

March 23, 2020

Dr. France A. Córdova  
Director  
National Science Foundation

Dear Dr. Córdova:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, thank you and everyone at the National Science Foundation who are working so diligently during this time of chaos to sustain our scientific and education enterprise.

Faculty researchers across the country are actively endeavoring to re-envision their courses for an online instructional environment that is likely to last for at least the balance of the academic year. Faculty members must develop new methods and plans for how they will engage and support their students remotely. At the same time, many are working to minimize damage and loss to on-going research endeavors. Research administrators who are instrumental to the research process are also actively engaged in campus-wide planning and response to the COVID-19 emergency.

As the scientific community works to make these important adjustments, they lack the capacity to meet current grant proposal deadlines. They will also find it nearly impossible to sustain progress on current research endeavors. We request that the National Science Foundation delay current grant deadlines for 30 days and automatically provide a one-year no cost extensions to any grant that was set to terminate between March 1 and September 30, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Robert Gropp, AIBS Executive Director, at [rgropp@aibs.org](mailto:rgropp@aibs.org) or (202) 628-1500 x 250 if the undersigned organizations can be of assistance on this or other matters.

Sincerely,

American Institute of Biological Sciences  
American Ornithological Society  
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists  
American Society of Mammalogists  
American Society of Plant Taxonomists  
American Society of Primatologists  
Association of Ecosystem Research Centers  
BioQUEST  
Botanical Society of America  
Bucknell University  
Ecological Society of America

Field Museum  
Institute of Environment at Florida International University  
Mycological Society of America  
Natural History Museum of Utah  
Natural Science Collections Alliance  
San Diego Natural History Museum  
Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology  
Society for Mathematical Biology  
Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections  
Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles  
Society for the Study of Evolution  
The Helminthological Society of Washington