

October 6, 2025

**Re: Federal Government Shutdown and other updates**

Dear Faculty and Staff,

As of October 1, Congress did not reach an agreement to extend federal funding and a government shutdown began and it remains unclear how long the shutdown will last. During the shutdown, most government operations have ceased until funding is restored. Many non-essential federal employees will be furloughed, resulting in reduced responsiveness from federal agencies, and no new awards or modifications will be processed. However, existing grants and cooperative agreements will continue if funds have already been disbursed.

**Key impacts to note:**

- NIH will not conduct peer review meetings or advisory council meetings, issue new awards, or travel to scientific meetings. Faculty are advised to plan to submit proposals by currently posted deadlines.

**NIH is undergoing significant policy shifts under new federal leadership:**

- New Application Structure for International Research

NIH will no longer support foreign subawards under parent grants. Beginning November 25, 2025, new activity codes (PF5, UF5) must be used for foreign components. Applications will require multi-component formats, with additional reporting details forthcoming. Please see [NOT-OD-25-155](#).

- Peer Review Centralization

NIH plans to move all peer reviews to the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) to improve efficiency and reduce costs. Implementation timelines will be published in the Federal Register. The announcement from NIH can be read in the following link: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-centralizes-peer-review-improve-efficiency-strengthen-integrity>

- Unified Funding Strategy

NIH will move away from strict pay lines and prioritize mission-critical objectives (e.g., chronic disease, AI, nutrition). Funding decisions will increasingly consider scientific merit and alignment with agency priorities. More information can be viewed in the following link: <https://www.nih.gov/about-nih/nih-director/statements/advancing-nih-mission-through-unified-strategy>

## Notable NIH Funding Opportunities

The NIH has released Highlighted Topics to signal priority research areas, replacing Notices of Special Interest (NOSIs). Topics include:

- Transition from pediatric to adult health care
- Bacterial STIs in HIV-affected populations
- Immune function and neurocognition
- Circadian rhythms and substance use disorders
- Drowning prevention
- School mental and behavioral health interventions
- Genomics technology development and clinical integration

Funding opportunities are listed in the NIH Guide link: <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/highlighted-topics>

## Key Takeaways for Faculty

- Proposal submissions: Plan submissions early. Do not assume deadlines will be extended due to the shutdown. Federal systems may accept and store applications, but they will not be reviewed until operations resume. Sponsored Programs (SP) will be monitoring agency notifications and any system outages.
- New Awards: Expect delays in peer review, communications, and award processing during the shutdown. Current Awards: May continue as planned unless you receive a direct agency notice to pause. If you receive a stop work order, please notify Sponsored Programs and the Vice President of Research immediately. SP will review and coordinate with PI, department, and Contracts and Grants Accounting.
- Closeouts & Reporting: Please submit all deliverables by the original deadlines. SP will be monitoring agency notifications and any system outages.

For questions regarding how the shutdown may impact your proposals or awards, please contact Sponsored Programs at [sponsoredprograms.ep@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:sponsoredprograms.ep@ttuhsc.edu). If you have other concerns and/or questions requiring immediate attention, please contact us at [sponsoredprograms.ep@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:sponsoredprograms.ep@ttuhsc.edu) and visit the Office Research [website](#) for additional information.

Warm Regards,  
Deborah J. Clegg, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research