

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Closeout of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Awards

### 1. My award expires on September 30, 2013. Can funds be drawn down after that date?

Yes, as long as the costs are properly incurred on or before the expiration date of the award, the expenditures will be considered timely. Award recipients have 90 days after the expiration date of the award to liquidate all obligations incurred and draw down funds through ACM\$.

### 2. What if my award has expired or will expire before September 30, 2013? Can I still expend ARRA funds beyond the expiration of my award as long as I don't go past September 30, 2013?

No. Recipients have 90 days after the expiration date of the award to liquidate all obligations incurred and to submit all required reports. So if the award expired on June 30, 2013, then all funds must be drawn down and reports submitted by September 28, 2013.

### 3. Are there any restrictions in ACM\$ that will prevent drawing down funds on September 30th?

Yes. The ACM\$ payment request function will be shut down after 5:00 pm on September 25, 2013, in order for NSF to close out the fiscal year. The ACM\$ payment function will reopen by 12:00 am on October 1, 2013.

In addition, some ARRA awards, such as those funded under the Academic Research Infrastructure Program: Recovery and Reinvestment (ARI-R<sup>2</sup>) program, may have a threshold limit in ACM\$ that restricts the balance available to be drawn down. There will be an asterisk (\*) in ACM\$ next to the balance available if a threshold has been applied to the award. See FAQ #4 below for related information about such limitations.

### 4. The terms of my award limit the amount of funds available to expend until I receive written approval from NSF. How and when will I be able to draw down funds to meet the September 30, 2013, expenditure deadline?

Now that ACM\$ has been implemented, NSF can set a maximum threshold to restrict the amount of funds available for payment requests. This threshold should reflect the amount approved in the original award or subsequent amendments. You must follow the terms of the award to obtain the necessary approval to increase the expenditure limit. Once the award is amended by the NSF Grants Officer, ACM\$ will be updated to reflect the revised threshold so that additional funds can be drawn down. If you have exceeded the limit approved in the award, then funds will have to be returned to NSF or offset in ACM\$ so as not to exceed the approved limit.

### 5. What if I am unable to use all of the ARRA funds before my award expires?

Simply follow the closeout process noted in FAQs #1 and #2 above and be sure to note in your final ARRA quarterly report to be submitted to [FederalReporting.gov](http://FederalReporting.gov) that all work has been completed and any remaining funds will not be used. Per Office of Management and Budget guidance, in instances where the final prime recipient expenditures are less than the award amount listed on the report due to an amendment in the original agreement or if the project came in under budget, the recipient must

provide a description in the “Quarterly Activities/Project Description for Prime and Sub-recipients” field explaining why the final amount in the “Total Federal Amount of ARRA Expenditure” field does not equal the amount in the “Award Amount” field, and confirming that no more funds will be expended by the prime recipient. NSF will deobligate the remaining balance as part of its closeout process after the awardee’s 90 day closeout period has ended. Please refer to the [ARRA Recipient Reporting FAQs](#) that are accessible on [NSF’s Recovery Act website](#) for additional information about filing final ARRA reports on FederalReporting.gov.

**6. What happens if I finish up my award before it expires?**

Once you have completed the work, you should liquidate all obligations and file all final reports including a final ARRA quarterly report that should be submitted to [FederalReporting.gov](#). NSF will close out the award as noted above in FAQ #5. Please refer to the [ARRA Recipient Reporting FAQs](#) that are accessible on [NSF’s Recovery Act website](#).

**7. Who can I contact if I have further questions regarding my ARRA award?**

Any additional questions should be directed to the NSF ARRA Team at [NSFARRAReviewer@nsf.gov](mailto:NSFARRAReviewer@nsf.gov).