

NIFA – No Cost Extension

Expanded Authority – NIFA can grant a one-time extension of time, for up to 12 months, to complete an award. No-cost extensions are typically granted when additional work remains to be completed, and the recipient organization still has resources remaining to complete the work. However, the mere fact that funds remain at the end of the initial project period is not sufficient support for a No-Cost Extension.

If NIFA does not permit an extension of an award, the project will end on the original date identified in the Notice of Award. Refusing to extend a project period does not terminate an award. A single extension will not usually be for more than 12 months, and only exceptional circumstances will support deviation from this policy. NIFA will not approve any extension request if the primary purpose of the proposed extension is to permit the use of unobligated balances of funds, the terms and conditions of the award prohibit an extension, the extension would require additional Federal funds, or the extension would require changes in the approved objectives or scope. All terms and conditions of the initial award apply during the extended period. The recipient initiates the no-cost extension of time by notifying NIFA in writing with support and a revised expiration date at least 10 days before the original expiration date.

Check the applicable terms and conditions to determine if the prior approval requirement for a one-time no-cost extension is waived. Recipients must notify NIFA that they are exercising their authority to extend without funds the completion date of an award. Notifications must be submitted as a .pdf attachment to an email sent to awards@nifa.usda.gov with an **Authorized Signature from OPAM.**

Requests can be sent via email to opam@umass.edu at least 30 days prior to the current grant end date and must provide a specific new end date and a justification for the extension.

NCE pass through to Subcontractors

The way we handle the subcontracts during a NCE period. If our PI wants any subs under the award also extended, he/she should notify the OPAM administrator handling the award, and once we have set up the NCE for the UMass award, OPAM will issue an Amendment extending the period of performance for the subs. Any remaining balance the sub has can be used during the NCE period.