

# Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences (AGS)

AGS Virtual Office  
Hour

Topic: COVID-19  
related Impacts



Please submit questions via  
the Q&A button  
Please set to  
“Send anonymously”

*This presentation is being recorded*

**We will begin soon**





# AGS

## Virtual Office Hour

Topic: COVID-19 related Impacts

- Welcome and Introductions
- Brief Discussion of Guidance
- Question and Answer Period

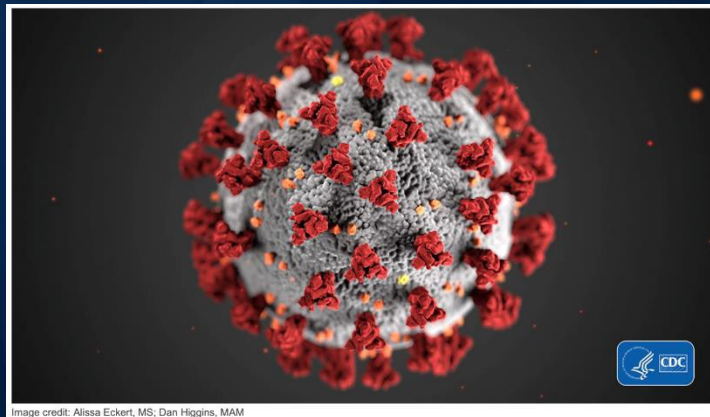


Image credit: Alissa Eckert, MS; Dan Higgins, MAM



# AGS Virtual Office Hour – Welcome!

## Panelists (**DGA staff highlighted in yellow**):

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# AGS Virtual Office Hour – Welcome!

## Panelists (cont.):

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# AGS Virtual Office Hour

- Thank you for providing some initial topics for discussion. We will try to cover the most common topics in the FAQs at the end of this presentation.
- After our short presentation, please submit your questions and comments via the Q&A button on your screen and set to “Send anonymously”

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**Update from the  
Division of Grants and Agreements (DGA)**



# It is a challenging time

- Sudden transition to 100% online teaching and research
- Lab closures
- Travel restrictions
- Cancelled conferences
- Impediments to training and education
- Time spent in COVID-related campus-wide planning
- Uncertainty about summer plans
- Family care responsibilities





# At NSF, we are open for business (virtually)

- AGS staff are on duty and available to the community.
- AGS is currently continuing to review your proposals
- Some AGS programs are holding virtual panels.
- AGS has (almost) no proposal deadlines and welcomes submissions at any time.
- We are continuing to assess the impacts of COVID-19 on the 20/21 field campaigns and access to facilities.





## Coronavirus Information

NSF encourages you to take extra precautions to protect yourselves and your families against COVID-19. If you are an NSF employee looking for guidance, please visit InsideNSF. If you are a member of the public, please visit [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

### Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- [US Government Response to Coronavirus, COVID-19](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidance](#)
- [Department of State \(DOS\) travel information](#)

### NSF Community Guidance

- [Important Notice No. 146 - NSF Letter to Community Regarding COVID-19](#)
- [NSF Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-17](#)
- [Impact on Existing Deadline Dates](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) About the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) for NSF Proposers and Awardees](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) About the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) for NSF Panelists](#)
- [NSF Guidance for Major Facilities and Contracts Regarding COVID-19](#)

### Research on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

- [Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) — RAPID](#)
  - [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) regarding the NSF Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) \(NSF 20-052\)](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Provisioning Advanced Cyberinfrastructure to Further Research on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) — RAPID](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19](#)
- [NSF Supporting Research to Address Coronavirus Disease blog](#)



# Status of field campaigns and requests for projects using deployable AGS facilities

- **Funded projects** – Most of the 2020 field campaigns have been postponed. Those that are climatologically-dependent will be planned for the same time period in 2021. Funded projects will have scheduling priority.
- **Requested projects** – NSF is currently reviewing a set of requests, mostly for 2021 field activities. Depending on the outcome of the reviews and the availability of resources, some of these may be able to go in their requested time slot, while others will be asked to move to 2022.
- **Future projects** – Pending the decisions on the proposals in-hand and facility availability, NSF may choose to put a temporary moratorium on field campaign Letters of Interest for 2022 field activities to allow a potential backlog to subside.



# Current awardees: short and long-term planning

## 1. Login to Research.gov

- Check your report due dates
- Check your project end dates
- Find your managing Program Officer for each grant



## 2. Think about your project(s) and your goals

- Check your grant balances, make plans as best you can for the next few months
- If you see a need for supplemental funding to accomplish the original proposal goals, please contact your Program Officer



# Current awardees: No-Cost Extensions (NCE)

- Grantee approved NCE
  - Extends award for 1 year without NSF.
  - Submit request at least 10 days prior to award expiration date.
- A second NCE can be requested
  - Requires NSF approval
  - SRO submits request via [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov)
- Do not include budget reallocation or change of scope with NCE





# Current awardees: Additional flexibility in spending

- We are committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.
- Many details are available in a memo from March 23, 2020
  - Search “NSF OMB Implementation”
- Flexibility in spending for salaries, reporting, charging cancelled travel, procurement requirements, closeout, etc.
- Document, document, document! Institutions will need to maintain appropriate records and cost documentation.



# FAQs NSF Proposers and Awardees



**Cancelled conference:** contact your Program Officer about changes to your plans.



**Future/proposed conference:** consider contingency plans.



**Deadlines:** For upcoming proposal deadlines, check [Impact on Existing Deadlines](#).

NSF will consider extensions on a case by case basis. Contact the Program Officer.



**Merit Review:** NSF will continue to review proposals using ad hoc reviews and virtual panels, enabling the agency to maintain a high-quality and timely merit review process.



**Access to funds:** no interruption expected.



**Site visits:** NSF staff is not authorized to travel until at least May 29. Planned site visits during this period may be done via videoconferencing or moved to a later date.



# FAQs on Budgets

- **Is there potential stimulus funding?** Yes, \$75M was allocated for research and education from the CARES Act (P.L. 116-136) “*to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus*”. Please see the Dear Colleague Letter on COVID-19 for further information (NSF 20-052)
- **What is the current budget status?** NSF has received the full Fiscal Year appropriation for FY20 and the programs have the full amounts expected.
- **What is the outlook for funding in FY21 and beyond?** We have no special insight into the future funding outlook beyond the President’s Budget Request.



# FAQs on Proposals and Solicitations

- **Are there impacts on proposal submissions/deadlines?**
  - Most AGS programs do not have deadlines and are operating as usual. This includes the AGS Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (PRF). Please submit when your proposal is ready.
  - For solicitations with deadlines, please see the COVID-19 page on the NSF website to see if the dates have changed. Currently, the CAREER program deadlines are not affected  
[https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19\\_deadlines.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf)
  - Proposal processing times have not significantly changed. It is NSF's goal to complete the merit review process within 6 months, but there are sometimes (other!) extenuating circumstances.





# FAQs on Current Awards

- **What if my research is delayed?** NSF provides the option for No-Cost Extensions.
- **Does NSF have any advice on whether to delay or cancel an activity due to COVID-19?** NSF defers decisions on whether to delay or cancel an activity to the PI and Institution. We will try to provide as much flexibility as possible through no-cost extensions, re-budgeting, and supplements.
- **What if COVID-19 related delays result in extra costs?** Please contact your program officer. NSF provides broad authority to institutions to re-budget within the existing award. Supplements are also possible.



# Other FAQs

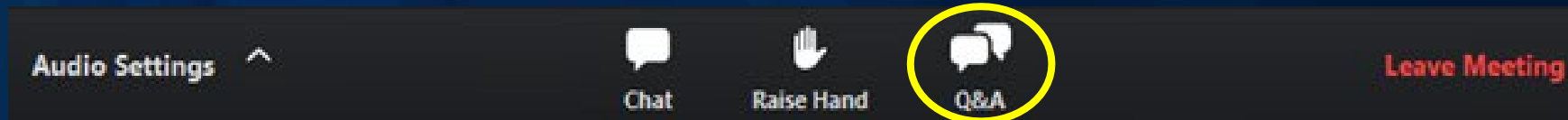
- How to handle cancelled, non-refundable travel expenses? (DGA)
- How are facilities maintaining data and observations? (Sarah Ruth)
- What are the plans for post COVID-19 recovery? (Mike Wiltberger)
- What is the guidance for current or upcoming REU Site PIs? (Manda Adams)



# NSF AGS Virtual Office Hour

## Questions, Comments and/or Concerns

- Please share concerns, ask questions, or offer your suggestions on how NSF can better help address this national emergency.
- Slides will be available on AGS Homepage.
- For specific questions about your project, please contact your Program Director.
- Submit your questions via the Q&A button on your screen and set to “Send anonymously”.



# BACKUP Slides





# Call for RAPID proposals

- NSF 20-052: Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
- “Proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge”
- RAPID proposals may be for up to \$200K and up to one year in duration
- Email inquiry first to [rapid-covid19@nsf.gov](mailto:rapid-covid19@nsf.gov)



# REU, RET, and IRES Sites

- **Summer 2020:**
  - Grantees responsible for making decisions.
  - Cancellation: contact Program Officer about potential for no-cost extension, cancellation fees may be charged to award.
  - Restructuring: contact Program Officer about options, may need to submit “Changes in Objective or Scope.”
  - Annual project reports due between March 1 and April 30, 2020 extended by 30 days.
  - Student support: may continue to provide stipends and benefits.
- **Ill student:**
  - NSF defers to awardees to follow organizational policies.
  - Recipients who incur costs related to the cancellation or pausing and restarting of activities are authorized to charge these costs to their award.
- **Virtual participation:** Contact Program Officer with questions about supplemental funding and original scope.



# NSF Guidance for Major Facilities and Contracts

- Decisions should be made by managing organizations in consultation with medical/government authorities.
- **Response plans:** safety of people comes first; safety and security of facility is critical.
- **International travel:** consult the State Department Travel Advisories website.
- **Additional COVID-19-related costs:** document carefully.
- **Allowable costs and performance/operational issues:** contact your Program Officer and G/AO or the COR and CO as well as copying [COVID19\\_DAS@nsf.gov](mailto:COVID19_DAS@nsf.gov)

