

**U.S. Department of Education
Office of Postsecondary Education
Higher Education Programs**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
For Non-CARES Act Competitive Grant Programs Administered by the
Office of Postsecondary Education
In Response to COVID-19**

This fact sheet responds to frequently asked questions received from grantees for competitive grant programs authorized by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and administered by the U.S. Department of Education

The Department strongly encourages projects to consider innovative ways in which to continue to provide services, to the extent possible and consistent with the allowable uses of funds under the specific grant program. If projects can conduct virtual activities, similar to those that would normally be provided, please do so. Consistent with your program's requirements for tracking in- e7.820(a)45(on ()-1BDC 1 1

Yes, in many cases it is permissible. Funds may be reallocated from line items of the approved budget to cover the cost of electronic devices if allowable under the program statute and regulations, but grantees must

- iii. In identifying a revised expiration date, the grantee must identify the actual time (months) needed to complete the work.

Non-Competing Continuation Award (NCC)

- 10.** Will the Department issue non-competing continuation awards (NCC awards) to grantees whose project activities were interrupted by COVID-19 campus closures or other disruptions of instruction?

The Department anticipates making NCC awards, including for grants that would otherwise expire, for budget period 2020-2021. In order to award an NCC award, program staff will review data from a grantee's annual performance report (APR), which understandably may reflect necessary program interruptions, and the program staff may request additional follow-up information. This follow-up information may include a brief statement from the grantee and any partner institutions/organizations confirming that the grantee is in a position to: (a) resume or restore its project activities once COVID-19 interruptions are resolved; and (b) accept a planned continuation award. As we continue to monitor the situation, we will inform you of any updates to the issuance of NCC awards.

even to provide partial or full student scholarships

Projects that

that are incurred in connection with such enrollment or attendance (see 20 USC § 1070a–25(e)(3)).

16. Can TRIO projects provide meals to students?

As a result of COVID-19 related disruptions and consistent with the CARES Act, the Department may permit projects funded under TRIO programs to provide meals to participants in the grants program, including students engaged in project activities provided through distance learning or other virtual means. In the event that meals are to be provided to students who are not physically in attendance for TRIO activities, the

19. Can GAANN fellows