

SURVEY: COVID-19 IMPACTS ON FEDERAL LAB ECOSYSTEM

March 31, 2020



Overview of survey results asking the federally funded research lab ecosystem in Colorado about the impacts of COVID-19 outbreak

We asked the network of federally funded scientific research labs and research organizations in the Colorado what issues they were facing borne of the impacts of COVID-19. This overview and additional survey results will be shared with elected and civic leaders by CO-LABS to assist with policy and support efforts at the federal level.

Survey revealed these key concerns:

- Crucial, time-sensitive projects hobbled; mission-critical directives halted
- Cleaning, sanitizing, janitorial services
- Limited, uncertain site and/or property access
- Childcare challenges for employees
- Cancellation charges on cancelled events
- Current and short-term threats to revenue
- Needing FTE, temp & contract help
- Internship programs hobbled
- Supplier disruptions for crucial technology

Sample comments:

- “Many are home with children and trying to manage full-time work, this is extremely challenging and means many are working at all hours of day and night to catch up. Also, no laboratory work is getting accomplished.”
- “There is a bit of confusion now on who can access mission-critical equipment, and when, and how to do this safely without increasing the risk of exposure.”
- “Key supplier, in this case, in New York, shutdown while preparing a shipment of critical subsystems to us.”
- “I’m concerned about internet bandwidth for conference calls and the like. Suddenly all these people are now telecommuting, having Google hangouts and my internet freezes up occasionally. Not bad yet but it may be a problem if this keeps up for a long time.”
- “Our team would normally spend much of our time engaged in face-to-face public outreach activities. These events have all been canceled for the next 3-6 months.”

Suggestions:

- “We are seeking limited dispensation from the two Stay-at-Home orders for our organization as we are deemed essential and critical.”
- “We need relief on contracts that may not have a force majeure clause.”
- “The [government] needs to provide cover for parents at home with children who are barred from school and cannot work a 40-hr week because of that. Right now, parents have to take family or annual leave.”

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About CO-LABS:

It is our mission to nurture Colorado's federal research laboratory ecosystem to be a world-class scientific discovery and innovation asset to the country. We envision Colorado as the epicenter of scientific discoveries that have profound impacts on the path of humanity.

Since World War II, our country's national security and global leadership in technology has relied on fundamental scientific research and discoveries in taxpayer-funded research labs.

At CO-LABS we believe it is crucial to support scientific research in Colorado - and that discoveries in federal research labs here are making the world smarter, safer, more resilient and capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st Century.

For the United States, being the source of our own brilliance is crucial in the face of global challenges ranging from public health to energy to cybersecurity to food production (*and space exploration, climate change/extreme weather, robotics, augmented reality, quantum computing, and much more...*)

We ensure technologists, economic development experts, scientific thought leaders and elected officials can leverage the resources, discoveries and cutting-edge technologies available in Colorado's federal research labs.

Through events, economic analyses, strategic communications and networking activities we work to:

- PROMOTE Colorado as a global leader in research and technology
- EDUCATE the public about the labs' impact and importance of sustained funding for research
- CONNECT the labs, universities and businesses to facilitate partnerships and technology transfer

See more info at www.co-labs.org.

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