

**NCCIH Director's Message****Office copy**

1 message

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Dear NCCIH Grantees, (Business Office copy)

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted your ability to conduct your research. We understand that you may need additional flexibility and resources to support your currently funded research project.

We understand that for many of you this will mean you need additional flexibilities and resources over time in order to achieve success. We also understand that a one-size-fits-all approach towards providing you with these resources will not be the answer. In cooperation with our colleagues across NIH, we are developing a suite of COVID-19 related administrative supplement approaches that we hope will address your unique research challenges. These approaches will be announced (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural-disasters/coronavirus.htm>, please check this website often for updates). While others are still in development, these initial approaches will best help you account for the effects of your currently funded research project will depend upon your specific situation. Over the next several months, NCCIH staff, including our program directors and clinical and regulatory officials, will be available to discuss your challenges and help you determine the approach that will work best for you.

We have already received a number of inquiries regarding administrative supplements, one of the tools that we have to address short-term resource needs. While we will be considering administrative supplements when absolutely necessary, it is clear that normal funding cycle announcements in the next 2-3 months may be premature. We therefore encourage you to hold off on submitting COVID-19-related administrative supplement requests until the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your research is clear, you have had a chance to discuss the various options with the relevant NCCIH staff, and it is determined that an administrative supplement is the best option for your project.

There are two possible exceptions to this guidance:

- supplements to existing grants that will allow investigators to immediately address questions of direct relevance to the COVID-19 pandemic
- supplements to existing projects that are needed to address immediate, mission critical needs over the next 3 months.

Investigators who believe they meet these exceptions should raise these issues with their program directors prior to submitting their requests. Unless otherwise specified, all administrative supplement requests must be submitted by May 1, 2020. Finally, for those grants that will end in the next few months, investigators should work with their institutions to process an no-cost extension if needed, and NCCIH will evaluate requests for financial flexibilities and/or resources during the extension period.

The whole NCCIH team hopes that you are safe and healthy, and we look forward to working with you to ensure continued progress toward achieving our shared goal of fighting COVID-19.

