



NORTH CAROLINA A&T STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2025 ALERT

To Tenure-Track and Research Faculty
From Dr. Melissa Hodge-Penn, Interim Vice Chancellor of Research
Date January 28, 2025
Re Executive Orders, OMB Memorandum

Multiple executive orders from the White House distributed over the past week and a new memorandum from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) have implications for North Carolina A&T research and sponsored programs. While we are working to understand fully what these communications mean for our university, this memo shares facts and interpretation regarding what we know now.

The Department of Health and Human Services issued an internal [memo](#) on January 21 that places an immediate pause on the issuance of documents and public communications from the NIH, CDC, and FDA, including regulations, guidance, notices and grant announcements, through February 1. The NCA&T Division of Research (DOR) is aware of this, monitoring the situation and assessing potential impacts.

While this directive affects the federal health agencies within DHHS only, other federal agencies may be pausing their own public communications. On January 20, the U.S. Department of Energy issued its own internal [memo](#) stating that, until further notice, it will review all communications and there will be delays in funding actions. We are monitoring other agencies (e.g., National Science Foundation, Department of Defense, NASA) for any similar actions.

[Yesterday's memorandum](#) from OMB places a “*temporary pause [on] all activities related to obligation or disbursement of all Federal financial assistance, and other relevant agency activities that may be implicated by the executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal.*” **The pause is effective as of 5 p.m. today.** Agencies have been further instructed to cancel any awards deemed to be in conflict with Trump administration priorities, and to conduct a full analysis of programs to identify any programs that may be in conflict with recent executive orders.

In light of all the above, North Carolina A&T faculty and staff working on federally funded research projects and sponsored programs should abide by the following direction:

- Please continue operating as usual, following grant, proposal or funding deadlines and instructions as they are currently posted until further information is updated.
- If you have specific questions regarding administration of any federally funded projects or programs, please contact the Division of Research at 334-7995. A complete directory of division staff is located at the bottom of this page, <https://www.ncat.edu/research/contact-visit.php>, to help you route your question to the correct staff member in DOR's five offices.
- Monitor communications from DOR and the university more broadly for additional guidance as we receive further information from federal agencies, OMB and the White House. We are monitoring these dynamics closely and will be as transparent as possible to keep colleges, departments, faculty and administrators informed to the best of our abilities as this situation continues to evolve.

I appreciate the uncertainty that this creates for many of us across campus and with research partners around North Carolina and the nation. DOR and university leadership will work with our principal investigators, center directors, college deans, department chairs and faculty to resolve any questions you may have and support your needs as we work through the changes.

We do not know yet how long the temporary pause will last, whether further directives may follow the pause or whether any action is required by grantees. What we do know is that North Carolina A&T faculty and students are tackling important questions and performing research with significant implications for our community, our state and the nation. Our commitments to that work and to continuing to grow our research activities and technology transfer efforts will not change.

We thank you for your participation in that work. Together, we will persevere through the current circumstances and continue to advance our strategic goals of creating partnerships and solutions that advance the human condition, developing innovators and engaged global thought leaders and serving as a global model for research, teaching, learning, outreach and innovation responsive to universal needs.