

THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

WASHINGTON E-UPDATE

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Budget and Appropriations Update – While November might seem far off, the midterm elections’ impact on spending bills is already evident.

Election years tend to stall any movement on appropriations bills — especially when there’s potential turnover in control of one or both chambers. It’s a problem because lawmakers want to focus on campaigning and are back home more than usual, and party leaders tend to want to shield vulnerable members from tough votes. It’s also because the party out of power has an incentive to withhold support if they believe they can take control the following year and can shape spending measures more to their liking.

In midterm elections going back to the Reagan administration, for example, there has been a change in control in at least one chamber in all but three cycles: 1982, 1990 and 1998—a statistic not lost on Democrats eyeing the possibility that they may control the House after the November elections.

As is usual at the start of the process, both the House and Senate appropriations committees have called for “regular order,” i.e. passing appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year on September 30. But those calls for early action usually fall by the wayside as Election Day approaches.

Regardless, appropriations leaders in the House and Senate have set a rigorous schedule, with the House panel’s first full committee markup expected May 8. The House Military Construction-VA and Legislative Branch subcommittees planned April 26 mark-ups for their respective spending bills for FY2019. In the Senate, Republicans want to mark up spending bills in May and see those bills debated on the Senate floor in June.

But their aggressive timetable may have already run into some complications.

Unhappy with the FY2018 omnibus appropriations bill he signed, President Trump has called for a “rescission,” or withdrawal, of unspent funds from prior spending bills, including the fiscal 2018 omnibus. At a minimum, asking Congress to rescind funds already appropriated would slow down work on FY2019 appropriations bill. But it could also roil any hopes of reaching bipartisan agreement on future appropriations.

Pentagon planning new joint center on artificial intelligence

The Pentagon is planning to create a new joint center within six months to coordinate the military's development of artificial intelligence.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan made the announcement in a speech April 24 in Washington. The action follows advice earlier this year from the Department's Defense Innovation Board.

At a House Armed Services Committee hearing April 12, Defense Secretary Mattis confirmed that he was considering "a joint office where we would concentrate all of DoD's efforts, since we have a number of AI efforts underway right now. We're looking at pulling them all together."

In a subsequent Committee hearing April 18, Michael Griffin, undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, said "I'm working right now with folks on my staff to answer questions like 'who should lead it, where should it be, what projects should it do, and most importantly how does such a center fit into the overall AI strategy for the department and the nation?'"

Complementing those efforts, the just-released House draft version of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act has two new provisions relating to AI.

One section would "direct the Under Secretary of Research and Engineering to establish an Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Policy and Oversight Council to continuously improve research, innovation, policy, joint processes, and procedures that facilitate the development, acquisition, integration, advancement, and sustainment of artificial intelligence and machine learning throughout the Department of Defense."

Another section would "direct the Secretary of Defense, acting through the Defense Innovation Board and the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, to carry out a review and assessment of the advances in artificial intelligence, related machine learning developments, and associated technologies for military applications."

This section would also require the Secretary of Defense to submit an initial report to the congressional defense committees 180 days after the date of the enactment and a comprehensive report 1 year after enactment.

Science Committee approves NASA & STEM bills

The House Science Committee advanced two bills out of committee April 17 -- one an authorization for NASA in 2018 and the other a STEM related measure.

The NASA authorization, H.R. 5503, would continue the push from legislators to have the space agency work with commercial partners. The bill authorizes \$20.7 billion, the same amount provided in the recently enacted omnibus spending bill for 2018 and it would continue that level for 2019. Before approval, Democrats gathered enough votes

on an amendment to stop a proposed cut of the Earth Science Division budget which had been in the original bill.

Besides language on commercial participation in space programs, the legislation also says NASA “should foster the development of U.S. private sector remote sensing capabilities and analyses that can satisfy the public interest in long-term continuous collection of medium-resolution land remote sensing data.”

The bill does not take a position on the Administration’s plan to end support for International Space Station operations by 2024 but directs the agency to provide quarterly briefings “on the status of, and all progress, changes, and other developments related to carrying out the plans in the ISS transition report.”

The measure caps development costs for the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) and says NASA should complete a full life cycle cost estimate.

A provision in the bill provides \$10 million each year to the search for “technosignatures” in space looking for life in the universe through radio transmissions and other means. According to the bill, the work can be done with private sector and philanthropic organizations. To read the bill, [click here](#).

The committee also approved the Innovations in Mentoring, Training, and Apprenticeships Act, H.R. 5509, sponsored by House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA). The legislation directs NSF to provide grants for innovative approaches to STEM education and related workforce development programs. The grants would be authorized to support AA degrees and certificates in STEM fields and for internships and apprenticeships for students in four-year STEM degree programs. To read the bill, [click here](#).

NIH launches research initiative focused on science for opioid epidemic

National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., announced April 4 the launch of the [HEAL \(Helping to End Addiction Long-term\) Initiative](#), a trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis.

Toward this effort, NIH is nearly doubling funding for research on opioid misuse/addiction and pain from approximately \$600 million in fiscal year 2016 to \$1.1 billion in fiscal year 2018, made possible by the funding boost by Congress in the omnibus appropriations bill. NIH’s efforts are part of a government-wide push toward ending the opioid crisis.

HEAL will bolster research across the NIH to:

Prevent Addiction through Enhanced Pain Management:

- Launch a longitudinal study to follow patients 1) after acute onset of musculoskeletal pain and 2) after surgery to identify biomarkers that might predict which individuals are more likely to transition from acute to chronic pain.
- Leverage innovative imaging and -omics neurotechnologies developed through the [NIH BRAIN Initiative](#) and [SPARC](#) program to identify 1) potential new targets for treatment of chronic pain and 2) objective biomarkers to predict which individuals will respond to a treatment.
- Advance understanding of the genetic and social factors that put patients at risk for opioid misuse and addiction to inform precision prevention strategies tailored to individual risk factors.
- Define and support best practices for pain management using nondrug and integrated therapies for specific pain conditions by building on research from the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and Department of Defense [research collaborative](#) to address the needs of service members and veterans.
- Pursue public-private partnerships to develop new non-addictive pain medicines by sharing data on past and present research projects, and matching researchers with a selection of potentially promising but abandoned pharmaceutical industry compounds to explore their effectiveness for the treatment of pain.
- Build a clinical trials network that will allow multiple new and repurposed compounds to be tested simultaneously for effectiveness. This allows ineffective compounds to be weeded out and new compounds to enter trials more swiftly. The combination of testing compounds that already have received large investments and passed safety testing, and a flexible clinical trials network will significantly accelerate the development of effective therapies.

Improve Treatments for Opioid Misuse Disorder and Addiction:

- Expand therapeutic options for treating addiction, including extending the options for Medication-Assisted Therapy (MAT) and overdose reversal treatments. Develop immunotherapies that enlist the immune system to block entry of heroin or synthetic opioids to the brain to prevent overdose or relapse for individuals at high risk for addiction. Compare already proven MAT in combination with other nondrug approaches such as cognitive therapy and meditation.
- Evaluate treatments and long-term consequences of Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome by expanding the Advancing Clinical Trials in Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (ACT NOW) project, tapping into the [Environmental Child Health Outcomes and IDeA States Pediatric Clinical Trials Network](#).
- Working with federal and state partners, pilot demonstration projects to test the integration of multiple addiction prevention and treatment options in healthcare and criminal justice settings in states with the highest rates of opioid misuse and overdose to inform evidence-based practice. Despite multiple effective prevention and treatment approaches, the majority of the 2 million Americans with opioid use disorder do not receive appropriate or adequate treatment for their addiction.

The NIH HEAL Initiative will build on extensive NIH research that has led to successes such as the development of the nasal form of naloxone, the most commonly used nasal spray for reversing an opioid overdose; the development of buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid use disorder; and the use of nondrug and mind/body techniques to help patients control and manage pain, such as yoga, tai chi, acupuncture, and mindfulness meditation. The Initiative will also tap into the expertise of the [NIH Pain Consortium](#), which was established to enhance collaboration among NIH institutes, centers and offices that conduct pain research.

Bipartisan patent reform bill introduced in the House

A bipartisan group of House members has introduced HR 5340, a bill to reform the patent process.

Representative Steve Stivers (R-OH) and Representative Bill Foster (D-IL) introduced H.R. 5340, the Support Technology & Research for Our Nation's Growth and Economic Resilience (STRONGER) Patents Act to "strengthen the United States' crippled patent system." Florida Rep. Gus Bilirakis is an original co-sponsor of the bill. The authors designed the bill to restore patents as property rights, make standards of protections in courts uniform, and protect start-ups from being out-resourced by technology incumbents.

The bill would protect small patent owners and start-ups by eliminating harassing, duplicitous patent demand letters, many of which are often sent by so-called "trolls." By defining the process of sending superfluous demand letters as a "Deceptive and Unfair Act or Practice," the STRONGER Patents Act would equip the Federal Trade Commission with added tools to respond to the troll phenomenon.

S. 1390, a companion to the legislation with the same name introduced last summer is also pending in the Senate, sponsored by a bipartisan group of Senators. The House bill has been forwarded to the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Judiciary Committee for consideration. To read the House bill [click here](#), or the Senate bill [here](#).

Opioid bill advanced in the Senate

The Senate HELP Committee advanced a bipartisan opioids legislative package 23-0 on April 24. Committee Chair Lamar Alexander (R-TN) predicted that the bill may get a floor vote within the next few months.

The Opioid Crisis Response Act (S 2680), which includes over 40 proposals related to ways to combat the opioid epidemic, was written after seven committee hearings on the crisis with input from various agencies and state officials.

The legislation combines a variety of bills including those that would support opioid disposal, encourage confidential sharing of patient information to prevent future

overdoses, support prescription drug monitoring programs, and urge coordination by FDA and the Customs and Border Protection Service to prevent importation of illegal drugs like fentanyl.

Senators offered eight amendments to the opioids bill. The following five amendments were adopted by voice vote:

- Bill Cassidy (R-LA) aims to improve methods of finding out which states are currently enforcing mental health parity and which states are not.
- Maggie Hassan (D-NH) would support medical school training to allow students to prescribe medication-assisted treatment.
- Rand Paul (R-KY) intended to increase access to evidence-based, medication-assisted treatment.
- Michael Bennet (D-CO) would expand opioid alternative treatments for hospitals.
- Tim Kaine (D-VA) that would give resources to states to assist recovery homes in helping residents recuperate from opioid use disorders. To view the markup session, [click here](#).

Opioid research discussed during House budget hearing on NIH

While NIH can probably expect another good funding increase in the FY 2019 appropriations bill, it likely won't be another \$3 billion increase like the one the agency received for 2018. That was the message from Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) at a budget hearing he chaired by the House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee April 11.

NIH Director Francis Collins thanked Congress for the "incredible increase" and spoke to continuing biomedical research needs. The official Trump Administration request for NIH in 2019 is \$34 billion, \$3 billion below current funding levels.

"I'm still concerned that funding NIH at the requested level would prevent the U.S. biomedical research enterprise from continuing the progress we've begun to make in the past few years of funding increases," said Chairman Cole.

The opioid epidemic was at the center of many leadership questions. NIH has prioritized the investment of \$850 million to develop safe, non-addictive pain management and to treat opioid misuse or overdose. Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, explained that NIH would address the epidemic in two parts: the intervention, prevention and treatment of opioid dependence; and the development of new pain treatments. Moving forward, she said, NIH is planning to generate science-based analysis in an objective way, taking a multidisciplinary approach to research.

Congressman Chuck Fleischman (R-TN) raised the point that opioids and related synthetic compounds are classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration under Schedule I and asked if this inhibited research. Congressman Mark Pocan (D-WI) followed up, asking what legislators can do to be proactive in keeping drugs or even

potential treatments out of this classification. Dr. Volkow emphatically stated that the Schedule I status of opioids inhibits productive research because the process for research is incredibly lengthy. Congresswoman Katherine Clark (D-MA) asked what NIDA was doing to understand opioid dependence in young people, and Dr. Volkow responded that there was not enough clinical research being done. To optimize treatment, more research would need to be funded, she said.

Collins received several questions about an ongoing controversy over a study on the health effects of drinking alcohol and whether staff may have inappropriately solicited outside funding from the alcohol industry. He also discussed the “All of Us” Precision Medicine Initiative which NIH will launch with a public rollout in the upcoming weeks, and the Next Generation Researchers Initiative, a new \$100 million fund to support efforts to develop and retain the next generation of biomedical researchers. To view the hearing webcast, [click here](#).

National Academies report on citrus greening recommends research continuum & master plan

A single breakthrough discovery for managing citrus greening in Florida in the future is unlikely, says a new [report](#) released April 11 by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The committee that wrote the report called for a systems approach to prioritize research on the disease and strategically distribute resources for research to effectively manage the disease, which is the most serious threat for citrus growers worldwide.

The disease in Florida has now caused a cumulative loss of \$2.9 billion in grower revenues from 2007 to 2014, an average of \$374 million a year, according to the report.

The Citrus Research and Development Foundation (CRDF), a \$124 million state citrus-industry initiative, has invested nearly 90 percent of its funds in greening research. CRDF asked the Academies to review its research portfolio and determine if its efforts have followed recommendations outlined in the [Academies' 2010 report](#), which originally called for the organization's creation. The committee found that CRDF was responsive to several recommendations from the previous report, and along with other funders, has advanced our knowledge about the disease. However, HLB remains a serious danger to Florida's citrus industry, having progressed from an acute to a chronic disease throughout the state.

The report notes that significant barriers to progress toward a solution still exist, among them the inability to culture the bacteria in the laboratory, the lack of advanced diagnostics for early disease detection, and the absence of standardized research methodology that would improve the comparability of results across studies. Resolution of any one of these issues would constitute a significant step, according to the report.

The committee recommended continuing support for both basic and applied research for short- and long-term research efforts. In the long run, solutions would likely utilize

new technology, such as gene modification and gene editing, focusing on targets that mediate molecular interactions among plant, bacteria, and the vector, the committee said. As interest in using genetic modification in research grows, CRDF should also consider funding research to assess stakeholder acceptance of the technology and expand efforts to educate growers, processors, and consumers to facilitate the eventual deployment of genetically modified citrus lines.

The report recommends researchers communicate about the outcomes and evaluation of their efforts in a timely and systematic way. Additionally, current approaches to research prioritization and funding based within individual federal and state funding agencies have not led to development of a master plan for greening research and subsequent management solutions. CRDF should work with other funding agencies to create an overarching advisory panel to develop a master plan for HLB research, communication, and management, the report says.

In the meantime, growers in the state will need short-term solutions for the industry to remain viable. The report recommends finding the best suite of strategies to control the disease in different environmental and growing conditions, vector and pathogen pressures, tree varieties, and stages of tree health, which would help growers in Florida.

Hearing examines theft of university R&D

A hearing of the House Science Committee April 11 titled “Scholars or Spies: Foreign Plots Targeting America’s Research and Development” focused on efforts to steal R&D insights gained at U.S. universities.

Committee Chair Lamar Smith (R-TX) pointed out that just last month the Justice Department indicted nine Iranian nationals for breaking into university computer systems and stealing information and intellectual property worth billions of dollars. The theft was widespread hitting 4,000 accounts across 144 universities, targeting those engaged in science, technology and biomedical research. Discussion also centered on efforts by the Chinese government to target technological secrets.

“The National Science Foundation’s grant guidance is clear - as grant recipients, universities bear full responsibility for the management and results of federally funded projects. The recent indictments of Iranian student-spies and other incidents are clear warnings about the need for swift, strong action. This includes improved cybersecurity, educating researchers to anticipate attempts to steal their work and more careful screening of those who come to the U.S. to study,” Smith said in opening the hearing.

Recommendations from Members included calls for increased outreach to academia by law enforcement and intelligence agencies, better cyber security measures, more education of the threats for researchers and more screening of foreign researchers. To view the hearing webcast, [click here](#).

Former astronaut takes helm at USGS; former Congressman takes over at NASA

Following a smooth hearing in March, former astronaut and geologist James Reilly was confirmed by the Senate April 9 to serve as director of the U.S. Geological Survey. The agency received a six percent boost in the 2018 omnibus appropriations bill for the Administration's 2019 budget request recommends a 20 percent cut and a 15 percent reduction in staffing.

During his confirmation hearing, Reilly reassured Senators that he would protect the integrity of the Interior Department's science agency.

"It's an independent organization that's intended to deliver unbiased science to the decision makers," Reilly said of USGS, "and that will be one of the highest priorities that I'll have as the director." To view a webcast of the hearing, [click here](#).

At NASA, former Representative Jim Bridenstine (R-OK) was confirmed by the Senate on a party line vote of 50 to 49, the narrowest in history for the space agency. Senators had been concerned about putting a politician in charge of the agency. Bridenstine said during his confirmation hearings that he would follow Congressional leads, support the Earth science mission and not install a political agenda.

Energy Department budget examined in hearing

The Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development convened on Wednesday, April 11 to host a hearing on the Department of Energy's [Fiscal Year 2019 budget request](#) and justification. Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) opened the hearing by praising the FY2018 appropriations given to the Department of Energy, and supported some of the provisions in the FY2019 request, however he also expressed concerns with certain aspects of it.

"I'm also pleased to see that the Department's 2019 budget request prioritizes supercomputing, and includes approximately \$672 million to deploy exascale systems in the early 2020's" he said "Unfortunately the budget request this year again proposes to decrease spending on federally funded research and development, terminates ARPA-E, and recommends reducing funding levels below what Congress provided last year: the Office of Science by \$870 million; Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy by \$1.6 billion; Nuclear Energy by \$448 million; and Office of Electricity by \$91 million."

Given these concerns, Chairman Alexander said that he would focus on three main priorities: (1) prioritizing federal support for science and energy research; (2) maintaining a safe and effective nuclear weapons stockpile; and (3) solving the nuclear waste stalemate. Chairman Alexander's full written testimony can be found [here](#).

Ranking Member Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) began her opening statement by expressing disdain the amount of budget cuts to energy efficiency, electricity deficiency and energy reliability programs, scientific research and peaceful nuclear energy programs, and the

elimination of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). She then expressed her disagreement for the decrease in non-defense expenditures and the increase in defense-related expenditures within DOE's FY2019 request. She also discussed the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review.

Sen Feinstein said she and Chair Alexander made an agreement with President Obama that Congress would fund the modernization of the U.S. nuclear arsenal if the administration reduced the overall number of deployed nuclear weapons, and the specific elimination of the B-83 warhead. The DOE's latest nuclear posture review calls for an increase in the number of B-83 warheads as expanding the nuclear arsenal overall. Senator Feinstein stated that she would not support any Energy & Water Development appropriations bill that did not honor the 2010 deal the committee struck with President Obama.

Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry was the main witness in the hearing, and in his oral and [written testimony](#), he emphasized his efforts to prioritize technological advancements related to national security and science and innovation, specifically supercomputing and cybersecurity. The committee was generally supportive of the funding increases for DOE's cybersecurity capabilities. A video recording of the full hearing can be found [here](#).

USDA 2019 budget reviewed by Senate committee

The Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, the Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies met April 11 to review the Trump Administration's [Fiscal Year 2019 funding request](#) and budget justification for the Department of Agriculture and to hear from USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue. Chairman John Hoeven (R-ND) opened the hearing by discussing the Farm Bill. He said that according to a 2014 CBO score, the Farm Bill was originally supposed to save \$23 billion, but a more recent CBO score found that it actually saved \$100 billion over ten years. His full written testimony can be found [here](#).

Ranking Member Jeff Merkley (D-OR) expressed his concerns about the FY19 budget request, citing Secretary Perdue's own statement, where he said that "research is an area where we may have missed the mark" 20 agricultural research centers were closed in 2018 and the FY 2019 budget would do the same. Senator Merkley also talked about his recent trip to African countries plagued by famine and mass starvation, and highlighted the work that USAID does to combat these issues. He said that "the only thing between these people and starvation is the United States of America." The FY 2019 budget request calls for a \$6 billion cut overall, and is reducing staff from 95,933 full-time employees to 87,303. Secretary Perdue stated that rather than giving USAID cash to buy food, the U.S. should use commodities grown by U.S. growers instead.

Secretary Perdue said the budget cuts and staff reductions were due to efficiencies and by consolidating three USDA programs into one. They are investing more in IT

modernization by hiring more staff to work on technology and \$15 million more for customer service.

In his opening statement, Secretary Perdue said that a lot of farmers are feeling anxiety caused by the talks around trade with China because of the way it will affect farmers across the United States. A number of senators were aware of this anxiety and that trade retaliation is a top concern for farmers in their states. Secretary Perdue stated that he would do his best to make sure farmers are protected and he agrees with them and fears trade retaliation. He stated that negotiations are the most ideal path forward when dealing with China on this issue.

Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), a former farmer, said “it is unacceptable to cut crop insurance,” and that it’s the one thing he always hears from farmers in Montana. He said that federal dollars are necessary for the success of the program due to the unpredictability of nature, private crop insurance would be unaffordable given the market volatility. Tester reminded Perdue of the farm crisis in the 1980s and does not want the USDA to do anything that would potentially bring about another crisis. Perdue said he agrees with Tester’s view of crop insurance. A video recording of the full hearing can be found [here](#).

Appropriations subcommittee examines health workforce and rural programs

Federal investments in health workforce programs and rural health were discussed in a hearing April 12 by the House Labor, HHS, Education subcommittee.

Two witnesses – Mr. Thomas Morris and Dr. Luis Padilla, HRSA’s Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy and HRSA Associate Administrator for Health Workforce respectfully, testified on behalf of HRSA investments in: rural health and initiatives to support infrastructure in rural communities, response on the opioid epidemic, plans to grow the rural workforce, health workforce programs, and rural health care delivery. To view the hearing, [click here](#).

Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) opened the hearing discussing the health care disparities evident in rural communities as they struggle to keep hospitals open, attract and retain trained healthcare professions – especially physicians, and recover from the opioid epidemic that still continues to be a leading cause of overdose deaths in rural communities. The Chairman voiced the importance of combatting the predicted 100,000 physician shortage – by 2025, by increasing training and employment opportunities that will allow individuals to enter into the field of healthcare and practice within these rural communities.

Associate Administrator, Federal Office of Rural Health Policy

Mr. Thomas Morris, HRSA’s Associate Administrator for Rural Health Policy, began his testimony by thanking members of the subcommittee for the passing of the

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 and the Bipartisan Budget Act. He stated that these Acts provide funding to rural communities that focus on improving access to care, ranging from the recruitment and retention of health care professionals to maintaining the economic viability of hospitals and rural health clinics to supporting telehealth and other innovative practices in rural communities. In regards to supporting rural health infrastructure, Morris spoke first about the importance on community health centers and rural health clinics and how these facilities provide some rural populations as the sole option when seeking treatment for behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, and oral health. He then discussed HRSA's telehealth involvement including Telehealth Network Grant programs – which supports the use of telehealth linking specialists with patients in rural and underserved areas, Telehealth Resource Centers – which helps communities that want to start new telehealth projects or expand existing efforts to other clinical areas, and Telehealth Centers for Excellence – which tests out new approaches for how to best leverage this technology to not only expand access but enhance health care outcomes.

Morris discussed HRSA's efforts to maintain rural hospitals' viability which includes the Rural Health Research Center grant program. This program identifies financial driving factors affecting rural hospital viability and focuses a significant part of its efforts on assessing hospital finance, quality and access to care. Morris highlighted HRSA's efforts to use existing programs and authorities to address the needs of rural hospitals – one being collaboration with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Innovation Center (CMMI) in its administration of several rural demonstrations projects. Lessons learned from these demonstrations can inform future policy developments for enhancing access to care in rural communities.

Other HRSA programs designed to support and aid rural hospital were discussed, including Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant (Flex) Program, Medicare Beneficiary Quality Improvement Program, Small Hospital program, and Rural Health Network Development Planning grants. Details about each of these programs can be read about in detail by reading Morris's full testimony, which can be viewed [here](#).

Within the realm of the Opioid Crisis and its effect on rural communities, Morris spotlighted that the FY 2018 appropriation includes \$100 million for a new Rural Communities Opioid Response program. The program will focus on the areas of prevention, treatment, and recovery of substance-use disorders, including the opportunity to improve access to and increase the recruitment of new substance-use disorder providers.

To combat a historic, rural area challenge of attracting and retaining physicians and other health care providers, Morris discussed the expansion of the Rural Workforce and Rural Physician Residency Program that HRSA began back in FY2016. Since then, there are new models such as Rural Training Tracks (RTTs) and the Teaching Health Centers that have emerged that focus on community-based residency training in rural areas. In continuation of this effort, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 \$15 million for a new Rural Residency Program to expand the number of self-sustaining, rural residency training programs.

Associate Administrator, Bureau of Health Workforce

Dr. Luis Padilla, Associate Administrator of the Bureau of Health Workforce, presented testimony on the topics of the Bureau's health workforce programs and rural health care delivery. Padilla began by stressing the difficult task of recruiting and retaining health care professionals – especially primary care physicians, into rural communities. The National Health Service Corps and NURSE Corps are two critical programs offering workforce solutions to primary health care challenges in rural and underserved communities. In exchange for practicing in underserved communities, clinicians working at eligible health care sites may receive an additional incentive of repayment of educational loans and students may receive scholarships and financial support while in school. Once a physician starts a career in a rural community, 93% continue in these areas an average of 2 years beyond commitment. In FY 2018, HRSA received \$105 million for the National Health Service Corps to expand and improve access to quality opioid and substance use disorder treatment in rural and underserved areas nationwide.

In addition to loan repayment and scholarship programs, HRSA supports graduate medical education, including the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program, which increases the number of providers in rural and underserved communities by taking resident training out of the traditional academic medical center setting and locating it in community based clinics such as community health centers. The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 included \$126.5 million for the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Program in FY 2018 and FY 2019. HRSA recently made awards to the existing Teaching Health Center recipients to support a per-resident amount of \$150,000 for Academic Year 2017-2018.

Padilla discussed HRSA's Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program (or BHWET), which supports a wide array of behavioral health providers with the goal of expanding access to treatment and services, particularly in rural and medically underserved communities. In FY 2018, HRSA received an increase of \$25 million to expand training for the behavioral health workforce to address the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders. The link to Padilla's testimony can be found [here](#).

The questioning segment began with Chairman Cole (R-OK) inquiring about the Administration's efforts in regards to incentivizing medical schools to include rural rotations and rural residency programs into their educational agenda. Dr. Padilla discussed the following two programs: the Primary Care and Enhancement Program and the GME Program. Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) addressed her concerns of the \$166 million cuts to the nursing programs (Title 8), and said that the only program with continued funding is the nursing education and loan repayment scholarships. Congresswoman Katherine Clark (D-MA) asked about the status of the nation's primary care infrastructure relative to the Opioid Epidemic and what the Administration's efforts are to assist with the building up this entity. Dr. Padilla discussed the following three programs: BHWET program, PCT program, and the Rural Residency Planning and Development Program. Dr. Padilla explained that the goal of

these programs are focused on the training of participating providers in not only community-based care areas, but also on the training in areas that are leveraging interprofessional and interdisciplinary care so they are accustomed to providing a comprehensive delivery of care.

Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies

Agency: Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration

Program: FY 2018 EDA Disaster Supplemental

Description: This investment assistance will help communities and regions devise and implement long-term economic recovery strategies through a variety of non-construction and construction projects, as appropriate, to address economic challenges in areas where a Presidential declaration of a major disaster was issued under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 et seq.) (Stafford Act) as a result of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, and of wildfires and other natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2017.

Due Date: Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and processed as received.

Funding: \$587,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302953>

Agency: DoD
National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

Program: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Academic Research Program (NARP)

Description: NGA welcomes all innovative ideas for path-breaking research that may advance the GEOINT mission. The NGA mission is to provide timely, relevant, and accurate geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) in support of national security objectives. GEOINT is the exploitation and analysis of imagery and geospatial information to describe, assess, and visually depict physical features and geographically referenced activities on the Earth. GEOINT consists of imagery, imagery intelligence, and geospatial information. NGA offers a variety of critical GEOINT products in support of U.S. national security objectives and Federal disaster relief, including aeronautical, geodesy, hydrographic, imagery, geospatial and topographical information. The NGA Academic Research Program (NARP) is focused on innovative, far-reaching basic and

applied research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics having the potential to advance the GEOINT mission.

Due Date: Dec 31, 2018

Award Ceiling: \$3,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302176>

Agency: DoD
Dept of the Army -- Materiel Command

Program: Proof of Concept Commercialization Pilot Program Innovation Corps @ Department of Defense (I-Corps @ DoD) Fiscal Year 2018

Description: The Department of Defense is soliciting applications from current/recent DoD awardees on basic research topics to receive mentoring and funding to accelerate the transition and commercialization of the funded research. The I-Corps @ DoD program is designed to support the acceleration of basic research innovations from qualifying institutions by providing Principal Investigators and students with training and mentorship in customer discovery and the commercialization process. The goals of this program are to spur the transition of fundamental research with potential defense relevance to the marketplace, to encourage collaboration between academia and industry, and to train students, faculty, and other researchers to understand innovation and entrepreneurship. There will be three outcomes of the I-Corps @ DoD program: 1) a clear go/no go decision regarding viability of products and services, 2) should the decision be to move the effort forward, a transition plan to do so, and 3) an understanding of what kind of minimum viable product demonstration would be required by key partners and customer segments.

Due Date: Jul 06, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302943>

Agency: DoD
Dept. of the Army -- USAMRAA

Program: DoD Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Therapeutic Development Award

Description: The Therapeutic Development Award supports research ranging from validation of therapeutic leads to Food and Drug Administration Investigational New Drug-enabling studies. The proposed studies are expected to be empirical in nature and

product-driven. Applicants with limited ALS experience are strongly encouraged to collaborate with those having substantial expertise in ALS research and/or ALS model systems.

Due Date: Oct 11, 2018

Funding: \$4,800,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302955>

Agency: DoD
Dept. of the Army -- USAMRAA

Program: DoD Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Therapeutic Idea Award

Description: The Therapeutic Idea Award is designed to promote new ideas aimed at drug or treatment discovery that are still in the early stages of development. Projects that focus primarily on investigating the pathophysiology of ALS are not within the scope of this Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity. Development and/or modification of preclinical model systems or the application of high-throughput screens to define or assess lead compounds for ALS treatment are of interest. Development of methods to adequately measure target binding and proximal downstream effects (target engagement) and the potential for undesirable activities at related but unintended targets (selectivity) are also encouraged.

Due Date: Oct 11, 2018

Funding: \$4,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302939>

Agency: DoD
Dept. of the Army -- USAMRAA

Program: DoD Ovarian Cancer, Omics Consortium Development Award

Description: The FY18 OCRP Omics Consortium Development Award supports a multi-institutional research effort conducted by leading ovarian cancer researchers and consumer advocates that specifically focuses on the compilation of new and/or use of existing large datasets to study the origin of ovarian cancer disease with an emphasis on early detection and screening. This effort will be executed through a two-stage approach using two separate award mechanisms: the first is the current funding opportunity, the FY18 Omics Consortium Development Award, which will enable the consortium to lay the groundwork for the research project, including a proof of concept preliminary research project; and the second is an FY20 Omics Consortium Award,

which will support the execution of the full research project. Research projects proposed under the Omics Consortium Development Award must use large datasets (genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, other 'omics) to focus on origin of disease. The long-term goal of the Omics Consortium is to facilitate improvements in early detection and screening of ovarian cancer, although immediate benefits of the consortium will be in initial diagnosis and therapy.

Due Date: Aug 08, 2018

Funding: \$1,920,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302999>

Agency: DoD
DARPA - Defense Sciences Office

Program: SIGMA+ Sensors

Description: The Defense Sciences Office at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is soliciting innovative research proposals in the area of advanced chemical and biological detector technologies to support a networked system of sensors for the detection, interdiction, and deterrence of clandestine weapons of mass destruction. Proposed research should investigate innovative approaches that enable revolutionary advances in science, devices, or systems. Specifically excluded is research that primarily results in evolutionary improvements to the existing state of practice.

Due Date: May 31, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302635>

Agency: DoD
Missile Defense Agency

Program: Missile Defense Agency Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Boosting Engineering Science and Technology (BEST) Robotics: Kits 2018

Description: The purpose of this announcement is to allow official Boosting Engineering, Science, and Technology (BEST) Robotics Local Competition Hubs, within their first five years of existence, the opportunity to obtain financial support for purchasing new robotic kits. The additional robotics kits increases the number of

competing teams and advances the awareness of and engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) with K-12 populations

Due Date: Jun 01, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=303493>

Agency: DOI
Bureau of Land Management

Program: BLM MT/DAK Youth Opportunities to Work on Conservation Projects on MT/DAK Public Lands

Description: Youth projects on Public Lands in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota to accomplish priority stewardship, restoration, or rehabilitation of natural, cultural, historical, archaeological, recreational, or scenic resource conservation projects. Youth Conservation Corps to include: youth, veterans, tribal youth and others ranging in age from 16 - 35 from local and surrounding communities across MT/DAK to assist in completing projects that help protect and promote multiple-use conservation projects on public lands.

Due Date: Jun 18, 2018

Funding: \$4,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302720>

Agency: DOI
Bureau of Land Management

Program: BLM JFSP Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN)

Description: The Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) award is for current master and doctoral students enrolled at colleges or universities within the United States in the field of wildland fire and related physical, biological, and social sciences to enhance student exposure to the management and policy relevance of their research to achieve beneficial outcomes of funded work.

Due Date: May 30, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=303188>

Agency: DOI
Fish and Wildlife Services

Program: Saginaw Bay to Western Lake Erie Coastal Wetland Initiative

Description: The Saginaw Bay to Western Lake Erie Coastal Wetland Initiative (Initiative) is a voluntary-based, collaborative program that provides financial assistance to coastal communities and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. Funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the Saginaw Bay to Western Lake Erie Coastal Wetland Initiative is focused on promoting on-the-ground restoration, enhancement, and protection of priority coastal wetlands. Funding is available for proposed on-the-ground projects within the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes basin in the Saginaw Bay to Western Lake Erie coastal corridor.

Due Date: Jun 04, 2018 See NOFO for Details

Funding: \$150,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302574>

Agency: DOI
National Park Service

Program: Experiential Nearshore Learning - GRPO

Description: The project goal is to develop curriculum sufficient to guide parent/child mentorship in an experiential learning setting. The primary objective is to seek input and ownership of the curriculum first, by conducting outreach to local schools. The end result of the project will be parent/child groups utilizing the curriculum on the water, in the nearshore environment. The project engages recipients, partners, communities, and/or visitors in shared environmental stewardship. The project motivates its youth participants to become involved in the natural, cultural and /or historical resource protection of their communities and beyond.

Due Date: Apr 24, 2018

Funding: \$150,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=303020>

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

Program: Debate Clubs to Foster Leadership Skills in Underprivileged Youth

Description: The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General in Mumbai (PAS Mumbai) seeks proposals for a project entitled "Debate Clubs to Foster Leadership Skills in Underprivileged Youth." The grantee would identify three partner organizations in Mumbai, such as schools in underprivileged neighborhoods and social organizations that work with disadvantaged youth. Ideally, partner organizations would operate in poor urban areas and work with youth that speak only Hindi or Marathi and not necessarily English.

Due Date: Jun 13, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=303235>

Agency: DoT
DOT/Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Program: FY 2018 High Priority Grant Program

Description: The High Priority(HP) Grant Program is a discretionary (i.e., competitive) program which provides financial assistance to: 1)The HP-ITD projects which include the deployment of intelligent transportation system applications for CMV operations; support/maintenance of CMV information systems/networks, the linking of FMCSA and state information systems, the improvement of safety and productivity of CMVs and commercial drivers and the reduction of costs associated with CMV operations and regulatory requirements, 2)The HP-CMV projects which include the augmentation of motor carrier safety projects planned in accordance with the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP), as well as projects related to Performance and Registration Information Systems Management (PRISM) and State Safety Data Quality (SSDQ).

Due Date: May 21, 2018

Funding: \$2,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302562>

Agency: HHS
Centers for Disease Control - NCCDPHP

Program: Networking2Save: CDCs National Network Approach to Preventing and Controlling Tobacco-related Cancers in Special Populations

Description: The NOFO seeks to eliminate tobacco- and cancer- related health disparities. National Networks selected (up to 8) may focus on one of the following specific populations experiencing tobacco and cancer-related health disparities: 1) African Americans; 2) American Indians/Alaskan Natives; 3) Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders/Hawaiian Natives; 4) Latinos/Hispanics; 5) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender persons; 6) Persons with Low Socioeconomic Status; 7) Persons with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders; and 8) Geographically Defined Populations with High Commercial Tobacco Use and Related Health Disparities.

Due Date: Jun 18, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302197>

Agency: HHS
Centers for Disease Control - NCEH

Program: Identifying Common and Unique Barriers to the Exchange of Hospital Inpatient and Emergency Department Data

Description: The approach of this NOFO is to help address the above mentioned data issues by collaborating with recipients to assist in the development of standards and principles to effectively administer and integrate public health statistics and information systems into the Tracking Network. This NOFO builds on the efforts from CDC-RFA-EH15-1501 to facilitate data sharing between states, improve data timeliness, and assist with the development of standards and principles to effectively administer and integrate public health data into the Tracking Network. An example lesson learned from the previous NOFO was the development of a model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between a jurisdiction's vital records/health statistics unit and the respective Tracking Program recipient; this effort helped establish a critical partnership. The synergies created and activities conducted under the MOU enhanced coordination of services and information exchange and facilitated the utilization of resources through improved data sharing.

Due Date: Jul 01, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=303023>

Agency: HHS
Centers for Disease Control - NCIRD

Program: Improving Implementation of Immunization Practice Standards by National Pharmacy Organizations--Financed Solely by PPHF 2018 Prevention and Public Health Funds

Description: The purpose of this funding opportunity is to conduct activities to promote and support vaccination services within the pharmacy setting. Activities include, but are not limited to:- Education/Outreach to pharmacists about current pediatric, adolescent, and adult immunization recommendations and proper vaccine administration-Facilitation of communication and exchange of information between pharmacists and providers and public health programs-Quality Improvement efforts-Improved immunization documentation through use of immunization information systems and data sharing-Coordination with public health preparedness and immunization programs to establish formalized agreements for pandemic vaccine program readiness and response

Due Date: Jun 11, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=297950>

Agency: HHS
NIH

Program: Addressing the Challenges of the Opioid Epidemic in Minority Health and Health Disparities Research in the U.S. (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)

Description: The purpose of this Funding Opportunity Announcement is to encourage developmental and exploratory research focused on determining the mechanisms for the variation in the prevalence of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD), and understanding and reducing disparities in opioid care in minority health and health disparity populations in the U.S. This initiative will also seek to identify multi-level intervention strategies at the institutional and systems level for addressing OUD in these populations.

Due Date: Nov 13, 2020

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302933>

Agency: HHS
NIH

Program: Geriatrics and Clinical Gerontology Research to Address Health Disparities in the U.S. (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Description: This Funding Opportunity Announcement announces the availability of administrative supplements to support aging research that addresses disparities in health, with emphasis on geriatrics and clinical gerontology studies.

Due Date: Jul 16, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=303013>

Agency: HHS
NIH

Program: Administrative Supplements to NIGMS Predoctoral Training Grants for the Development of Activities to Prepare Trainees for Careers in the Biomedical Research Workforce (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Description: The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) announces the availability of funds for Administrative Supplements to NIGMS-funded predoctoral T32 training grants. These funds are designed to provide support for the development and implementation of activities aimed at broadening the training experience to better prepare individuals for careers in the biomedical research workforce.).

Due Date: May 18, 2018

Funding: \$80,000 each

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=303676>

Agency: NASA

Program: ROSES 2018: Science Team for the NASA ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Mission

Description: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate (SMD) announces the release of its annual NASA Research Announcement (NRA), Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) – 2018. ROSES is an omnibus NRA, with 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.

Due Date: Oct 02, 2018

Award Ceiling: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300751>

Agency: NASA

Program: ROSES 2018: Astrophysics Data Analysis

Description: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate (SMD) announces the release of its annual NASA Research Announcement (NRA), Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) – 2018. ROSES is an omnibus NRA, with 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.

Due Date: May 17, 2018

Award Ceiling: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300739>

Agency: NASA

Program: ROSES 2018: Mars Data Analysis

Description: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate (SMD) announces the release of its annual NASA Research Announcement (NRA), Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) – 2018. ROSES is an omnibus NRA, with 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.

Due Date: Aug 23, 2018

Award Ceiling: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300752>

Agency: Department of Commerce
NOAA

Program: NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants Program (FY 2018)

Description: The principal objective of the NOAA Coastal Resilience Grants Program is to implement projects that build resilience of U.S. coastal communities and ecosystems. In Fiscal Year 2018, this solicitation is seeking coastal habitat restoration projects that build resilience by conserving and restoring sustainable ecosystem processes and functions and reducing the vulnerability of coastal communities and infrastructure from the impacts of extreme weather events, climate hazards, and changing ocean conditions. This program supports activities that restore or create natural infrastructure and natural landscape features to provide valuable ecosystem functions and services, such as habitat for fish, improved water quality and quantity, flood reduction, and erosion protection.

Due Date: May 07, 2018

Award Ceiling: \$2,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300259>

Agency: Department of Commerce
NOAA

Program: National Sea Grant College Program 2018-19 Special Projects

Description: The purpose of this notice is to request proposals for special projects consistent with the focus areas outlined in the National Sea Grant College Program's (Sea Grant) strategic plan, and to provide the general public with information and guidelines on how Sea Grant will select proposals and administer Federal assistance under this announcement. This announcement is a mechanism to encourage research or other projects that are not normally funded through Sea Grant national competitions. This opportunity is open only to Sea Grant Programs.

Due Date: Sep 30, 2019

Award Ceiling: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=298706>

Agency: HHS

Centers for Disease Control - NCCDPHP

Program: State Physical Activity and Nutrition Program

Description: CDC announces the availability of fiscal year 2018 funds to implement CDC-RFA-DP18-1807: State Physical Activity and Nutrition (SPAN) Program. Poor nutrition and low levels of physical activity affect overall health and are significant risk factors for obesity and other chronic diseases. Obesity affects 78.6 million (35%) American adults and 12.7 million (17%) American children, and costs our nation approximately \$147 billion in annual health care expenditures. The burden of obesity and other chronic diseases negatively affects our nation's businesses, economy, and military readiness. The NOFO will fund up to 15 state health departments and/or District of Columbia to work with state and local partners that support communities to improve nutrition and to support safe and accessible physical activity. This five-year program provides state health departments the support and flexibility to work on systems at the state and local levels to implement evidence-based strategies and to leverage resources from multiple stakeholders and sectors (e.g., agriculture, transportation, education, business, commerce, housing) to improve the nutrition and physical activity status of Americans.

Due Date: Apr 18, 2018

Award Ceiling: \$1,300,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=299540>

Agency: Department of Agriculture
Utilities Programs

Program: Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program

Description: DLT grants are designed to provide access to education, training, and health care resources for rural Americans. The DLT Program provides financial assistance to encourage and improve telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas through the use of telecommunications, computer networks, and related advanced technologies that students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents can use. The grants, which are awarded through a competitive process, may be used to fund telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, transmission facilities, and related advanced technologies which extend educational and medical applications into rural areas. Grants are intended to benefit end users in rural

areas, who are often not in the same location as the source of the educational or health care service.

Due Date: Jun 04, 2018

Award Ceiling: See announcement

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302597>

Agency: NSF
Division of Undergraduate Education

Program: Accelerating Discovery: Educating the Future STEM Workforce (AD)

Description: Specifically, NSF accepts proposals to support education research and development projects focused on re- or up-skilling the existing workforce; developing the skilled technical workforce; and/or preparing those at the undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral fellow/early career levels. We encourage projects to partner with industry, public, and private sectors to define the needs of tomorrow's workforce and develop educational and learning strategies to meet those needs.

Due Date: July 2, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505552&WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click

Agency: NSF
Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences Division of Chemistry

Program: Centers for Chemical Innovation

Description: The CCI Program is a two-phase program. Both phases are described in this solicitation. Phase I CCIs receive significant resources to develop the science, management and broader impacts of a major research center before requesting Phase II funding. Satisfactory progress in Phase I is required for Phase II applications; Phase I proposals funded in FY 2019 will seek Phase II funding in FY 2022.

Due Date: October 10, 2018

Funding: \$9,400,000

Website: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18555/nsf18555.pdf?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click

Agency: NSF
Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering

Program: Critical Techniques, Technologies and Methodologies for Advancing Foundations and Applications of Big Data Sciences and Engineering (BIGDATA)

Description: The solicitation invites two categories of proposals:

- Foundations (BIGDATA: F): those developing or studying fundamental theories, techniques, methodologies, and technologies of broad applicability to big data problems, motivated by specific data challenges and requirements; and
- Innovative Applications (BIGDATA: IA): those engaged in *translational* activities that employ new big data techniques, methodologies, and technologies to address and solve problems in specific application domains. Projects in this category must be collaborative, involving researchers from domain disciplines and one or more methodological disciplines, e.g., computer science, statistics, mathematics, simulation and modeling, etc.

Due Date: May 7, 2018 - May 14, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504767&WT.mc_id=USNSF_39&WT.mc_ev=click

Agency: NSF
Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering

Program: STEM + Computing K-12 Education (STEM+C)

Description: The STEM+C Program focuses on research and development of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to the integration of computing within STEM teaching and learning for preK-12 students in both formal and informal settings. The STEM+C program supports research on how students learn to think computationally to solve interdisciplinary problems in science and mathematics. The program supports research and development that builds on evidence-based teacher preparation or professional development activities that enable teachers to provide excellent instruction on the integration of computation and STEM disciplines. Proposals should describe projects that are grounded in prior evidence and theory, are innovative or potentially transformative, and that will generate and build knowledge about the integration of computing and one or more STEM disciplines at the preK-12 level.

Due Date: July 2, 2018

Funding: See announcement

Website: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505006&WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click

Agency: DOJ
National Institute of Justice

Program: NIJ FY18 Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives

Description: NIJ seeks to build knowledge on best practices in offender reentry. Specifically, NIJ requests proposals for rigorous research to examine reentry initiatives for adult or juvenile offenders that incorporate promising practices, strategies, or programs. These initiatives may be applicable to institutional or community corrections, or both. Preference will be given to applications that propose to use a randomized controlled trial (RCT). This research supports the U.S. Department of Justice priorities to reduce violent crime and to protect police and other public safety personnel by reducing recidivism and giving individuals tools to be law-abiding productive members of society.

Due Date: Aug 06, 2018

Funding: \$5,000,000

Website: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=302736>