



## ***Award Cash Management Service (ACM\$) and Year-End Critical Dates 2024 Webinar Questions***

### **Where can I find the presentation from this webinar?**

The presentation and recording for the August 28, 2024 webinar can be found here <https://nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>, Scroll down to the Webinar and Presentation Downloads Section.

### **If I have questions, who can I contact?**

Contact the Grant Accountant based on your state. That information can be found here <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>.

### **Do all NSF drawdowns need to occur before 9/23/2024 or can this be done after 10/1/2024?**

Yes, by September 23, 2024 at 2:00PM EST for awards with cancelling funds. If your funds are not cancelling in fiscal year 2024, you will be able to drawdown once ACM\$ reopens in October.

### **Please define cancelling funds. So, is the general rule that the fund will be cancelled 5 years after the project end date or the no-cost extension date?**

Fixed year appropriations have a 2 year period of availability then cancels 5 years after the period of availability.

Example:

Award funded with FY2018 funds, the funds cancel at the end of FY2024 (September 30, 2024).

Award funded with FY2021 funds, the funds cancel at the end of FY2027 (September 30, 2027).

The project end date and no cost extension have no bearing on the life cycle of the appropriation.

### **Where can I find more information about cancelling funds?**

There is an NSF Critical Dates and Cancelling Appropriations Section in our FAQs located here [NSF Post-Award Financial FAQ | 2024](#).

### **Can I drawdown all funds together as soon as it is awarded?**

Each payment request should be limited to the minimum amount needed to meet your immediate business needs. For SBIR and Fellowship awards, please follow the terms and conditions as well as the guidance you receive from your Program Office.

### **If there is incremental funding for an award, are the funds cancelled incrementally for each funding event though the project is not yet over?**

Yes, each fund appropriation has its own life cycle.

**Will we get an email or some other announcement of September 23 shutdown at 2pm of ACM\$?**

A notification is sent to each organization's ACM\$ points of contact (the organization's most recent ACM\$ preparer and ACM\$ certifier) prior to the system shutdown.

**How can I determine what year's appropriations were used to fund our individual award?**

In ACM\$, search on the award number. On the Awards Details page, click on the award number (the link should be blue). The appropriation is in the "Funds Obligated to Date" field.

**If we have items on order, but not received by 9/30/24, are we able to request reimbursement when the items are received?**

If you are seeking reimbursement against funds that are cancelling, reimbursement must be requested prior to the system shutdown at 2:00PM EST on September 23, 2024.

**I have an award that will end on September 30, 2024. However, we won't know all the costs that need to be submitted for reimbursement until we close our books in October. Would we still submit reimbursement in October?**

You should request funds based on your best estimate of expenditures to be incurred through September 30, 2024. If the award has cancelling funds, those funds will no longer be available to drawdown after 2:00PM EST on September 23, 2024.

**Our NSF grant is going to expire 09/30/2024 and we've spent it all. We don't have any program income. We have not been required to submit any quarterly and annual financial reports. I assume there is still no final financial report to submit for the grant expiring?**

You will be required to submit the annual Program Income Report even if your organization does not have any program income. NSF does not require a final financial report based on the grant expiring.

**Our grant is ending on 09/30/24 and we plan to do drawdown after Oct 3rd for the expenditures for July - September 2024. We don't do advanced payments. If there is still unused funds by 09/30/24 (grant end date) and we will not do advance payment for the remaining unused funds, does this mean we will just simply have unused funds left by the end of the grant and nothing else needs to be done in terms of closing the grant?**

You should request funds based on your best estimate of expenditures to be incurred through September 30, 2024. If this grant has cancelling funds, those funds will no longer be available to drawdown after 2:00PM EST on September 23, 2024.

**Our project is likely to go into December 2024. Should we request disbursement of all of the remaining funds before 9/23/24?**

You should request funds based on your best estimate of expenditures to be incurred through September 30, 2024. The use of cancelling funds for expenditures incurred after the cancellation date of September 30, 2024 is not allowable.

**If our end date has already been extended to End of Year (EOY), will we still be able to submit payment requests during the September-October timeline given, or will it be closed to all grant recipients no matter their end date?**

Cancelling funds must be requested by 2:00PM EST on September 23, 2024. Any non-cancelling funds can be requested once ACM\$ reopens in October.

**This might be an oversimplification, but if I don't have any 'red flags' in ACM\$, am I correct in thinking we do not have any cancelling appropriations this year?**

That is correct. Awards with cancelling funds are identified by the red flag in ACM\$.

**When are red flags added in ACM\$? 3 months before end, 6 months, etc.?**

The red flag is applied in ACM\$ at the beginning of each fiscal year and will remain throughout the fiscal year even if the award is fully expended.

**Could an award that had multiple funding years have a cancellation warning removed because of the level of spending increasing in the successive years?**

The cancelling funds warning is applied at the beginning of each fiscal year and will remain throughout the fiscal year even if the award is fully expended. Additional funding in successive years does not negate the fact that funds are cancelling.

**How do we know the grants we have with NSF are cancelling this year?**

Awards with cancelling funds have a red flag next to the award number in ACM\$. And each year from January to September, notifications are sent to an organization's ACM\$ points of contact (the most recent ACM\$ preparer and ACM\$ certifier).

If your organization does not have any awards with cancelling funds, you will not receive the notification.

**It has been my understanding that products had to be received or services rendered by the grant end date.**

Products are to be received and services rendered by the grant's end date, however, funds can still be drawn beyond the grant's end date. Generally, an awardee has 120 days after the grant's end date to drawdown funds. After the 120 days the award will financially closed. Although the award is financially closed, funds can still be drawn as an Adjustment for an additional 14 months (in some cases a shorter period if the appropriation cancels prior to the 14 month period. In most cases, there is 18 months beyond the grant's end date to drawdown funds.

**Do you have any data on what percentage of awards are impacted by cancelling funds? In my time at my university, we have not been impacted by cancelling funds (closeout is long before the cancellation), making me think it's relatively uncommon.**

Less than 1% of active NSF awards are impacted by cancelling funds in a given fiscal year. In most cases, the award has been on-going for a number of years and has experienced significant delays.

## How do I tell which appropriation my award falls under for no cost extensions?

No cost extensions do not extend the life cycle of an appropriation. If your award was funded with an FY2018 (October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018) appropriation, those funds cancel September 30, 2024.

## Should we make sure “no-cost extension” approvals for ongoing grants be done by 9/23?

If your award has cancelling funds only, the no cost extension will not be approved as it will not extend the life cycle of the cancelling appropriation. You can receive a no cost extension if your award has non-cancelling funds which can be approved after September 23, 2024

## How can we return funds that were overdrawn?

If your organization needs to remit funds to NSF, the remittance can be completed in one of four ways (in order of preference):

- Option 1: ACM\$  
If your organization has active and open awards, ACM\$ should be your first option. An adjustment can be entered via a payment transaction and offset against another award that requires funds. Please remember: the net total of your ACM\$ transaction must be greater than or equal to zero.
- Option 2: [Pay.gov](https://www.pay.gov/public/search/agencyforms?agencyFilters=National+Science+%20Foundation&searchCategory=PAYMENT&searchType=AGENCYPAYMENT&agencyId=1351)  
(<https://www.pay.gov/public/search/agencyforms?agencyFilters=National+Science+%20Foundation&searchCategory=PAYMENT&searchType=AGENCYPAYMENT&agencyId=1351>). Follow the instructions to fill out the form. You must enter the award number to ensure proper credit is given. For first time pay.gov users, we recommend contacting your banking institution to ensure NSF is a valid entity to make ACH debits to the account. NSF’s identification number is “National Science Foundation ALC: 49000001”. If your bank requires a 10-digit version, please use 4900000101 instead.
- Option: Credit Gateway  
Contact the Grant Accountant based on your state. That information can be found here <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>. Scroll down to the Webinar and Presentation Downloads Section.
- Option 4: Mail a check made payable to the “National Science Foundation” to:  
National Science Foundation  
Attention: NSF Cashier, C7000  
2415 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Along with the check, please include a letter that indicates the award number(s), the amount to be applied to each award, and the reason for the return.

Checks should be sent only if all three electronic methods are not feasible.

**What is the correct course of action if the subawardee has overbilled on their subaward and the grant is not complete?**

You must work with the subawardee to return the overbilled funds to you. If NSF was overbilled, you will need to return the funds to NSF. See the “**How can we return funds that were overdrawn?**” Question in this document.

**Are refunds entered in ACMS as a negative for a specific award line (as long as the total ACMS draw is positive)?**

Refunds are entered as a negative amount and offset by a positive amount to another award that requires funds. The net total must be greater than or equal to zero.

**Why would I suddenly have a hard threshold set in ACM\$? I’m the requestor of funds (we drawdown as subaward invoices come in). Our Program Officer isn’t sure and I’ve sent her screenshots but haven’t heard back.**

Depending on the circumstances, a threshold can be applied by the Program Office, Division of Grants and Agreements, or us. The office responsible for applying the threshold is also responsible for releasing it. Contact the Grant Accountant based on your state to assist in identifying the appropriate office. That information can be found here <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>.

**If we have someone that has left our institution, how can we update our users? It appears that I do not have the rights to do so.**

Users can be updated by your organization’s Administrator. After you have signed in to [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) - [Homepage](https://www.research.gov), see the Research.gov About Account Management page here [Research.gov - About Account Management](https://www.research.gov) for guidance.

**Could you please clarify why NSF awards do not require Federal Financial Reports?**

The FFR is considered duplicative since expense data for each award is collected with the submission of ACM\$ payment transactions and Program Income reports are collected annually instead of the quarterly FFR submissions. Information from our October 2023 Program Income Webinar can be found here <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>. Scroll down to the Webinar and Presentation Downloads Section.

The link to the Program Income Reporting Worksheet can be found here [Research.gov - Reporting Worksheet Instructions](https://www.research.gov).

**What kind of backup is required for a teacher's stipend?**

DFM does not require documentation, however, you are encouraged to maintain appropriate records in case of an audit. You may want to consult with the Program Office to find out if they have a requirement.

**A few years ago my PI closed our grant by filing his final narrative report prior to my final cash draw. The 120 days for financial closeout was not honored and we were not reimbursed the cash. Is that still the case? Must the 120 day financial closeout occur before the PI files their final report?**

This situation requires a conversation with the Grant Accountant. Contact the Grant Accountant based on your state. That information can be found here <https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dfm/cmeab.jsp>.

**The following questions should be directed to the NSF Program Official or NSF Grants and Agreements Official for guidance.**

- We have received a no-cost extension for our grant and have since identified that we need a supplement to continue the work through the no-cost extension timeline. What are our options to ensure the work is properly funded?
- What percentage of the total budget should be used to request a rebudget for an overspent category?
- If my award in section M indicates 0 for cost share, is there no annual cost share report due?
- Our indirect cost rate changed recently. We have been told we should use the old higher rate for the proposal submitted before the change. Is that correct?
- Is Equipment report required as a closing report?
- What is the process to negotiate your organization's de minimis/overhead rate?