Research Development & Grant Writing Newsletter

Issue for July 15, 2024

Our Co-Publisher & Editors

Mike Cronan

Mike Cronan, PE, has 23 years of experience developing and writing successful team proposals at Texas A&M University. He was named a Texas A&M University System Regents Fellow (2001-2010) for developing and writing A&M System-wide grants funded at over $100 million by NSF and other funding agencies. He developed and directed two research development and grant writing offices, one for Texas A&M's VPR and the other for the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (15 research divisions state-wide), including the Texas A&M College of Engineering.

Lucy Deckard

Lucy Deckard (BS/MS Materials) worked in research development and grant writing at Texas A&M University and across the A&M System for nine years. She directed A&M's New Faculty Research Initiative (2004-09), helping junior faculty System-wide jumpstart their research careers with federal agency funding. She served as associate director of two research development and grant writing offices. She founded ARFS in 2010.

Katherine E. Kelly

Katherine E. Kelly, Ph.D., a retired English professor from Texas A&M University, is the author of several books and numerous articles supported by research grants and served as a contributing editor for an academic journal for five years. She provides ARFS clients editorial services on proposals, journal articles, and manuscripts and presents seminars on grant writing and funding in the humanities.

About Us

Research Development & Grant Writing News © has been published monthly since 2010 for faculty and research professionals by Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC

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Humanities Editor

Katherine E. Kelly

Newsletter Design

Emily Creasy, head of ELC Design, is our graphics partner. In addition to redesigning our newsletter, she provides graphics services on proposals, presentations, books and papers. **Subscribe Online**

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To subscribe for 2024-2025 (July 15-June 15) GO HERE.

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now available on Amazon Books

Father Marquette's Trail of Bones

a mystery novel by Mike Cronan, now available on Amazon Books

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Topics of Interest URLs

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User Note: URL links are active on date of publication, but if a URL link breaks or changes a Google search on the key words or titles, as below, will typically take you to a working link.

- Women and Justice
- The search for the random numbers that run our lives
- Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator (Must read for PBS Mystery Fans!)
- Federal Science Budget Tracker
- Agenda for NIJ's 2024 Research Conference

National Science Foundation & Related

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- SBIR/STTR Phase IIB Supplemental Funding Requests
- Advanced Computing Systems & Services: Adapting to the Rapid Evolution of Science and Engineering Research 2.0
- Advanced Technological Education (ATE)
- Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing in Practice
- NSF National Quantum Virtual Laboratory - Quantum Testbeds (NQVL) | NSF 24-586
- Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)
- NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP) | NSF 24-588
- Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Indicators, Statistics

NIH Health Sciences & Related

- Changes Coming to NIH Applications and Peer Review in January 2025
- Simplified Review Framework for Most Research Project Grants (RPGs)
- Applications Are Now Open for the 2024-2025 NIH Climate and Health Scholars Program
- Now accepting applications for 2024-2025!
- NIH Climate Change and Health Initiative 2023 Annual Report
- Continued Support for Early Stage Investigators in FY 2023
- NIH Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats Basic Research on Chemical Threats

USDA/NIFA & Related

- NIFA Grants Process

- Technical Assistance Webinar AFRI AHPAP FY 2024
- **August 5:** Mentoring At Risk and Rural Youth
- **August 6:** 1890 Institution Teaching, Research and Extension Capacity Building Grants Program
- **August 13:** National Needs Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship Grants Program
- **July 17, 11 a.m. EDT:** Technical Assistance Webinar: AFRI Plant Health and Production and Plant Products -- Plant Production
- **July 17, 5 p.m. EDT:** Technical Assistance: Mentoring At Risk & Rural Youth (MARRY) RFA
- **July 25, 10:30 a.m. EDT:** Technical Assistance Webinar: Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities (AERC) 2024 RFA
- **July 25, 1 p.m. EDT:** Technical Assistance Webinar: AFRI-EWD Agricultural Workforce Training at Community Colleges RFA
- **July 25, 3 p.m. EDT:** Technical Assistance Webinar: AFRI Food Safety, Nutrition & Health
- **August 5, 4 p.m. EDT:** Technical Assistance Webinar: Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities (AERC) 2024 RFA | NIFA (usda.gov)

National Academies and Other Scientific Associations

- These crows may count in a way similar to human toddlers
- 2024 Climate Crossroads Summit

Miscellaneous Federal Agency and Foundation News & Funding

- Fiscal Year 2024 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program
- DOE and EPA Announce $850 Million to Reduce Methane Pollution from Oil and Gas
- National Priorities: Occurrence and Implications of De Facto Water Reuse on Drinking Water Supplies Funding Opportunity, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Federal Agency Research Funding Links

- AFRL: https://www.afrl.af.mil/AFOSR/
- ARL: https://www.arl.army.mil/
- CDMRP: https://cdmrp.health.mil/
- DARPA: https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities
- IARPA: https://www.iarpa.gov/
- ONR: https://www.onr.navy.mil/en/work-with-us/funding-opportunities
- DHS: https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/find-and-apply-grants
- DOJ: https://www.justice.gov/grants
- NASA: https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/
- NEH: https://www.neh.gov/
- NEA: https://www.arts.gov/
- NIH: https://grants.nih.gov/funding/index.htm
- HHS: http://www.hhs.gov/asrt/og/aboutog/grantsnet.html
- NSF: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/index.jsp
- DOC: https://www.commerce.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-contract-opportunities

- NIST: https://www.nist.gov/oaam/grants-management-division/nist-nofo-information
- NOAA: https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants
- DoED: https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html?src=go
- DOE/OS: https://www.energy.gov/science/office-science-funding/office-science-funding-opportunities
- EERE: https://www.energy.gov/eere/funding/eere-funding
- DOE: https://www.energy.gov/energy-economy/funding-financing
- USDA: https://www.nal.usda.gov/waic/funding
- NIFA: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants
- EPA: https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/research-funding-opportunities
- NCER: http://epa.gov/ncer/listserv/
- FBO/BETA SAM: https://fbohome.sam.gov/
- Federal Register: https://www.federalregister.gov/
- Grants.gov: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html
- CFDA: https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/catalog-of-federal-domestic-assistance-cfda.asp
- ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Announcements

July 2024 Select List of Humanities, HSS, and Arts Opportunities & News

by Katherine E. Kelly, PhD, Humanities Editor

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Check with organizations' websites for most current information

Due Date	Opportunity
September (TBA) ACLS Fellowships (individuals).	ACLS invites research proposals from scholars in all disciplines of the humanities and interpretive social sciences. ACLS will continue in the 2023-24 competition year to offer these fellowships **solely to untenured scholars who have earned the PhD within eight years of the application deadline. ACLS welcomes applications from scholars without faculty appointments and scholars off the tenure track.** ACLS invites applications from scholars pursuing research on topics grounded in any time period, world region, or humanistic methodology. https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-fellowships/
7/11/2024 & 7/23/2024 Parts 1 & 2 (organizations).	**National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grants for Arts Projects** is the Arts Endowment's principal grant program. Through project-based funding, the program supports public engagement with various forms of art across the nation, art creation, arts learning at all stages of life, and the integration of the arts into community life. Who may apply? Non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3), U.S. organizations; Units of state or local government; or Federally recognized tribal communities or tribes. **A minimum cost share/match equal to the grant amount requested is required for the application.** **Part 1**: Submit to Grants.gov the "Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form." This brief form will collect basic information about your organization. https://www.arts.gov/grants/grants-for-arts-projects Questions about applying to the Folk & Traditional Arts discipline after reading the website description? Contact Jennie Terman at termanj@arts.gov. **Part 2 (7/23/2024)** Complete the "Grant Application Form (GAF)" and upload items through the NEA's Applicant Portal. This web form is where you will enter the majority of your application material. See links listed above.
7/25/2024 (Optional Draft due date; final draft due 9/5/2024) NEH	Humanities Connections projects should apply to plan **or** implement a **curriculum** connecting the humanities to one or more non-humanities fields, including but not limited to the physical and natural sciences; pre-service or professional programs, including law and business; or computer science, data science, and other technology-driven fields. Projects must incorporate the approaches and learning activities of both the humanities and the non-

Humanities Connections (organizations).	humanities disciplines involved and must include faculty outside the humanities. For more information, including a webinar on applying for this program, go to: https://www.neh.gov/grants/education/humanities-connections
8/1/2024 & 8/15/2024 NEA "Our Town" Parts 1 & 2 (organizations).	This is the NEA's creative placemaking grants program. Through project-based funding, the program supports activities that **integrate arts, culture, and design into local efforts that strengthen communities over the long term.** Our Town projects engage a range of local stakeholders in efforts to advance local economic, physical, and/or social outcomes in communities. Competitive projects are responsive to unique local conditions, develop meaningful and substantive engagement in communities, center equity, advance artful lives, and lay the groundwork for long-term systems change. **Part 1**: Submit to Grants.gov the "Application for Federal Domestic Assistance/Short Organization Form." This is a brief form that will collect basic information about your organization. **Part 2 (8/15/2024)** Complete the Grant Application Form (GAF). The GAF will collect answers to narrative questions about your organization and project, budget information about your organization and project, information about key individuals and partners, and work samples/other supplementary materials. https://www.arts.gov/grants/our-town For questions after reading the website, contact OT@arts.gov for assistance.
8/6/2024 NEH (date change from June issue) Graduate Education in the Humanities: A National Convening (organizations)	will support the design, development, and implementation of a national convening on the state of, and prospects for, higher education in the humanities. Under the direction of a steering committee and related working groups, the national convening will provide participants the opportunity to explore current challenges and share best practices; offer guidance for graduate programs, departments, and other interested stakeholders; and help develop a strategic vision for graduate education in the humanities. In addition, the recipient will publish and disseminate a report based on the findings of the steering committee, working groups, and national convening. **The cooperative agreement will be awarded with federal matching funds. The recipient will be required to match the NEH financial contribution by raising an equivalent amount from third-party, non-federal sources.** https://www.neh.gov/program/graduate-education-humanities-national-convening
9/5/2024 (anticipated) NEH Humanities Connections (organizations)	This program seeks to expand the role of the humanities in undergraduate education at two- and four-year institutions by encouraging partnerships between humanities faculty and their counterparts in other areas of study. Competitive proposals will explain how the proposed project expands the role of the humanities in the undergraduate curriculum at the applicant institution(s) through (a) a substantive and purposeful integration of the subject matter, approaches, and learning activities of two or more disciplines (with a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities); (b)

	collaboration between faculty from two or more departments or schools (with a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities); and (c) a curricular structure that your institution could sustain over the long term, including interdisciplinary minors or certificates; curricular pathways such as concentrations within majors or general education programs; and other models appropriate to the institution. This program includes two funding levels: Planning and Implementation. https://www.neh.gov/grants/education/humanities-connections
9/6/2024 **National Institute for Health (NIH).**	This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) solicits applications for new Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (BSSR) predoctoral training programs that focus on innovative computational and/or data science analytic approaches and their incorporation into training for the future BSSR health research workforce. The vision of the Advanced Data Analytics for BSSR training program is to support the development of a cohort of specialized predoctoral candidates who will possess advanced competencies in data science analytics to apply to an increasingly complex landscape of behavioral and social health-related big data. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not allow appointed Trainees to lead an independent clinical trial but does allow them to obtain research experience in a clinical trial led by a mentor or co-mentor. https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-24-012.html
9/7/2024 NIH Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery (R01 Clinical Trial Required).	This funding opportunity announcement (FOA) invites research projects that seek to explain the underlying mechanisms, processes, and trajectories of social relationships and how these factors affect outcomes in human health, illness, recovery, and overall wellbeing. Types of projects submitted under this FOA include mechanistic studies that are classified as clinical trials. Mechanistic studies are defined as studies with the objective to understand the mechanism(s) of action of an intervention, a biological or behavioral process, or the pathophysiology of a disease/condition. Types of studies that should submit under this FOA include clinical trials that assess biomedical or behavioral outcomes in humans for the purpose of understanding the fundamental aspects of phenomena without specific application towards processes or products in mind. Researchers proposing basic science experimental studies involving human participants should consider this FOAs companion for basic experimental studies with humans, TEMP-14931, Research on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery (R01 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required). Applications proposing studies that include, but are not limited to, model animal research or observational studies involving humans should submit under the companion FOA, TEMP-14934, "Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed). http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-352.html

9/9/2024 **NSF The Science of Science: Discovery, Communication and Impact (SoS:DCI) program**	is designed to advance theory and knowledge about increasing the public value of scientific activity. Science of Science draws from multiple disciplinary and field perspectives to advance theory and research about scientific discovery, communication and impact. SoS:DCI welcomes proposals applying rigorous empirical research methods to advance theory and knowledge on: the social and structural mechanisms of scientific discovery; theories, frameworks, models and data that improve our understanding of scientific communication and outcomes; and the societal benefits of scientific activity and how science advances evidence-based policy making and the creation of public value. http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505730
9/9/2024 NSF & NIH A Science of Science Approach to Analyzing and Innovating the Biomedical Research Enterprise.	NSF promotes the progress of science by maintaining the general health of research and education across all fields of science and engineering. The Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate within NSF supports basic research on people and society. The SBE sciences focus on human behavior and social organizations; how social, economic, political, cultural and environmental forces affect the lives of people from birth to old age; and how people in turn shape those forces. This partnership will result in a portfolio of high-quality research to provide scientific analysis of important aspects of the biomedical research enterprise and efforts to foster a diverse, innovative, productive and efficient scientific workforce, from which future scientific leaders will emerge. Prospective investigators are strongly encouraged to discuss their proposals with the program officers before submission to determine project relevance to the priorities of both SBE and NIGMS. Specific questions pertaining to this solicitation can also be directed to the SBE and NIGMS program officers. https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/science-science-approach-analyzing-innovating/nsf23-569/solicitation
September 11, 2024.	**NEH Dynamic Language Infrastructure.** Offered in partnership with the National Science Foundation (NSF), this program supports individual scholars pursuing research on documentation and analysis of one or more endangered languages. DLI-DEL Fellowships provide recipients with time for fieldwork to record languages; digital archiving; transcription and annotation; linguistic and ethnographic analysis of findings; and preparation of print or digital research publications. Anticipated products may include, but are not limited to, lexicons, grammars, databases, peer-reviewed articles, and monographs. https://www.neh.gov/program/dli-del-fellowships. Fellowship support is available through a separate funding opportunity administered by NEH. https://www.neh.gov/program/graduate-education-humanities-national-convening
September 12, 2024.	**NEH Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities.** This program supports research that examines technology and its relationship to society through the lens of the humanities, with a focus on the dangers and/or opportunities presented by technology, broadly defined.

	NEH is particularly interested in projects that examine the role of technology in shaping current social and cultural issues. This grant program is one of ten NEH programs that are part of NEH's Humanities Perspectives on Artificial Intelligence initiative, which is encouraging research on the ethical, legal, and societal implications of AI. To learn more about the initiative, please see the NEH page about the AI initiative (see entry for Feb. 14, 2024 above). https://www.neh.gov/program/dangers-and-opportunities-technology-perspectives-humanities
9/16/2024 NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure - NEH Documenting Endangered Languages.	Senior research and conference proposal deadline. This funding partnership between NSF and NEH supports projects to develop and advance knowledge concerning dynamic language infrastructure in the context of endangered human languages – languages that are both understudied and at risk of falling out of use. This effort aims to exploit advances in human-language technology to build computational infrastructure for endangered language research. The program supports projects that contribute to data management and archiving, and to the development of the next generation of researchers. Funding can support fieldwork and other activities relevant to the digital recording, documentation and analysis, and archiving of endangered language data, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases. https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/documenting-endangered-languages
9/16/2024 (anticipated) NEH & NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure: Documenting Endangered Languages Senior Research Grants (organizations)	This joint, multi-year funding program with intends to advance scientific and scholarly knowledge about endangered human languages. Both agencies consider addressing the loss of linguistic and cultural knowledge to be a priority. For more information, go to https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-dynamic-language-infrastructure-neh or contact the Division of Preservation and Access Team at (202) 606-8570 or preservation@neh.gov.
9/17/2024 NEH Dialogues on the Experience of War (organizations)	program supports the study and discussion of important humanities sources about war and military service, in the belief that these sources can help U.S. military veterans and others think deeply and in dialogue about the issues that they raise. Dialogues discussion groups may include exclusively veterans (including a subset of veterans such as students or residents of a group facility); nonveteran students or members of the public; military-affiliated persons; or any mix of these groups. https://www.neh.gov/grants/education/dialogues-the-experience-war

9/18/2024 (anticipated) NEH Summer Stipends (individuals).	This program aims to stimulate new research in the humanities and its publications. The program works to accomplish this goal by: (a) Providing small awards to individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both; (b) supporting projects at any stage of development, but **especially early-stage research and late-stage writing in which small awards are most effective**; and (c) **f**unding a wide range of individuals, including independent scholars, community college faculty, and non-teaching staff at universities. https://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends
9/25/2024 ACLS Fellowships (individuals).	The fellowship is open to scholars at all postdoctoral career stages, working on or off the tenure track, who have earned a PhD in the humanities or interpretive social sciences by the application deadline. For established scholars without a PhD, please go to this link for further information about eligibility for this program. https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-fellowships
September 25, 2024	NEH Archaeological and Ethnographic Field Research. This program provides funding to conduct empirical research in the United States or abroad in order to answer questions of importance to the humanities. While the dissemination of results through publications and other media is the ultimate expectation of these awards, the program supports field costs such as travel, accommodation, field staff and equipment, and salary replacement for the project director and collaborating scholars. Archaeological methods may include field survey and field-based remote sensing, documentation or visualization, and/or excavations in support of answering research questions, including but not limited to ancient studies, anthropology, art history, classical studies, regional studies, epigraphy, and other related disciplines. Ethnographic methods may include participant observation, surveys and interviews, and documentation or recording in pursuit of questions in anthropology, sociology, ethnolinguistics, oral history, ethnomusicology, performance studies, folklore studies, and related disciplines. https://www.neh.gov/program/archaeological-and-ethnographic-field-research
October 1, 2024	**NEH Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education.** This program supports the exploration and development of small projects that would benefit underserved populations through the teaching and study of the humanities at small and medium-sized colleges and universities. NEH invites applications from two- and four-year institutions of higher education, as well as from nonprofit organizations and state, local, or Native American Tribal governments aiming to advance the humanities at these institutions. The program supports activities including but not limited to curricular or program development, expert consultations, speakers' series, student research, creation of teaching resources, and community engagement. Projects may benefit students, faculty, the institution or organization, and/or the community. The Spotlight program features a simplified application. You

	may request support at one of two levels: Exploration or Development. For more Information: https://www.neh.gov/program/spotlight-humanities-higher-education
10/30/2024 ACLS multiple awards (individuals) (1) Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in American Art; (2) Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships; (3) Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE).	(1) **Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in American Art** supports graduate students pursuing research on U.S. history of art and visual culture. Applicants must ● be a doctoral student at a university in the United States in art history or a related field, such as Native American and Indigenous studies, ethnic studies, or African American studies. (Students preparing theses for the Master of Fine Arts degree are not eligible.) ● have a dissertation on a topic in the history of the US visual arts, including all facets of Native American art. Projects should be focused foremost on the art object and/or image and employ an art-historical or visual studies approach ● have completed all requirements for the PhD except the dissertation before beginning fellowship tenure, etc. Go to: https://www.acls.org/competitions/luce-acls-dissertation-fellowships-in-american-art/ (2) **Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship** supports early-stage doctoral students pursuing innovative approaches to dissertation research in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. Fellowships support graduate students who show promise of leading their fields in important new directions. The fellowships are designed to intervene at the formative stage of dissertation development**, before** research and writing are advanced. The program seeks to expand the range of research methodologies, formats, and areas of inquiry traditionally considered suitable for the dissertation, with a particular focus on supporting scholars who can build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable academy. https://www.acls.org/competitions/mellon-acls-dissertation-innovation-fellowship (3) Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe. The Summer Institute is a two-week residential workshop that provides scholars of Eastern Europe time and space to dedicate to their own research and writing in a collaborative and interdisciplinary setting. https://www.acls.org/competitions/summer-institute-east-central-southeastern-europe
11/6/2024 ACLS awards: (1) ACLS HBCU Faculty Fellowships (2) ACLS HBCU Faculty Grants. (Individuals)	The applicant's goal should be to substantially advance a research-grounded project during the term of the award. Possible project outcomes may include one or more of the following: monographs, scholarly articles, conference papers, book chapters, or book on a topic in the humanities or social sciences and/or teaching and learning in those disciplines; pedagogical tools that make meaningful connections between a scholar's research and teaching; creative works and community-engaged projects grounded in scholarly research but geared toward a public audience—among many other

	possibilities. Projects with pedagogical or curricular outcomes must focus on a postsecondary context. Community and/or student engagement with the research project is welcome, as is the dissemination of the research to audiences across higher education and beyond. https://www.acls.org/programs/acls-hbcu-faculty-fellowship-and-grants/
12/31/2024 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program - Foundational and Applied Science Program (organizations and individuals).	The AFRI Foundational and Applied Science Program supports grants in six AFRI priority areas to advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities. Research-only, extension-only, and integrated research, education and/or extension projects are solicited in this Request for Applications (RFA). See Foundational and Applied Science RFA for specific detail. https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/agriculture-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science
1/16/2025 NEA Translation award (individuals).	Through fellowships to **published translators**, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) supports projects for the translation of specific works of prose, poetry, or drama from other languages into English. The work to be translated should be of interest for its literary excellence and merit. We encourage translation projects that feature languages, perspectives, and writers that are not well represented in English, as well as work that has not previously been translated into English. The NEA is committed to diversity, equity, inclusion, and fostering mutual support for the diverse beliefs and values of all individuals and groups. https://www.arts.gov/grants/translation-project-fellowships
March 31, 2025	United States Military Academy Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) calling for basic research proposals. Eligible applicants under this BAA include institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, foreign organizations, foreign public entities, and for-profit organizations (i.e. large and small businesses) for scientific, technology, engineering, mathematics, education, policy development, ethics, culture, history, and economic analyses projects and proposals. Whitepapers and proposals will be evaluated only if they are for novel study and experimentation directed toward advancing the state of the art or increasing basic knowledge and understanding. Whitepapers and proposals focused on specific devices or components are beyond the scope of this BAA. There is no restriction on the place of performance for awards issued under this BAA. https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/325932

News & Notes

-- The **NEA's Folk Arts Partnerships** (organizations) is a strategic initiative providing dedicated funding through its Partnerships Agreements with all 56 state arts agencies, jurisdictional arts

agencies, and regional arts organizations. **The Folk Arts Partnership Professional Development Institute (PDI)** is a collaborative partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), and the American Folklore Society. The PDI supports the cohort of program managers and state folklorists directing these programs. How do you get in touch with your state's folklife program? Contact your state arts agency or regional arts organization to learn more.

-- **September 2024** (individuals). Every year since 1982, the **NEA** has presented a lifetime honor in recognition of individuals whose dedication and artistry contribute to the preservation and growth of the cultural traditions that comprise our nation. This year's recipients will be honored in Washington, DC in September with the assistance of festival producers, the National Council for the Traditional Arts, and fellow federal partners at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. https://www.arts.gov/news/press-releases/2024/national-endowment-arts-announces-2024-nea-national-heritage-fellows

NEH's Humanities Connections Projects: A Funding Opportunity for Curricular Innovation at Two- and Four-Year Colleges

Katherine Kelly, PhD
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Now in its fifth year, The Humanities Connections Program in NEH's Division of Education targets two- and four-year institutions seeking to expand the role of the humanities in undergraduate education by partnering humanities faculty and their peers in other areas of study. In this focused effort at encouraging interdisciplinary research, proposals should offer either a detailed conceptual plan or detailed blueprint for implementing a plan by connecting a humanities field to one or more non-humanities fields.

The non-humanities fields can include the physical and natural sciences; pre-service or professional programs, including law and business; or computer science, data science, and other technology-driven fields. NEH specifies that proposals must show that the approaches and learning activities of both the humanities and non-humanities disciplines are included in the curricular project. Faculty from both areas—humanities and non-humanities discipline(s)--must be included in the proposal. To view a pdf outlining in detail the elements of a planning or implementation proposal, see NEH's pdf: https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/Humanities%20Connections%202024.pdf

How will proposals be judged? Successful proposals will show

- how the proposed project expands the role of the humanities in your institution's curriculum
- how the proposed curriculum would integrate the subject, approaches, and learning activities of two or more disciplines (a minimum of one in and one outside of the humanities)
- how the faculty from each discipline will collaborate to plan, implement, or deliver the curriculum
- how the proposer's institution would sustain the new curriculum over the long term, such as through interdisciplinary minors or certificates, concentrations within majors or general education programs, or other models that apply to the proposer's institution. In other words, the pairing of two or more disciplines must be thoroughly imagined and planned in detail following NEH's guidelines.

Successful examples of how this has been done, which can spark ideas and offer general guidance for the writing of planning or implementation proposals, can be found here: https://www.neh.gov/grants/education/humanities-connections. These examples (all listed on NEH's website) are not meant to serve as models but as practical attempts to answer key questions posed by the NEH application.

The titles of these successful proposals show a great deal of variation among institutions responding to this funding opportunity. San Diego State University received funds for a project called "Human Rights and Border Studies Interdisciplinary Minor," which supported the creation of

"a faculty planning committee across two campuses to design curriculum for an interdisciplinary minor." Benedictine University in Illinois submitted a proposal to create "An Undergraduate Minor in Spanish for Mental Healthcare for Psychology Minors." This project proposed a curriculum that would "integrate knowledge, methods, and skills from the humanities, social sciences, and health sciences." Caldwell University in New Jersey was funded for "Embracing the Challenge of a More Perfect Union: A New Social Justice Minor" that designed "core courses and experiential learning activities for an interdisciplinary social justice minor." Washington State University was funded for "Dwelling in American Literature: An Experiential Program for Architects and Engineers" that "created faculty and curricular development for a three-course certificate integrating American literature into engineering and architecture education."

Many of these proposals created a new minor or revised the course sequences of a major. Some of them focused on an aspect of their location. The University of Massachusetts in Boston was funded for "Living with the Urban Ocean," a "three-course sequence in environmental humanities focused on Boston Harbor and surrounding areas." And several of them center on recent developments in American social life. Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania proposed "Promoting Civil Discourse in a Polarizing World," a "two-year curriculum development project that would create two interdisciplinary courses integrating rhetoric, political science, and marketing."

In sum, this opportunity offers funding to update, re-focus, or broaden established curricula; it also offers the chance to create emphases within newer majors and new minors that respond to the most pressing needs of the twenty-first century. As the humanities face increasing scrutiny from those who question its value to job-seeking graduates, this NEH program offers a chance to demonstrate how the humanities are now and always have been both allied to and implicit within disciplines imagined to be outside its scope.

Funding Strategies: National Climate Resilience Framework by Federal Agency

By Mike Cronan, PE, co-publisher
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USDA and 22 other federal research agencies have released plans to ensure federal operations are increasingly ***resilient to climate change impacts***. The National Climate Resilience Framework aligns climate resilience investments across the public and private sector through common principles and opportunities to build a climate resilient nation. Under this framework, federal agencies will ***focus on reforming and modernizing programs and policies in ways that strengthen climate resilience***.

A key point here to keep in mind by research offices and others who plan, develop, and write proposals to federal agencies is the understanding that while reforming and modernizing research agency policies to strengthen climate resilience is **explicitly** a policy and process structure, it is **implicitly** a clear signal that changes are coming to ***which new research programs are prioritized for funding and what new budget allocations will support those priorities***.

USDA's plans for climate adaption and other major agency reports, including Climate Adaptation at USDA and the **New** USDA Climate Adaptation Plan 2024-2027; Climate Adaptation Across USDA Agencies; and Adaptation in Action with USDA's Climate Hubs, is a case in point. It serves as an example of a ***coordinated transagency response*** to a newly defined mission focus across multiple agencies.

For example, all aspects of climate resilience will have a major impact on USDA'S mission in ways that will be manifested in ***new research priorities across numerous disciplines***. Moreover, relevant ***climate resilient disciplines exist widely*** across university colleges, departments, and centers, including in engineering, physical and biological sciences, computational sciences, social, behavioral and economic sciences, veterinary and human medicine, among others. As always, the core strategy is to map institutional research capacities to funding agency priorities ***sufficiently in advance of due dates to allow a competitive submission(s)***. A review of these frameworks by agency is the first step in that process.

A general understanding of these reports will help ***sharpen and narrow the focus of research strategic planning activities that position researchers to be more tightly aligned with new funding priorities***. Specific to this strategic goal, in advancing climate resilience, the framework also **identifies six core objectives**—supported by specific actions—that are critical to strengthening the nation's protections against the impacts of climate change; that make communities safe, healthy, equitable, and economically strong; and that can and ***should be a focus of climate resilience efforts at all levels***:

- Embed climate resilience into planning and management.
- Increase **resilience of the built environment** to both acute climate shocks and chronic stressors.
- Mobilize capital, investment, and innovation to advance climate resilience **at scale**.

- Equip communities with information and resources needed to **assess their climate risks** and develop the climate resilience solutions most appropriate for them.
- Protect and **sustainably manage lands and waters** to enhance resilience while providing numerous other benefits.
- Help communities become not only more resilient, but also more safe, healthy, equitable, and economically strong.

For example, the 2024-2027 USDA Climate Adaptation Plan builds on USDA's 2021 Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience and reflects how USDA agencies and offices have matured and advanced in their consideration of climate change in their programs, policies, and operations. **The 2021 Plan identified the following priority actions**:

- Build resilience across landscapes with investments in soil and forest health.
- Increase outreach and education to promote adoption of climate-smart adaptation strategies.
- Broaden access to and availability of climate data at regional and local scales for USDA Mission Areas, producers, land managers, and other stakeholders.
- Increase support for research and development of climate-smart practices and technologies to inform USDA and help producers and land managers adapt to a changing climate.
- Leverage the USDA Climate Hubs to support USDA Mission Areas in delivering adaptation science, technology, and tools. This new Plan does not supersede the vulnerabilities and cross-cutting action areas identified in the 2021 Plan but delves deeper into how USDA is assessing climate risks and integrating 2 climate adaptation into its mission delivery via policies, programs, funding, facilities

USDA agencies then updated their Climate Adaptation Plans for 2024 to 2027 to ***better integrate climate risk across their mission, operations, and asset management, including***:

- Combining historical **data** and projections to assess exposure of assets to climate-related hazards including extreme heat and precipitation, sea level rise, flooding, and wildfire;
- Expanding the **operational** focus on managing climate risk to facilities and supply chains to include federal employees and federal lands and waters;
- Broadening the **mission** focus to describe mainstreaming adaptation into agency policies, programs, planning, budget formulation, and **external funding**;
- Linking climate adaptation actions and addressing the causes of climate change through climate mitigation; and
- Adopting common progress **indicators** across agencies to assess the progress of agency climate adaptation efforts.

All plans from each of the 20+ agencies and more information are available at www.sustainability.gov/adaptation. For more information on USDA climate adaptation efforts, visit www.usda.gov/oce/energy-and-environment/climate/adaptation.

These frameworks, and the USDA response, are ***excellent models for better preparing*** to submit successful proposals to future climate resilience funding opportunities across numerous federal research agencies.

An Overview of ED's FIPSE Program

By Mike Cronan, PE, co-publisher
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FIPSE (Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education) supports the implementation of innovative educational reform ideas, to evaluate how well they work, and to share the findings with the larger education community. FIPSE announces **competitive** grant opportunities in the Federal Register and Grants.gov. Grants use a **peer review** process to determine funding. FIPSE also provides "seed grants" that serve as incentives for improvement and continuation. FIPSE programs share a number of common characteristics:

1. Projects focus on **significant issues and challenges** in postsecondary education, **rather than** on special interest groups or prescribed solutions.
2. Projects are responsive to **local initiatives**, leaving to the applicants the tasks of identifying specific local problems and proposing solutions that **have the potential for national influence**.
3. Projects are comprehensive with respect to the variety of problems addressed and the range of institutions and learners served.
4. Projects are action-oriented and learner-centered, ***involving direct implementation of new ideas or approaches rather than basic research***.
5. Project participants are encouraged to **take risks** to support new and unproven ideas as well as improvements to proven ideas.

A key point about the FIPSE is it often casts a broad programmatic net ***inclusive of faculty beyond colleges of education***. Faculty in engineering and science addressing "***significant issues and challenges***" in STEM education and offering "**innovative educational reform projects"** are FIPSE eligible. Faculty in STEM colleges and departments who submit educational proposals to NSF may find complementary funding from FIPSE.

FIPSE holds annual competitive grant competition that relate to specific initiatives mandated by Congress or the Department of Education (**ED**). These competitions vary each year and reflect new emphases, e.g., science education, community colleges, educational materials, or disaster relief. The frequency of these programs depends on congressional appropriations. For a list of current and recent special focus competitions, see FIPSE's Home page.

Competitive Grant Review Process and the Role of Field Readers. FIPSE grants are reviewed by field readers in a one-stage process. Each application is typically assigned to three readers. FIPSE staff assign proposals to readers with both topic and area expertise as well as general knowledge of the area covered. ***It is important for applicants to take care in writing accurate project abstracts***. Applicants should closely review grant application instructions, particularly to understand ***how many points applicants may earn by addressing specified selection criteria***. Reviewers score applications with reference to the total points allotted to each of several criteria. ***The mean of the scores awarded by three reviewers is used to rank grant applications***.

Project Evaluation and Dissemination of Results. Evaluation and **dissemination** of FIPSE projects are major priorities. Evaluation of FIPSE projects is crucial given the focus on funding

cutting edge of educational innovation. Competitive projects focus on finding out **what works**, sharing valuable information, and encouraging the adoption of proven programs. The program provides a continuous flow of information about the results of funded projects (see FIPSE Grants in Action). For more information about evaluation requirements and resources see FIPSE Evaluation Resources.

FIPSE's Flagship Program – The Comprehensive Program. The Comprehensive Program is FIPSE's flagship program and largest competitive grant competition. It supports innovative, replicable education improvement projects that respond to a wide range of issues of national and global significance. These projects propose significant reforms and improvements in U.S. postsecondary education and have the potential to serve as national models for reform. In the past FIPSE has announced "invitational" priorities for the Comprehensive Program. Invitational priorities reflect a desire on the part of the U.S. Department of Education to encourage applications in specific areas. However, applications that address specific invitational priorities do not receive a competitive advantage for funding. FIPSE may also list "competitive" priorities for the Comprehensive Program. When competitive priorities are announced, those applicants who choose to address competitive priorities will be awarded bonus points on their applications. FIPSE welcomes applications that do not address either invitational or competitive priorities.

Additional Resources. Many other resources are available at the FIPSE Home page, including:

- Competition Information - Materials for applying for FIPSE grants;
- FIPSE Database - Online, searchable database of descriptions of FIPSE-funded projects from 1994 to the present;
- FIPSE Google Maps - This series of maps highlights different types of projects that your colleagues have recently worked on, or are currently working on, with funds from FIPSE competitive grants. Maps are linked to project abstracts, project director contact information, and Web sites offering educational resources;
- FIPSE Grants in Action – Information about recent achievements of FIPSE grantees;
- FIPSE Update – The quarterly FIPSE Newsletter highlighting current and past projects which have important findings or offer valuable resources to the postsecondary education community.
- FIPSE Overview

Last-Minute NSF CAREER Proposal Checklist 2024

By Lucy Deckard, co-publisher
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NSF CAREER proposals are due July 24, 2024. Many of you have been working on your proposals for months and are now heading down to the final stretch. Below are some things you should check before you send in your proposal. Be particularly careful to follow the PAPPG requirements described below. If you don't, NSF can return your proposal without review!

- ✓ **Does your Project Summary follow the PAPPG guidelines?** Follow NSF's most recent Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, effective May of this year. Your Summary must be divided into three sections: Overview, Intellectual Merit, and Broader Impacts.

- Be especially careful to follow the requirements for the **Overview** section, which state that it should include "a description of the activity that would result if the proposal were funded and a statement of objectives and methods to be employed." Did you give a true overview of your project, or did you make the common mistake of turning this section into an introduction where you just discuss the problem or need you're addressing?

- For the **Intellectual Merit** section, did you describe the fundamental knowledge gaps you will address (e.g., in terms of your research questions/hypotheses), how your project is novel or innovative, and how your research will advance the ***areas of interest to the NSF program to which you're applying***? This should not be just a restatement of your project goal and motivation.

- For the **Broader Impacts** section, do you briefly summarize the broader impacts of both your research and education/outreach activities?

- ✓ **Did you include a separate, titled "Broader Impacts" section in your Project Description?** This is required, and overlooking this section is a common reason for returning proposals without review. Be sure to use the title as specified – don't add additional wording, such as "Broader Impacts and Dissemination." In this section, be sure to address the broader impacts of your science as well as the broader impacts of your education and outreach activities. Remember that broader impacts of your science should not be a restatement of the intellectual merit; rather, describe why someone who won't read your journal articles should be happy to have their tax money spent on your research.

- ✓ **Did you clearly articulate the Intellectual Merit early in the Project Description?** While a separate labeled Intellectual Merit section is no longer required in the Project Description, remember that this is the ***central concern*** of most reviewers! If you don't clearly explain how you will advance the field of interest to the NSF program to which you're applying and what fundamental questions you'll answer/hypotheses you will test/or barriers you will overcome, you're unlikely to excite your reviewers. Make this ***concise***, ***compelling***, and ***easy to find***. This should not be just a restatement of your goals. It should be an explanation of how your research fits into and extends the larger body of

knowledge in your field. Remember, also, that if you do a good job of summarizing your best arguments in this section (as well as in your Broader Impacts section), reviewers will likely use that wording in their reviews.

- ✓ **Are your goals, objectives, and tasks consistent throughout your Project Description?** If you state your goals and objectives in your introduction, are they the same goals and objectives you describe in your Research Plan? Do you change or add new goals and objectives as you progress through your narrative? This will just confuse the reviewer. When you describe your research tasks, are these tasks clearly tied to your objectives, and are those the same tasks that you list in your project schedule or milestone chart?

- ✓ **Are your project goals accurately stated?** If your project goals were described too broadly or vaguely—for example, stating that you will solve a general problem in your field, understand a basic phenomenon, or "prove" a hypothesis—will you actually achieve that goal in the five years of your project? A common complaint of reviewers is that the research plan will not achieve the goals stated. If this is the case for your proposal, rewrite your goals so that they are specific and consistent with what you'll achieve if your research plan is successful. Be sure that it will be clear, ***even to a reviewer without expertise in this specific topic***, how the work you will conduct will actually answer the research questions you state, test the hypotheses you propose, or overcome the barriers you identified.

- ✓ **Did you put your project in the context of your long-term career goals?** Remember that the purpose of the CAREER grant is to help promising researchers "build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research." In order to assess how well your project will do that, reviewers need to understand what your long-term research and education goals are. These goals should be explained in terms of the line of research you plan to pursue over the next 10 or 20 years, as well as what need or opportunity will motivate your education and outreach agenda. (Don't say things like, "I want to become a Department Chair" or "I want to be well-known in my field.")

- ✓ **Are all your figures and tables consistently numbered, and do you refer to each of them in your text?** Last-minute edits to meet the page limit can result in misnumbered figures and tables. If you don't refer to your figures and tables in your text, it can be difficult for the reviewer to understand their context and relevance.

- ✓ **Did you avoid including URLs in your Project Description?** It states in the PAPPG that "PIs are cautioned that the Project Description must be self-contained and that URLs that provide information related to the proposal should not be used because 1) the information could circumvent page limitations, 2) the reviewers are under no obligation to view the sites, and 3) the sites could be altered or abolished between the time of submission and the time of review." However, you can cite them as you would a publication and include the URL in your References Cited section.

- ✓ **If you had any NSF funding within the last 5 years, did you follow the requirements for your Results from Prior NSF Funding section?** You are required to include a Results of Prior NSF Funding section in your Project Description if you received any NSF funding in the last 5 years, no matter what your role on the project (you did not need to have been a PI or co-PI, although graduate fellowships are not included). In this section, you are now

required to separately describe (and label) the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts of the project, and to state the number of products (e.g., journal articles, etc.) that were produced by the project. There are a number of other instructions. Go to the PAPPG for a full description of the requirements. ***Be sure to follow these instructions exactly!*** NSF has become very picky about this and will return your proposal without review if you don't follow these instruction. If your previous project is not highly relevant to your proposed CAREER project, you don't have to spend a lot of space on this section, but be sure to fully describe your accomplishments on the previous project. Remember, this is your track record, and clearly describing strong results (including your broader impacts) will give you a competitive advantage with reviewers. If you have more than one prior NSF grant, ***you are only required to report on one*** (choose the project that's most relevant to your proposed CAREER project). Of course, there is no rule that you can't talk about more than one previously funded project, but space is usually at a premium in NSF CAREER Project Descriptions, so it's often best to focus on one most relevant project in this section.

- ✓ **Does your Education Plan include clear goals and a plan to assess your success in meeting those goals?** If you'll be developing a new course or trying out a new teaching method, did you explain what you hope to accomplish by doing that? Did you describe how you'll determine if you actually accomplished your goals and objectives?

- ✓ **Did you run spell check?** Reviewers are highly irritated by typos, misspellings and grammar mistakes. They see it as a reflection of the quality of the work you would do if funded.

- ✓ **Did you recruit others to read your proposal and give you feedback?** There may still be time to ask your colleagues and friends to give your proposal a quick read. Recruit both experts in your field (who can identify technical issues that may concern reviewers) and readers from outside your field (who can tell you if the main points of your proposal are clear to a technically literate non-expert). If your non-expert reviewers can't understand generally what you're going to do, why you're doing it, and why your approach is innovative, consider rewriting the first two or three pages to more clearly give an accessible overview of your project. This is particularly important if you're applying to a program that conducts only a panel review (which is particularly common in the Engineering Directorate) because you are more likely to have reviewers from outside your subfield.

- ✓ **If you include collaborations in your project, did you get letters from those people, and did you follow the form letter wording specified in the CAREER solicitation?** Reviewers usually look for letters confirming that you actually have in place the collaborations you describe in your proposal. This also applies to assistance you'll be getting for your education and outreach activities, even if you'll be working with others at your institution. For example, if you'll be participating in a STEM summer camp that takes place every summer at your university, be sure to get a letter from the director of the program stating that they have agreed to your participation and describing your role. NSF allows only a form letter (with the wording as specified in the solicitation) in order to prevent PIs from trying to use the letters as a way to include additional information that wouldn't fit into the 15-page Project Description. That means you need to describe what

your collaborators will do in your Project Description or in the Equipment, Facilities and Other Resources document.

- ✓ **In your References Cited section, did you follow the PAPPG instructions?** While NSF doesn't specify a specific format, they do require some specific information. The most common mistake here is to use "et al." NSF requires that all authors be listed.
- ✓ **If you included one or more Senior Personnel, did you get their biosketch, Current & Pending, and Collaborations and Other Affiliations forms?** While the CAREER doesn't allow co-PIs, NSF is now allowing Senior Personnel to be put on the budget. If you have done this, Research.gov will require the usual forms (see the PAPPG).
- ✓ **Did you include in the budget the resources you need to conduct your education and outreach activities?** A common mistake is to describe ambitious education and outreach activities that clearly require funding, and then forget to include those funds in your budget. Reviewers will assume you're not really serious. Even worse, if the reviewers don't notice, you'll could be awarded the grant and then won't have the funds to do what you promised.
- ✓ **If you have a postdoc and/or graduate student on your budget, did you include a Mentoring Plan?** In the past, mentoring plans were only required for postdocs. Now they're required for graduate students. Too. For more info, take a look at our article in the June issue, and go here.
- ✓ **Do you have all your other supplementary documentation ready?** This includes your Data Management Plan (remember to include any data from assessments of your education and outreach activities), Facilities, Equipment and other Resources form (be sure to include only information that is relevant to your proposed project, not boiler plate descriptions of large core facilities), your Synergistic Activities form (new this year) your departmental letter, and any letters of collaboration.
- ✓ **Did you suggest reviewers?** On Research.gov, they include a place where you can suggest reviewers. It's a good idea to take advantage of this. Program Officers are usually desperate to find good reviewers, so they're grateful to get suggestions. Obviously, you don't want to suggest someone who has a conflict of interest (former co-authors, advisors, etc.), but you can suggest people in your field (e.g., people who attend the same conference sessions as you do) who are likely to understand and be excited by your research. It's best to provide 3 to 5 names. Don't include 20 names, because that limits the flexibility of the NSF Program Officer since they can't include too many reviewers from one list. (You can also list reviewers you do not want to review your proposal.)
- ✓ **Do you have a plan to submit at least a day early?** Expect Research.gov to slow down, particularly in the afternoon of the due date. If you don't submit by 5 pm (in your time zone) on your due date, even if the reason was that Research.gov was slow, NSF will not accept your proposal and you'll have to wait until next year to try again, if you're still eligible. Add to that the fact that your pre-award office will likely be submitting multiple CAREER proposals (this issue will likely be exacerbated by the fact that there are no longer multiple due dates depending on directorate), and it should be clear that it's a good idea to submit at least a day before the deadline.

- ✓ **Do you have plans to celebrate after your proposal has been submitted?** After your proposal has successfully been submitted, take some time off to congratulate yourself and recharge. The pile of work that collected on your desk while you were working on your proposal will still be there when you get back!

Preview of FY 2025 House Research Spending Bills

By Mike Cronan, PE, co-publisher
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COSSA Releases Preview of FY 2025 House Spending Bills Analysis (July 9)

In late June, the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (**CJS**) Subcommittee marked up and reported out their bill that funds the National Science Foundation (**NSF**), U.S. Census Bureau, National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and other agencies. The House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (LHHS) Subcommittee also considered its bill, which is responsible for funding the National Institutes of Health (**NIH**) and other HHS agencies, the Department of Education, and the Department of Labor. COSSA is preparing a full analysis of the bills, which are being considered by the full Appropriations Committee this week. Stay tuned. For now, read here for some early details of what is included in the bills as considered by the CJS and LHHS Subcommittees this week. Stay tuned to COSSA's coverage of the FY 2025 appropriations bills, including our full analysis of the House bills coming soon. Tags: appropriations, CJS, FY 2025, LHHS.

House CJS Bill, FY 2025 (as of June 26, 2024)

The total funding allocation for the CJS bill is $78.288 billion, which if appropriated would represent a **2 percent cut below the FY 2024 appropriation**. Additional information on the CJS bill is below (from **American Institute of Physics *FYI: Science Policy News*)**:

National Science Foundation – The House bill includes a total of $9.258 billion for NSF, which would represent a $198.6 million or **2.2 percent increase over the FY 2024** enacted level. However, the House mark would still fall below the FY 2023 appropriation by 6.2 percent, failing to restore the large and unexpected cut taken to NSF last year. Notably, the House bill would **cut the STEM Education Directorate by nearly 15 percent** while providing a 5.2 percent increase to the directorates within the Research and Related Activities account.

National Institute of Justice & Bureau of Justice Statistics – As part of the reductions proposed to the Department of Justice, NIJ and BJS would see cuts in FY 2025. The bill includes $22 million for NIJ, a devasting cut of nearly 27 percent, and $33 million for BJS, a cut of 5.7 percent. Both agencies were unexpectedly slashed in FY 2024; the House bill would further decimate the agencies. In addition, the bill would maintain the Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Set-Aide at 2 percent. The set-aside is used to supplement the base budgets of NIJ and BJS and allows additional flexibility to invest in new areas.

Office of Science and Technology Policy – The House is seeking a **30 percent cut to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy** (OSTP), which would reduce the budget from $8 million to $5.5 million. House LHHS Bill, FY 2025 (as of June 26, 2024) The total allocation for the House LHHS bill is $185.8 billion, 4 percent below the enacted FY 2024 level. Here too the bill would prioritize national security with respect to competition with China.

National Institutes of Health – Probably most surprising is the House's approach to FY 2025 NIH funding. The bill appears to follow the lead of the House Energy and Commerce Committee which has released a proposal to majorly restructure the agency, **consolidating its 27 institutes and centers into just 15**. Full details are not yet available on how exactly the bill would reorganize the

NIH; however, on its surface it appears to track with the Energy and Commerce proposal. The bill includes a total of $48.581 billion for NIH in FY 2025, which is **flat with the FY 2024 appropriation under NIH's current structure**.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – The House bill includes $7.4 billion CDC, **a cut of $1.8 billion or nearly 20 percent below the FY 2024** enacted level and 24 percent below the President's request.

Institute of Education Sciences – The House bill includes $740.4 million for the IES, the flagship research, evaluation, and statistical agency of the Department of Education, which would be a **6.6 percent decrease below FY 2024** and 9.2 percent below the Administration's request.

House to Advance Science Budget Proposals

Republican appropriators in the House have just released reports that detail their science budget proposals for the coming fiscal year. The Energy-Water report covers the Department of Energy; the Commerce-Justice-Science report covers NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Commerce Department; and the Interior-Environment report covers the U.S. Geological Survey and Environmental Protection Agency. The Appropriations Committee will meet Tuesday morning to debate and amend the reports and the accompanying legislation before passing them to the full House. The committee will meet again on Wednesday morning to consider the report for the National Institutes of Health.

Within a 1.8% overall budget increase for the DOE Office of Science, the committee proposes increases for most major program offices except **Biological and Environmental Research, which is targeted for a 5.6% cut**. It also proposes level funding for the U.S. contribution to the multinational ITER fusion project, amid news the facility will cost an extra €5 billion and turn on much later than previously planned. The committee does not comment on the delay in the report, though the text may have been prepared before the delay was announced last month.

Within a flat overall budget for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, the committee proposes an 8% increase to the Planetary Science Division that would be offset by cuts to the Earth Science and Heliophysics divisions. Congress cut the Planetary Science Division budget by 15% in the previous budget cycle as a response to the ballooning cost of the Mars Sample Return project. The House had pushed for robust funding for the project, but the Senate prevailed in the final negotiations, significantly throttling back its budget while NASA reassesses the mission architecture. Now, the House proposes to increase the mission's budget from the current minimum level of $300 million to at least $650 million and directs NASA to plan for a launch no later than 2031.

For more details on budget proposals for other science agencies, consult FYI's Federal Science Budget Tracker.

Investing In Science and Technology to Maintain Dominance Over China and Advance American Leadership in Space

Notable exceptions to the Committee's effort to roll back Federal spending include targeted investments to ensure the United States remains the international leader in space, research, and technology development. The bill includes an increase for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), to support the critical Artemis program and continued American leadership in space. The bill also includes an increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF), in recognition of increased authorization levels and support for advancements in technology development and safeguarding American research from Chinese theft.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

The bill increases topline funding for NASA by $303,640,000 above the fiscal year 2024 enacted level, an amount that is $204,100,000 below the request. To continue advancing U.S. leadership in space, the bill:

• Provides for the continued development of the Space Launch System, the Orion crew vehicle, and the Exploration Ground Systems that will soon send the Artemis II crew beyond Low Earth Orbit;

• Continues funding for critical science missions that advance the understanding of the solar system;

• Supports critical investments in aeronautics research programs to improve aircraft efficiencies and innovation; and

• Increases funds for Space Operations to maintain current services at the International Space Station and Human Space Flight Operations.

National Science Foundation

Recognizing the importance of maintaining America's competitive research advantage over China, the bill **increases funding for NSF by $198,640,000 above the fiscal year 2024 enacted level**, which is $924,360,000 below the request. Although funding is below the authorized level, the bill:

• Supports the development of innovation across the country through the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and Regional Innovation Engines program;

• Safeguards the American research enterprise from China's malign influence, by supporting the work NSF is doing to create a whole-of-government research strategy and increasing oversight of grant funding; and

• Sustains funds to grow the STEM workforce, while preventing these funds from being used for the administration's activist equity initiatives.

Obviously, nothing here is cast in stone, but budgets will begin to converge over the coming months until there is an enacted budget in the fall.

Does an NSF MRI Fit Your Situation?

By Lucy Deckard, co-publisher
Reprint of November, 2020
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Researchers' thoughts turn to applying for NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) grants by late summer (now due Nov. 15th annually) to help them purchase or develop new instruments. When you need an expensive instrument to conduct your research, pursuing an instrumentation grant may seem like the obvious solution. However, the NSF MRI grants program has specific requirements, and your situation may not necessarily fit those requirements. In order avoid wasted effort, it's important to make a clear-eyed assessment of whether you can actually be competitive for an MRI grant.

Determining If Your Situation Fits the MRI

MRIs come in two "flavors" with different requirements: ***acquisition*** grants, which provide funding for you to buy a commercially available instrument; and ***development*** grants, which provide funding for you (and, usually, your team) to develop a new instrument with capabilities that are not currently commercially available. Below are some questions to ask yourself for each type of MRI grant.

Acquisition MRI Grant

- **Is the instrument needed by multiple researchers to accomplish their research?** MRI is meant for ***shared*** instruments. The reviewers and program officers (POs) are looking for "bang for the buck," which means they are not interested in funding instruments that will be used only by an individual researcher. Typically, competitive proposals list 4 or more major users in addition to other occasional users. You will get extra credit for having users from different disciplines (if it makes sense) and users from different institutions. All of these things increase the impact of the instrument.

- **Is the instrument needed by multiple researchers to accomplish their research?** Yes, this is the same question as above, but the emphasis is different. Can your major users make a strong argument that having access to this new instrument will enable them to do ***important*** research that they ***cannot*** do (or they cannot do efficiently) otherwise? In other words, your major users should be able to write (in a longing tone) about all the great things they could do if only they had this instrument. (A common mistake in MRI proposals is that major users simply talk about all the great research they are doing with the current instrument, and how it would be nice to have a shiny new instrument, but there is no discussion of what specific new/improved research the instrument will enable.)

- **Are at least some of your major users funded by NSF for the line of research for which this instrument would be used?** The PO and reviewers want to see evidence that the major users will actually use the instrument to do research of interest to NSF, and a history of NSF funding is a great indicator of that. For major users without a history of NSF funding, do they have funding from elsewhere? If you have major users without any funding, reviewers will wonder how this research will actually get done (and therefore whether the instrument will

actually be used). This concern may not apply for major users who are new faculty as long as it's clear that they are planning to do research of interest to NSF, have a strong record of publications, and are planning to apply for funding. If you find your major users are overwhelmingly funded by an agency other than NSF (e.g., the Department of Transportation, NIH, or the Department of Defense), it's natural for reviewers to wonder why you don't approach that agency for funding to purchase your instrument, instead of approaching NSF.

- **Will this instrument be kept busy?** If the major users will only need the instrument occasionally, reviewers will be concerned that the instrument will sit idle most of the time, and they will question if this is a good use of NSF funding. Instead, they will recommend that you request time on someone else's instrument (e.g., on someone else's shared instrument purchased with an MRI grant, or an instrument at a federal facility such as a national lab). The way to convince your reviewers that the instrument will be well used is to list a compelling number of users with active research projects that require extensive access to the instrument.
- **Will the impact of the instrument justify the cost?** The more expensive the instrument, the higher the expectation for impact. For example, asking for $2M for an instrument that will serve only researchers at your institution is probably a non-starter. At that funding level, your instrument should be available to researchers across your region and probably across the country, and some of those researchers should be listed among your major users (i.e., they should not just be theoretical future users).
- **Is there a similar instrument available nearby?** Often, reviewers will be aware of instruments available at your institution or at another institution in your state, and they may question why you can't just ask for access to that instrument. For that reason, be sure that you know what similar instruments are available nearby and have a strong reason why the requested instrument is still needed (e.g., the other instrument is fully subscribed, delays in sending samples across the state have significantly slowed the pace of research, or the current instrument lacks a critical capability).

Development MRI Grant

- **Once developed, will this instrument provide a capacity that is not currently available?** If you're simply trying to save money by assembling the instrument rather than buying one off the shelf, that doesn't meet the requirements for this grant. The idea is that you're developing a new capacity that will enable or enhance research in one or more important topics.
- **Will the instrument, once developed, enable exciting research of interest to NSF, conducted by multiple users?** You will be expected to disseminate the instrument technology you develop to other researchers, and the new capacities provided by the instrument should enhance their research. Depending on the specific circumstances, NSF may expect you to work with commercial instrumentation makers to commercialize the new technology. Remember that the stakeholders in your project are the entire community of researchers who would benefit from the new capabilities of your instrument, so you need to have a strong story about how you will reach those stakeholders, and how they will benefit.
- **Does your team have the required range of expertise to develop the new instrument?** Remember that this type of grant is really a project grant, with the project being the development of a new instrument with new capabilities. Accomplishing this successfully usually requires a wider range of expertise than that of the research teams

who will eventually use the instrument. To assemble this team, you may need to reach beyond your usual disciplinary network, but it's important to do that. Otherwise, reviewers will question whether you can really be successful.

What To Do if Your Situation Doesn't Fit the MRI

If your situation doesn't fit the expectations of the MRI program, remember that there are other ways to get access to the instruments you need.

- **Internal Funding.** You might be able to purchase the instrument using your start-up funding or other internal funding. If a new instrument is too expensive to purchase with internal funding, you might be able to find a used instrument that is more affordable. Check with instrument vendors. Also, remember that many instrument vendors are used to bargaining, so you may be able to negotiate a substantially lower price than the price initially quoted, particularly if you work for a not-for-profit educational institution. (You can sometimes make the argument that many of your students, who will eventually pursue careers in industry where they may have a role in specifying instrument purchases, will be exposed to the instrument, so there may be downstream benefits to the vendor.)

- **Donated Instrument.** Sometimes industry labs upgrade their instruments and are happy to donate the used, but still quite serviceable, instrument and take a tax write-off. If you are considering exploring this route, be sure to check with your development office (these are the folks who approach alumni and other potential donors for gifts to the university) and get their OK. Also, make sure you can get funding for transportation, installation, and maintenance of the instrument. (No gift is entirely free, but your department or college may be willing to help with these expenses if the donated instrument will enhance your institution's research infrastructure.)

- **Request funds to purchase the instrument as part of a research grant.** If the instrument is not very expensive (e.g., its purchase would not deplete most of a year of funding for your project), and it's critical to accomplishing your research project, you may be able to include it in the budget for your research project grant. However, be sure to talk to your Program Officer before doing this.

- **Pursue an instrumentation grant from another funder.** As mentioned above, if most of your users have funding from an agency other than NSF, look to see if that agency has instrumentation grants that might fit your situation. NIH, USDA, DoD and many other agencies also offer instrumentation grants, but be sure to do your research to make sure you understand their expectations and requirements.

- **Request access to a shared instrument elsewhere.** Just as you would have to promise to share your instrument with outside users if you won an MRI grant, others have to do the same. Look to see if there are any shared instruments (within your university, at other universities, or at federal labs) for which you can apply for access.

- **Work to position yourself to fit the MRI.** Often, the main reason a PI isn't positioned to be competitive for an MRI is a lack of other compelling major users. If that's your situation, consider reaching out to look for other researchers whose research is of interest to NSF and would benefit significantly from access to the

instrument you have in mind. This may mean looking at other universities in your city, your region or nationally. It may also mean looking outside your discipline, and even networking with researchers in industry. Sometimes, a little creativity will actually allow you to make a more interesting and compelling argument when you have finally assembled your MRI team.

Editing the Proposal Introduction: the What, Why, How and So-What of a Preliminary Review

Reprinted from October, 2020

By Mike Cronan, PE, co-publisher

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The most important part of a medical school education, including residency, is the acquisition of clinical skills that, in most cases, allow an assessment of a patient's health based on a brief diagnostic discussion and subtle observations by the physician. Over time, many research office staff develop a similar "clinical skills" capacity to quickly assess the health, i.e., ***competitiveness for funding***, of a proposal based on a reading of the first few pages.

But instead of the blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, thermometer, and pulse oximeter used by medical practitioners, proposal review practitioners check the ***answers to four key diagnostic questions most closely predictive of funding success***: (1) What research is proposed? (2) Why is it proposed? (3) How will it be accomplished? and (4) So-what?!

In keeping with the World Series starting next week, you might consider the proposer as the batter and the reviewers as the pitchers of these questions: The "*What research do you propose to do*" question is a bit of a softball question, but the "*Why did you chose to conduct this research*" question is like a brush back fastball, often resulting in reviewers calling strike 1. The question "*How will the proposed research, i.e., your research plan, be conducted to make success a likely outcome*" is definitely a curve ball swung at and missed by most authors, resulting in reviewers calling strike two.

At this point, the "batter" is down in the count 1 ball and 2 strikes and the reviewers throw their best pitch, a ***knuckleball "so-what" pitch, asking*** why your research is significant to the agency mission and where does your research fit in the context of similar research current in the field? Most batters swing at and miss this pitch completely for a called strike 3, followed by "You're Outta Here!"

How well a proposal answers these four questions in its first few pages ***largely determines its success, even before reviewers read its remaining pages.*** At this early stage, the compelling conceptual framework of the proposal is set; the remainder of the project description expands this foundational base with more convincing detail and specifics.

Conversely, if the clear conceptual framework of the research narrative is not set in the first few pages, ***the proposal will likely be declined for funding***. Specifically, it often means the author(s) of the proposal are--

- ***not themselves entirely clear*** as to whether and how well their proposed research maps to these four core questions in a convincing way,
- or it may mean the proposal authors ***are not sufficiently skilled writers*** to communicate clearly to reviewers the answers to these questions,
- or it may mean the ***proposal was poorly organized***,

- or it may mean ***insufficient time was allocated for writing multiple drafts*** of the proposal,
- or it may mean the proposal was submitted ***without a thorough edit*** by members of the research team or by an experienced editor in a research office,
- or it may mean, and this is most often the case, ***the declined proposal's flaws result from a combination of the above***.

Moreover, if the core idea of the proposed research is not presented in these initial few pages and these four questions are left unanswered, partially answered, or vaguely answered, ***reviewers will have little incentive to give a close reading to the remaining research narrative*** in hopes of determining what the applicant actually proposes to do but fails to explain early in the narrative. ***It is never the reviewer's job to search for reasons to fund an applicant's research***, whereas it is always the applicant's job to quickly make a compelling case for funding.

That said, the four questions noted above are always challenging to answer sufficiently well to result in a funding recommendation. Moreover, how well the remainder of the research narrative provides convincing details and specifics to result in a positive funding recommendation ***depends entirely on the conceptual foundation underpinning the answers to these questions.***

The "***what you will do***" question is the easiest to write, and is often driven by the goals and objectives that motivate the funding solicitation, although there is often a lot of latitude in determining what you might do to respond fully to the project guidelines. However, because the ***what question*** is the easiest of the questions to answer, it is often overwritten and even belabored at the expense of the ***why and how questions***. The ***how question,*** whose answer is expected to fully provide the specifics and details of the research plan and methodology, must convince reviewers that an investment in the proposed research is warranted based on the likelihood of success.

Failure to convincingly answer the final ***so-what question,*** however, is ultimately the ***most common cause of a proposal declined for funding***. In many cases, the ***so-what question*** is answered vaguely, or, when it is addressed, is written as **generalized claims** made for the significance and novelty of the proposed research. Unfortunately, ***entirely unsupported claims that fail to*** describe how the research fits the agency's mission priorities or where the research fits in the current state of the field, will not demonstrate that the proposed research is cutting edge and impactful.

These are tough standards to meet for any funding request, but a review of the first few pages of a research proposal by an experienced member of a research office focused on how well these critical four questions are answered in the research narrative can significantly impact the quality of a proposal and, hence, its success.

Research Grant Writing Web Resources

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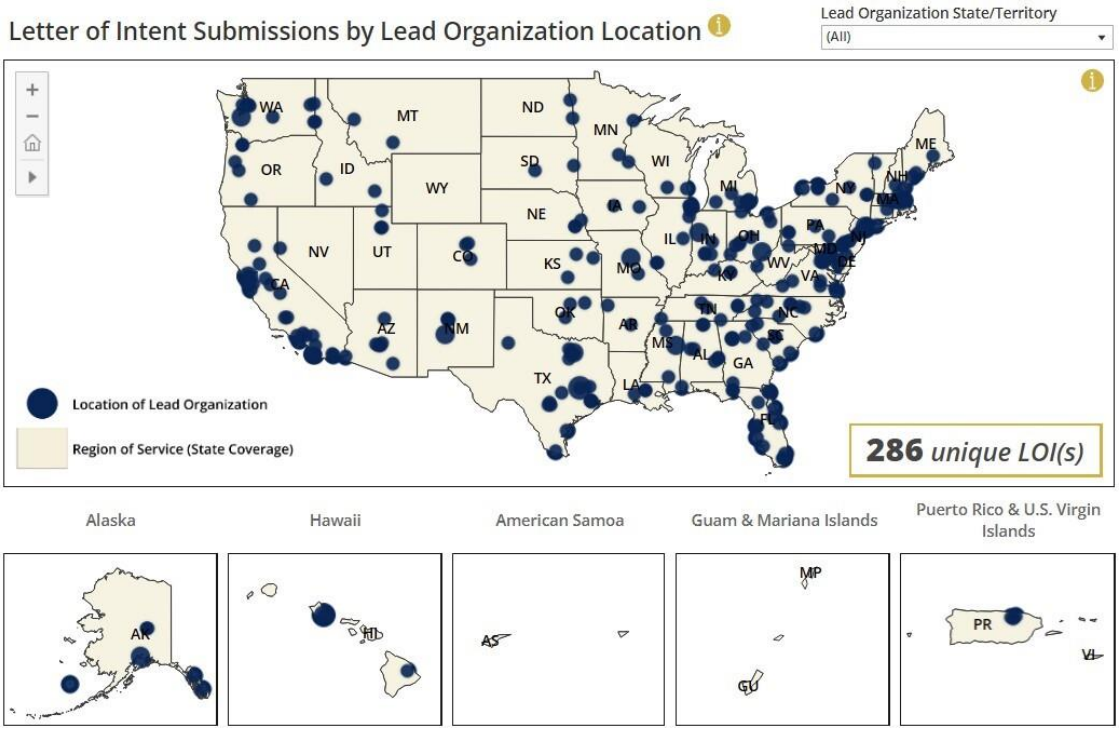
View NSF Engines letters of intent data dashboard



To build innovation ecosystems nationwide, the U.S. National Science Foundation's Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) program is encouraging proposers to connect and create regional teams around societal, regional, national and/or geostrategic impact areas.

NSF is publishing information from letters of intent (LOI) to highlight the wide array of teams across the U.S. that will be part of the 2024 NSF Engines competition. Posting this data can also connect teams interested in similar technology topic areas and geographic regions. Teaming is encouraged to strengthen proposals that may be aligned in vision and intent. Check out the interactive dashboard to find others in your region or working in the technology impact areas that matter to you. For teams that submitted an LOI, it is possible to add new partners or even change the lead organization for the preliminary proposal based on the teaming potential that may come from using the LOI dashboard to strengthen your coalition.

Under the current NSF Engines funding opportunity, organizations were required to submit an LOI by June 18 with information about how their proposed NSF Engine aims to build partnerships that will advanced use-inspired and translational research in key technology areas, and address pressing challenges, all the while creating new pathways for the workforce in their regions.

By publishing the accepted LOIs, NSF aims to provide a mechanism for applicant teams to connect and potentially collaborate before the preliminary proposal deadline of August 6, 2024.

Explore the data.

Why did NSF publish letters of intent?

Encouraging place-based innovation and investment

An important goal for the publication of the submitted LOIs is to connect applicants before the preliminary proposal deadline on August 6, 2024. The NSF Engines program is a place-based funding opportunity with the goal of creating impact in a specific geographic region of service. Using the dashboard, LOI submitters and interested stakeholders can find out which teams are submitting from their region of service and may even find partners to connect with from within their region or technology focus areas.

Unlocking new partnerships

The NSF Engines program aims to foster connection between organizations that may not typically work together. Nonprofits, foundations, investors, state and local government officials, Tribal Nations representatives, and community organizations have all expressed interest in connecting with NSF Engines. By publishing LOIs, NSF aims to create opportunities across the U.S. for like-minded groups to join with submitters (within one's community and beyond) to offer ideas, capital, expertise and more. Teams may also decide to join together. Ultimately, the NSF Engines program aims for this process to lead to stronger teams with more diverse sets of partners.

Power in the data

As a leading science and technology agency, NSF holds data transparency paramount. Given other federal, state and local efforts to build regional ecosystems and innovation and workforce capacity, NSF sees value in sharing data early to enable participation of a diverse set of prospective partners early on in proposal formulation. The agency also encourages users to build tools and visualizations on top of its data.

Need more information?

- For more information, please contact us at engines@nsf.gov.
- For teams that may want to change the lead organization for the preliminary proposal submission based on a reconfigured team, please reach out to the NSF Engines program at engines@nsf.gov no later than **July 23, 2024**, to initiate the process to make this switch.

Educational & Social Sciences Web Resources

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House Appropriators Focus NASA Cuts On Science, STEM

The House Appropriations Commerce-Justice-Science subcommittee that funds NASA released its proposals for FY2025 this morning, a day prior to when it will formally mark up the bill. Only top-line numbers are available now, but the **news is not good for NASA's science and STEM programs**. NASA's science portfolio is already coping with significant cuts in FY2024 compared to what it expected and once again bears the brunt for FY2025. NASA's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) office would suffer an even larger percentage cut, from $143 million in FY2024 (the same as the FY2025 request) to $89 million.

Institute of Education Sciences

The House bill includes $740.4 million for the **IES, the flagship research, evaluation, and statistical agency of the Department of Education, which would be a 6.6 percent decrease below FY 2024** and 9.2 percent below the Administration's request.

National Science Foundation

The House bill includes a total of $9.258 billion for NSF, which would represent a $198.6 million or 2.2 percent increase over the FY 2024 enacted level. However, the House mark would still fall below the FY 2023 appropriation by 6.2 percent, failing to restore the large and unexpected cut taken to NSF last year. **Notably, the House bill would cut the STEM Education Directorate (EDU) by nearly 15 percent** while providing a 5.2 percent increase to the directorates within the Research and Related Activities account.

Agency News, Reports, Workshops & Roadmaps

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The Role of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research in NIH's COVID-19 Response
OBSSR (Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research) Newsletter, June 26

It has been more than four years since the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic. With massive disruptions in virtually every aspect of society, the epidemic challenged all of us, impacting our psychological well-being as well as our physical health.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) played a crucial role in the pandemic response through programs like the Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER) initiative, the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx®) initiative, and the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) public-private partnership.

To address the potential social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) impacts of the epidemic, the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) moved quickly. NIH initiatives highlighting behavioral and social sciences research (BSSR) included the NIH Community Engagement Alliance (CEAL) against COVID-19 disparities; an OBSSR-led administrative supplement on the impact of COVID-19 among women, children, and people with disabilities; and the Social, Behavioral, and Economic Impacts of COVID-19 in Vulnerable and Health Disparity Population Initiative (SBE COVID-19 Initiative), which OBSSR was proud to lead.

The SBE COVID-19 Initiative was a core part of NIH's COVID-19 response, promoting research to improve predictions about various mitigation efforts, assess the health impacts of significant socioeconomic events, and evaluate digital and community-based interventions.

This SBE COVID-19 Initiative led to:

- 24 funded supplements focused on digital and community health
- A commentary in the journal *Translational Behavioral Medicine* on NIH's social and behavioral research in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 28 funded supplements for data science longitudinal studies
- Timely research on the economic health impacts of COVID-19 through funding to the National Bureau of Economic Research
- Research on county-level disparities in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality through a contract with the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

The Initiative also helped develop a community of investigators who produced valuable research findings, including—

- Not All Homes Are Safe: Family Violence Following the Onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic (February 2022)
- Risk for Depression Tripled During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Emerging Adults Followed for the Last 8 Years (April 2023)

- Inequitable Access to General and Behavioral Healthcare in the U.S. During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Role for Telehealth? (April 2023)
- Blurred Border or Safe Harbor? Emotional Well-Being Among Sexual and Gender Minority Adults Working From Home During COVID-19 (April 2023)
- COVID-19 Stress and Child Behavior: Examining Discrimination and Social Support in Racially Diverse ECHO Cohorts (August 2023)

A key product of the SBE COVID-19 Initiative is the SBE COVID Consortium, a hub for communication and collaboration among NIH-funded projects housed at the University of Michigan. The consortium focuses on disparities and vulnerable populations. It includes 15 research sites studying various aspects of SBE impacts of COVID, such as chronic disease care, school resources, parenting stress, drug use, maternal health, and mitigation policies.

The Consortium consists of two parts:

1. **Individual population research projects** supported by participating NIH institutes, centers, and offices
2. A **Coordinating Center** that develops research, dissemination, and data-sharing activities and serves as a catalyst for engagement across consortium projects and the broader research community

The Coordinating Center activities have produced a growing body of resources to inform policy. In the first three years, the Center—

- Created a COVID Measure Archive to promote consistency and comparability across studies
- Developed Common Data Elements for COVID mitigation policies to standardize data collection and ensure comparable results across studies
- Awarded pilot grants to foster innovative measurement of SBE indicators related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Disseminated research through such activities as publication spotlights of funded research and webinars sharing findings and resources

In May 2024, the Coordinating Center held its annual meeting, which included presentations from grantees on their latest research results and findings. A key takeaway from nearly all the presentations was the significant disparities in how the COVID-19 pandemic affected people and groups. For example—

- Elbel and colleagues found that in New York City public schools, early vaccine eligibility and COVID vaccine uptake increased math and English language arts scores and decreased potential sick days, outpatient visits, and COVID infections. These effects were most pronounced when the community infection rate was high.
- Hung, Li, and colleagues examined trends in prenatal care access during the pandemic in states with differing telehealth policies. They found that in a state that loosened its telehealth policies (allowing for more prenatal telehealth visits), prenatal care remained at a stable, adequate level, whereas in a state that did not loosen telehealth policies, adequate prenatal care dropped substantially.

Resources such as the SBE COVID Consortium offer insights into the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that provide valuable information for future biological threats. We have gathered valuable lessons on best practices for mitigation, the impact of these efforts, and effective communication of vaccination and health information. Practices for developing measures and data resources are in place for easy adaptation to future needs. Most critically, we have modelled the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach that incorporates from the outset insights from the behavioral and social sciences.

Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator, 2024

Have you been an armchair forensic pathologist since Dr. Quincy was on TV? Did Abby Sciuto sometimes call you for advice? Do you subscribe to Brit Box and PBS Mystery channels for more challenging forensic mysteries?

If so, **THIS IS AN ABSOLUTE MUST READ**!! https://nij.ojp.gov/.../death-investigation-guide-scene...

Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator, 2024. The 2024 guide accounts for key changes in the field, including:

• Advances in DNA technology, communication and documentation technology.

• Procedures for drug, child, and infant death investigations.

• Collaboration between investigators and professional partners, families, and the media.

This revised edition is a collaborative effort to update the content to ensure the best possible outcome for both death and criminal investigations today.

Introduction to the 2024 Technical Update Medicolegal death investigation has evolved greatly in the years since the 2011 release of the first technical update to Death Investigation: A Guide for the Scene Investigator. A few of these changes are advances in communication, photography, and documentation technology; procedural advances in drug, child, and infant death investigations; and an elevated awareness of the importance of the medicolegal death investigator (MDI) among professional partners, families, and the media.

With the everchanging advances in DNA technology, the MDI must also possess an increased understanding of the potential value of evidence associated with the body. Lastly, it has become clear with regard to death investigations that the MDI must be allowed to perform an independent, yet collaborative, investigation with law enforcement. This model ensures the best possible outcome for both death and criminal investigations. This revised and updated edition is the result of a collaborative effort to present the most up-to-date information about the issues confronting MDIs today.

Death investigators are the foundation of a medicolegal death investigation and make crucial decisions about the involvement of not only the office, but also of a forensic pathologist, in which case they are the eyes and ears of that forensic pathologist at the scene.

https://nij.ojp.gov/.../death-investigation-guide-scene...

New Funding Opportunities

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New Funding Posted Since June 15 Newsletter

User Note: URL links are active on date of publication, but if a URL link breaks or changes, a Google search on the key words will typically take you to a working link. Also, entering a grant title and/or solicitation number in the Grants.gov search box will work as well.

Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)

The economic prosperity and national security of the United States is reliant upon the nation's capacity to remain globally competitive in the technological and computational fields. The nation's competitiveness, however, is contingent upon its capacity to educate the next generation. Learning and teaching must be reimagined to better represent the diverse composition and perspective of our nation's people and be expanded to encompass all pathways for students to receive a high-quality STEM education. A highly proficient and diverse technological and computational STEM workforce is needed to advance new discoveries in science, engineering, and technology in the service of the nation. The ITEST program is one way NSF is responding to the challenge and opportunity to provide all students with equitable access to a STEM education related to the technical and scientific workforce.

ITEST is an applied research and development program with goals to advance the equitable and inclusive integration of technology in the learning and teaching of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) from pre-kindergarten through high school. The program's objective is to support all students' acquisition of the foundational preparation in STEM disciplines. Preparation for the current and future workforce is increasingly dependent upon the application and use of technology and computing.

Proposed ITEST projects are expected to (1) engage students in technology-rich learning to develop disciplinary and/or transdisciplinary STEM content knowledge, including skills in data literacy and evidence-based decision-making and reasoning; (2) prioritize the full inclusion of groups who have been underrepresented and/or underserved, including but not limited to Blacks and African Americans, Alaska Natives, Hispanics and Latinos, Native Americans, Native Hawaiians, Native Pacific Islanders, persons with disabilities, neurodiverse students, and women in the STEM and information and communication technologies (ICT) workforce; (3) motivate students to pursue appropriate education pathways to technology-rich careers; and (4) leverage strategic and community partnerships to expand education pathways in communities through public and private partnerships and collaborations. **Due August 9.**

National Priorities: Occurrence and Implications of De Facto Water Reuse on Drinking Water Supplies Funding Opportunity, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Register for the informational webinar on July 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Throughout the nation, drinking water supplies of many communities are directly influenced by the

presence of treated municipal wastewater through the process of "de facto water reuse." De facto water reuse occurs when a drinking water supply contains a significant fraction of wastewater effluent, typically from upstream wastewater discharges [1]. This contrasts with planned potable reuse where highly treated wastewater is purposefully used to supplement drinking water supplies. Understanding the risks from this form of unplanned water reuse is important to ensure clean and safe drinking water. De facto reuse is a common occurrence across the U.S. and other countries, but there is relatively little known about the impacts and potential risks. Additional research is needed to better understand the impact of de facto reuse nationwide, including potential human health risks and the interventions needed to mitigate those risks. This National Priorities funding opportunity solicits innovative research to address the knowledge gaps on the impact, risk, and mitigation of de facto reuse in drinking water sources across the United States. **Due August 22.**

Water Power Innovation Network

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO) is issuing this $4.8 million funding opportunity announcement (FOA) "Water Power Innovation Network" to support business creation, entrepreneurship, and regional innovation for water power systems and solutions. WPTO enables research, development, and testing of emerging technologies to advance marine energy as well as next-generation hydropower and pumped storage systems for a flexible, reliable grid. Through this FOA, WPTO seeks to fund new and/or expanded incubator or accelerator programs that enable entrepreneurship and accelerate water power innovation, business creation, and growth in communities and regions throughout the United States. Through this FOA, new and/or expanded incubators and accelerators in water power will be able to collaborate with one another and build a stronger water power innovation network in support of accelerating water power technologies to market. Topic Area 1: Water Power Incubation and Acceleration. This topic area will fund programs that accelerate the commercialization and adoption of water power systems and solutions through incubation and acceleration programming and services that support entrepreneurs and small businesses in marine energy and/or hydropower. Questions regarding the FOA must be submitted to WPTOFOA@ee.doe.gov. To view the entire FOA document, visit the EERE Exchange Website at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov. **Due September 18.**

Privacy-Preserving Data Sharing in Practice

In today's hyperconnected and device-rich world, increasing computational power and the explosive growth of data present us with tremendous opportunities to enable data-driven, evidence-based decision-making capabilities to accelerate scientific discovery and innovation. However, to be able to responsibly leverage the insights from and power of data, such as for training powerful artificial intelligence (AI) models, it is important to have practically deployable and scalable technologies that allow data sharing in a privacy-preserving manner. While there has been significant research progress in privacy-related areas, privacy-preserving data sharing technologies remain at various levels of maturity in terms of practical deployment.

The goals of the PDaSP program are aligned with the Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI EO), which emphasizes the role for privacy-enhancing technologies (PETs) in a responsible and safe AI future. The EO directs NSF to, "where feasible and appropriate, prioritize research — including efforts to translate research

discoveries into practical applications – that encourage the adoption of leading-edge PETs solutions for agencies' use." It also tasks NSF with "developing and helping to ensure the availability of testing environments, such as testbeds, to support the development of safe, secure, and trustworthy AI technologies, as well as to support the design, development, and deployment of associated PETs." In addition to meeting these directives in the AI EO, the PDaSP program strives to address key recommendations made in the National Strategy to Advance Privacy Preserving Data Sharing and Analytics (PPDSA). In particular, the program strives to advance the strategy's priority to "Accelerate Transition to Practice," which includes efforts to "promote applied and translational research and systems development," develop "tool repositories, measurement methods, benchmarking, and testbeds," and "improve usability and inclusiveness of PPDSA solutions." **Due September 27.**

Computer and Information Science and Engineering : Core Programs

October 1 2024 - October 23, 2024 – Window

The NSF CISE Directorate supports research and education projects that develop new knowledge in all aspects of computing, communications, and information science and engineering, as well as advanced cyberinfrastructure, through the following core programs:

Division of Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF):

- Algorithmic Foundations (AF) program;
- Communications and Information Foundations (CIF) program;
- Foundations of Emerging Technologies (FET) program; and
- Software and Hardware Foundations (SHF) program.

Division of Computer and Network Systems (CNS):

- Computer Systems Research (CSR) program; and
- Networking Technology and Systems (NeTS) program.

Division of Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS):

- Human-Centered Computing (HCC) program;
- Information Integration and Informatics (III) program; and
- Robust Intelligence (RI) program.

Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC):

- OAC Core Research (OAC Core) program;

Proposers are invited to submit proposals in several project classes, which are defined as follows:

- Small Projects -- up to $600,000 total budget with durations up to three years: projects in this class may be submitted to CCF, CNS, and IIS only;
- Medium Projects -- $600,001 to $1,200,000 total budget with durations up to four years: projects in this class may be submitted to CCF, CNS, and IIS only; and
- OAC Core Projects -- up to $600,000 total budget with durations up to three years: projects in this class may be submitted to OAC only.

A more complete description of these project classes can be found in Section *II. Program Description* of this document.

NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)

The NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP) provides an opportunity for applicants who received the distinction of GRFP Honorable Mention no more than three years before the proposal due date to be named NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellows and obtain financial support for their graduate education at an institution in an EPSCoR jurisdiction. EGFP aims to enhance the capacity and competitiveness of EPSCoR jurisdictions by providing funding to graduate degree-awarding institutions to support NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellows as they pursue graduate degrees in the disciplines specified by the NSF Directorates and Office that are participating in the EGFP funding

program. Fellows may pursue degrees in field that differ from the field or sub-field of study that the GRFP Honorable Mention recipients previously listed in their GRFP application.

EGFP awards will be made to institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions. Awards will provide three years of stipend and associated cost-of-education allowance for each NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellow. Stipends must be budgeted at the level of $37,000 per year per Fellow and cost-of-education allowances must be budgeted at the level of $16,000 per year per Fellow. A total of three years of support must be budgeted per Fellow. Each Fellow must be given up to five years to utilize the support. Awardees will administer the awards such that the Fellows receive the full stipend amount and the institution retains the full cost-of-education allowance during the three years that each Fellow receives support. All submissions must request support for a minimum of three Fellows. **Due October 2**.

ROSES 2024: A.36 The Science of PACE

Please note that this program requests optional Notices of Intent, which are due via **NSPIRES by October 1, 2024.** See the full posting on NSPIRES for details. **Proposers must retrieve the instructions document (zip file) associated with the application package for this opportunity as there is at least one required form that must be attached to the submitted proposal package.**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Science Mission Directorate (SMD) released its annual omnibus Research Announcement (NRA), Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) – 2024 (OMB Approval Number 2700-0092, CFDA Number 43.001) on February 14, 2024. In this case "omnibus" means that this NRA has many individual program elements, each with its own due dates and topics. All together these cover the wide range of basic and applied supporting research and technology in space and Earth sciences supported by SMD. Awards will be made as grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and inter- or intra-agency transfers, depending on the nature of the work proposed, the proposing organization, and/or program requirements. However, most extramural research awards deriving from ROSES will be grants, and many program elements of ROSES specifically exclude contracts, because contracts would not be appropriate for the nature of the work solicited. The typical period of performance for an award is three years, but some programs may allow up to five years and others specify shorter periods. In most cases, organizations of every type, Government and private, for profit and not-for-profit, domestic and foreign (with some caveats), may submit proposals without restriction on teaming arrangements. Tables listing the program elements and due dates (Tables 2 and 3), a table that provides a very top level summary of proposal contents (Table 1), and the full text of the ROSES-2024 "Summary of Solicitation", may all be found NSPIRES at http://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2024.

This synopsis is associated with one of the individual program elements within ROSES, but this is a generic summary that is posted for all ROSES elements. For specific information on this particular program element download and read the PDF of the text of this program element by going to Tables 2 or 3 of this NRA at http://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2024table2 and http://solicitation.nasaprs.com/ROSES2024table3, respectively, click the title of the program element of interest, a hypertext link will take you to a page for that particular program element. On that page, on the right side under "Announcement Documents" the link on the bottom will be to the PDF of the text of the call for proposals. For example, if one were interested in The Lunar Data Analysis Program (NNH24ZDA001N-LDAP) one would follow the link to the NSPIRES page for that program element and then to read the text of the call one would click on "C.8 Lunar Data Analysis Program (.pdf)" to download the text of the call. If one wanted to set it into the context of the goals, objectives and know the default rules for all elements within Appendix C, the planetary science

division, one might download and read "C.1 Planetary Science Research Program Overview (.pdf)" from that same page. While the letters and numbers are different for each element within ROSES (A.12, B.7, etc.) the basic configuration is always the same, e.g., the letter indicates the Science Division (A is Earth Science, B is Heliophysics etc.) and whatever the letter, #1 is always the division overview.

Frequently asked questions for ROSES are posted at http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/faqs. Questions concerning general ROSES-2024 policies and procedures may be directed to Max Bernstein, Lead for Research, Science Mission Directorate, at sara@nasa.gov, but technical questions concerning specific program elements should be directed to the point(s) of contact for that particular element, who may be found either at the end of the individual program element in the summary table of key information or on the web list of topics and points of contact at: http://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/program-officers-list. **Due January 22.**

Research on Science and Technology Enterprise: Indicators, Statistics, and Methods

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) of the National Science Foundation (NSF) is one of the thirteen principal federal statistical agencies within the United States. It is responsible for the collection, acquisition, analysis, reporting and dissemination of objective, statistical data related to the science and technology (S&T) enterprise in the United States and other nations that is relevant and useful to practitioners, researchers, policymakers and the public. NCSES uses this information to prepare a number of statistical data reports including *Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering* and the National Science Board's biennial report, *Science and Engineering (S&E) Indicators*.

The Center would like to enhance its efforts to support analytic and methodological research in support of its surveys as well as promote the education and training of researchers in the use of large-scale nationally representative datasets. NCSES welcomes efforts by the research community to use NCSES or other data to conduct research on the S&T enterprise, develop improved survey methodologies that could benefit NCSES surveys, explore alternate data sources that could supplement NCSES data, create and improve indicators of S&T activities and resources, strengthen methodologies to analyze S&T statistical data, and explore innovative ways to communicate S&T statistics. To that end, NCSES invites proposals for individual or multi-investigator research projects, doctoral dissertation improvement awards, conferences, experimental research, survey research and data collection, and dissemination projects under its program for Research on the Science and Technology Enterprise: Indicators, Statistics, and Methods (NCSES S&T**). Due January 25**.

Solicitations Remaining Open from Last Newsletter
Open Solicitations and BAAs

Mechanistic Investigations into ADRD Associated Protein Structures in Biological Settings (R01 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) supports studies proposing to utilize methodologies for in-cell structural biology to address the mechanistic insights and causal cellular and molecular relationships between molecular pathology and Alzheimer's disease-related dementias (ADRD)

clinical phenotypic outcomes. The applications are expected to focus on determining structures of ADRD-linked macromolecular in native (healthy and pathological) settings. The proposed methodology is expected to provide high-resolution information on the identity, dynamics and relative abundance of macromolecular species associated with ADRD and how pathological environments influence dynamics and structural conformations. Studies in response to this NOFO can also include the development of in situ research tools and resources to further characterize and validate the structural findings. The long-term goal of this funding opportunity is for these structural studies in the native cellular environment to inform efficient tools development and designs that better identify and monitor the accumulation of dysfunctional proteins in patients, as well as for other diagnostic, treatment response, therapeutic development and other related applications. **Due Sept. 4**.

Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Pilot Project

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

The U.S. Department of Agriculture – U.S. Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service – NHQ – Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP) is collaborating with National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) through an interagency agreement for implementation of the Composting and Food Waste Reduction (CFWR) Pilot Project Cooperative Agreement Program. **Due Sept. 4.**

Probability

The Probability Program supports research on the theory and applications of probability. Subfields include discrete probability, stochastic processes, limit theory, interacting particle systems, stochastic differential and partial differential equations, and Markov processes. Research in probability which involves applications to other areas of science and engineering is especially encouraged. Conferences: Principal Investigators should carefully read the program solicitation "Conferences and Workshops in the Mathematical Sciences" (link below) to obtain important information regarding the substance of proposals for conferences, workshops, summer/winter schools, and similar activities. Conference and workshop proposals should be submitted eight months before the requested start date. **Due September 17.**

IUSE/Professional Formation of Engineers: Revolutionizing Engineering Departments (IUSE/PFE: RED)

Revolutionizing Engineering Departments (hereinafter referred to as RED) is designed to build upon previous efforts in engineering education research. Specifically, previous and ongoing evaluations of the NSF Engineering Education and Centers Division program and its predecessors, as well as those related programs in the Directorate for STEM Education, have shown that prior investments have significantly improved the first year of engineering students' experiences, incorporating engineering material, active learning approaches, design instruction, and a broad introduction to professional skills and a sense of professional practice – giving students an idea of what it means to become an engineer. Similarly, the senior year has seen notable change through capstone design experiences, which ask students to synthesize the technical knowledge, skills, and abilities they have gained with professional capacities, using reflective judgment to make decisions and communicate these effectively. However, this ideal of the senior year has not yet been fully

realized, because many of the competencies required in capstone design, or required of professional engineers, are only partially introduced in the first year and not carried forward with significant emphasis through the sophomore and junior years.

The Directorates for Engineering (ENG) and STEM Education (EDU) are funding projects as part of the RED program, in alignment with the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) framework and Professional Formation of Engineers (PFE) initiative. These projects are designing revolutionary new approaches to engineering education, ranging from changing the canon of engineering to fundamentally altering the way courses are structured to creating new departmental structures and educational collaborations with industry. A common thread across these projects is a focus on organizational and cultural change within the departments, involving students, faculty, staff, and industry in rethinking what it means to provide an engineering program.

Proposals are especially encouraged that address areas of increased national interest including but not limited to advanced manufacturing, advanced wireless, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, microelectronics and semiconductors, net zero technologies, sustainability, systems engineering, and quantum engineering. **Due September 24.**

Education Activities for Responsible Analyses of Complex, Large-Scale Data (R25-Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

The NIH Research Education Program (R25) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs. To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this NOFO will support of educational activities with a primary focus on: Courses for Skills Development and Curriculum or Methods Development. The goal of this NIDA R25 program is to support training and educational activities for responsible analyses of complex large-scale data involving brain, behavioral, genomic, and socioenvironmental data that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research needs. This NOFO requires a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives (PEDP), which will be assessed as part of the scientific and technical peer review evaluation. Applications that fail to include a PEDP will be considered incomplete and will be withdrawn. Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the NOFO instructions carefully and view the available PEDP guidance material. Letter of Intent Due Date(s): **November 18, 2024**

The Artificial Intelligence, Formal Methods, and Mathematical Reasoning (AIMing)

This program seeks to support research at the interface of innovative computational and artificial intelligence (AI) technologies and new strategies/technologies in mathematical reasoning to automate knowledge discovery. Mathematical reasoning is a central ability of human intelligence that plays an important role in knowledge discovery. In the last decades, both the mathematics and computer science communities have contributed to research in machine-assisted mathematical reasoning, encompassing conjecture, proof, and verification. This has been in the form of both formal methods and interactive theorem provers, as well as using techniques from artificial intelligence. Recent technological advances have led to a surge of interest in machine-assisted mathematical reasoning from the mathematical sciences, formal methods, and AI communities. In turn, advances in this field have potential impact on research in AI. **Due June 3.**

Confronting Hazards, Impacts and Risks for a Resilient Planet (CHIRRP)

June 6 - Target date; Concept outlines must be submitted 30 days in advance of full proposal.

The Confronting Hazards, Impacts and Risks for a Resilient Planet Program (CHIRRP) invites projects focusing on innovative and transformative research that advances Earth system hazard knowledge and risk mitigation in partnership with affected communities. Hazards compounded by changing climates, rising populations, expanding demands for resources, aging infrastructure, and increasing reliance on technology are putting our economy, well-being, and national security at risk. Researchers, academics, and community leaders will work together to develop community-driven research questions and actionable, science-based solutions that increase community resilience now and in the future. CHIRRP projects are expected to advance understanding, forecasting and/or prediction of future Earth system hazards and risks, engage communities in development of research questions and approaches, and produce actionable, science-based solution pathways for adaptation methodologies, products, and services. CHIRRP projects may evaluate a single or system of cascading hazards, impacts, and risks at a local, regional, or global scale through the lens of transformative earth system science research. Competitive projects will engage community partners at all stages of a project from development to implementation. CHIRRP currently supports planning, conference, RCNs, EAGER, and RAISE proposals that support development of community partnerships, provide training for effective community engagement, catalyze ideas, and/or support the initial conceptualization, planning and collaboration activities aimed at formulating new and sound plans for future large-scale projects.

CHIRRP Elements
CHIRRP projects will demonstrate convergence of three essential elements: (1) Equitable Community Partnerships; (2) an Earth System Science approach to advance knowledge of hazards, impacts, and risks and (3) Actionable Solutions that increase resilience. The initiative seeks solutions to existing as well as next-generation Earth system hazards[1].

Build Equitable Community Partnerships: CHIRRP projects will serve a community and equitably co-produce project research questions and solutions. CHIRRP teams will bring together community members with direct knowledge of hazard impacts and community priorities and researchers with expertise in the natural and human dimensions of the Earth system. Partners may include, but are not limited to, local governments, Tribal Nations, civil society organizations, youth groups, and non-government organizations (NGOs). Robust partnerships are responsive to community priorities, may involve a social science component, and lead to actionable solutions that increase community resilience.

Advance Earth System Science: Generating practical and foundational knowledge on many of the nation's most urgent challenges requires a systems approach to understand the highly interdependent and complex natural and human components of the Earth system. CHIRRP projects will innovate and advance Earth System Science approaches that explore dynamic interactions and couplings among natural and social processes that affect Earth's capacity to sustain the well-being of communities, infrastructure, and national security.

Evaluate Actionable Science-Based Solutions: CHIRRP deliverables include co-produced innovative, science-based actionable solution pathways that mitigate future hazards, impacts, and

risks. Multiple solutions may exist, and new solutions may emerge in the future. CHIRRP projects will inform pathways to resilience through evaluation of different solutions informed by the advancement of earth systems knowledge delivered from the project. An understanding of risk, vulnerability and resilience necessarily entails an understanding of relevant social dynamics including methods and analysis to identify how the impacts of hazards may disproportionately affect specific segments of a community or region. Solutions should be responsive to community priorities, including objectives such as reducing Earth system hazard related risk, increasing resilience, and advancing equity.

Harnessing Artificial Intelligence and Polypharmacology to Discover Pharmacotherapeutics for Substance Use Disorders

The goal is to leverage AI/ML tools to identify pharmacotherapeutic development candidates with lower toxicity and higher efficacy to prevent or treat SUDs. Molecules may include new chemical entities, investigational compounds, and repurposed marketed medications. AI/ML tools can pinpoint the most promising targets, design effective ligands based on predicted drug-likeness, and guide in vitro and in vivo assays to assess the effects of these ligands on biological targets and functions. Applicants should propose and conduct activities that use AI/ML tools to streamline, enhance decision-making, and accelerate the identification of SUD pharmacotherapeutics. Applications may aim to conduct the following process:

- Identify and validate disease targets. Screen potential compounds to develop preliminary hits. Develop assays to test the activities of candidate compounds in vitro.
- Synthesize novel series of compounds; test efficacy and toxicities in vitro. Test pharmacokinetics and toxicity of selected compounds in relevant in vivo models.
- Conduct non-GLP in vivo toxicity and efficacy of lead compound.

Application Not Responsive to this NOFO

The following types of projects are not responsive to this NOFO and will not be reviewed :

- Applications that pursue a single target.
- Applications solely focused on alcohol use disorders.
- Applications pursuing pain as sole focus without addressing substance dependence.
- Applications that do not propose using computer-based approaches to augment drug discovery efforts. **Due June 15.**

NCCIH Natural Product Mid Phase Clinical Trial

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) encourages applications for investigator-initiated mid-phase clinical trials of natural products(i.e., botanicals, dietary supplements, and probiotics), which have a strong scientific premise to justify further clinical testing. For this NOFO, natural products include promising nutritional regimens that standardize the amount of a specific naturally occurring nutritional compound (e.g., omega-3 fatty acids, anthocyanidins, or polyphenols) and have compelling preliminary evidence. All applications submitted under this NOFO must be supported by sufficient preliminary data demonstrating bioavailability (if applicable) and documentation that the natural product produces a reproducible and measurable impact on target engagement (i.e., measure of the mechanism of action). Only in cases when it is not possible/practical to measure target engagement in the patient population of interest or when

there is a fundamental understanding of the products mechanism of action will this preliminary data requirement be waived. Applications submitted to this NOFO should propose a mid-phase clinical trial to do the following: determine the optimal dose or formulation of a given natural product for use in a future multi-site efficacy trial; or determine which patient phenotypes will be responders versus non-responders to the natural product to inform inclusion/exclusion criteria of a future efficacy trial. Clinical trials submitted under this NOFO are expected to be hypothesis based, milestone-driven, and directly related to the research priorities and mission of NCCIH. This NOFO will not support single-site or multi-site efficacy or effectiveness trials, nor will it support trials to test natural products for the treatment or prevention of cancer. Applicants are encouraged to contact the appropriate NCCIH Scientific/Research contact for the area of science for which they are planning to develop an application prior to submitting. **Open until Nov. 13, 2026.**

Research on the Impact of and Methods for Implementing Regional Genomic Medicine eConsult Services (U01 Clinical Trials Optional)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) invites applications for sites to participate in the Genomic Medicine eConsult Research Network, hereafter referred to as the 'eConsult Network.' The eConsult Network will consist of 2-3 sites working with NHGRI to conduct research on the impact of and methods for implementing regional clinician-to-clinician genomic medicine electronic consult (eConsult) services. Specifically, sites will be funded to research how to best design, implement, and sustain regional genomic medicine eConsult services; provide outreach to potential users, including those at underserved settings; and assess the impact on key stakeholders while developing successful implementation strategies and resources that can be broadly shared and adopted. **Open April 30.**

Solutions to Enable Regional Genomic Medicine eConsult Services (R43/R44 Clinical Trial Optional)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) invites applications from eligible small businesses to develop solutions for commercialization that can be used to enable regional clinician-to-clinician genomic medicine eConsult services. Specifically, we seek products, such as technologies or services, that will allow for the development and sustainment of eConsult services. **Open April 30.**

USDA/NIFA Equipment Grants Program

The Equipment Grant Program (EGP) serves to increase access to shared-use special purpose equipment/instruments for fundamental and applied research for use in the food and agricultural sciences programs at institutions of higher education, including State Cooperative Extension Systems. The program seeks to strengthen the quality and expand the scope of fundamental and applied research at eligible institutions, by providing them with opportunities to acquire one major piece of equipment/instruments that support their research, training, and extension goals and may be too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NIFA grant programs. The EGP does not support the acquisition of suites of equipment to outfit research laboratories /facilities or to conduct independent experiments simultaneously. Similarly, the EGP does not fund common, general purpose ancillary equipment that would normally be found in a laboratory and/or is relatively easily procured by the organization or through other NIFA grant programs. Rather, it is intended to help fund items of equipment that will upgrade infrastructure. Moreover, EGP does not fund research projects, including research that uses the equipment acquired with support from the program nor does it support the operation and maintenance of facilities. **Due May 3.**

FY24 Long Range Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) For Navy And Marine Corps Science And Technology N00014-24-S-B001

This publication constitutes a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for awards by the Office of Naval Research (ONR) Contact and Grants Awards Management Division, ONR Code 25 (or others approved by Code 25), ONR Global (ONRG) and the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab (MCWL), as contemplated in Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 6.102(d)(2) and 35.016 and by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Guide to Research Other Transactions Under 10 U.S.C. 4021 (JUN 2023 and the Other Transaction Guide version 2.0 dated July 2023. It also constitutes a merit-based, competitive procedure, in accordance with the Department of Defense Grant and Agreement Regulations (DoDGARS), at 32 CFR 22.315(a). A formal Request for Proposals (RFP), solicitation, and/or additional information regarding this announcement will not be issued. Unless indicated otherwise, any references to ONR within the BAA refers to ONR, ONRG and MCWL. **Open until September 30, 2024.**

Notice of Special Interest: Exploratory Cancer Immunology Projects and Technologies

Through this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) on Exploratory Cancer Immunology Projects and Technologies (ExCITe), the National Cancer Institute intends to **encourage R21 applications proposing innovative high-risk/high-reward research projects**, that test novel hypotheses or develop novel technologies, to advance our understanding of cancer immunology. Research projects should focus on fundamental areas of cancer immunology, including innate and adaptive immune responses, tumor-immune ecosystems and their dynamic interactions, the immune response to metastases, systemic immune networks, immunosurveillance, tumor immune evasion, or immunomodulation. Projects should be distinct in scope and focus from those supported through the traditional R01 mechanism. ExCITe studies may involve considerable risk but have the potential to lead to research breakthroughs or the development of novel techniques, agents, methodologies, models, or applications that could have a major impact in cancer immunology and cancer immunotherapy research.

Background

The field of cancer immunology aims to decipher the intricate nature of molecular and cellular interactions that orchestrate the cancer-immune ecosystem across the continuum of cancer initiation, progression, and metastasis. Although various immunotherapy approaches have revolutionized cancer treatment, there is a critical need to better understand and overcome important hurdles that have limited long-term outcomes to a few cancer types and subsets of patients. Through the ExCITe NOSI, the NCI aims to promote and support bold research ideas and novel technologies that could ignite new paradigms in cancer immunology and lead to improved and more widely available immunotherapy approaches for cancer patients.

Research Objectives

R21 applications submitted through the ExCITe NOSI should propose innovative high-risk/high-reward research projects, that test novel hypotheses or develop novel technologies, to advance our understanding of cancer immunology. Applicants should propose research studies to address fundamental aspects in the field of tumor immunology and/or innovative ways to enhance anti-cancer immunity. Innovative approaches that target both primary tumor and metastases are

encouraged. Establishing new or improved in vivo/in vitro models to study the dynamics of tumor-immune ecosystems are also encouraged.

Examples of projects NOT responsive to this NOSI:

- New biomarkers for screening or diagnostic tools, such as imaging techniques; cancer preventive agents or approaches; predictive and prognostic biomarkers for patient selection or stratification; new treatment strategies involving repurposed agents or novel combinations of interventions (including radiation) based on established mechanisms of action.
- Studies that promote mechanistic research aimed at better understanding the pathophysiology of immune-related adverse events (irAEs).
- Studies that use multidisciplinary approaches to develop bioengineering solutions in cancer.

While above-mentioned studies are not responsive to this NOSI, interested applicants may apply on the three research areas using PAR-20-292, NOT-CA-22-063, and PAR-22-091 respectively.

Strategic Technology Office (STO) Office-wide

DARPA's Strategic Technology Office (STO) is seeking innovative ideas and disruptive technologies that provide the U.S. military and national security leaders trusted, disruptive capabilities to win in all physical domains (Air, Space, Sea, and Land) and across the spectrum of competition, from deterrence to high-end peer combat. STO seeks to carry out DARPA's mission of creating high-risk, high-reward "breakthrough" technologies with a focus on ambitious, difficult, and revolutionary projects that achieve significant changes or fundamental shifts in technical capabilities and give our warfighters new ways to fight. STO will develop and deliver solutions at a speed and scale to be operationally relevant in a relatively short time, just a few years, from the initiation of the project to proof of concept. STO is a "systems office," seeking to create new "proof-of-concept" mission systems. Its goals are to develop and demonstrate new capabilities that expand what is technically possible. **Due October 30, 2024.**

Notice of Special Interest: Chemical Countermeasures Research Program Initiative: Additional Research Areas of Interest focusing on Ultra-Potent Synthetic Opioids

The scientific scope of research supported by this NIDA-CCRP Notice of Special Interest initiative includes -

- Studies on elucidating the mechanisms that contribute to the deleterious effects after acute exposure to nitazenes, a combination of UPS opioids (e.g., fentanyl and nitazenes) and UPS opioids in combination with xylazine (e.g., fentanyl and xylazine)
- Fundamental research on the non-lethal, delayed, or persistent pathophysiological effects after acute exposure to nitazenes, a combination of UPS opioids (e.g., fentanyl and nitazene) and UPS opioids in combination with xylazine (e.g., fentanyl and xylazine)
- Design and synthesis of chemical probes to gain mechanistic insights on biological targets of relevance to treat or reverse toxicities caused by nitazenes, a combination of UPS opioids (e.g.,

fentanyl and nitazene) and UPS opioids in combination with xylazine (e.g., fentanyl and xylazine)

Applications for this NOSI initiative are being accepted under the NIDA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) RFA-DA-23-056. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Scientific/Research Contact(s) prior to submission as they may choose to develop their research projects in one or more areas based on their expertise and feasibility (nitazenes, and/or combination of UPS opioids, and/or UPS opioids when combined with xylazine). To be considered for this initiative, applications must follow the Funding Opportunity Description that is critical to the mission of the CCRP, including the non-responsive criteria and additional considerations found within the NOFO. **Due November 29, 2024**

[BAA's remain open for one or more years. During the open period, agency research priorities may change or other modifications are made to a published BAA. If you are submitting a proposal in response to an open solicitation, as below, check for modifications to the BAA at Grants.gov or by utilizing Modified Opportunities by Agency to receive a Grants.gov notification of recently modified opportunities by agency name.]

ARMED FORCES PEST MANAGEMENT BOARD (AFPMB)

The Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB), an agency of the Department of Defense (DoD), is soliciting pre-proposals for original and innovative research designed to develop new interventions for protection of deployed military personnel from diseases caused by arthropod-borne pathogens and to improve control of bed bugs and filth flies. Diseases of significant concern include Lyme disease, malaria, dengue fever and other arboviruses. The program supports development of: (1) new toxicants or the adaptation of existing toxicants to medically relevant pests; (2) new insecticide application techniques; (3) new personal protection tools that prevent human-vector contact; (4) decision support tools and (5) novel vector surveillance tools that focus on improved control outcomes. Ideally the research would support **Advanced Technology Development** (see DoD Financial Management Regulation Volume 2B, Chapter 5, DoD RDT&E Budget Activity 3) of new insecticides or improved formulations of existing insecticides for vector control, new technology or enhanced modalities of personal protection from biting arthropods, or improved efficacy and sustainability of equipment for vector surveillance and application of pesticides for vector control in a military operational environment. Research should be product-oriented, consisting of advanced research related to a particular technology or new capability, evaluation of experimental products for military uses, or research directed towards development of an existing prototype product for commercial manufacture. Research should include semi-field or field evaluation of prototype products. Research should not include testing and evaluation of commercial products. Any pesticide end use products described in the proposed research should be destined for registration by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The research must be primarily applicable to the military, products should be transferable to civilian uses. The program consists of competitive grants open to principal investigators (PIs) from academia, industry, and local or state government agencies. Federal Agencies (including DoD) may apply subject to appropriate regulations. This BAA is intended to solicit pre-proposals for AFPMB for those parts of development not related to a specific system or hardware procurement in accordance with Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200 CFR. The purpose of this BAA is to identify the best available science, and as such, there are no set-asides associated with any awards resulting from this BAA. Specific areas of interest are described in the "Areas of Interest" section of

this BAA. This Announcement provides a general description of project areas, including specific areas of interest, general information, evaluation and selection criteria, and proposal preparation instructions. All documentation and or attachments that are required with the submission of a full proposal, if requested, are described in the Mandatory Proposal Forms section of this announcement. Awards are typically made under grants; however, other funding opportunities may be considered. **Open to Oct. 31, 2024**

Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC

What We Do: We provide consulting for colleges and universities on a wide range of topics related to research development and grant writing, including:

Strategic Planning - Assistance in formulating research development strategies and building institutional infrastructure for research development (including special strategies for Emerging Research Institutions, Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions and Minority Serving Institutions)

Training for Faculty – Online and in-person workshops, self-paced online courses, and proposal development retreats and bootcamps on how to find and compete for research funding from NSF, NIH, DoE and other government agencies as well as foundations.

Large proposals - Assistance in planning, developing and writing institutional and center-level proposals (e.g., NSF ERC, STC, NRT, ADVANCE, IUSE, Dept of Ed GAANN, DoD MURI, etc.)

Assistance for new and junior faculty **-** help in identifying funding opportunities and developing competitive research proposals, particularly to NSF CAREER, DoD Young Investigator, DOE Early Career and other junior investigator programs.

Graphics and design assistance – assistance with proposal graphics, book and presentation design, and more.

Assistance for your project narrative: in-depth reviews, rewrites, and edits

Editing and proof reading – proposals, journal articles, book manuscripts

Online and In-Person Seminars – training for postdocs, students, and staff on a wide range of topics related to pursuing external fundings. **Our updated online NSF CAREER course for the 2024 competition is now available.**

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