

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Office of the Administrator**  
Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



February 7, 2023

General Lester L. Lyles (USAF, Ret.)  
Chair, NASA Advisory Council  
NASA Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546

Dear General Lyles:

Enclosed is NASA's response to the NASA Advisory Council (NAC) Recommendation 2022-01-03: Request for Information (RFI) on Grant Augmentations to Mitigate Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic. This recommendation was publicly deliberated during the NAC virtual meeting held on March 1-2, 2022.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you or the Council would like additional background on NASA's response.

I look forward to receiving continued advice from the next NAC meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Nelson".

Enclosure

## NASA Advisory Council Recommendation

### Request for Information (RFI) on Grant Augmentations to Mitigate Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic 2022-01-03

<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Science Committee
<b>Chair of Committee:</b>	Dr. Meenakshi Wadhwa
<b>Date of Council Public Deliberation:</b>	March 1, 2022
<b>Short Title of Recommendation:</b>	Request for Information (RFI) on Grant Augmentations to Mitigate Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

#### **Recommendation:**

The Council appreciates NASA's recently implemented strategy to assist the most vulnerable members of the science community (graduate students, postdoctoral, and early career researchers who are supported via grant funds) through the RFI on grant augmentations required to support such personnel. Given that the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are continuing, the Council recommends that the NASA Science Mission Directorate consider issuing another such RFI in the near term.

#### **Major Reasons for the Recommendation:**

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are still ongoing, and are presumably still being felt by graduate students, postdoctoral, and early career researchers.

#### **Consequences of No Action on the Recommendation:**

Lack of adequate support during this critical time for these vulnerable members of the NASA science community could result in a permanent loss of this talent from the community. This could in turn have far reaching impacts on the future NASA workforce.

#### **NASA Response:**

NASA concurs with the recommendation that the Science Mission Directorate consider issuing a second RFI on grant augmentations required to assist the most vulnerable members of the science community (graduate students, postdoctoral, and early career researchers who are supported via grant funds) in the near term.