

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

Important Notice No. 143

September 29, 2017

**Important Notice to
Presidents of Universities and Colleges
and Heads of Other National Science Foundation
Grantee Organizations**

SUBJECT: Hurricane Maria

With the devastation caused by Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, the National Science Foundation and its staff are strongly committed to supporting affected people and organizations. The first priority in the hurricane's aftermath is the health and safety of yourselves and your loved ones. Those of you who are served by NSF can be assured that our focus is on enabling you to continue your research and education projects. We are taking immediate steps to provide assistance to current and potential awardees who are directly affected, and we are prepared to be as flexible, accommodating, and creative as possible in addressing your needs.

In the short term, NSF will extend the end dates of existing awards to organizations in the disaster area for awards that are scheduled to expire before November 1, 2017. However, it is vital that each investigator contact his or her Program Officer as soon as feasible to discuss how each NSF-supported project has been impacted. Program Officers stand ready to hear from you to determine how we can best support your needs after you have taken care of your immediate personal concerns.

We also have established an email address – naturaldisasters@nsf.gov – for inquiries by institutions, faculty and students on NSF awards for issues related to such natural disasters.

The Foundation will be posting updated information regarding specific, timely, and, relevant research assistance opportunities on this webpage of NSF.gov. We encourage you to visit the site regularly.

Our thoughts are with all of those affected by Hurricane Maria.

France A. Córdova
Director