Dear Colleagues

As agencies release or update their plans during the federal government shutdown, DCG will continue to issue guidance and updates via our DCG NewsFlash listserv. Please refer to these NewsFlashes for guidance on managing federal awards during this time. We will continue to archive previous notices and guidance under the News Archives.

Below is some guidance and current information on the impact of the shutdown. We currently expect the following:

- Grants.gov is available during the federal government shutdown, with minimal Help Desk support. If you decide to submit, it is critical to submit proposals early so that DCG has enough time to try to work out any issues without help from federal support staff. Agencies will not pull in proposals from Grants.Gov into their own servers, so any agency-side proposal validations will not occur. In other words, a proposal might still get rejected at some later point if it fails agency validation.
  - NIH will be adjusting proposal deadlines that fall during the shutdown once business resumes and are encouraging applicants to not submit during this time.
  - Both FastLane and Research.gov will be unavailable. You may, if you wish, submit a NSF proposal via Grants.Gov, but it won't be collected by NSF until after the shutdown. NSF will inform us after the shutdown about how they will handle target or actual due dates that occurred during the shutdown period.

- You should continue to perform work on funded federal sponsored projects, including awards funded with federal dollars flowing through another institution, unless you receive a notice from your funding agency to stop work performance. If you receive such a notice, contact your DCG Administrator immediately. If DCG receives such a notice, PIs and their department contact will be notified immediately. DCG will work with the PI to provide proper guidance to any subrecipients. It is more likely that such suspension will occur on federal contracts or cooperative agreements than on grants, especially if the shutdown is lengthy, due to the active involvement of federal project directors on such projects.

- You are still required to prepare and submit, if the agency’s electronic system permits, any required technical or other reports under the terms of the award. Refer to the specific agency’s guidance regarding submission of reports during this time. In the absence of any specific guidance, you may mail or email the report to the correct official or hold it until such time that the federal agency resumes business (but you will need to remember to submit it at that time). In some cases, agencies may require that you upload your reports electronically even if you previously mailed or emailed the report to meet its original deadline.

- You should not expect to receive any new awards, new funding, time extensions, or any required agency approvals during the federal shutdown.
- Any activity that requires agency prior approval or notification should generally not be performed. If you do perform it, PIs are responsible for assuming the financial risk if the University is not reimbursed for the cost.

- PreAward spending for new federal funded awards should be cautiously considered as the financial risk is considerably higher since DCG will not be able to verify a firm commitment or funding from the agency. If approved by the PI and School, a specific account number to cover any unreimbursed costs, in the event an award is not received, will be required.

- NSF has indicated during the shutdown, institutions may not grant no-cost time extensions, even those that we would normally be able to approve, presumably because the required notification to the agency cannot occur.

Please continue to read our DCG NewsFlashes regarding the federal government shutdown, and forward to any faculty or staff that are not subscribers. We will continue to distribute information as it is received. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask your DCG Administrator, or Jeri Muniz, Executive Director,