** consider contingency plans.
- **Deadlines:** For upcoming proposal deadlines, check [Impact on Existing Deadlines](#).
 - NSF will consider extensions on a case by case basis. Contact the Program Officer.
 - Reminder that EAR programs have no deadlines (Tectonics, Petrology and Geochemistry, Geophysics, Instrumentation and Facilities, Sedimentary Geology and Paleobiology, Geobiology and Low-Temperature Geochemistry, Geomorphology and Land Use Dynamics, Hydrology.)
- **Merit Review:** NSF will continue to review proposals using ad hoc reviews and virtual panels, enabling the agency to maintain a high-quality and timely merit review process.
- **Access to funds:** no interruption expected.
- **Site visits:** NSF staff is not authorized to travel until at least May 01. Planned site visits during this period may be done via videoconferencing or moved to a later date.



FAQs for NSF Panelists

- Through April 30, 2020: virtual panels only, NSF staff will contact reviewers.
- After May 1, 2020: expect a notification from NSF staff two weeks in advance of the panel about any changes.
- Changing travel arrangements:
 - Contact ADTRAV (855)-417-4024 or nsfpanel.travel@adtrav.com
 - Panelists are responsible for the cancellation of room reservations in sufficient time to retain the deposits on personal credit cards. NSF will not be able to provide reimbursement for such charges.



FAQs for REU, RET, and IRES Sites*

- Summer 2020:
 - Grantees responsible for making decisions.
 - Cancellation: contact Program Officer about potential for no-cost extension, cancellation fees may be charged to award.
 - Restructuring: contact Program Officer about options, may need to submit “Changes in Objective or Scope.”
 - Annual project report: reports due between March 1 and April 30, 2020 extended by 30 days.
 - Student support: may continue to provide stipends and benefits.
- Ill student:
 - NSF defers to awardees to follow organizational policies.
 - Recipients who incur costs related to the cancellation or pausing and restarting of activities are authorized to charge these costs to their award.
- Virtual participation: contact Program Officer with questions about supplemental funding and original scope.



NSF Guidance for Major Facilities and Contracts

- Decisions should be made by managing organizations in consultation with medical/government authorities.
- **Response plans:** safety of people comes first; safety and security of facility is critical.
- **International travel:** consult the State Department Travel Advisories website.
- **Additional COVID-19-related costs:** document carefully.
- **Allowable costs and performance/operational issues:** contact your Program Officer and G/AO or the COR and CO as well as copying COVID19_DAS@nsf.gov.



COVID-19-related Research Proposals

- NSF is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge.
- RAPIDs: Reach out to Program Officer or rapid-covid19@nsf.gov with initial request.
- Non-RAPID requests: long-term research is also encouraged, contact Program Officer.

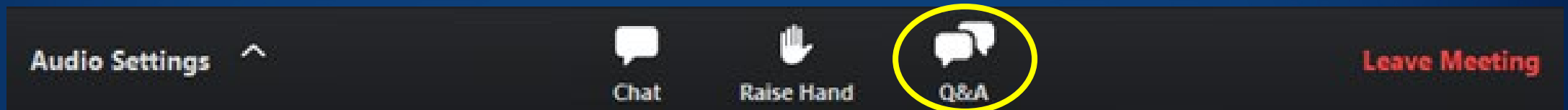
Go to [nsf.gov/coronavirus](https://www.nsf.gov/coronavirus) for more details, including:

- [Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Provisioning Advanced Cyberinfrastructure to Further Research on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)



Questions?

- Submit your questions or comments now using the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen and set to “Send anonymously.”



- Go to nsf.gov/coronavirus for more detailed information; check frequently for updates.
- Contact your cognizant Program Officer.
- Send an email to ear-communication@nsf.gov

