



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue • Alexandria, VA 22314

March 7, 2025

Managing Organization Cognizant Point of Contact,

The following information is being provided as a periodic reminder and for general planning purposes specific to actions that may become necessary during a period of time when funds may not be available for recipient draws. Circumstances that could trigger such an event include periodic unavailability of NSF systems necessary for cash draws, or a lapse in NSF appropriations. NSF is not currently anticipating that a funding lapse will occur.

**Please note:** If a funding lapse were to occur, NSF will be processing payments on a variable schedule each week from unexpended funds that have already been obligated on an award, including awards for routine operations and construction projects.

NSF recipients will be notified by their cognizant Grants and Agreements Officer in situations where the unavailability of NSF systems is anticipated and could impact cash draws. In situations where a lapse in federal appropriations occurs, agencies whose appropriations are impacted by the lapse generally shut down operations with limited exceptions for specifically exempted activities. Recipients that are required to continue performance of such exempted activities, which are associated with the preservation of life or property, will be separately notified of such circumstances. Otherwise, recipients may continue to perform under their cooperative agreements to the extent sufficient funds have been obligated prior to the funding lapse, and performance does not require Government support, including for example quality assurance oversight or other actions requiring NSF staff interaction.

**Please note:** That the absence of NSF personnel to provide technical oversight, process administrative actions, or provide needed authorizations during any lapse in appropriations does not constitute agency approval of any pending action.

During a lapse in appropriations, NSF will process ACM\$ funds requests on a variable schedule a few times each week or, if appropriate, on an emergency basis. Recipients dependent upon NSF funding should take this variable weekly payment schedule into account and may request a draw or advance of funds to mitigate this situation in order to cover expenses as reasonably necessary while minimizing the time elapsing between the draw and disbursement. Per 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(1) of, "Advance payments to a recipient or subrecipient must be limited to the minimum amounts needed and be timed with actual, immediate cash requirements of the recipient or subrecipient in carrying out the purpose of the approved program or project. The timing and amount of advance payments must be as close as is administratively feasible to the actual disbursements by the recipient or subrecipient for direct program or project costs and the proportionate share of any allowable indirect costs."

Immediately upon subsequent startup of routine payment operations, recipients are required to submit any adjusting transactions necessary to bring their award cash balances up to date and return any excess funds to the Agency. Recipients that do not promptly return funds, if required to do so, may be subject to administrative action by the Agency.

Recipients shall not enter into any new subawards, contracts or other like arrangements that require NSF prior approval during a lapse in appropriations. Further, recipients are required to minimize expenditures while taking such steps to suspend activities, if appropriate, in a manner that does not threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property. In all cases, recipients are instructed to take appropriate steps to ensure that property and equipment acquired in whole or in part with federal funds are protected and otherwise secured from harm during a funding hiatus.

If you have questions concerning this correspondence, please contact the Cognizant Grants and Agreements Officer of your award prior to March 14, 2025.

Sincerely,

Tim P, Kashmer, Branch Chief  
Infrastructure Support Branch  
Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support  
Office of Budget Finance and Award Management  
National Science Foundation

Cc: NSF Major Facilities and Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure Program Officers  
NSF Research Infrastructure Office Liaisons  
NSF Infrastructure Support Branch Grants and Agreements Officers