

# **FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATES**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **STOP WORK ORDERS OR WORK PAUSE COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **I received a stop work order. What should I do?**

Please forward the communication to [Jill Tincher](#) and [Cathy Cuppett](#) with a subject line of Federal Transition. Please allow Jill/Cathy time to review. They will provide guidance on next steps.

#### **I received instructions to pause work. What should I do?**

Please forward the communication to [Jill Tincher](#) and [Cathy Cuppett](#) with a subject line of Federal Transition. Please allow Jill/Cathy time to review. They will provide guidance on next steps.

### **STOP WORK ORDERED PROJECTS**

#### **Jill/Cathy have confirmed I have a stop work order on my project. What work can I continue to do?**

The stop work order identifies a specific date that all work must cease. No work can continue beyond that date until further notice.

#### **What expenses can be charged to the stop work ordered project?**

For the most part, only expenses incurred on or prior to the stop work order effective/receipt date can be charged to the project. Any expenses after the effective date are unallowable. This pertains to UGA/UGARF as well as our subrecipients, consultants, vendors, etc.

There may be isolated cases where individuals are traveling at the time the stop work order is received. Travel costs to bring employees home are allowable; however, necessary expenses incurred after the effective date of the stop work order, primarily to return individuals to campus, should include justification for why these expenses were incurred after the effective date. This is essential since our sponsor may question any expenses incurred after the effective date.

#### **If my project has subrecipients, who will notify my subrecipients?**

UGA/UGARF Subrecipient Agreements prescribe a required process for amending subrecipient agreements; therefore, Sponsored Projects Administration will notify all subrecipients.

#### **If my project has consultants or vendors with open purchase orders, what should I do?**

PI/Unit should work with UGA Procurement to terminate the open purchase orders.

**My subrecipients invoiced me after the effective date, but their expenses were incurred prior to the effective date. Are these expenses allowable?**

Yes. These expenses should include a justification showing that the expenses were invoiced after the effective date, but incurred prior to the effective date. This is essential since our sponsor may question these expenses.

**If I am processing expenses after the effective date, is there anything I need to do differently?**

The expenses should be justified (as described above). All stop work ordered projects have been financially shut down to ensure no additional expenses are processed against them. If you have one of the above unique circumstances, PRIOR TO routing the expense through UGA systems, you must contact [Brad Langford](#) and [Callie Mobley](#). Callie will “open” the project so you can process the expense/s. Then she will “close” the project to avoid additional expenses.

**My sponsor sent me an email stating there will be additional financial reporting requirements for my stop work ordered project. What do I need to do?**

Please forward the communication to [Jill Tincher](#) and [Cathy Cuppett](#) with a subject line of Federal Transition. Please allow Jill/Cathy time to review. They will provide guidance on next steps. Sponsored Projects Administration’s (SPA) Post Award unit will oversee these additional financial requirements. If SPA contacts you requiring your assistance to meet these requirements, please be timely in your responses. SPA will need to ensure there is appropriate justification for each expense incurred/processed after the stop work order effective date.

## **AWARD MANAGEMENT**

**I received an award notice, and the budget was cut by 70%. Why did this occur?**

While the federal government is under a Continuing Resolution and during federal transitions, it is common to receive partial funding. Please read your award notice. During these times, the award notice often states the sponsor “is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution.” Awards are usually partially funded with the anticipation of increasing the award level once the federal budget is balanced.

**Colleagues across the country have said NIH eRA Commons no longer displays the No Cost Extension button which allows institutions to exercise their one-time, up to 12 months, no cost extension. Why and what should I do?**

UGA has not experienced this issue. As recently as 02/12/25, UGA was able to successfully submit a no cost extension to NIH.

**The news has mentioned a payment pause and an inability to draw down funds from the federal government. Is this still occurring?**

In late January, UGA experienced a federal system shutdown, and we were not able to draw down funds at that time. However, this issue has been resolved, and UGA continues to draw down funds as appropriate.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY (DEIA)**

**I am seeing considerable news coverage and emails from our sponsors related to DEIA. What should I do?**

Currently, the actions of federal agencies to implement DEI/DEIA-focused initiatives and other recent Executive Orders are facing ongoing litigation and, in some cases, Temporary Restraining Orders that may affect enforcement. Please await project-specific guidance from your sponsor. Once you receive it, please forward it to [Jill Tincher](#) or [Cathy Cuppett](#) for further assistance.

**My project is included in Senate Commerce Committee Secretary Ted Cruz's database of "DEI Grants at NSF." What should I do?**

A project's inclusion in this database does not require action at this time. If you receive any project-specific guidance from your sponsor, please route it to [Jill Tincher](#) or [Cathy Cuppett](#) for further guidance.

**PROPOSAL SUBMISSION**

**I submitted a proposal, which received a favorable review, but I have not received the award yet. Why?**

While the federal government is under a Continuing Resolution and during federal transitions, it is common to experience delays in receiving new awards. Please continue to monitor the status of your proposal via the sponsor's website.

**When will the federal government begin conducting proposal reviews?**

This information has not been announced. Please continue to monitor the status of your proposal via the sponsor's website. This should be updated to reflect when reviews will occur.

**I am preparing a proposal to be submitted to NIH. What IDC Rate should be used?**

Currently, the NIH 15% IDC Rate limitation remains restricted by one or more Temporary Restraining Orders issued by federal courts. Therefore, in accordance with the [UGA Indirect Cost Policy](#), when submitting proposals to all sponsors, please use the

Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate unless the sponsor or funding opportunity has a written, publicly available IDC Rate Restriction.

For NIH and NIH flow-through proposals, please make certain to include the italicized language below in the Budget Justification:

*Given the Temporary Restraining Order pertaining to NOT-OD-25-068 which is in effect at this time, this proposal includes the indirect cost rate contained within the UGARF/UGA Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. We understand that the IDC Rate applicable to this project may be subject to change as the situation develops.*

**A previous Office of Research communication instructed me to contact Jill Tinchner or Cathy Cuppett for all NIH proposals. Do I still need to do this?**

No. These instructions were initially provided when NIH announced a 15% Indirect Cost limitation for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs). Currently, the limitation continues to be constrained by one or more Temporary Restraining Orders issued by federal courts. Accordingly, you do not need to contact Jill or Cathy for all NIH proposals. Please continue to use the Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rates unless the sponsor/funding opportunity has a written, publicly available IDC Rate Restriction.

For NIH and NIH flow-through proposals, please make certain to include the italicized language below in the Budget Justification:

*Given the Temporary Restraining Order pertaining to NOT-OD-25-068 which is in effect at this time, this proposal includes the indirect cost rate contained within the UGARF/UGA Federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. We understand that the IDC Rate applicable to this project may be subject to change as the situation develops.*