

**National Science Foundation
Office of the Director
Arlington, VA 22230**

Notice No. 134

October 17, 2013

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PRESIDENTS OF UNIVERSITIES AND
COLLEGES AND HEADS OF OTHER NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS**

Subject: Resumption of Operations at the National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation is emerging from a 16-day funding lapse that severely limited our ability to conduct our mission to advance the progress of science and engineering. During this time, no proposals were received or distributed for peer review, no review panels were convened, no new awards were made, and no existing awards received payments. Major facilities were impacted, and Ph.D. students and other scientists experienced setbacks in furthering their research objectives. In the absence of an appropriation, the U.S. Antarctic Program, which NSF manages for the nation, was forced to begin a transition to caretaker status, jeopardizing a full season of research.

The Continuing Resolution enacted by the Congress and signed into law by the President is a temporary measure to fund the government through January 15. We are hopeful a longer term solution will be found that will provide the funding predictability needed to plan and support our research and education programs, as well as relief from the growing negative effects of sequestration. The collective impacts of the funding lapse and sequestration will ripple across the scientific community for the foreseeable future, hindering the science and engineering progress so vital to our nation's future prosperity.

As we recover from the funding lapse, you should know that NSF staff, many of whom have experienced personal hardship, are fully committed to restoring normal operations as quickly as possible. That said, you should also be aware that it will take some time for us to work through the backlog of activities noted above, resulting in inevitable delays in funding decisions and possible cancellations of other activities. Specific guidance will be issued tomorrow regarding grant and cooperative agreement policy and systems issues. We will continue to update this guidance as more information becomes available.

We know that we can count on your support as we work our way through these difficult circumstances. Thank you, in advance, for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Cora B. Marrett
Acting Director