

**COVID-19 RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR CUNY BIOMEDICAL, HEALTH, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL SCIENCE FACULTY**

Federal agencies and other funders are relying on the academic research sector to play an important role in addressing the COVID-19 crisis, and your research can be instrumental in helping to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus on individuals and communities. We now urge you to develop and submit **new research proposals** on topics related to the coronavirus pandemic and COVID-19 harm reduction.

Agencies like the NSF and NIH have posted many new funding opportunities, and modified existing ones, to address the present crisis. Please review program and announcement lists on a weekly basis, as they are being constantly updated. Be sure to also review opportunities carefully for any additional eligibility requirements.

Please also note that:

- 1) While significant funding will address the biomedical and public health dimensions of this crisis, other funding will be allocated to study the secondary societal impacts of the pandemic, for instance, the effectiveness of STEM remote education pedagogies in a new era of pandemics. CUNY researchers should prepare to submit proposals on a wide range of topics.
- 2) Your proposed new or revised research should factor in the realities of temporarily suspended or closed campus facilities. Please consider how your research may need to be accomplished at home or using alternate sites, as relevant. Seek guidance from your campus grants office to determine what facilities may still be accessible to you.

Suggested federal opportunities are now detailed below.

- I. **National Science Foundation** – NSF has several mechanisms in place for funding research during periods of urgent national need such as pandemics, earthquakes, hurricanes, and environmental disasters.
  - a. **RAPID Response Research:** [RAPID](#) is a special mechanism that NSF has set up to fund projects to address urgent research addressing a natural or anthropogenic disaster or similar unanticipated event. PI(s) must contact the NSF Program Officer(s) whose expertise is most germane to the proposal topic before submitting a RAPID proposal. This will facilitate determining whether the proposed work is appropriate for RAPID funding. The Project Description is expected to be brief and must be no more than five pages. It must include clear statements as to why the proposed research is of an urgent nature and why RAPID is the most appropriate type of mechanism for supporting the proposed work. Note that these proposal preparation instructions deviate from the standard NSF proposal preparation instructions. RAPID proposals are internally reviewed

by NSF program officers. The two standard NSB-approved merit review criteria will apply (intellectual merit and broader impacts). Requests may be made for up to \$200K, and up to one year in duration. Additional guidance from NSF can be obtained by emailing [rapid-covid19@nsf.gov](mailto:rapid-covid19@nsf.gov), and by using the NSF [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide](#).

- b. **NSF COVID-19 Dear Colleague Letters:** A “Dear Colleague” letter is a guidance document issued by NSF (or any other federal agency) that helps explain and interpret the type of targeted research that it is interested in supporting. On March 4, 2020, the Director issued the general [Dear Colleague letter on COVID-19](#). On March 25, 2020, the Engineering Directorate issued a second Dear Colleague letter specific to [COVID-19 SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals](#).
  - c. **Existing NSF Programs:** Faculty can submit coronavirus and COVID-19 related proposals through [existing funding opportunities](#). In many cases, these proposals will be prioritized for expedited review.
- II. National Institutes of Health** – NIH also has several mechanisms in place for funding coronavirus and COVID-19 research proposals. Please note, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) provides most of the funding for coronavirus and COVID-19 research.
- a. **Administrative Supplements:** This [mechanism](#) will supplement an existing grant with funding for relevant/associated coronavirus and COVID-19 research. Administrative supplements may be your simplest option at the NIH for quick additional funding.
  - b. **NIH Urgent Awards:** This [mechanism](#) is for PIs holding specific types of NIH research grants, listed in the full Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). Urgent funds may be available to help address a specific public health crisis in a timely manner that was previously unforeseen when the last application or progress report was submitted.
  - c. **NIAID Coronaviruses Funding Initiatives:** See [here](#) for a specific listing of NIAID’s coronavirus and COVID-19 priority research areas. Detailed instructions are provided for the submission of new research grants, and competitive revisions of active grants, using NIH’s standard mechanisms.

Please note that the NIH has established a [webpage](#) with general information on how the research community can continue to help solve the coronavirus pandemic. Further guidance from NIH can be obtained by emailing [deaweb@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:deaweb@niaid.nih.gov).

- III. Pivot and GrantForward** – To discover new and additional funding mechanisms, remember to run coronavirus and/or COVID-19 searches using CUNY’s funding opportunity databases [Pivot](#) and [GrantForward](#). Numerous federal agencies, state and local governments, and private foundations will also be diverting resources to coronavirus and COVID-19 research

or harm reduction projects. These funding initiatives can be easily located using Pivot and GrantForward. All faculty, staff, and students can log-in using their CUNY email address.

We urge you to continually investigate and apply to these opportunities. Be sure to also review Research Foundation CUNY [guidance](#) to PIs about coronavirus and COVID-19 policies and practices.

Please stay safe, and if you have any questions about seeking or applying to these funding opportunities, do not hesitate to reach out to your campus grants office or the Award Pre-Proposal Support ([apps@rfcuny.org](mailto:apps@rfcuny.org)) staff at RFCUNY.