

**Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) For
Current And Prospective Awardees Impacted By Novel COVID-19
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

AFOSR's guidance correlates with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-20-17 and M-20-20 Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations, dated March 19, 2020 and April 16, 2020, respectively. The following guidance provides short term relief for existing awards without compromising Federal financial assistance accountability requirements and AFRL/AFOSR will continue to provide updates and additional information as the situation unfolds. The following exceptions are time limited and will be reassessed by OMB within a 90 day timeframe from when this memorandum is disseminated:

1. Is AFOSR offering any flexibility with SAM Registration and Validation? (Reference OMB M-20-17 and 2 CFR 200.205)

- Users that hold an active registration in SAM whose accounts are due to expire before May 16, 2020 will be afforded a one-time administrative relief extension of 60 days in order to expeditiously issue funding. However, at the time of award, Federal awarding agency review of risk posed by applicants, continues to apply.

2. What are the rules with regards to salaries, allowable costs and other project activities? (Reference OMB M-20-17 and 2 CFR 200.403, 2 CFR 200.404, 2 CFR 200.405)

- Grantees may continue to charge salaries and benefits to current active Federal awards consistent with each recipient's policy of paying salaries (under unexpected or extraordinary circumstances) from all funding sources, Federal and non-Federal.
- Grantees will be able to incur costs that are "not normally chargeable". These include costs that are related to the cancellation of events, travel or other activities necessary and reasonable for the performance of the award or pause and resume grant funded activities due to the public health emergency.
- Grantees must maintain appropriate records and cost documentation to substantiate the charge for any cancellation or other fees related to interruption of operations or services.

3. Does AFOSR support repurposing existing Federal Financial Assistance Programs and Awards to Support the Emergency Response to the COVID-19? (Reference OMB M-20-20 and 2 CFR § 200.102(a))

- On a case by case basis, AFRL/AFOSR may allow funds to be repurpose, in whole or part, to support the COVID-19 response, as consistent with limitations already existing for the funds involved, as well as any other appropriated fund or fiscal law limitations.
- Prior to repurposing any funds, the legal office MUST approve, along with the Grant Officer.
- Any approve request must require recipients to maintain appropriate records and documentation of the approved exception. These record should include:
 - The amount of funds allocated to the donation or repurposing efforts;
 - The type and extent of the changes to the awards;
 - In the case of the donations what organization received those donations.

Additionally, the recipients should not assume additional funds will be available should number 2 or 3 are results in any type of shortage.

Questions regarding the above administrative relief provisions should be directed to your respective Grant's Officer and/or Program Officer. Additional questions may be emailed to the AFOSR's Policy Division at AFOSR.PKPolicy.QandA@us.af.mil.