




MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH
313 Lyceum University, MS 38677-1848
Telephone (662) 915-7583 | Fax (662) 915-5202

To: UM Research Community
From: Josh Gladden, VCRSP 
Date: June 1, 2020
Subject: Updated Guidance on Federal Awards

Dear Colleagues,

We have recently become aware of some shifts in guidance coming from federal agencies regarding current grants. These shifts will be important in your planning activities and expenditures for the remainder of your projects.

Specifically, the updates and reminders are:

- No-cost extensions may NOT be approved. This is a change in tone.
What this means for you: The consequence of this is that all PIs should still plan to stick as closely as possible to your original spend plan such that there are no funds remaining by the end of the period of performance. *Any remaining funds may be swept back by the agency.*
- The agencies are *adhering to deadlines* in an effort to obligate sponsored funds in a timely manner
What this means for you: Do not assume you will have extra time on your proposal. ORSP staff are fully operational and ready to assist your submission.
- It is VERY important that you be in contact with your program officer in the agency.
What this means for you: Email your program officer and update them on any impact COVID-19 has had on your progress, steps you have taken to minimize impact, and any projections you might have about the rest of the period of performance. If your project needs a no-cost extension, start that conversation as early as possible and let ORSP staff know. Email is best as the communication is documented. If you have a call, send a follow-up email summarizing the conversation. Know the agency staff are working very hard as well trying to manage the situation.

If you have any questions, please contact ORSP staff. Thank you all for everything you are doing to keep our research and scholarly mission moving forward. I look forward to seeing you all again on a town hall and even more seeing you all face to face!