

Potential Government Shutdown 2025

The New York Institute of Technology Office of the Vice Provost for Research is closely monitoring developments in Washington, D.C. and evaluating the likelihood of a federal government shutdown on **March 14, 2025**.

In the event of a federal government shutdown, researchers with active federally sponsored grants and contracts will generally be instructed to continue work unless the project requires significant involvement of federal employees. Investigators may receive instructions from their contracting or program officers; if you receive such information, please notify the Office of Sponsored Programs and Research (OSPAR) at grants@nyit.edu immediately. Federal personnel will not be available.

No sponsor-specific guidance on how a potential federal government shutdown may impact submission of new or competing proposal submissions has yet been provided. We anticipate some agencies will not be available to process proposals and others will retain submitted proposals for processing when normal operations resume. If you are preparing an application or progress report for an upcoming submission deadline, please continue to prepare those documents for an on-time submission; however, we encourage you to monitor further updates for specific guidance and the potential for those deadlines to be extended.

In the event of a federal shutdown:

- Anticipate potential inconveniences, reduced communication, and limited assistance from affected federal agencies. The majority of agency staff may not respond to inquiries, including those related to impending deadlines, proposal preparation, and application status.
- Approval, support, and administrative assistance from agency personnel may be unavailable.
- New awards, continued funding, and contracts will not be issued or signed until the impacted federal agencies resume normal operations.
- Most automated systems will remain online and should be able to receive submissions normally.
- While each sponsor may articulate emergency contact procedures, do not expect federal personnel to be available. Questions directed at contractual contacts, grant managers, and program managers will likely go unanswered until after the shutdown.
- Expect delayed responses once normal operations resume.

Proposals & Application Systems

Based on experience during previous government shutdowns, it is anticipated that proposal preparation systems will be available to accept proposal submissions. Proposals need to be submitted by the sponsor due date. The federal sponsors will not allow an extension of the deadline due to the shutdown unless they have officially extended the deadline.

It is expected proposals will not be processed by sponsors until normal operations resume. Please watch for announcements from federal sponsors for extensions of deadline dates. It is unclear whether all Help Desk systems will remain functional. **We suggest all immediate proposals be submitted by March 13, 2025, to ensure submission receipts are logged and filed.** If you have an immediate deadline, we encourage you to reach out to your Program Officer for additional guidance.

Peer reviews/study sections are not expected to occur during the shutdown, which may impact faculty who are reviewers and cause potential delays for those whose proposals are awaiting review.

Award Management

Federal sponsors will not issue new awards or other actions during the shutdown. Most federal awards are awarded on a cost reimbursable basis, meaning the awardee spends the money and then receives reimbursement from the federal sponsor. During a government shutdown it is not possible to draw funds to receive reimbursement. Therefore, each System Member will need to determine availability of interim funding if a shutdown occurs. It is imperative outstanding expenses are posted to the project so that a draw of funds from federal sponsors can take place just prior to the anticipated shutdown.

- **Continuations:** Ideally, Principal Investigators (PIs) expecting a continuation after March 14, 2025, have already taken the necessary steps to request a continuation. It is unknown if a shutdown will occur or how long it will last, so it is advised to submit continuation requests to federal sponsors early, if allowed.
- **No Cost Extensions (NCE):** NCEs should be submitted prior to the anticipated shutdown date. Since it is unknown if a shutdown will occur or how long it will last, it is advised to submit NCEs early if allowed by federal sponsors.
- **NSF postdoctoral fellows** paid directly by NSF may not receive stipend payments.

Faculty working in federal labs/facilities and possibly on cooperative agreements and joint awards may be most immediately affected. They could receive notification that they are not permitted to work on associated awards during the shutdown. Faculty working at a federal agency on an IPA agreement should contact the agency to determine the next steps.

Stop Work orders may be implemented, in which case those employees paid directly for the award can no longer be paid with federal funds. If you receive a Stop Work order, please contact grants@nyit.edu immediately upon receipt.

Regarding awards that have already closed and are in the 120-day closeout period, final closeout procedures may not be able to be processed by the federal sponsor. PIs may consider submitting final deliverables prior to the anticipated shutdown date to be compliant with terms of the award.

Please note that while this guidance is being provided in anticipation of a potential government shutdown, it is possible that recently issued Executive Orders may also have an impact on some of these activities.