Even though the shutdown has ended for now, its lingering costs to research are still being felt. Federal research agencies will take time to get back up to speed, halting university projects for weeks or even months to come.

Funding Instability Hurts Scientific Research

At least $1.3 BILLION* in funding for fundamental science research and projects was on hold because of the government shutdown.

- NASA delayed applications for new science research proposals
- NIST grant officers could not communicate with researchers or universities
- NOAA planning for next year’s hurricane season was put on hold
- NSF halted projects and research, canceling 80+ grant review panels
- USDA could not analyze current crop data for farmers

*Based off FY18 estimates for January

To learn more about the real cost to science, visit sciencecoalition.org
End of U.S. Shutdown Won’t Mean Return to Business as Usual for Research Agencies
January 25, 2019 – “The agencies that conduct or fund research that have been mostly closed since 22 December 2018 include NASA, the National Science Foundation (NSF), the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology...Once their doors are open, however, there will be a staggering amount of work waiting to be done.”

Science

Universities Caught in the Middle

Bloomberg

Shutdown Damage Will Persist Long After U.S. Government Reopens
January 28, 2019 – “The government may be reopening, but the consequences of the longest federal shutdown in U.S. history are likely to linger for national parks, forests, the federal workforce and cutting-edge scientific research. Some may even be permanent...The shutdown forced a weeks-long closure of the National Science Foundation, a hub for research grants. The NSF canceled more than 80 review panels, in which specialized scientists grade applications and decide what research grants to fund, covering everything from molecular biology to cyber infrastructure. Because the upcoming calendar is jam-packed, rescheduling the sessions and clearing the mounting backlog could take months...”

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TwinCities BUSINESS

The University of Minnesota is Losing More Than $500K Every Day During Government Shutdown
January 21, 2019 – “The expenses derive from the nearly 1,300 awards that University of Minnesota researchers rely on for projects. These awards come from different agencies, including the National Science Foundation, NASA, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and more.”

Daily Camera

Concern Over Shutdown Mounting at CU Boulder, Where Majority of Research Funding Comes from Federal Government
January 18, 2019 – “Last year CU received about $369 million, or 72 percent, of its research funding from the federal government, according to the university...Graduate students working in joint programs with federal labs are among those affected, as well as CU researchers who are funded through federal grants.”

Web Exclusive: Government Shutdown Disrupting University Research
January 17, 2019 – “The university receives 50-60% of its research funding from the federal government. Rulli [Associate Vice President for Research at Notre Dame] says that 30% of all research funding is impacted by the shutdown, specifically from agencies including the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.”