

April 10, 2020

NSF Implementation of [OMB Memorandum M-20-20](#) entitled, “*Repurposing Existing Federal Financial Assistance Programs and Awards to Support the Emergency Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)*” dated April 9, 2020

NSF remains committed to working with the Administration, other federal agencies, and the research community to effectively respond to the COVID-19 national emergency. This is an ongoing challenge that may require rapid adjustments to plans and procedures to address different situations, but we know that the dedication and ingenuity that researchers bring to the scientific enterprise is a tremendous asset in this effort. NSF is continually updating our online resources to reflect the latest information and guidance, and we are continuing to accept Rapid Response Research (RAPID) proposals for non-medical, non-clinical investigations on coronavirus. The latest information from NSF is available at: [nsf.gov/coronavirus](https://www.nsf.gov/coronavirus).

The purpose of this guidance is to implement the flexibility class exception authorized by [OMB Memorandum M-20-20](#) that allows Federal awarding agencies to repurpose their Federal assistance awards (in whole or part) to support the COVID-19 response, as consistent with applicable laws. As an example of this flexibility, recipients are authorized, as specified below, to donate medical equipment (including, but not limited to, personal protective equipment, medical devices, medicines, and other medical supplies) purchased with NSF funds to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. This class exception also extends to the donation of other resources (such as labor, supplies, and contract services) funded under Federal financial assistance to support COVID-19 emergency response activities.

To utilize this flexibility, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must submit their request to donate items or resources via use of “Other Request” in the Notifications and Requests module in Research.gov. Each request should specify the items or resources to be donated and any anticipated impacts of the donation on the scope of the project. If the anticipated impact of the donation will result in a change in objectives or scope, the “Change in Objectives or Scope” in the Notifications and Requests module must be used to reflect that change. By submitting a request, the AOR is certifying that the equipment, supplies, etc., is being donated to a hospital, medical center or other local entity serving the public for the COVID-19 response. Recipients must not assume that supplemental funding will be available should the donation result in a shortage of funds to eventually carry out the project. Recipients are required to maintain appropriate records to substantiate the donation in support of COVID-19 emergency response activities.

Please note that, pursuant to OMB guidance, these administrative relief flexibilities are intended to be time limited. OMB plans to reassess their applicability within 90 days and NSF will update our guidance, as needed, at that time.