

## CUFO Vendor Town Hall: Resources During COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

To view a recording of the webinar and presentation, please visit:  
<https://cufo.columbia.edu/content/cufo-vendor-town-hall-resources-during-covid-19>

Please note that this webinar was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, @ 3:00pm  
All responses are consistent with guidance and facts in place at that time. In this rapidly changing environment, some of this information may already be outdated. Please check-in with your Columbia University contact and the websites provided for the most recent state and federal guidelines.

### Small Business Development Centers (SBDC):

For the latest updates regarding SBA loans and grants please visit the following websites:

- Small Business Administration (SBA): <https://www.sba.gov/page/coronavirus-covid-19-small-business-guidance-loan-resources>
- Please visit this link to request an appointment with the Columbia-Harlem SBDC: <https://www8.gsb.columbia.edu/sbdc/counseling/make-appointment>
- All New York State SBDC's: <http://nyssbdc.org/locations.html>

### Facilities and Operations:

1. How can I obtain a recording of the CUFO Vendor Town Hall?  
Please visit the Columbia University Vendor website page: <https://cufo.columbia.edu/content/cufo-vendor-town-hall-resources-during-covid-19>
2. When will CUFO reopen and continue construction project opportunities?  
Columbia University remains open and operational but with a very limited staff on campus. The Facilities and Operation department is still fully functioning, with many of our officers working remotely. We are following the executive order of Governor Andrew Cuomo to suspend nonessential construction work until May 15, 2020, however that is dependent on all future directives from the governor's office.
3. Have any of Columbia University's construction projects been deemed essential?  
A few select construction projects that are deemed essential in accordance with [New York State guidance on the updated Executive Order 202.6](#) have resumed or will be resuming in the coming weeks. All active projects have been filed and approved by the NYC Department of Buildings as

essential construction projects. The Business School at the Manhattanville campus is among the essential projects that have resumed.

- 4. Will contractors be penalized for unfinished projects due to COVID-19?**  
No, contractors will not be penalized; however, we urge you to communicate with your project manager on the status of the work. Jobsite inspections are being conducted by site safety inspectors and you will be reached should an inspector find something that needs to be addressed.
- 5. If a vendor was awarded a project and due to COVID-19 their business is no longer operational, how will Columbia transition that opportunity to another firm?**  
If a vendor ceases to do business after being awarded a project, the University has the right to either re-bid the opportunity or review the original submission and elect to award to the next lowest bidder.
- 6. If a project has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19, can a vendor receive partial payment?**  
If your project has been suspended, it is important that you continue to maintain communication with your designated project manager to receive updates on the status of the project. Your project manager will advise you on how to obtain payment for work that has been completed.

### **Central Purchasing:**

- 1. How can I find out more information about projects I was working on or recently completed? Can those payments be expedited?**  
We recommend that firms direct all communication about pending invoices and payments to their designated project managers. Firms are also welcomed to contact the appropriate accounts payable department for the campus they were performing work on. For information on the appropriate contact, please visit: <https://cufo.columbia.edu/content/vendor-contacts>