



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

**NSF 20-052**

## Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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**Revised April 3, 2020**

Dear Colleague,

In light of the emergence and spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and abroad, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge.

NSF encourages the research community to respond to this challenge through [existing funding opportunities](#). In addition, we invite researchers to use the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism, which allows NSF to receive and review proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment as well as quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events. Requests for RAPID proposals may be for up to \$200K and up to one year in duration. Well-justified proposals that exceed these limits may be entertained. All questions should be directed either to a program officer managing an NSF program with which the research would be aligned or to [rapid-covid19@nsf.gov](mailto:rapid-covid19@nsf.gov).

Proposals in response to this DCL may also request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources such as [Frontera](#), [Stampede2](#), [Bridges](#), [Comet](#), and [JetStream](#). To ensure availability of these computing resources, investigators must contact the NSF Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) at [rapid-covid19-oac@nsf.gov](mailto:rapid-covid19-oac@nsf.gov) prior to submission of the proposal.

Complete guidance on submitting a RAPID proposal may be found in Chapter II.E.1 of the NSF [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide](#).

We ask that all investigators and organizations maintain awareness of the dynamic nature of

this event through regular monitoring of official communications from the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and [World Health Organization](#).

NSF has also created [a dedicated website on COVID-19](#), with links to Frequently Asked Questions addressing (i) questions associated with NSF proposal submission and award management relevant to research proposals relating to COVID-19 and (ii) possible impacts of COVID-19 on activities under existing awards; that website will be updated as appropriate. We strongly urge that you read the FAQs prior to submission of an inquiry about possible RAPID funding.

Sincerely,

Dr. F. Fleming Crim  
Chief Operating Officer