



V Foundation Policy-Administrative Flexibilities due to COVID-19 Disruptions

Policy effective- 3/25/2020

COVID-19 impact on current grants

The COVID-19 outbreak has disrupted daily life around the globe. We recognize researchers who we have funded are impacted as well. Clinicians are being diverted to help with clinical care as the infection spreads. Laboratories may be shut down to keep employees at home. Some IRBs have halted all non-essential research and are limiting patient access to the hospital. These are just a few of the impacts we are aware of, and there will surely be more.

The V Foundation for Cancer Research wants to reassure you that we will make every effort to be flexible and support you through this crisis.

1. We have been and continue to be very flexible in allowing no-cost extensions (NCEs) of one year, which can be renewed if needed. NCEs can be requested in the online system when you submit your final progress report.
2. We are flexible in allowing adjustments to specific aims to prioritize parts of the research, such as data analysis and computer modeling, etc., which can be done remotely. We realize that in some cases, work will be delayed since data collection will be inhibited.
3. We are flexible in allowing adjustments to the budget to pay for expenses, e.g. lost travel funds due to the coronavirus-related conference cancellations.
4. If the majority of distributed funds are not spent at year end, we may delay distribution of next year funds until the research can be continued and the majority of funds are spent. We will ask grant recipients to verify the U.S. mailing address for grant checks since some offices may be closed and unable to receive checks.
5. In cases where the coronavirus has resulted in barriers to beginning or continuing work on some or all of the specific aims of the project, we will still allow salary support in the budget to be used.
6. Reports (Scientific and Financial expenditures) are still required annually. If no or little work on the specific aims could be completed, a description of the barriers, work arounds, unexpected expenses and changes in specific aims or budget are still important and form the basis for approval of a NCE. If you need a few weeks extension to these deadlines, please let us know of the issues preventing timely reporting, and we will be as flexible as possible.
7. Subsequent payments may be postponed if work on the specific aims must be halted for a period of time due to the coronavirus. Payments would resume when the research can be resumed.

COVID-19 impact on new applications

Because our direct research funding depends entirely on donations from a variety of sources – online donations, corporate grants, co-funding with other foundations, major donors and many events (large and small) – we expect our overall funding will be impacted in 2020. Many of our Signature Events will be postponed or cancelled, impacting our grant revenue.

1. Our first priority will be to fulfill our obligations to existing grants with multi-year contracts.
2. We will continue to fund new grants, especially those that have already existing designated funds. Grant programs that rely heavily on annual fundraising may see fewer grants funded this year.
3. For applicants, we will extend the nomination period up to the application deadline so if institutions need more time to identify nominees, they will have that time. Deadlines to apply will largely remain the same, reducing applicant time to apply, since application deadlines are more difficult to move without disrupting reviewers. However, we may extend some application deadlines on a program by program basis.
4. We will be more flexible with reviewer deadlines since many of our thought leaders and experts are also engaged in patient care. This will likely delay the start date for new grants since the review period may need to be extended.
5. We will monitor the COVID-19 situation relative to travel recommendations and plan to use virtual meetings for most, if not all, review panel discussions.
6. Initial and subsequent payments may be postponed if work on the specific aims must be halted for a period of time due to the coronavirus. Payments would resume when the research can be resumed.