

Guidance Regarding Grant-funded Operations

Recent executive orders and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memoranda questioning current and future funding commitments caused confusion throughout the research community. The UMass President's Office is committed to supporting our researchers, faculty, and students in furtherance of their groundbreaking work. To be best prepared for future changes in the funding landscape, we are providing general guidance to campuses for next steps. Each campus may also have specific details that supplement this guidance.

Although OMB rescinded the memorandum to pause funding, it is the subject of pending litigation and, as such, we recommend as follows.

1. Proposal Submissions:

- At this time, proposal submissions should proceed as scheduled. However, it's important to **verify that funding announcements have not been revised or postponed**, as some opportunities may have been suspended or otherwise affected.

2. Award Management:

- **Existing** contracts, grants, and agreements with federal agencies remain in effect **unless formally modified or a stop-work order is received** from funding agency representatives.
- Funded projects can continue as usual unless directed otherwise by funding agency representatives. **Deliverables, including progress reports, should be submitted as scheduled** to avoid jeopardizing future funding.
- PIs of grants who **receive a stop-work order, notice of contract termination, or other agency directives** should be advised to immediately notify the campus Office of Research Administration, including a digital copy (pdf, email, or screenshot) of the communication, to determine appropriate response.

3. Monitoring Agency Communications:

- PIs of grants should be encouraged to **stay updated** on communications from federal agencies that fund their work or to which they are submitting proposals.

4. **Financial Management:**

- Project **budgets should be closely monitored** to avoid deficits. Spending against future funds should be limited, as future obligations may be delayed, and in extreme cases, expenditures against future funding may not be reimbursed.

5. **Communication and Patience:**

- Keep in mind that program officers at some agencies may have a pause on communications or other restrictions may be imposed.
- **Continue to monitor policy updates** from the federal agencies overseeing grants for any changes in funding or compliance requirements.
- Pls of grants are likely to turn to the websites of your campus Office of Research Administration for updates, links, or resources related to their funding agencies.