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Subject: Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Guidance for PIs
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Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) Guidance for PIs

Colleagues,

On Friday, January 31, 2025, a Federal Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) directing Federal grant-making agencies to "...not pause, freeze, impede, block, cancel, or terminate... awards and obligations on the basis of the President's recently issued Executive Orders." We are starting to see communications from agencies related to the TRO.

Based on this TRO, you (and any subrecipients) can proceed with your work on all federal grants and cooperative agreements awarded directly to UW. OSP has already notified subrecipients that were issued pause notifications that they can resume work. For federal contracts and pass-through funding, we need formal notification to resume work. More details on steps to take if you receive a reversal notice are included in a [separate notice sent to SAGE users and research administrators](#).

We are aware that some Principal Investigators are having conversations with their program managers about restrictions on specific grant and contract activities associated with the EOs. If you have such a conversation, please document it.

Note that this order is temporary -- litigation in the case is ongoing. Changes can be implemented at any time. Updates will be provided as impacts are known. We are actively tracking developments related to federal research funding and are regularly updating the Office of Research web page providing [Guidance on New Administration Policy for Federal Research](#). In addition, OSP and GCA are working with research administrators through the tri-campus MRAM group in efforts to keep people informed. Please maintain good communication lines with your research administration staff.

We appreciate the good work that you are doing in your research.

Mari Ostendorf
Vice Provost for Research

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