

**EPA Frequent Questions on Grant Issues in Response to the
Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency
Common Questions Region 9**

Question	Abbreviated Answer	Reference
Q: Can EPA grant recipients continue to compensate employees whose work on EPA financial assistance agreements has been interrupted due to the impact of COVID-19?	A: Yes, as long as the recipient follows its policies and procedures and is also consistent with compensation of employees whose salaries or benefits are funded from other federal and nonfederal sources.	For full answer, see page 3*.
Q: If an EPA grant recipient permits their employees administrative leave to comply with social distancing guidance from public officials, are the costs allowable?	A: There is a regulatory provision in 2 CFR 200.431 <i>Compensation-fringe benefits</i> governing administrative leave and other fringe benefits for recipient employees working on grant funded projects, if administrative leave is necessary.	For full answer, see page 4*.
Q: Will EPA modify workplans, adjust budgets, and extend project periods of grants if necessary?	A: Yes, however, EPA will comply with any statutory restrictions.	For full answer, see page 5*.
Q: If an EPA grant recipient is carrying out a project that will not be completed due to delays in performance what will EPA do?	A: When a project cannot be carried out, and the scope of work cannot be revised to provide for other allowable activities, EPA will work with the recipient to partially terminate the agreement. Please contact your Project Officer to discuss details.	For full answer, see page 6*.
Q: May EPA grant funds be redirected toward COVID-19 response activities?	A: It depends. Recipients should contact their Project Officer and provide detailed information regarding the nature of the COVID-19 response activities that the recipient wants to carry out. An authorized EPA official will then provide the recipient with a determination on whether the activities are within the current scope of work or whether EPA will allow the recipient to modify the work plan to include the activities.	For full answer, see page 7*.
Q: Will EPA extend the due dates for reports required under 2 CFR 200.343 to close out grants if the recipient cannot provide the information due to COVID-19 related disruptions?	A: Yes, provided the recipient submits the report within one year of the expiration of the performance period for the grant.	For full answer, see page 8*.
Q: Can applicants submit their applications outside of Grants.gov due to the challenges associated with COVID-19?	A: Generally, applicants for both competitive and non-competitive opportunities should continue to submit their applications to EPA electronically through Grants.gov. As is standard policy, if an applicant has internet accessibility issues (related to COVID-19 or not) that prevent them from using Grants.gov, they may request a Grants.gov Exception from HQ Office of Grants & Debarment.	For full answer, see page 10*.

*EPA Frequent Questions on Grant Issues in Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency:
<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/external-grants-covid-19-faqs.pdf>

Please note: This is only a summary of "EPA Frequent Questions on Grant Issues in Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Emergency", last Updated: March 27, 2020. The full version of the Q&A document supplements OMB's March 19, 2020, M-20-17 Guidance Memorandum (March 19, 2020, OMB Guidance) and provides information to applicants for, and recipients of, EPA grants and cooperative agreements regarding the impacts of COVID-19. The Office of Grants and Debarment (OGD) recognizes that the situation surrounding COVID-19 is constantly changing and this document will be updated as needed based on additional guidance from OMB or as otherwise appropriate. For the purposes of these Q&As, the term "grant" also includes cooperative agreements.