

March 25, 2020

Dear Members of the S-STEM community:

This email contains important information for current awardees and for PIs intending to submit a proposal to this year's S-STEM competition. Please read this message in full.

We are acutely aware of the many challenges you are facing at this time. Many of you have contacted us with concerns about the financial welfare of students supported in your S-STEM projects and we share that concern.

You can reallocate your award funds to better serve student needs.

We are sending this reminder that **NSF gives institutions broad authority to reallocate funds within project budgets to meet changing needs in order to best attain the project's goals.**

For S-STEM awards, the project goals include meeting the needs of the scholars.

In general, and particularly for projects in the first few years, we encourage you to consider using your authority to reallocate funds to increase your support for scholars who are facing unexpected additional financial need. Please keep in mind you must still adhere to the following requirements: (1) scholarship support cannot exceed \$10,000 per academic year, and (2) scholarship support cannot exceed unmet financial need or the cost of attendance.

You might also find this information posted by NSF to be helpful:

[FAQs about COVID-19 for proposers and awardees.](#)

You must follow specific policies when reallocating funds.

The majority of fund transfers between cost categories of the budget, can be made by the awardee without prior NSF approval. Such changes in the budget should be made in accordance with your organization's policies and procedures.

An important exception to this authority is that written prior approval from the cognizant NSF Program Officer is required for reallocation of funds provided for participant support. Specifically, you have the authority to move money into participant support, but you must have written prior approval to move money out of participant support. When a change requires NSF approval, the request must be submitted electronically via use of NSF's electronic systems. The request should clearly state which budget items, if any, are to be changed and by what amounts, and should explain the reasons for any changes. A notice to the awardee or an amendment to the award signed by the Grants and Agreements Officer, if required, will indicate NSF approval. Disapproval of such requests can be done by the cognizant NSF Program Officer or Grants and Agreements Officer via an e-mail notice to the awardee.

The S-STEM proposal submission date has been extended to April 22, 2020.

One more note: To provide additional flexibility, the S-STEM program extended the deadline for submitting proposals by four weeks to April 22, 2020.

Some proposals have already been submitted and many of them are not in compliance with the new requirement that two data tables describing the number of planned scholarships, their length, the number of students supported, and the degrees earned must be included in supplementary documents. If you intend to submit a proposal, please be sure to include these required tables so we will not have to return your proposal without review. If you have already submitted a proposal and you did not include these tables please withdraw your proposal, correct it, and resubmit it.

We have scheduled webinars to answer your questions.

If you have any questions about the issues discussed above, we invite you to join us for one of two planned information webinars we will host at 2:00 P.M. EST on Friday March 27 and Tuesday March 31. Connection details are below.

March 27, 2020; 02:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1610958611?pwd=aWhRbml2cWpzZkVYeitnUWNsOXdlZ09>

Meeting ID: 161 095 8611

Password: 024939

March 31, 2020; 02:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (US and Canada)

Join ZoomGov Meeting

<https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1612318876?pwd=bmJpVE9ET0V2L1NKNmtTVnQ2OHQwQT09>

Meeting ID: 161 231 8876

Password: 019001

You can also send email inquiries to S-STEM-ext@nsf.gov

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