



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 11th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

To: The University of California Research Community

From: Theresa A. Maldonado, Ph.D., P.E., Vice President for Research & Innovation *Theresa A Maldonado*
Christopher Harrington, Associate Vice President, UC Federal Governmental Relations *CH*

Date: January 28, 2025

As you know, in response to executive orders issued by President Donald Trump, federal agencies have begun issuing memos and guidance impacting agency operations. They also have begun sending various messages to researchers regarding their active contracts and grants, including notices asking that certain work construed to be inconsistent with executive orders be paused or stopped. In addition, the Trump Administration has ordered a temporary pause in communications at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services, including the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and Federal Drug Administration (FDA), as well as other agencies, such as NASA, USDA, and USAID.

This pause caused some agency study sections, advisory panels, review panels, and other public activities to be cancelled or postponed. We understand there are similar challenges around cancellation of travel for agency personnel and limitations on procurement internally at NIH. This pause is currently set to expire on February 1st, and it is not unprecedented. We believe it is intended to allow time for the new administration to position its leadership.

In addition to these specific agency pauses, on January 27th, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [issued a memo](#) that directs all federal agencies to pause their funding effective January 28th at 2:00 pm PT/5:00 pm ET. However, on January 28th, a federal judge temporarily blocked the OMB memo from going into effect until Feb. 3rd at 5 pm ET. The OMB memo directs agencies to “complete a comprehensive analysis of all of their Federal financial assistance programs to identify programs, projects, and activities that may be implicated by any of the President’s executive orders” and provide their review of certain programs of concern no later than February 10. On January 28, OMB issued [additional guidance](#) clarifying that only programs subject to the pause are those related to the listed presidential executive orders. The White House further clarified that Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), federal student loans and Pell Grants, among others, would not be affected.

The University of California research leadership from across the system, as well as UC Legal and our federal governmental relations teams, are diligently and collaboratively tracking these directives closely and assessing their impact on the university and our research enterprise. Furthermore, the university’s federal relations teams on your campus as well as in Washington, D.C. are engaging with key policymakers in Congress and at the agencies.

We understand that these actions are increasing anxiety levels across the UC system and that many of you have important questions. There is limited information at this point regarding how these actions will specifically impact the research enterprise. However, we are committed to keeping you informed about federal activities and advocating in support of UC's research priorities. In the meantime, if you receive a communication from your funding agency that has specific instructions, please send those to your Vice Chancellor for Research and contracts and grants office. The national laboratories and Agriculture and Natural Resources may have other specific instructions. Otherwise, please keep proceeding as business as usual.

We will continue to update the university community as we move forward.