

NewsFlash!

Announcement: The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released a [notice](#) that provides guidance for investigators preparing NIH grant applications for the May 2021 Council round, beginning with applications submitted for the September 25, 2020 due date.

NIH grant applications should **NOT** include contingency plans that would outline steps needed to recover from temporary, emergency situations, or institutional return-to-the-workplace plans, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contingency plans will not be considered in peer review but, if needed, COVID-19 contingency plans will be requested and carefully considered by NIH staff before funding.

Reviewers will continue to receive instruction to assume that temporary, emergency problems arising from the COVID-19 pandemic will be resolved and complications related to COVID-19 should not affect their scores. Reviewers will be instructed to disregard situations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g., temporary declines in productivity, availability of key personnel, proposed patient populations, animal facility shutdowns, etc.

Questions?

If you have any questions, please reach out to the [Contracts and Grants Officer](#) assigned to your unit.