

NIH has extended the expiration date of NIH issued CoCs for non-NIH funded projects that are current on April 15, 2020 by twelve months.

Research studies that are funded by NIH are automatically deemed issued a Certificate under the NIH Policy on Certificates of Confidentiality. The CoC automatically extends as long as the NIH funding continues, including any no-cost extensions.

The NIH is deeply concerned for the health and safety of people involved in research, and about the effects on the biomedical enterprise in response to the HHS declared [public health emergency for COVID-19](#). Disruptions to research projects across the country are anticipated, and NIH understands that many projects will not be completed by the expiration dates provided on current CoCs. Under normal circumstances institutions with CoCs for non-NIH funded studies are required to apply for a new CoC upon the expiration of the current one in order to extend the CoC protection past the stated expiration date. To decrease the burden for this research community, NIH is automatically extending the expiration dates for NIH issued CoCs that were current (i.e., not expired) as of April 15, 2020. NIH therefore deems all CoCs current (i.e., not expired) on April 15, 2020 for non-NIH funded studies to have a 12-month extension of their expiration date. Emails have been sent to current non-NIH funded CoC recipients with a notification of the extension and a CoC Certificate with an updated expiration date. Non-NIH funded CoC recipients should retain a copy of the notice and the accompanying CoC with their administrative research records. Investigators should also forward a copy of the email notice and the accompanying CoC to their Institutional Official.

Investigators/institutions that have a current (i.e. not expired) CoC but did not receive a notification of extension and new Certificate, and would like to have one for their records, should contact NIH-CoC-Coordinator@mail.nih.gov. If NIH can verify the CoC was current as of April 15, 2020 an updated CoC will be emailed to them. If a current (i.e., not expired) certificate cannot be verified, the investigator/institution will need to apply for a new CoC.

CoC recipients are reminded that they are expected to abide by applicable laws and regulations, including [the Certificate protections and disclosure requirements in 42 U.S.C. § 241\(d\)](#), as their responsibilities under the Certificate are also extended to data collected up to the new expiration date.

CoC recipients for NIH funded projects will not need an extension of expiration date, as protection under the CoC is automatically extended for the duration of NIH funding. Physical certificates are not generated for NIH funded projects.

Please contact the NIH-CoC-Coordinator@mail.nih.gov if you have any questions related to your CoC or this announcement.