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No-Cost Extension Application Policies and Procedures

Introduction

The purpose of this memo is to inform the Principal Investigator (PI) and his/her research team of the policies and procedures that apply to no-cost extension requests. A no-cost extension is defined as an extension of the award end date without additional funds from the extramural funding agency.

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The sections in this memo highlighted in orange are instructions on placement of documentation in InfoEd.

Please contact your assigned GCO Grants Specialist for any questions you may have. For a listing, please click [here](#):

I. Extramural Funding Agency Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures for no-cost extension requests vary from funding agency to funding agency. Many agencies include the information in a notice of award (NOA), sponsored project agreement, and/or policy and procedure documents available on their website. Some funding agencies may require a formal request letter endorsed by an Authorizing Organization Representative (AOR) several days or several months prior to a project end date whereas others may not allow a project to continue past its approved end date. It is important to refer to the agency's guidelines to determine eligibility.

II. NIH Policies and Procedures

A. Eligibility

Most NIH awards are eligible for no-cost extensions.

To obtain a no-cost extension on a NIH grant, the following statement must be true:

- No term of award specifically prohibits the extension.

In addition, one or both of these statements must also be true:

- Additional work needs to be completed on the project and resources are available to continue to support the project, or
- Additional time is needed to provide for an orderly closeout.

B. ISMMS's Authority to Approve Initial No-Cost Extension

NIH allows the grantee institution to approve an initial no-cost extension for a period of up to 12 months beyond the original expiration date.

GCO can approve the NCE request after confirming eligibility (see section II.A) and the following condition:

- **The project has not expired.**

If the project has expired, see additional guidance in section II.C, below.

1. GCO Initial No-Cost Extension (NCE) Request and Progress Report Form for NIH Grants
PIs may use the "[GCO Initial No-Cost Extension \(NCE\) Request Form for NIH Grants](#)" to prepare the request to the GCO. This optional form includes the following sections:

- Brief overview of progress to date
- Scientific justification for no-cost extension / brief overview of activities to be accomplished

In addition, the form includes sections for the PI to inform the GCO of the following plans and activities:

- Length of no-cost extension request
- Extension of the NCE to the subaward(s); form includes a list of required subaward documentation
- Change in scope of approved project

Upload GCO's form in the Progress Report tab of your InfoEd application. If you do not use the form, please address the bullet points above as applicable. Upload the progress report in the Progress Report tab of your InfoEd application and administrative information in the Internal Documents tab.

The NIH temporarily disabled this function in eRA Commons in May 2025 and restored it August 2025. See NIH notice [No-Cost Extension Functionality in eRA NOT-25-142](#) for more information.

C. NIH Prior Approval Required

NIH must approve the following types of no-cost extension requests:

- Initial No Cost Extensions as per [NIH Notice NOT-OD-25-110](#)
- Late Request of Initial No-Cost Extension
- Additional No-Cost Extension Request after Initial Request
- NCE Requests for NIH Awards that Do Not Allow Automatic Approvals by GCO

This prior approval request is due to the NIH 30 days in advance of the proposed change. In the case of late initial no-cost extension requests, please do submit as soon as possible. ISMMS does not have the authority to approve these requests.

There are two submission methods to the NIH: 1. Letter/E-Mail; 2. eRA Commons Prior Approval Module. Please check with your [designated GCO Grants Specialist](#) on the preferred method (i.e., email or eRA Commons).

1. Letter/E-Mail

Please prepare a letter or e-mail that will be countersigned by the PI and the AOR (i.e., GCO representative). Contact information is provided in each NOA and available by logging into [eRA Commons](#) and locating your award. Address the communication to your Grants

Management Specialist and cc the Program Officer. Please include the following information in your request:

- PI Name, Tel No., Fax No., and E-Mail Address
- NIH # and Grant Title
- Length of no-cost extension request and no-cost extension end date
- Approximate total cost balance
- Brief overview of work to date
- Description of project activities that require support during the extension
- Description of the use of funds during the NCE (e.g., 10% of PI time, 25% for research coordinator, \$s for assays, etc.)
- PI Maintaining Measurable Effort: Y/N
- Budget and budget justification (use [PHS 398, 2590](#) or [SF424](#) forms.)
Please include the “checklist” page for the Facilities and Administrative (F&A) amount when using the 398 or 2590 forms.

Projects with continuing subawards must also include the following documents:

- Signed Statement of Intent to Establish a Consortium Agreement
- Statement of Work (SOW) or a confirmation statement from the PI that the SOW has not changed.
- Detailed Budget and Budget Justification (use [PHS 398, 2590](#) or [SF424](#) forms.) Please include the “checklist” page for the F&A amount when using the 398 or 2590 forms.

2. eRA Commons Prior Approval Module

The [Prior Approval module](#) allows institutions to submit prior approval requests via eRA Commons. The designated [AOR](#) logs in to eRA Commons and initiates, uploads the documentation, and submits the request in the [Prior Approval module](#). The PI/Delegate does not initiate the request in Commons.

When the request is submitted on the Prior Approval Module, below are the additional details and documents required for the request. Please send the all required documentation to the GCO separately as they are also uploaded separately, please refer to eRA Commons screenshots below.

Submit the following details about the no cost extension to the GCO:

- Number of Months
- Amount of Unobligated Balance
- Does PI Maintain Measurable Effort? Y/N

Submit the following documents to the GCO:

- Progress Report
- Budget and Budget Justification Document
Use [PHS 398, 2590](#) or [SF424](#) forms. Please include the “checklist” page for the F&A amount when using the 398 or 2590 forms
- Justification Document - Include a scientific justification for the extension.

Projects with continuing subawards must also include the following documents:

- Signed Statement of Intent to Establish a Consortium Agreement
- Statement of Work (SOW) or a confirmation statement from the PI that the SOW has not changed.
- Detailed Budget and Budget Justification
Use [PHS 398](#), [2590](#) or [SF424](#) forms. Please include the “checklist” page for the F&A amount when using the 398 or 2590 forms

No Cost Extension eRA Commons Screenshots

NOTE:

- A remaining balance at the project period end is not in itself sufficient justification for a no-cost extension. Please refer to the [NIH Grants Policy Statement](#), Section 8.1.1.3 entitled “Extension of Final Budget Period of a Previously Approved Project Period without Additional NIH Funds” for further information.
- All award terms and conditions continue during the NCE period.
- NIH prior approval for reduction in key personnel effort of 25% or more is not required in the no cost extension period. See [NOT-OD-16-030](#) for non-competing budget periods that begin after 10/1/15.
- PIs do not submit an Annual RPPR application to the NIH. Also please note that PIs have up to 120 days after the grant expires to submit the Final RPPR to the NIH. Click on the [NIH RPPR webpage](#) for more information.

III. GCO Submission Policies and Procedures

A. GCO Application Submission Process

Refer to GCO’s Application Submission [Checklist](#) (ASC) and [Instructions](#) and follow the appropriate steps.. All no-cost extension applications must be prepared in InfoEd and routed for approval through the department(s) in which there are key personnel and/or faculty. Simply requesting and obtaining a no-cost extension approval from the funding agency is not sufficient. In InfoEd, you will need to create an additional non-system to system submission and you will choose the “Non-Competing Continuation (non-S2S, no budget)” option when prompted in the initial setup tab. Any documents that the funding agency requests from you, you must also submit those to the GCO as part of your InfoEd application.

B. Length of No-Cost Extension

No cost extensions are typically requested for one year; however, they can be shorter depending on the time needed to ensure adequate completion of the approved project.

C. Foreign Subawards

1. Data Access

In accordance with NIH notice [NIH Final Updated Policy Guidance for Subaward/Consortium Written Agreements \(NOT-OD-23-182\)](#), foreign subaward institutions must provide access to copies of all lab notebooks, all data, and all documentation that supports the research outcomes as described in the progress report, to the primary recipient with a frequency of no less than once per year, in alignment with the timing requirements for Research Performance Progress Report submission. Such access may be entirely electronic, but will be via a method determined by the Prime Institution.

2. NIH No Longer Issuing Awards with a Subaward to Foreign Entity

Effective May 1, 2025 as per NIH Notice [NOT-OD-25-104](#) the NIH will not issue awards to domestic or foreign entities (new, renewal or non-competing continuation) that include a subaward to a foreign entity. NIH anticipates implementing a new foreign collaboration award structure no later than September 30, 2025. This new award structure will include a prime with independent awards that are linked to the prime that will allow NIH to track the project's funds individually, while scientific progress will be reported collectively by the primary institution, under the Research Performance Progress Report.

D. Request Letter / Approval Letter from the Funding Agency

Please include the no-cost extension request and the agency's approval notification, if you received that as well.

Please upload the document (s) in the Internal Documents tab of your InfoEd application. In cases where the progress report is incorporated in the no-cost extension request, please upload this document in the Progress Report tab of InfoEd. For NIH grants, see section II above.

E. Progress Report and Other Agency Specific Documentation

All no-cost extension applications must include a progress report following the funding agency specifications. For NIH grants, see section II above. If the funding agency does not require a progress report, please include at a minimum the following information for GCO review:

- Brief overview of progress to date
- Scientific justification for no-cost extension / brief overview of activities to be accomplished

Please upload the progress report in the Progress Report tab. Please upload any other documentation the funding agency requires in the Progress Report tab or the Internal Documents tab.

IV. Roles and Responsibilities

A. PI/Department Administration

The PI and the department confirm through the InfoEd no-cost extension submission process that resources are available to continue the project. PIs may inquire with their administrator regarding any other departmental policies and procedures.

B. GCO

During GCO's review process, the GCO Grants Specialist reviews the NOA and/or any other documentation as written in section I. above to determine whether the request is in compliance with the funding agency's terms and conditions. He/she also reviews the PI's progress report to confirm that additional work needs to be completed. GCO may also submit the request to the funding agency depending on their requirements. For funding agencies that require endorsement by an institutional official, GCO's Authorizing Organization Representative (AOR) is also responsible for endorsing the request.

V. Submission and Approval Steps

Step 1 - PI Reviews the Extramural Funding Agency's Policy on No-Cost Extension

Funding agencies may require a no-cost extension request days or months prior to a project end date. See section I and II for additional information on funding agency requirements.

Step 2 - PI Inquires with Department Administration on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)

PI may inquire in his/her department regarding the time needed to review and approve the InfoEd no-cost extension application as well as any other departmental policies and procedures.

Step 3 – PI Submits Compliance (PPHS and/or IACUC) Application to Compliance Office, if applicable
Many projects share the same yearly start and end dates as the GCO / InfoEd submission. In these cases, a corresponding PPHS/IRB or IACUC submission is required prior to InfoEd submission. In other cases, the PPHS yearly start and end dates are different from the GCO / InfoEd yearly submission dates. In the case that they are not in sync, submission of an upcoming year's PPHS application may be premature. Please check when your IRB approval ends. IRB submissions are submitted generally 8 weeks prior to expiration.

Step 4 - PI Submits InfoEd Application and Routes to the Department.

Step 5 - Department(s) Reviews and Approves InfoEd Application and Routes to the GCO

Please allow for review and approval time at the department level.

Step 6 - GCO Reviews and Processes NCE Request.

GCO requires the COMPLETE AND FINAL InfoEd application, including completed and signed Conflict of Interest and Suspension and Debarment forms as appropriate, 1 business day prior to the extramural funding agency deadline. See other requirements in sections I-III above.

Step 7 - GCO Receives Extramural Funding Agency's Approval and Activates the NCE

GCO updates the status of the no-cost extension request from pending to active/awarded after receipt of funding agency's approval.

If the funding agency sends the approval notification to the PI bypassing the GCO, please e-mail it to grants@mssm.edu and include the project's GCO # in the e-mail.

Step 8 - GCO Notifies Finance.

GCO informs Finance of the no-cost extension. Finance extends the fund account end date and begins the process of extending the subaward agreements as applicable.

VI. Additional Resources

- [GCO Application Information Website](#)
- GCO Application Submission [Checklist](#) and [Instructions](#)
- [GCO Guidance on NIH Prior Approval Requirements](#)
- [NIH Policy Guide](#) - Section 8.1.1-8.1.3 includes information about no-cost extension requests
- NIH Notice: No-Cost Extension Functionality in eRA ([NOT-OD-25-142](#))
- NIH Notice: Updated NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards ([NOT-OD-25-104](#))

VII. Significant Changes to this Document from Prior Versions

Date	Description
8/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added As per NIH Notice No-Cost Extension Functionality in eRA NOT-25-142 NIH restored the initial no cost extension function in eRA Commons. - Removed NIH Notice Updated NIH Processes for No-Cost Extensions NOT-OD-25-110.
5/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added As per NIH Notice NOT-OD-25-110, NIH has temporarily disabled the no cost extension function in eRA Commons. Relevant sections have been updated. - Added As per NIH Notice NOT-OD-25-104, NIH will <u>not</u> issue awards to domestic entities (new, renewal or non-competing continuation) that include a subaward to a foreign entity.
5/2024	Added appropriate budget form information when submitting a no cost extension request when NIH prior approval is required.
11/2023	<p>Added option of submitting no cost extension (NCE) other than initial NCEs via the eRA Commons Prior Approval module</p> <p>Added required certification for foreign subawards.</p>