

Dear Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) Community:

In these unprecedented times, we in the National Science Foundation (NSF) SBE directorate first and foremost want to express our wish that you, your families and friends are healthy, safe, and well. We know that many of you are navigating the complexities of virtual teaching, research, and service, changing circumstances at home, and learning to navigate a wide range of fast-evolving social phenomena.

We are working to help you navigate this difficult, fluid, and unexpected situation. Here are some of the steps we are taking:

NSF COVID-19 Webpage: NSF has established [a digital resource](#) for information about the novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). This page is updated frequently and includes links to our latest guidance on upcoming program deadlines as well as budget and logistics questions pertaining to existing awards that may be affected in various ways. For the latter, you may find this [document describing additional administrative flexibilities](#) and the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) About the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) for NSF Proposers and Awardees](#) particularly helpful. These temporary flexibilities are designed to support the best possible science under the current difficult circumstances. It also links to a [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#) that NSF issued earlier this month inviting research proposals via NSF's Rapid Response Research (RAPID) mechanism on topics of specific relevance to COVID-19.

SBE research is at the forefront of understanding and combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. We encourage you to submit proposals that advance science, are consistent with NSF's mission, and that reflect the urgency of the current situation while keeping in mind important ethical considerations. Please contact your NSF program officer for additional information.

NSF Program Deadlines: We are re-assessing program deadlines on an ongoing basis and are actively discussing forthcoming deadlines. You can follow [changes to these deadlines](#) on the NSF website which will be updated frequently. We will offer extensions as we can, while being mindful of our internal timelines for conducting full merit review processes. For researchers who are sending proposals, or who have recently sent proposals, please know that we are committed to conducting comprehensive peer review and returning decisions to you as soon as possible given the circumstances.

NSF Review Panels: If you have agreed to serve on an upcoming merit review panel through the month of April, all panels have been converted to all-virtual. The virtual panels have been working very well so far. We will assess subsequent panels on a regular basis. For review panels in May and later, we will be in contact with participants in the coming weeks. Please contact the cognizant NSF program officer if you have additional questions.

Other NSF-Funded Meetings: NSF is encouraging principal investigators of upcoming NSF-funded conferences, and other meetings originally scheduled to take place in the coming weeks, to reschedule these meetings or to move them to all-virtual gatherings.

As with many other workplaces, NSF is now in a maximum telework mode, and the work of the agency continues. To that end, we appreciate your patience and understanding as we adjust to this new way of life. We are grateful for your resilience and perseverance in the virtual review panels, reverse site visits, and many other interactions that help NSF support great research.

Today, more than ever, SBE exploration of human behavior at individual, family, community, and societal levels is vital to individual health, family safety, community strength, national resilience, and ultimately victory, over COVID-19's many challenges. Thank you for your important work and for your dedication to one another at this important time.

With gratitude,

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