

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ'S)

1. Can I request an extension for a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) fellowship award?

Yes. Recipients may submit extension requests to the funding IC for consideration when the effects of COVID-19 have altered the planned course of the research training. Extension requests must include a description of how COVID-19 affected the fellowship award, and clearly outline how much additional time is needed. All such requests must be signed by the fellow, the Authorized Organization Representative, and the fellowship sponsor.

2. May National Research Service Award (NRSA) trainees and fellows, who receive stipends rather than salaries, continue to receive stipend payments if they are unable to work as a result of COVID-19?

Yes, stipend payments may continue to be charged to NIH NRSA grants affected by COVID-19. Recipients should notify the Grants Management Specialist named in the notice of award and provide documentation demonstrating the effect of COVID-19, and how long the institution will be affected.

3. Will University closings due to COVID 19 be allowed as a reason for ESI end date extensions?

Yes, investigators that have been affected by COVID-19 (e.g. university closure) may submit requests for an extension of ESI status through eRA Commons via the ESI Extension request button in the Education section of their Personal Profile. Refer to 4/1/2020 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) | grants.nih.gov <https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm?anchor=question55854> 18/19 the ESI FAQs and eRA Online Help for more information on how to request an extension of ESI status.

4. Our institution's Office of Sponsored programs has been mandated to work from home and they are not able to send in the original signed Payback forms. How should we provide NIH the forms?

There is no need to submit these forms at this time. NIH will allow for delayed submission of NRSA Payback Agreements due to COVID-19. Recipients should notify the funding IC of the delay and submit the form as soon as feasible.

5. Can I request an extension for a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) and/or fellowship award?

Yes. Recipients may submit extension requests to the funding IC for consideration when the effects of COVID-19 have altered the planned course of the research training/activities. Extension requests must include a description of how COVID-19 affected the NRSA and/or fellowship award, and clearly outline how much additional time is needed. All such requests must be signed by the fellow, the Authorized Organization and the fellowship sponsor.

6. For awards with an effort level requirement (e.g., Career Development Awards), can PI effort be temporarily reduced below program effort requirements due to the impact of COVID-19?

Yes, recipients can contact the funding IC to request reductions in effort due to COVID-19, which may go below the required effort levels for the grant.

7. Can a K99 applicant apply for an extension of the 4-year eligibility window (for initial applications or resubmissions) due to COVID-19?

Yes, K99 applicants can request an extension to their K99 eligibility window due to the effects of COVID-19 on their research productivity. Affected applicants should consult with the funding IC for further guidance.