

FAQs

COVID-19 Impacts to BLM Financial Assistance

1. Are recipient organizations and/or participants under a FA agreement required to continue if they are concerned about the risk to themselves and/or their family?

No. A recipient organization and/or participants under a FA agreement through the recipient organization can either 1) terminate the agreement for their convenience; 2) request a no cost period of performance extension due to COVID-19; or 3) request a modification to add funding and time due to COVID-19. While options #1 and #2 (within the limitations of 2 CFR 200) can be enacted at the recipient's discretion option #3 would need to be funded by the associated park/program and approved by the NPS FA Awarding Officer.

2. What flexibilities are available for recipient organizations and/or participants under a FA agreement to continue work? (i.e. telework, alternate work schedules, period of performance extensions, etc. Recipient must have policy in place or develop one for telework)

In addition to the options listed above, the program officer (PO) can approve telework and schedule flexibilities as long as the performance of the FA agreement is still within the statement of work. The FA Awarding Officer will make the determination regarding what is and is not within the statement of work of the FA agreement.

3. Can recipient organizations and/or participants under a FA agreement seek alternative work outside of the FA agreement if they are asked stop work for a period of time?

Yes. Activities conducted by the recipient organization and/or participants under a FA agreement outside of the FA agreement are at their discretion as long as there is nothing in conflict with the FA agreement.

4. If time is lost due to COVID-19, we will still be able to complete our FA agreement?

It depends. See the response to question #1 above regarding potential no cost modifications and modifications with additional time and funding.

5. If a participant under a FA agreement is diagnosed with COVID-19 and incurs medical costs, will they be covered and/or compensated for any associated medical bills?

The only costs that are allowable under a FA agreement are those that are allowable under 2 CFR 200 and included within the FA agreement budget. These types of costs would likely be the responsibility of the FA recipient through any insurance they offer and/or participants under a FA agreement themselves.

6. Will recipient organizations be allowed to continue work if the BLM employees are not allowed to work and/or if the BLM site where the recipient organization and/or participants under a FA agreement are performing the work is closed?

As long as access to necessary sites(s) and any required Federal personnel is available, work under the FA agreement may continue. If access to the necessary site(s) and required Federal personnel is

not available, work under the FA agreement will need to stop. See the response to question #1 above regarding potential no cost modifications and modifications with additional time and funding.

7. Can recipients take annual leave or approve administrative leave?

It will depend on the recipient's leave policy in place. Keeping in mind indirect cost may go up.

8. Should I send out letter to stop work?

No. PO in coordination with GMO must assess each project to make determination, if recipient can continue to work from home or continue to work out in the field, if following their own state guidance i.e. 10 or less people together, keeping an safe distance among individuals, etc. First and foremost is to keep everyone safe.