

From: <bounce-124859976-85331713@list.cornell.edu> on behalf of Financial Research Administration <dfa-fra@cornell.edu>

Reply-To: Financial Research Administration <dfa-fra@cornell.edu>

Date: Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 1:08 PM

To: CU-RES-ADMIN-L <CU-RES-ADMIN-L@list.cornell.edu>

Subject: Update to Federal Award Allowability of COVID-19 Salary Continuation

Please note that this communication has been sent to multiple lists. We apologize for any duplication.

The following is an update to policy regarding salaries and benefits charged to federal awards or appropriations.

For pay periods starting on or after July 1, salaries and benefits for individuals who are **unable to perform work** because a worksite is unavailable due to COVID-19 restrictions, **may no longer be charged to federally-sponsored awards or federal appropriations**. Per university policy, such individuals typically must continue to be paid from PI or unit funds.

Salaries and benefits for individuals working in reactivated worksites or performing project duties remotely may still be charged to projects where allocable.

Additionally, where appropriate, **non-federally funded** sponsored awards may be used for salary continuation allowed under the pandemic emergency. As a reminder, an individual may not be added to, or have effort increased on, a project for the purpose of salary continuation.

Background:

On March 19, 2020, the federal Office of Management and Budget issued [memorandum M-20-17](#) authorizing the limited use of federal funds to support personnel who could not work due to the COVID-19 impact on our operations. This allowed principal investigators to use sponsored funds to pay project personnel consistently with our institutional policy of salary continuation for individuals who are unable to work due to lack of access to facilities or similar reasons.

[OMB Memorandum M-20-26](#), issued on June 18, **rescinded M-20-17**, but extended the salary continuation authority to September 30, 2020, **with a new restriction**. Under these revised rules, grantees are required “to exhaust other available funding sources to sustain its workforce and implement necessary steps to save overall operational costs (such as rent renegotiations) during this pandemic period in order to preserve Federal funds for the ramp-up effort.”

Notwithstanding the extraordinary financial stress under which the university is operating, we have ended charging to federally-funded awards due to the limited amount of salary continuation on such funds as of June, and the burden of documenting that other available funding was exhausted.

If you have any questions, please contact Sponsored Financial Services at sfs-help@cornell.edu.

For more information on OSP Listservs, visit <https://researchservices.cornell.edu/resources/join-research-mailing-lists>