

THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

## WASHINGTON E-UPDATE

Prepared by Cavarocchi-Ruscio-Dennis Associates, Editor -- Brent Jaquet  
Contributors -- Dom Ruscio, Erika Miller, Tiffany Kaszuba, Lindsey Trischler, John Donoghue

March 2015

***Budget and Appropriations Update*** -- As we reported in last month's newsletter, the fiscal year 2016 budget plan the president sent to Congress proposes raising the defense and non-defense spending caps by a combined \$75 billion, offsetting the increase with a mix of mandatory spending cuts and revenue from closing tax breaks.

The president and congressional Democrats also would like to get rid of the threat of across-the-board sequestration cuts. With many Republicans, particularly defense hawks, believing the military side of the equation requires more resources, it would seem to set the stage for a "grand bargain" where, once and for all, the president and Congress pull themselves out of the fiscal quagmire.

But some significant hurdles stand in the way of any budget accord, partly because the budget and political environments are very different from those that triggered the 2013 budget deal struck by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senator Patty Murray (D-WA).

For one thing, in fiscal year 2016, defense spending will grow by \$1.8 billion to \$523 billion, while the nondefense spending would go up by \$1.1 billion to \$493.5 billion, according to the Office of Management and Budget. Even though those increases are less than the rate of inflation, they are still increases.

Also, the political climate has shifted. With control of both chambers, Republicans have newfound clout in negotiating with the president, and many Republicans, particularly on the far right, support the threat of sequestration as an imperfect, but nevertheless effective way to control discretionary spending. Besides, they say, if defense spending is to increase, offsetting cuts should come out of nondefense discretionary programs.

If there is a deal to be struck, it will happen later this year—and it's more likely to be a small deal rather than a "grand bargain."

House Budget committee chairman Tom Price (R-GA) and his Senate counterpart Michael B. Enzi (R-WY) are in the process of developing their respective budget resolutions, setting overall spending and revenue targets that will have to be implemented, most likely this fall. It's around that time that Congress will be faced with another deadline to raise the debt ceiling and to pass the 12 spending bills necessary to avoid another government shutdown. Those action-forcing events may be all the incentive the president and Congress need to come to the bargaining table.

## **Fiscal 2015 Homeland Security bill still in limbo**

Congress barely averted a shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security late in the evening February 27 by passing a one-week Continuing Resolution. The process to provide funding for the rest of Fiscal 2015 has been in a stalemate because the House-passed bill H.R. 240 contains several provisions to block the president's immigration policies.

The House bill was unable to move in the Senate after four failed attempts to reach the 60-vote threshold for consideration, so Senators finally passed a "clean" bill without the immigration provisions that would run for the rest of the year. Most Senators have clearly tired of the immigration fight and the brinksmanship and want to move on to other legislation. In the House however, a block of about 20 Republicans is keeping the pressure on the Speaker to insist on the original bill.

A clean funding bill would pass in the House with support from Democrats and moderate Republicans, but it's not clear yet if the Republican Leadership will eventually settle for this route which has been used in the past to break key impasses.

## **Administration FY 2016 budget sent to Congress**

The president transmitted his \$4.066 trillion budget request for Fiscal 2016 to Congress February 2, along with a proposal to break the budget sequestration process and increase spending for both domestic and defense agencies by \$74 billion or 7 percent.

His proposal is linked to a call for imposing various tax increases on the wealthy through a \$1.8 billion deficit reduction package and reaction to that on Capitol Hill falls along party lines. The House and Senate appropriations committees have now begun hearings on the various agency requests as they formulate spending legislation for the next fiscal year.

For science agencies overall, the budget would provide a 6 percent increase in basic and applied R&D for a total of about \$140 billion across the agencies. NIH is the single most important funder of basic research and its budget would go up 3.3 percent or \$1 billion to \$31 billion under the budget. The other five agencies that together with NIH account for 95 percent of the total federal expenditure on basic research are NSF, the Energy Department, the Defense Department, NASA and USDA.

The National Science Foundation would receive a 5.2 percent increase to \$7.7 billion. NOAA would receive \$3.3 billion, a 6.3 percent increase over the current year, with the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research receiving a 12 percent boost. Ocean acidification research would go up 33 percent to \$30 million. Weather satellite programs would receive \$2 billion. The Science Mission Directorate with its four science divisions would receive \$5.289 billion, a 0.8% increase.

The Energy Department's Office of Science would receive a 5 percent increase in the budget to \$5.3 billion. Its Advanced Scientific Computing Research program would get an increase of almost 15 percent to \$621 million.

Defense Department budget request would cut basic research 8.3 percent to a level of \$2.1 billion. A similar cut was proposed last year but restored by Congressional appropriators.

NASA would receive \$18.5 billion, an increase of \$2.7 percent over 2015. Included is a \$30 million request for the mission to Jupiter's moon Europa to launch in the mid-2020s.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) would realize a 29 percent increase to \$1.2 billion. USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative would be increased from \$325 million to \$450 million in FY 16.

The following is a set of links to budget briefing documents and justifications for key agencies of interest to the SUS:

National Institutes of Health: <http://officeofbudget.od.nih.gov/br.html>

National Science Foundation: <http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2016/index.jsp>

Department of Energy: <http://energy.gov/cfo/downloads/fy-2016-budget-justification>

Department of Agriculture: <http://www.obpa.usda.gov/>

Department of Defense: <http://comptroller.defense.gov/budgetmaterials.aspx>

Department of Homeland Security: <http://www.dhs.gov/dhs-budget>

NASA: [http://www.nasa.gov/news/budget/index.html#.UxDfE\\_lV8E](http://www.nasa.gov/news/budget/index.html#.UxDfE_lV8E)

Department of Education: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/performance.html>

NIST: [http://www.osec.doc.gov/bmi/budget/FY16CJ/NIST-NTIS\\_FY\\_2016\\_CJ\\_Final\\_508\\_Compliant.pdf](http://www.osec.doc.gov/bmi/budget/FY16CJ/NIST-NTIS_FY_2016_CJ_Final_508_Compliant.pdf)

NOAA: [http://www.osec.doc.gov/bmi/budget/FY16CJ/NOAA\\_FY16\\_CJ.pdf](http://www.osec.doc.gov/bmi/budget/FY16CJ/NOAA_FY16_CJ.pdf)

Department of Transportation: <http://www.dot.gov/budget>

Department of Veterans Affairs: <http://www.va.gov/budget/products.asp>

White House Office of Science and Technology Policy R&D fact sheet:

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp\\_fact\\_sheet\\_2016\\_budget.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_fact_sheet_2016_budget.pdf)

## **Rubio and bipartisan Senate group introduce new bill to prevent campus sexual assaults**

A revised version of the *Campus Accountability and Safety Act* based on last year's bill and informed by input from stakeholders, including the SUS, was introduced in the Senate February 26 by ten Senators including Florida's Marco Rubio.

With added input from survivors, students, colleges and universities, law enforcement and advocates, the bill aims to improve the current system by providing increased accountability and transparency from higher education institutions for sexual assaults occurring on college campuses. The legislation is geared toward the response to, and

reporting of, sexual assaults that occur on campuses in an effort to increase prosecutions, better protect and empower students, while also respecting the rights of the accused.

Key provisions of the legislation include:

- Establishing New Campus Resources and Support Services for Student Survivors: Colleges and universities would be required to designate Confidential Advisors to assist survivors of sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking. Confidential Advisors will coordinate support services and accommodations for survivors, provide information about options for reporting, and provide guidance or assistance—at the direction of the survivor—in reporting the crime to campus authorities and/or local law enforcement. Schools will no longer be allowed to sanction students who report sexual violence but, in doing so, also reveal that they were involved in a non-violent student conduct code violation, such as underage drinking.
- Requiring Fairness in Campus Disciplinary Process: All schools would be required to use one uniform process for campus student disciplinary proceedings and no longer allow athletic departments or other subgroups to handle complaints. Schools would have to provide written notification to the accused as well as the victim of any decision to move forward with a campus disciplinary proceeding within 24 hours of that decision. The notice must include details of complaint, a summary of the disciplinary proceeding and the rights and due process protections available to both parties.
- Ensuring Minimum Training Standards for On-Campus Personnel: This legislation requires that everyone from the Confidential Advisors to those responsible for investigating and participating in disciplinary proceedings would receive specialized training so that they have a firm understanding of the nature of these crimes and their effect on survivors.
- Creating New Transparency Requirements: For the first time, students at every university in America would be surveyed about their experience with sexual violence to get an accurate picture of this problem. This new biannual survey will be standardized and anonymous, with the results published online so that parents and high school students can make an informed choice when comparing universities. The Department of Education would also be required to publish the names of all schools with pending investigations, final resolutions, and voluntary resolution agreements related to Title IX with respect to sexual violence.
- Campus Accountability and Coordination with Law Enforcement: This legislation would require colleges and universities to enter into memoranda of understanding with each local law enforcement agency that has jurisdiction to report to a campus as a first responder to clearly delineate responsibilities and share information so that when a crime occurs.
- Enforceable Title IX Penalties and Stiffer Penalties for Clery Act Violations: Schools that do not comply with certain requirements under the bill could face a penalty of up to 1 percent of the institution's operating budget. Previously, the only allowable penalty

was the loss of all federal student aid which has never been done. The bill would increase penalties for Clery Act violations to up to \$150,000 per violation from the current penalty of \$35,000. Financial penalties collected from universities in violation will be distributed back to campuses through a new competitive grant program, administered by the Secretary of Education, for which colleges and universities can apply for the purpose of researching best practices for preventing and responding to sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking on college campuses and sharing such research with peer institutions and the Department of Education.

## **2016 budget proposal addresses higher education**

Higher education programs would fare well under the president's fiscal 2016 budget proposal to Congress. That's largely because the plan would provide new funding and an overall 7 percent increase across the board to agencies -- assuming that various legislative, tax and program changes would be enacted this year.

But whether any proposed increases or policy changes ever materialize is another story and certainly will be dependent on how closely the ideas match with Republican initiatives.

One proposal likely to get a second look would streamline the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from 108 questions to no more than 78. This is along the lines of legislation authored by Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), although his bill would more drastically reduce the number of questions to two. The president's budget proposal would also drop the expected family contribution threshold for Pell grants by \$600 because some of the deleted questions would cover net worth, savings amounts and other investments. The Administration would move toward relying more on information available in federal tax returns. FAFSA simplification is being considered for inclusion in an upcoming draft of the next Higher Education Authorization later this year.

One effort on a collision course with Congress is the proposal to rate colleges and eventually link scores to availability of Federal financial aid. Unlike last year's budget, the new proposal does not seek additional funding to start up the effort; instead Education Department officials have indicated they will handle it with current staff.

The Pell Grant program would realize an increase in the maximum award under the budget plan – an increase from \$5,775 to \$5,915 for the 2016-17 academic year. The maximum award would also be indexed to inflation starting in 2018. Other changes to the program would require tighter tracking of academic progress for students.

Providing competitive grants for innovation and evidence-based strategies, the "First in the World" program has been funded by Congress for the past two years. The FY 2015

program received \$60 million in support, while the FY2016 budget would boost that \$200 million.

Federal TRIO programs would receive a \$20 million increase covering 2,800 programs assisting challenged students to successfully negotiate college.

Income-driven student loan repayment would be simplified and some benefits scaled back to drive \$14 billion in savings that would be redirected to the Pell program over the next decade. This proposal is similar to bipartisan Senate legislation on loan repayment. Other proposals would change the Perkins Loan program and move an estimated \$7 billion in savings to Pell grants as well. The changes involve moving the loan disbursement function from universities to the government and using student outcome metrics to determine continued eligibility.

Enforcement to help fight campus sexual assault – a bipartisan Congressional concern - - would be boosted by 31 percent to hire more investigators and cover more Title IX investigations by the Office of Civil Rights.

The program making the biggest splash in headlines is the new concept to provide two years of free community college education to students meeting requirements. The “America’s College Promise” program would cost \$1.36 billion in 2016 and \$60.3 billion over 10 years. For the program to work, states would have to invest more in higher education, community colleges would have to commit to strengthening their programs and outcomes, and students would have to be enrolled at least half-time and be making good progress toward graduation.

Congress, of course, would first have to agree to provide the money and find a “scoring offset” to pay for it. The proposal has served to generate national discussion but is very unlikely to be incorporated this year in appropriations.

## **Senate report and hearing examine federal regs affecting higher education**

At a hearing on federal regulations affecting higher education February 24, Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN), chairman of the Senate education committee, said a report released by a task force of college and university leaders—and commissioned by a bipartisan group of senators on his committee—shows colleges in a jungle of red tape that “should be an embarrassment to all of us in the federal government.”

At a committee hearing on the report, Alexander said: “These should not be excused as normal, run-of-the mill problems of government. These examples, and others like them, are sloppy, inefficient governing that wastes money, hurts students, discourages productivity and impedes research.”

Along with committee members Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), Richard Burr (R-NC), and Michael Bennet (D-CO), Alexander commissioned the report from the group in November 2013, seeking specific recommendations on reducing, eliminating or streamlining duplicative, costly or confusing regulations before the committee began work on a ninth reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

The Task Force on Government Regulation of Higher Education was formed with 16 college and university presidents and higher education experts co-chaired by Vanderbilt University Chancellor Nicholas S. Zeppos and University System of Maryland Chancellor William Kirwan. The group conducted a comprehensive, nonpartisan review of the Education Department's regulations and the reporting requirements on colleges and universities. The task force's objective was to provide specific recommendations on reducing, eliminating or streamlining duplicative, costly or confusing regulations and reporting requirements to Congress and the administration in anticipation of the ninth reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Alexander said he would work with Ranking Member Murray (D-Wash.) to discuss how to develop a bipartisan process to take full advantage of the recommendations in the report and to include many of them in a new reauthorization of the Higher Education Act later this year. The committee also plans additional hearings to gather comment on the report from institutions not directly involved with the report and consumers of higher education, including parents, students, and taxpayers.

Click [here](#) to access the report, supported by the American Council on Education. Click [here](#) to view the Senate hearing.

## **NASA reauthorization bill approved**

The House passed H.R. 810, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act of 2015, February 10. The bill's funding is consistent with the \$18 billion appropriated by last December's Fiscal 2015 omnibus appropriations bill. The bill authorizes funding for programs and projects at NASA for one year and maintains both the purpose and budget for NASA programs, continuing general congressional direction outlined in the previous authorizations of 2005, 2008, and 2010.

The legislation reaffirms the commitment to space exploration, both human and robotic. It makes clear that the next goal for human space exploration is a human mission to Mars and calls for a roadmap to help achieve this goal.

With the direction of the National Academy of Science (NAS) Decadal Surveys, the bill stresses the importance of maintaining regular science missions. This includes the goal of launching a Europa mission by 2021. Additionally, the bill requires NASA to issue a report to Congress regarding long-term goals for its Mars Exploration Program. The last major part of the bill addressing science programs is the Congressionally-mandated near-Earth object survey. The objective of this survey is to detect, track, catalogue and

characterize any near-Earth objects that are found to be 140 meters in diameter or larger.

Additionally H.R. 810 authorizes a new robotics research program. This program focuses on efforts to include unmanned aerial systems into the national airspace while supporting the further development of NextGen technology to contribute to the future of both air traffic management and aviation safety research.

The bill further directs NASA to continue efforts to develop a plan to better position the agency to have the necessary facilities and infrastructure to meet requirements in the human exploration roadmap. Also included are transparency provisions to ensure that NASA's facilities are correctly managed. Finally, H.R. 810 mandates that NASA continues to support STEM curriculum through educational outreach activities to foster the next generation of explorers.

## **House passes bill to improve 529 college savings program**

The House passed a bipartisan bill February 25 to improve tax-free "529" college savings programs. This comes at a time when President Obama's Fiscal 2016 budget proposes to remove the tax exemption for these plans, a move that has been criticized by both Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill.

Introduced in January by Reps. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS) and Ron Kind (D-WI) and appropriately named H.R. 529, the legislation:

- Permanently clarifies that computers are a qualified expense for 529 account funds.
- Removes all distribution aggregation requirements: The current rules were designed for when earnings were taxed to the beneficiary at distribution. However, since 2001 the tax treatment changed and there is no policy need for such aggregation. This would eliminate an unnecessary paperwork burden for 529 plan administrators.
- Addresses re-deposit of refunds: Permits the re-deposit of refunds from colleges without taxes or penalties, provided that it occurs within 60 days of the student withdrawing from the college. For example, this situation would occur when a student withdraws early due to illness or other reason and obtains a refund from the school. Currently, the refund would be subject to income tax on the earnings and a 10% penalty.

To read the legislation visit: <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/hr529/BILLS-114hr529ih.pdf>

## **NSF STEM programs would broaden under House bill**

A bill to assist in preparing STEM professionals for the future, the STEM Education Act (H.R. 1020), was passed by the House February 25 by a vote of 412 to 8.

The legislation would broaden the definition of STEM education to include subjects like computer science and would increase research at the National Science Foundation on ways to expose students to STEM in out-of-school settings. This would be done through grants awarded by the NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources. The funds authorized could be used for activities to support single, multiple, or integrative STEM disciplines and opens up informal STEM centers in museums, science centers, and after-school programs to federal STEM grants.

The bill directs NSF to continue to award competitive merit-reviewed grants to support informal STEM education. It also amends the NSF Noyce Master Teaching Fellowship program to allow teachers in pursuit of Master's degrees to participate in the program.

Specifically the bill would:

- Require the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to continue to award competitive, merit-reviewed grants to support: (1) research and development of innovative out-of-school STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) learning and emerging STEM learning environments; and (2) research that advances the field of informal STEM education.
- Require supported activities to include research and development that improves understanding of learning and engagement in informal environments and design and testing of innovative STEM resources for such environments to improve STEM learning outcomes and increase engagement for elementary and secondary school students and teachers and the public.
- Amend the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 2002 to allow award of NSF Master Teaching Fellowships to mathematics and science teachers who possess a bachelor's degree in their field (currently limited to those with a master's degree).
- Requires fellowship grant to be used, in the case of Master Teaching Fellowships for teachers with bachelor's degrees in their field who are working toward a master's degree, to: (1) offer academic courses leading to a master's degree and leadership training to prepare individuals to become master teachers, and (2) offer programs both during and after matriculation to enable fellows to become highly effective mathematics and science teachers and to exchange ideas with others in their fields. Limits fellowship support during such a master's degree program to one year.
- Include elementary or secondary school computer science teachers as mathematics and science teachers for purposes of the program of teacher recruiting and training grants known as the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program.

## **Education Department publishes 'First in the World' notice**

The new "First in the World" program by the Education Department was the topic of a notice published in the Federal Register February 24. "Proposed Priorities, Requirements, Selection Criterion, and Definitions-First in the World Program" outlines

concepts to be used in future competitions for the program which has received Congressional funding the past two years. Comments on the notice are due by March 25. The notice says the Department may use these priorities, requirements, selection criterion, and definitions for FITW competitions beginning with fiscal year 2015.

“These priorities, requirements, selection criterion, and definitions would enable the Department to focus the FITW program on identified barriers to student success in postsecondary education and advance the program's purpose to build evidence for what works in postsecondary education through development, evaluation, and dissemination of innovative strategies to support students who are at risk of failure in persisting in and completing their postsecondary programs of study.” To read the notice, [click here](#).

## **House working to pass ESEA reauthorization**

The House worked without resolution during the last week of February attempting to pass the Student Success Act (H.R. 5). It had been approved along party lines by the Education and Workforce Committee February 11 as a measure to replace the No Child Left Behind authorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Opposed by the Education Department, the bill is written to return much authority to states and its passage would eventually set up a showdown with the Administration if the bill reaches the President's desk.

After several days on the House floor and many amendments, the bill ran into trouble because virtually all Democrats were going to vote against it, as well as at least 25 conservative Republicans who feel the bill still leaves too much power in the hands of the Education Department.

The legislation would authorize the nation's K-12 education system programs but reduce federal involvement while attempting to empower both education leaders and parents in holding schools accountable. A [fact sheet](#) distributed by the House Education and the Workforce Committee explains the main components of the bill. Bill sponsors say it would transition the nation from its current “accountability” system based on testing toward state-created systems.

Proponents believe that H.R. 5 would provide parents with more information and more options in school choice. The bill continues to support magnet schools, increases charter school opportunities, and allows Title I funds to follow low-income students to the school of their parents' choice, whether it be a traditional public school or charter school.

More than 65 programs would be eliminated and replaced by the “Local Academic Flexible Grant” aimed at enabling school districts to support individualized initiatives without directives from the Education Department.

Other provisions in the Student Success Act are designed to prevent the Education Department from forcing states to adopt Common Core Standards or any other similar standards and assessments.

The bill also would address existing efforts to help English language learners, homeless children and other targeted student populations with academic performance. Other provisions would foster partnerships between schools and higher education institutions to create school-based teacher training programs.

## **Two SUS institutions recognized on House floor**

On two separate occasions in February, Florida universities were formally recognized on the House floor for their achievements.

In honor of Black History Month, Rep. Gwen Graham (D-FL-2) applauded FAMU as one of the nation's oldest, most prestigious historically black colleges. Highlighting its humble start as a school with an enrollment of 15, Rep. Graham celebrated the university's rise to *U.S. News and World Report's* Top Historically Black College for 2015. She concluded her statement saying, "FAMU's mission, and the public service they provide is a benefit to North Florida, our state and our nation." [Click here to watch video](#)

Rep. Dennis Ross (R-FL-15) recognized the official opening of the USF-based SUS Florida Center for Cybersecurity, only the second program of its kind in the nation. Rep. Ross said during his speech that, "with our growing reliance on internet connectivity each and every day, cybersecurity becomes increasingly more vital." Ross finished by commending USF for energy and innovation in addressing the threat to cybersecurity both nationally and internationally. [Click here to watch video](#)

## **White House planning spring summit on clean energy investment**

During an energy innovation summit February 10 sponsored by the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy -- "ARPA-E" program -- White House staff announced an upcoming investment summit on clean energy that they plan to host in the spring.

The meeting will be focused on raising \$2 billion in private funding from industry, foundations and institutional investors to boost investment in clean energy. The Clean Energy Investment Initiative is outlined in a [White House fact sheet](#) along with current participants such as the University of California Board of Regents who are committing funding to the effort. For information on the summit see: <http://www.arpae-summit.com/>

## Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies

- Agency:** Department of Justice  
Office on Violence Against Women
- Program:** Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program
- Description:** Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are serious problems on college and university campuses. Congress created the Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (hereinafter referred to as the Campus Program) in recognition of the unique issues and challenges that colleges and universities face in preventing and responding to these crimes. This program is authorized by 42 U.S.C. § 14045b. The Campus Program encourages a comprehensive coordinated community approach that enhances victim safety, provides services for victims and supports efforts to hold offenders accountable. The funding supports activities that develop and strengthen victim services and strategies to prevent, investigate, respond to and prosecute these crimes. The development of campus-wide coordinated responses involving campus victim service providers, law enforcement officers, health providers, housing officials, administrators, student leaders, faith-based leaders, representatives from student organizations, and disciplinary board members is critical. To be effective, campus responses must also link to local off-campus criminal justice agencies and service providers, including local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, courts, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy and victim services organizations. Campuses are encouraged to create or revitalize large-scale efforts that treat sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as serious offenses by adopting policies and protocols, developing victim services and programs that prioritize victim safety, ensuring offender accountability, and implementing effective prevention approaches. Colleges and universities should demonstrate to every student that these crimes will not be tolerated, that perpetrators will face serious consequences, and that holistic services are available for victims.
- Due Date:** 3/20/2015
- Funding:** Total Funding: \$12,000,000; Award Ceiling:\$750,000
- Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273408>

- Agency:** Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service
- Program:** Migratory Bird Monitoring, Assessment, and Conservation
- Description:** Study of Golden Eagle dietary responses, to conserve, enhance, and better understand the ecology and habitats of migratory bird species.
- Due Date:** 3/7/2015
- Funding:** Total Funding: \$46,887; Award Ceiling: \$46,887

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273233>

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

**Program:** Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Food Security Challenge Area

**Description:** The goal of the Food Security Challenge Area for FY 2015 is to develop agricultural production research, education, and extension to develop more sustainable, productive, and economically viable plant and animal production systems. This program will also develop regionally adapted crop cultivars and livestock/breeds that contribute to rural economic development and prosperity while enhancing food security. These investments will increase food security by improving agricultural production systems at the regional and national levels and by encouraging diversification of agricultural production.

**Due Date:** 6/4/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$16,800,000; Award Ceiling: \$4,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=272432>

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture  
Office of Advocacy and Outreach

**Program:** Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers

**Description:** The primary purpose of the Outreach Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Grant Program is to enhance the coordination of outreach, technical assistance, and education efforts, to reach socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers in a linguistically appropriate manner and to improve their participation in the full range of USDA programs. This program will assist eligible community-based and non-profit organizations, higher education institutions, and tribal entities in providing outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers and ranchers.

**Due Date:** 4/13/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$9,100,000; Award Ceiling: \$400,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274608>

**Agency:** Department of Defense  
Dept of the Army- Materiel Command

**Program:** Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences (ARI)  
Foundational Science Research Unit (FSRU)- Broad Agency  
Announcement for Basic Scientific Research

**Description:** The basic research program supports research projects that are designed to expand fundamental knowledge and discover general principles in the

behavioral and social sciences. In addition to programmatic efforts to develop and evaluate psychological and behavioral theory, they strongly encourage researchers to propose novel, state-of-the-art, and multidisciplinary approaches that address difficult problems. A key consideration in the decision to support a research proposal is that its findings are likely to stimulate new, basic behavioral research, which in turn, will lead to improved performance of Army personnel and their units. Proposals may address both traditional behavioral issues as well as psychophysiological (to include neuroscience) and network science approaches to social phenomena, memory, cognition, and personality. Collaboration is encouraged.

**Due Date:** 6/5/2015

**Funding:** See announcement

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274666>

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Program:** Administration for Community Living: Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program: Information and Communication Technologies Access

**Description:** The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology. The Program's activities are designed to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). The purpose of the RERCs program, which is funded through the Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act. The RERCs program encourages advanced engineering research, develops and evaluates innovative technologies, facilitates service delivery system changes, stimulates the production and distribution of new technologies and equipment in the private sector, and provides training opportunities. RERCs seek to solve rehabilitation problems and remove environmental barriers to improvements in employment, community living and participation, and health and function outcomes of individuals with disabilities.

**Due Date:** 4/20/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$925,000; Award Ceiling: \$925,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274657>

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Program:** Administration for Community Living:Development Community Living and Participation of Individuals with Disabilities

**Description:** The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology. The Program's activities are designed to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) The purpose of DRRPs, which are under NIDILRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

**Due Date:** 4/20/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$500,000; Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274652>

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Program:** Administration for Community Living: Research Community Living and Participation of Individuals with Disabilities

**Description:** The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology. The Program's activities are designed to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) The purpose of DRRPs, which are under NIDILRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

**Due Date:** 4/20/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$500,000; Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274651>

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Program:** Administration for Community

Living: NIDILRR: Development Health and Function of Individuals with Disabilities CFDA Number

**Description:** The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology. The Program's activities are designed to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). The purpose of DRRPs, which are under NIDILRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

**Due Date:** 4/20/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$500,000; Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274650>

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Program:** Administration for Community Living: Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program: Individual Mobility and Manipulation

**Description:** The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology. The Program's activities are designed to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects (DRRPs) The purpose of DRRPs, which are under NIDILRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and

rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

**Due Date:** 4/20/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$925,000; Award Ceiling: \$925,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274655>

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Program:** Administration for Community Living: Research Health and Function of Individuals with Disabilities

**Description:** The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology. The Program's activities are designed to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). The purpose of DRRPs, which are under NIDILRR's Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, by developing methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technologies that advance a wide range of independent living and employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities.

**Due Date:** 4/20/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$500,000; Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274649>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services

Agency for Health Care Research and Quality

**Program:** Health Services Research Projects: Making Health Care Safer in Ambulatory Care Settings and Long Term Care Facilities

**Description:** The purpose of this funding announcement is to support investigative research projects that examine the epidemiology of patient safety in ambulatory care settings and long term care facilities, gather evidence about strategies that can improve safety in these settings, and develop evidence-based tools to facilitate implementation of these strategies.

**Due Date:** 4/27/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$3,500,000; Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274402>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
Agency for Health Care Research and Quality

**Program:** Patient Safety Learning Laboratories: Innovative Design and Development to Improve Healthcare Delivery Systems

**Description:** The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality funds research leading to patient safety improvements in all settings and systems of care delivery. While many researchers have endorsed a systems model as a way of thinking about entrenched patient safety problems, there has been a scarcity of programmatic activity that actually engages in new design and systems engineering effort, and that is focused on more than singular patient safety concerns. This funding opportunity calls for the creation and utilization of Patient Safety Learning Laboratories.

**Due Date:** 4/27/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$5,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273228>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Administrative Supplements for Common Basic Sociobehavioral Mechanisms and Processes that Facilitate or Impede Self-Management of Chronic Conditions

**Description:** NIH's Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network announces the opportunity of funds to support increases in costs on existing projects in order to elucidate basic mechanisms and processes that facilitate and/or impede an individual's attitudes, beliefs, knowledge, and behaviors involved with the self-management of chronic disease conditions within respective social and/or physical environment(s).

**Due Date:** 5/5/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$1,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$100,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274760>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Collaborative Activities to promote High Dimensional Molecular Analyses in NIEHS-supported Children's Environmental Health Studies

**Description:** These administrative supplements provide funds to awarded research grants to facilitate or enhance ongoing efforts in proteomics, metabolomics, epigenomics and other high dimensional molecular analysis approaches in existing pregnancy, birth, and/or childrens cohorts.

**Due Date:** 4/6/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: 5,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$300,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274762>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Child Health Research Career Development Award Program (K12)

**Description:** This announcement invites applications for institutional research career development (K12) programs from applicant organizations that propose to support a national program of mentored institutional career development programs for junior faculty investigators who have recently completed postgraduate clinical training in a subspecialty area of Pediatrics, and are committed to launching an independent research career. The program provides supervised research training to assist the transition into productive physician scientists.

**Due Date:** 4/15/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$2,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$400,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274064>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** NIDA Mentored Clinical Scientists Development Program Award in Drug Abuse and Addiction (K12)

**Description:** This funding opportunity announcement encourages applications for institutional research career development (K12) programs that propose to support intensive supervised research training and career development experiences for clinician scientists (scholars) leading to research independence in the area of drug abuse and addiction. For this opportunity, clinician scientists may include (but are not limited to) physicians, clinical psychologists, epidemiologists, doctoral-level social workers, pharmacists, and behavioral scientists. Scholars are expected to be supported for 3-5 years on consecutive 12-month appointments. Candidates selected for support as scholars must hold a doctorate and commit a minimum of 9 person-months (equivalent to 75% of full-time professional effort) to conducting clinical research and career development activities associated with the proposed program

**Due Date:** 9/7/2017

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273873>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Developing Technologies and Tools to Monitor HIV Brain Reservoirs and How They May be Altered by Exposure to Substances of Abuse

**Description:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to

support projects developing technologies and tools to detect and quantify HIV brain reservoirs and how they may be altered by exposure to substances of abuse.

**Due Date:** 4/10/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$3,00,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=272869>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Role of Exosomes in HIV Pathogenesis

**Description:** The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to stimulate new research on the potential role of exosomes in cell-to-cell communication relevant to HIV transmission, innate or adaptive immune responses to HIV, or HIV pathogenesis.

**Due Date:** 1/7/2018

**Funding:** See announcement

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=272428>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Brain Initiative: New Concepts and Early-Stage Research for Large-Scale Recording and Modulation in the Nervous System

**Description:** A central goal of the BRAIN Initiative is to understand how electrical and chemical signals code information in neural circuits and give rise to sensations, thoughts, emotions and actions. Available technologies for recording and manipulating neural circuit activity in human and animal experiments are not sufficient to accomplish this goal. Non-invasive technologies are low resolution and/or provide indirect measures such as blood flow, which are imprecise. Invasive technologies can provide information at the level of single neurons producing the fundamental biophysical signals, but they can only be applied to tens or hundreds of neurons, out of a total number in the human brain estimated at 85 billion. Previous BRAIN FOAs sought to develop novel technology (RFA-NS-15-003) or to optimize existing technology ready for in-vivo proof-of-concept testing and collection of preliminary data (RFA-NS-15-004). This FOA seeks applications for technology at an even earlier stage of development. It seeks new and untested ideas that are in the very earliest stages. The support provided might enable calculations, simulations, computational models, or other mathematical approaches for demonstrating that the signal sources and/or measurement technologies are theoretically capable of meeting the demands of large-scale recording or manipulation of circuit activity. The support might also be used for building and testing phantoms, prototypes, in-vitro or other bench-top models in order to validate underlying theoretical assumptions in preparation for future FOAs aimed

at testing in animal models. Invasive or non-invasive approaches are sought that will ultimately enable or reduce the current barriers to large-scale recording or manipulation of neural activity, and that would be compatible with experiments in humans or behaving animals.

**Due Date:** 4/16/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$6,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$200,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=272449>

**Agency:** Department of State  
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor

**Program:** Supporting Security and Justice Sector Reforms in Tunisia

**Description:** The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's goal is to enhance ongoing security and justice sector reforms in Tunisia by supporting civilian capacity to understand and engage in these efforts, especially through direct dialogue with security and justice sector leaders in Tunisia. DRL invites organizations to submit proposals for up to \$750,000 that strengthen Tunisian civil society actors' ability to provide civilian oversight of security and justice sector entities, such as through the promotion of new accountability mechanisms, to include efforts which foster security institutions' transparent dialogue and communication with the public. Initiatives are particularly welcomed which sensitize grassroots groups to effective advocacy mechanisms that foster partnered, consultative efforts between government institutions and the public to bolster justice sector reform.

**Due Date:** 3/20/2015

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$750,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273931>

**Agency:** Department of State  
U.S. Mission to Russia

**Program:** US-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program

**Description:** To help foster greater contacts between Americans and Russians, the U.S. Department of State announces the FY 2015 U.S.-Russia Peer-to-Peer Dialogue Program, which will provide grants up to \$100,000 to support unique projects centered on Russian-American, peer-to-peer collaboration, including an exchange of best practices between Russians and Americans on a topic of mutual interest. Projects must be non-political in nature and focus on Russian-American peer-to-peer dialogue or people-to-people engagement on themes of mutual interest. Applicants are encouraged to incorporate innovative methodologies to accomplish program goals and foster interaction among peers. Successful projects will result in a product or outcome which enhances interaction and understanding between our two societies. The program competition and

selection will be administered in two stages. In Stage One, applicants must submit a Statement of Interest (SOI), as outlined under "Application and Submission Information" below. Successful applicants from Stage One will be requested to submit a detailed proposal for consideration during Stage Two (guidelines for Stage Two will be provided via email to successful applicants). A proposal must include one Russian and one American organization; a letter of intent from the proposed partner must be included with the Statement of Interest as an attachment. .

**Due Date:** 3/9/2015

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$100,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273208>

**Agency:** Department of State  
U.S. Mission to India

**Program:** Online Distance Education Courses for English Language Teachers

**Description:** The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi announces an open competition for a grant to offer online distance education courses for English Language Teachers in India and Bhutan. The project should offer 5 to 10-week online distance courses on the topics described. These online distance courses should be offered completely via the internet, however they should be led and taught by an American professor, who will provide personalized feedback for the students. These courses should be offered from July 2015 to June 2016. We strongly encourage non-profit organizations and academic institutions that have specific expertise in strengthening the capacity of English teachers through distance education to apply.

**Due Date:** 4/7/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$80,000; Award Ceiling: \$80,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274619>

**Agency:** Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

**Program:** Wildlife Without Borders - Latin America and the Caribbean (Central America)

**Description:** From coral reefs and lowland rainforests to pine savannas, grasslands and high mountain forest, Central America is home to some of the richest forest and marine ecosystems on earth. Although the region contains less than one percent of the world's land surface, because of the variety of its habitats and its role as a bridge between North and South America, it possesses a disproportionate share about 7 percent of our planet's biodiversity. Unfortunately, despite tremendous progress over the last two decades, Central America remains one of the most threatened biodiversity hotspots due to one of the highest land conversion and deforestation rates in both Latin America and the world.

**Due Date:** 4/15/2015  
**Funding:** Total Funding: \$500,000; Award Ceiling: \$50,000  
**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273748>

**Agency:** Department of Justice  
Bureau of Justice Assistance

**Program:** Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) National Training and Technical Assistance Program

**Description:** BJA is seeking training and technical assistance (TTA) providers who will develop criminal justice-related curricula and deliver TTA to state and local law enforcement agencies, other justice system agencies, and communities. The providers will also be responsible for supporting all aspects of the PSN National TTA Program, a collaborative effort of the following DOJ component agencies: Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); U.S. Marshals Service (USMS); Criminal Division; the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA); and OJP, including BJA. Funding for this initiative is anticipated through the FY 2015 appropriation. The PSN National TTA Program is designed to provide TTA resources that are critical to communities' efforts to reduce gun-related crimes and violent criminal gangs. In addition, the PSN National TTA Program provides comprehensive TTA that addresses a range of criminal justice subject areas impacting communities. The goal of the PSN National TTA Program is to provide assistance to state and local law enforcement, criminal justice professionals (e.g., academic, corrections, etc.) and communities to improve the level of knowledge, communication, collaboration, and tactics involved in addressing gun crime and gang violence that impact communities throughout the nation. The PSN National TTA Program is supported by research and evidence-based practices and strategies. The program combines the leadership of DOJ and the expertise of nationally recognized criminal justice practitioners and action research experts to deliver a wide variety of TTA nationwide. Programs funded under this solicitation are intended to have a national impact.

**Due Date:** 4/9/2015  
**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$600,000  
**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274268>

**Agency:** Department of Justice  
Bureau of Justice Assistance

**Program:** Smart Defense Initiative: National Training and Technical Assistance

**Description:** The Smart Defense Initiative, administered by BJA, is part of BJA's "Smart Suite" of criminal justice programs including Smart Pretrial, Smart Policing, Smart Supervision, and Smart Prosecution. BJA established the Smart Suite over 5 years ago with the creation of the Smart Policing Initiative.

The Smart Suite supports criminal justice professionals in building evidence based, data-driven criminal justice strategies that are effective, efficient, and economical. BJA's smart programs represent a strategic approach that brings more "science" into criminal justice operations by leveraging innovative applications of analysis, technology, and evidence-based practices. The purpose of Smart Defense is to improve the quality of public defense delivery systems guided by the Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System, promulgated by the American Bar Association (ABA). The ABA Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System represent fundamental building blocks for implementing quality legal representation for indigent criminal defendants. Released in 2002, the ABA Ten Principles list the American Bar Association's recommendations for government officials and other parties who are charged with improving public defense delivery systems. These principles address defenders' appropriate function, workload, resources, training, and quality, and have been recognized by the Attorney General "as [an] essential guidepost for ensuring that our indigent defense efforts are as effective- and as efficient – as possible." To help jurisdictions strengthen state and local public defense delivery systems, BJA released a separate competitive grant announcement, the Smart Defense Initiative, to fund state and local sites.

**Due Date:** 4/8/2015

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274717>

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Program:** Preservation and Access Education and Training

**Description:** The Preservation and Access Education and Training program is central to NEH's efforts to preserve and establish access to cultural heritage collections. Thousands of libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations across the country maintain important collections of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, art and material culture collections, electronic records, and digital objects. The challenge of preserving and making accessible such large and diverse holdings is enormous, and the need for knowledgeable staff is significant and ongoing. Preservation and Access Education and Training grants are awarded to organizations that offer national or regional (multistate) education and training programs. Grants aim to help the staff of cultural institutions, large and small, obtain the knowledge and skills needed to serve as effective stewards of humanities collections. Grants also support educational programs that prepare the next generation of conservators and preservation professionals, as well as projects that introduce the staff

of cultural institutions to new information and advances in preservation and access practices.

**Due Date:** 5/5/2015

**Funding:** Award Ceiling:\$350,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274795>

**Agency:** Department of Education

**Program:** Administration for Community Living: Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program

**Description:** The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology. The Program's activities are designed to maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). The purpose of the RERCs program, which is funded through the Program, is to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act. The RERCs program encourages advanced engineering research, develops and evaluates innovative technologies, facilitates service delivery system changes, stimulates the production and distribution of new technologies and equipment in the private sector, and provides training opportunities. RERCs seek to solve rehabilitation problems and remove environmental barriers to improvements in employment, community living and participation, and health and function outcomes of individuals with disabilities.

**Due Date:** 4/20/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$925,000; Award Ceiling: \$925,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=274659>

**Agency:** National Endowment for the Humanities

**Program:** Challenge Grants

**Description:** The mission of the NEH Office of Challenge Grants is to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities by strengthening the institutional base of humanities teaching, scholarly research, public programming, and other humanities activities. Challenge grants are capacity-building grants, intended to support significant humanities activities of high intellectual quality and to help institutions secure long-term support for their humanities programs. Through these grants many organizations and institutions have been able to increase their humanities capacity and secure the permanent support of an endowment. Grants may

be used to establish or enhance endowments or spend-down funds that generate expendable earnings to support and enhance ongoing program activities. Challenge grants may also provide capital directly supporting the procurement of long-lasting objects, such as acquisitions for archives and collections, the purchase of equipment, and the construction or renovation of facilities needed for humanities activities. Funds spent directly must be shown to bring long-term benefits to the institution and to the humanities more broadly. Grantee institutions may also expend up to 10 percent of total grant funds (federal funds plus matching funds) to defray costs of fundraising to meet the NEH challenge. Because of the matching requirement, these NEH grants also strengthen the humanities by encouraging nonfederal sources of support.

**Due Date:** 5/5/2015

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$500,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273828>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Advancing Exceptional Research on HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse

**Description:** This FOA will support highly innovative R01 applications on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse and will complement the Avant-Garde Award Program for HIV/AIDS research. The Avant-Garde award supports individuals who conduct high-risk, high-reward research and does not require a detailed research plan. Applications submitted under this FOA are required to have a detailed research plan and preliminary data. This FOA focuses on innovative research projects that have the potential to open new areas of HIV/AIDS research and/or lead to new avenues for prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS among substance abusers. The nexus with substance abuse should be clearly described. This FOA is open to both individual researchers and research teams and is not limited to any one area of research on HIV and substance use.

**Due Date:** 7/31/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$2,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273728>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** High-End Instrumentation Grant Program

**Description:** The ORIP High-End Shared Instrument Grant program encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of expensive, specialized, commercially available instruments or integrated systems that cost at least \$600,000. The maximum award is \$2,000,000. Types of instruments supported include, but are not limited to, X-ray diffraction systems, nuclear magnetic

resonance (NMR) and mass spectrometers, DNA sequencers, biosensors, electron and confocal microscopes, cell-sorters, and biomedical Imagers.

**Due Date:** 5/29/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding: \$20,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$2,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273671>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Phased Innovation Award for Exploratory Clinical Trials of Natural Products in NCCIH High Priority Research Topics

**Description:** The goal of this funding opportunity is to support pilot testing of natural products (i.e., botanicals, dietary supplements, and probiotics), which have sufficient early-stage data to justify further clinical testing of the product. Under this FOA, trials must be designed so that results, whether positive or negative, will provide information of high scientific utility and will support decisions about further development or testing of the natural product. The data collected should be used to fill gaps in scientific knowledge and provide the information necessary to develop a competitive full-scale clinical trial. Support will be provided for up to two years for milestone-driven bioavailability and pharmacokinetic testing and assessment of the natural products biological signature or mechanism of action. Based on the results of the R21 phase, this may be followed by support of up to 3 years (R33 phase) of support for further clinical studies of the natural product. This FOA is not appropriate for support of randomized clinical trials to test or determine efficacy. Ultimately, this R21/R33 funding mechanism is intended to speed the translation of emerging basic science findings about natural products into clinical pilot testing to determine whether continued clinical research is warranted.

**Due Date:** 8/4/2015

**Funding:** Total Funding:\$1,000,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273330>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Clinical Observational Studies in Musculoskeletal, Rheumatic, and Skin Diseases

**Description:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement is to encourage Research Project Grant (R01) applications to pursue clinical observational studies to obtain data necessary for designing clinical trials for musculoskeletal, rheumatic, or skin diseases or conditions. Research data from observational cohort studies can enhance clinical trial design by providing essential information about disease symptoms, stages and timing of disease progression, comorbid conditions, availability of potential clinical trial participants, and outcomes that are important to patients. CO

studies also can facilitate efforts to develop and/or validate objective biomarkers or subjective outcome measures for use in a future trial or trials. Applicants to this FOA are encouraged to propose studies that address significant obstacles or questions in the design of a clinical trial, such as determining the appropriate primary or secondary outcome measures, or identifying the stages of disease during which patients are most likely to respond to an intervention. Only observational studies will be supported through this grant.

**Due Date:** 11/1/2017

**Funding:** Award Ceiling:\$225,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273355>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Gene-Environment Interplay in Substance Use Disorders

**Description:** This Funding Opportunity Announcement seeks to stimulate and expand research on the interplay of genetic and environmental factors in the genesis, course, and outcomes of substance and alcohol use disorders. Previous work in genetic epidemiology and molecular genetics has established that SUDs are highly heritable, developmental disorders with important genetic substrates. Building on these findings, new studies using genetically informative approaches are needed to elucidate the complex interplay of genetic and environmental factors in developmental trajectories of SUDs and comorbid conditions, deepen and refine phenotypic definitions of SUDs, and meet the methodologic challenges of the field. Such studies hold great potential to promote understanding of the true contributions of both genetic and environmental factors to initiation, progression, comorbidity, adverse outcomes, and cessation of SUDs; to elucidate mechanisms of risk; and to enhance opportunities for translation to treatment, prevention, gene-finding and molecular studies.

**Due Date:** 9/7/2017

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$200,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273216>

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

**Program:** Supplements to Advance Research from Projects to Programs

**Description:** The objective of the NIAMS STAR Program is to promote innovation and exploration of high-risk ideas by providing supplemental funding to early established investigators. The STAR Program will support activities that effectively allow early established investigators to expand and explore new opportunities within the broader scope of a currently funded, peer-reviewed research project to facilitate the transition from a single, structured research project to a research program. For the purpose of this

program, NIAMS early established investigators as those who have successfully renewed a first NIAMS-supported.

**Due Date:** 11/6/2017

**Funding:** Award Ceiling: \$300,000

**Website:** <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=273072>