



October 2, 2013

To: KU Research Community
From: Steve Warren, Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies
RE: Federal Government Shutdown

As you know, the federal government shutdown went into effect on October 1. It is impossible to say how long this might last, and the impact on federally funded KU researchers may vary from agency to agency. Contingency plans for most federal agencies are available at the [Office of Management and Budget website](#). Note that NIH is included in the plan for [Health and Human Services](#).

Jack Cline, KU's director of federal relations, reported yesterday that "operations at NIH are essentially at a standstill," and that "patients at the NIH hospital in Bethesda, Maryland are directly impacted." He added that "in the short term, student financial aid programs and **current Federal research grants** are not impacted by the shutdown. There would be a greater concern if the shutdown were to go into November," which he regards as unlikely.

The Office of Research and Graduate Studies and KUCR offer the following information as guidance regarding proposal preparation, submission to federal sponsors, and administration of federally sponsored project funds. As of October 2, [we have a website](#) we will use to capture any information we receive that might be useful to you.

Proposal Preparation and Submission

As the duration of the shutdown is uncertain, we recommend you continue to prepare proposals for upcoming deadlines. The grants.gov portal remains operational for proposal preparation and submission, but federal agencies will not validate or retrieve proposals during the shutdown.

- **NIH:** NIH strongly encourages investigators and institutions not to submit paper or electronic proposals to NIH via grants.gov until further notice. Any proposals that are submitted via grants.gov will not be processed by NIH until the eRA Commons systems are back on-line. For further details, please see the NIH guide notice at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-13-126.html>.
- **NSF:** NSF announced its FastLane system is not available for proposal preparation or submission as of yesterday. NSF has not released guidance as to whether investigators should attempt to submit proposals via Grants.gov, only that those proposals will not be validated using NSF-specific criteria or retrieved by NSF until the shutdown is over.
- **NASA:** At this time, the NASA NSPIRES system is available and its help desk is taking calls and emails.

If you have questions about an upcoming deadline, please contact kucrpremgmt@ku.edu.

Award Administration

RGS Post-Award Services' administration of existing awards shouldn't be interrupted as a result of the shutdown. We can continue to spend funds that have already been appropriated. All funds available to draw have been drawn as of late last week and yesterday, in anticipation of the shutdown. However, no-cost extensions, budget approvals, and any action that requires staff intervention at federal agencies will not be available. If your award has specific involvement with federal employees, laboratories, or systems, you may receive additional guidance from them about how the shutdown will impact those activities. New notices of awards will not be issued by federal agencies during the shutdown.

If you have questions about individual projects, please contact Anita Abel at abel@ku.edu or the Post-Award Services team listed on your budget summary.

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