

THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

WASHINGTON E-UPDATE

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November 2014

Budget and Appropriations Update -- Though partisan bickering has kept Congress from passing any of the 12 spending bills required to keep the federal government operating, there is hope that the post-election lame duck session will be the setting for passage of an omnibus appropriations bill.

Some of the impetus for finishing work on appropriations comes from a Congressional Budget Office report issued in early October showing that the federal deficit for the fiscal year just ended is 29 percent lower than 2013 and the lowest since 2008.

Another sign that Congress could wrap up funding decisions before year's end comes on the political front. Tradition holds that the sixth year of a presidency usually results in an increase in congressional seats for the opposing party. And this year seems to be no different, with Republicans projected to widen their majority in the House and perhaps take control of the Senate.

GOP leaders have already said that if they captured control of Congress, they'd prefer to clear up all spending legislation this year—but they only have about one month to do it.

Just before leaving Washington to campaign, lawmakers passed a continuing resolution (CR) to keep government programs operating through December 11. The lame duck session will begin November 12, giving them just enough time to finish work on appropriations bills. Indeed, staff has been meeting for the past several weeks in an attempt to informally resolve spending differences between the House and Senate. And by all accounts, those negotiations are nearly complete—with one glaring exception.

If lawmakers hope to resolve their differences over the Labor-HHS-Education spending bill they would have to overcome pronounced differences over domestic funding priorities, including support for the Affordable Care Act and funds to address the unaccompanied immigrant children crisis. Also at issue is how much to spend on the federal response to the Ebola outbreak.

A draft Senate bill proposes \$3 billion for ACA and \$1.94 billion to shelter unaccompanied immigrant children. The House declined to even release a draft proposal, knowing it would draw a partisan fight before the midterm elections.

The most likely scenario has Congress passing many of the 12 appropriations bills, but leaving a few—including Labor-HHS-Education—on a CR until early 2015 or perhaps for the remainder of the fiscal year.

SUS sponsors 2nd annual Federal R&D agency workshop in Washington

The SUS held its Second Annual C.W. Bill Young Federal R&D Agency Workshop October 2-3 in the U.S. Capitol, moderated by Dr. Jan Ignash, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs. Fifty of the System's top research directors, medical school deans, cyber security leaders and BOG research staff participated in the event designed to provide agency insights and the latest information on new priorities and developments.

This year's workshop featured 14 distinguished speakers from key government research agencies, including two White House officials from the Office of Science and Technology Policy. While each individual agency shared goals and research concerns that were specific to their own organization, multiple issues such as budget concerns spanned the entire two-day discussion. Throughout the event, speakers enumerated new initiatives being developed and policy changes that may affect future funding. The first day was devoted to biomedical and health research agencies and the second day focused on cyber security.



BRAIN Initiative Panelists: (Left to Right) Dr. Lyric Jorgenson, NIH; Dr. Amber Story, NSF; Dr. Justin Sanchez, DARPA; and Dr. Carlos Pena, FDA.

Kei Koizumi, Assistant OSTP Director for Federal R&D, presented an overview of federal investments and plans in health research. Dr. Sally Rockey, deputy director of the National Institutes of Health, addressed the latest information on extramural research policies and plans at the agency. Research and development associated with the new \$4 billion BRAIN initiative was covered in a panel discussion by the lead directors from the four agencies

funding the long-term project.

Activities at the Biological Sciences Directorate at the National Science Foundation were described by the organization's deputy director, Dr. Jane Silverthorne. The first day was rounded out with presentations by the Chief Science Officer at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Dr. Robert Kaplan; Dr. Betsy Wilder, director of the Common Fund programs in the NIH Director's Office; and Dr. Warren Kibbe, director of the Center for Bioinformatics and Information Technology at the National Cancer Institute.

Cybersecurity discussions centered on presentations by Tim Polk, cyber security director at OSTP, Benjamin Scribner, director of the National Cybersecurity Professionalization and Workforce Development Program at the Department of Homeland Security, Dr. Douglas Maughan, DHS' Cyber Security Division director in the Science and Technology Directorate, and Dr. Suzanne Iacono, the acting director for Computer and Information Science at the National Science Foundation.



Kei Koizumi of the White House OSTP and Moderator Dr. Jan Ignash speaking with attendees during the workshop.

Expected bipartisan legislation would boost biomedical research funding

New Senate legislation is expected to be introduced in coming days designed to significantly increase funding for biomedical research at NIH, CDC, AHRQ, FDA and the Biomedical Research and Development Authority at HHS. A bipartisan duo, Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT), met recently with biomedical industry groups and indicated their intention to introduce the bill in the coming “lame duck” session of Congress.

The “Invest for a Healthy Future Act” could increase funding for the targeted Federal agencies by \$21.5 billion over the next 12 years. The bill, under development for the past year, would set up a \$10 billion Biomedical Science Fund that would have to be offset by cuts to other Federal efforts and they have yet to be identified.

Under the bill’s approach, if all of the named agencies receive appropriations of at least the prior year’s level plus the biomedical inflation index then \$1 billion would be made available from the Fund to the agencies to be spread over the next four years (\$250 million each year.) The funding would be applied at the same proportion as the base budget. If the funding targets are not hit by appropriators, then the \$1 billion would be held to the next year when \$2 billion would become available for distribution if the

funding target is met. The intention is to promote stable funding by Congress and also provide a way to increase amounts during times of tight budgets.

The prospects for passage during the lame duck session of Congress would seem low although sponsors hope to build off some momentum felt because of the Ebola crisis and the view that biomedical research has suffered during the sequestration era.

New PLUS Loan rules published

The Department of Education published new PLUS Loan regulations on October 22, 2014, following a negotiated rule making process. The final regulations were scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2015, but the Department has designated these regulations to receive “early implementation” under the authority of the Higher Education Act (HEA 484(c)(2)).

New changes to the final regulation include an updated definition of an “adverse credit history” for PLUS Loan applicants. This definition, which had not otherwise been changed since 1994, includes a threshold debt amount of \$2,085, including inflation. Consequently, any individual with debt lower than \$2,085 is not considered to have an adverse credit history. The new regulations also include a streamlined and updated PLUS Loan application process which is intended to be particularly beneficial to individuals with adverse credit histories.

The Department is also creating a counseling tool to assist families in understanding their responsibilities and obligations. This tool will offer customizable information and be available to all PLUS borrowers. Additionally, families with adverse credit histories will be required to undergo counseling before they can access PLUS Loans.

To learn more about the new final regulations, please see <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-10-23/pdf/2014-25266.pdf>.

\$840 million ‘Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative’ announced

A new \$840 million grant initiative announced October 23 by HHS is aimed at improving health care quality by cutting unnecessary costs and improving overall system efficiency.

The [Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative \(TCPI\)](#) hopes to stimulate structural innovation within health care practices by way of two network systems: [Practice Transformation Network \(PTN\)](#) and [Support and Alignment Network \(SAN\)](#). Letters of intent for either program should be submitted by **November 20** and completed applications are due **January 6, 2015**. Awards will be issued on **April 10, 2015**.

The PTN grant seeks to fund groups that will lead collaboratives of healthcare teams, practitioners, and other medical professionals to develop and implement a set of best

practices and will provide clinical and operational transformation expertise to practices undergoing the transition to reach TCPI goals. These awards are specific to applicants that have pre-existing relationships with multiple clinicians and other healthcare providers. The total award funding available for the PTN program is \$670 million and will issue approximately 35 awards of \$2 million - \$50 million. Informational webinars outlining the specifics of the PTN program will be held at **1:00pm** on **November 6** and **November 20**. Registration for both events is now open. You may register for the November 6 webinar [here](#) and the November 20 webinar [here](#).

The Support and Alignment Networks will coach professional associations through the structural transformation process by supporting increased core competency education and developing successful methods for recruiting clinicians to practice in underserved areas. These networks may consist of medical professional associations or other specialty groups. SANs will be instrumental in the development of evidence-based quality measures called for in the TCPI FOA. In addition, SANs will assist PTNs and other providers to form public-private partnerships. The total amount of funding available for the SAN program is \$30 million and will issue approximately 30 awards ranging between \$1 million and \$3 million. Informational webinars outlining the specifics of the SAN program will be at 1:00 pm **on November 6** and **November 20**. Registration for both events is now open. You may register for the November 6 webinar [here](#) and the November 20 webinar [here](#).

For more information, please visit:

- [HHS Funding Opportunity Announcement Press Release](#)
- [TCPI Background Information and Award Details](#)
- [TCPI Fact Sheet](#)

Grant competition announced for Ebola-related R&D

Responding to the recent Ebola outbreaks the Administration announced a new research and development competition to spur innovation and development on October 24.

This competition launched by USAID and the White House Office of Science, Technology, and Policy seeks opportunities to assist with the creation, design, or investment in practical and cost-effective innovations to assist frontline health workers with handling the Ebola crisis in West Africa. Although additional details are still forthcoming, multiple awards are expected in order to incentivize innovation as USAID works to engage stakeholders to improve care delivery and decrease the exponential spread of Ebola.

USAID plans to have at least two sets of review; submission deadlines for these first two competitive rounds will be November 7 and December 1.

The Challenge requests practical, rapidly-deployable, and cost-effective solutions that will improve Ebola treatment and control. These solutions should assist health workers in delivering care and transform the international community's ability to fight Ebola.

USAID offers to collaborate by co-creating, co-designing, and co-investing. Criteria used by USAID to select competition winners will include soundness and creativity of idea, partnership expectations, and impact. Awards will be offered at levels between \$100,000 and \$1 million. Other factors USAID will consider include innovation, cost, and timeline. To learn more about this Challenge, please see <http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/15396/baa.pdf>.

DHS looking to speed up vehicle screening thru R&D process

The S&T Explosives Division (EXD) of the Homeland Security Department is preparing to release an R&D solicitation in early December for eye-safe, standoff detection technologies for improved security at federal buildings.

A Broad Agency Announcement is planned for the Vehicle Eye Safe Trace, or VEST, program. The Department will be soliciting optical-based detection technologies for explosive residues on vehicles. Operationally, EXD is looking to develop a vehicle screening capability for use at existing control points without impeding the flow of commerce or normal traffic.

Upcoming hearing to examine suicide prevention bill

Looking for a way to take action to address the high rates of suicide, mental illness, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among veterans, the House Veterans' Affairs Health Subcommittee will hold a November 14 hearing on the Clay Hunt Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act (SAV Act, HR 5059). Sponsors hope to pass the bill during the lame duck session in November and December.

The bipartisan SAV Act, which seeks to address these issues, was introduced in July by Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN) and presently has 107 cosponsors. The SAV Act requires Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs to arrange annually for independent reviews and evaluations of mental health and suicide prevention programs for veterans.

The Act also would require review into any discharge of an Armed Forces member where the dismissal was related to PTSD, traumatic brain injury, or sexual trauma related to service. Other requirements will include the publication of a website to serve as a nexus for veteran's mental health services, loan repayment for eligible psychiatrists, and the facilitation of specific communications between VA and DOD Secretaries.

The SAV Act was named after twenty-eight year old Clay Hunt, a Marine veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and committed suicide in 2011. A subsequent 2012 VA

report estimated that in 2009 and 2010, approximately 22 veterans committed suicide every day. A report on military suicides published by the Department of Defense additionally indicated that 319 active military members, 130 National Guard members, and 73 reservists committed suicide in calendar year 2012.

Gainful employment rule published



The Education Department released its final “gainful employment” regulations October 31 following a multi-year rulemaking process begun in 2009 primarily aimed at the for-profit college industry.

The rules, which take effect July 1, 2015, were scaled back to some degree from the earlier iteration. However, the Department estimates that 1,400 programs serving 840,000 current students –99 percent of whom are at for-profit institutions – will not pass the accountability standards and will face sanctions involving the loss of federal student aid. Debt to earnings ratios outlined in the March version of the regs were maintained, but in a victory for community colleges a provision was dropped that would have required programs to remain under a 30 percent loan default rate. Under the rule, to maintain eligibility, graduates will have to pay less than 8 percent of their total earnings or less than 20 percent of discretionary annual income in student loan repayments. Institutions that fail for four consecutive years in that standard would lose eligibility for Federal student aid.

The rule also requires institutions to provide important information about their programs, like what their former students are earning, their success at graduating, and the amount of debt they accumulated.

Following publication, key non-profit education groups and Democratic Senators including Tom Harkin of Iowa felt the rules didn’t go far enough while for-profit associations and Republicans like Lamar Alexander of Tennessee said they go too far and would penalize students at the affected institutions.

The final regulations were published in the *Federal Register*. The links to text of the final regulations, a press release, and a fact sheet about the final regulations are below:

- [Press release: Obama Administration Announces Final Rules to Protect Students from Poor-Performing Career College Programs](#)
- Fact Sheet: Details of the final regulations and its impact  [PDF](#) (45K)
- Informal version of the final regulatory text (81 pages)  [MS Word](#) (262K)
- Federal Register <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2014-25594.pdf>
- Department website on rulemaking process <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/2012/gainfulemployment.html>

Report documents cuts to public universities during recession

A new report released October 27 highlights recent cuts by the states to public universities across the country during the recession. According to the report, “A Great Recession, a Great Retreat,” by the Center for American Progress among the twenty-nine states that cut college tuition between 2008 and 2012, seven withdrew at least twenty percent of public university funding. The cuts were made despite enormous increases in the numbers of individuals returning to school as a consequence of the recession.

The authors state that Department of Education data show that during this period, the number of students in public universities and colleges increased by 13.7 percent. Due to the influx of students to public colleges, all fifty states actually decreased their overall funding to public universities during this period. The report notes that even in states where public colleges received increased income, substantial portions of this revenue came from student and family tuition dollars.

At an event publicizing this report, Education Undersecretary Ted Mitchell advocated for increased state funding to public higher education. Undersecretary Mitchell noted that historically the states, the federal government, and students have equally split the burden of public education. Following the decrease in state funding, students have been forced to increase their loan burdens in order to meet tuition increases. Mitchell noted that as the economy has improved, states must be pushed to reevaluate their spending on public education.

The Department of Education and the Center for American Progress have proposed federal programs that would incentivize increases by the states into public education. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) has also included a state-federal partnership in his proposed Higher Education Act reauthorization bill.

To read the Center for American Progress’ full report, please see <http://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/PublicCollege-report.pdf>.

Report covers transition from high school to college

High school-to-college transition rates for public, charter, and private high schools are reported in a new report released October 28 by the National Student Clearinghouse. The report offers benchmarks to be used by schools across the country to compare their students with the national average. This is the second Benchmark report released by the Clearinghouse; the first was released last October.

According to findings, poverty is the most persuasive indicator of whether an individual will attend college. Low-income schools, defined by the Clearinghouse as those institutions where at least fifty percent of students could be eligible for free or reduced rate lunches, have higher college dropout rates and entry into four-year degree programs. Rates of college entry by students from low-income schools ranged between

forty-seven and fifty-eight percent, and other impactful variables included a school's geography and racial demographics. Additionally, students from these schools were more likely to enroll in two-year college or degree programs than four-year programs.

Advocating on behalf of the School Superintendents' Association, Executive Director Daniel Domenech pressed policy makers to use this report to direct education decisions. To read more, please see <http://nscresearchcenter.org/hsbenchmarks2014/>.

Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies

Agency: Bureau Of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Dept. of State
Office of Citizen Exchanges

Program: FY 2015 Youth Leadership Program: TechGirls

Description: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the FY 2015 TechGirls program under the Youth Leadership Program model. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to conduct a three- to four-week exchange program in the United States in summer 2015 for high school girls from the Middle East and North Africa focused on promoting high-level study of technology. U.S. Embassies in the participating countries and territories will recruit, screen, and select the participants. The program will provide an exchange of academic study of applied technology for girls who already have a demonstrated aptitude and strong interest in the subject, will empower girls to pursue higher education and careers in technology, and will support activities in the participants' home countries that are designed to reinforce and support the skills and linkages acquired during the U.S. program.

Due Date: 12/2/2014

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$570,000
Award Ceiling: \$190,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268450>

Agency: Department of Commerce
National Marine Fisheries Service

Program: 2015 Partnerships for Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery and Marine Mammal Response in the Pacific Islands Region

Description: The National Marine Fisheries Service is soliciting competitive applications for the fiscal year 2015 Partnerships for Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery and Marine Mammal Response. Projects are being solicited to support specific programmatic activities related to promoting the recovery of endangered Hawaiian monk seals and supporting responses to marine mammal strandings in the main Hawaiian Islands and US Territories.

Due Date: 1/20/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$180,000

Award Ceiling: \$40,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=269009>

Agency: Department of Commerce
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Program: Office of Weather and Air Quality Hazardous Weather and Hydrometeorology Testbed Competitions

Description: This program is aimed at researching proposals looking to advance hydrometeorological methods, models, observations, and decision support tools and lead the transfer of relevant research and technology advances to NWS operations at local, regional, or national levels. HWT focuses on the transfer of relevant research and technology advances in hazardous weather, severe convection, and related forecast operations. This notice calls for researchers to submit proposals to test and evaluate, and modify if necessary, in a (quasi-operational) experimental environment, their own scientific and technological research applications. Proposals aimed at tools and/or applications are encouraged to plan for and use these annual experiments as a testing mechanism during the 2016 calendar year. If a tool/technique is selected for testing, associated projects are expected to visit the testbed to explain the tool/technique, and help facilitate testing.

Due Date: 1/28/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$1,400,000

Award Ceiling: \$125,000

Award Floor: \$50,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268128>

Agency: Department of Defense
Air Force -- Research Lab

Program: Thin-Wing Electromechanical Actuation Demonstration

Description: The objective of this BAA is to develop a robust, thin-wing primary flight actuator capable of achieving a high-duty cycle application (e.g. aileron) while fitting within the volume constraints mandated in future thin-wing aircraft designs. For further details, please see BAA-RQKP-2014-0011.

Due Date: 11/10/2014

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$4,000,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268168>

Agency: Department of Defense
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

Program: Spectral Combs from UV to THz

Description: The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is soliciting innovative research proposals in the area of chip-scale optical frequency combs for spectroscopic sensing. 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: 1/25/2014

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268197>

Agency: Department of Defense
United States Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity

Program: DoD Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes Research Award

Description: The OPORP Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes Research Award (OPORA) is being offered for the first time in FY14 and is intended to support research that evaluates the comparative effectiveness of and functional outcomes associated with prosthetic and orthotic clinical interventions and/or other rehabilitation interventions for Service Members and Veterans who have undergone limb salvage or limb amputation. The goal is to improve our understanding of and ultimately advance the implementation of the most effective prescriptions for prosthetic and orthotic devices, treatment, rehabilitation, and secondary health effect prevention options for patients, clinicians, other caregivers, and policymakers. Proposed projects should be designed to provide outcomes data regarding orthotic and prosthetic devices, and/or related clinical interventions and must include the anticipated effect on patient care

metrics. Collaboration with military researchers and clinicians is encouraged, as are joint Department of Defense (DoD)-VA studies, including longitudinal outcome studies.

Due Date: 1/20/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$8,900,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268008>

Agency: Department of Education
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services

Program: Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities: Personnel Preparation in Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services Focus Areas

Description: The purposes of this program are to (1) help address State-identified needs for personnel preparation in special education, early intervention, related services, and regular education to work with children, including infants and toddlers, with disabilities; and (2) ensure that those personnel have the necessary skills and knowledge, derived from practices that have been determined through scientifically based research and experience, to be successful in serving those children.

Due Date: 12/5/2014

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$2,000,000

Award Ceiling: \$250,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268985>

Agency: Department of Energy
Advanced Research Projects Agency

Program: Generators for Small Electrical and Thermal Systems (GENSETS)

Description: This GENSETS Program seeks to fund the development of potentially disruptive generator technologies that will enable widespread deployment of residential Combined Heat and Power systems. If adopted widely by U.S. residential and commercial sectors, GENSETS CHP systems could lead to annual primary energy savings of more than 5 quadrillion BTU (quads). GENSETS systems could also provide annual CO2 emissions reductions of more than 200 million metric tons, which is roughly 10% of the CO2 produced annually from U.S. electricity generation and 4% of total U.S. annual CO2 emissions. The GENSETS Program seeks transformative generators/engines with 1 kW of electrical output (kWe)

that have high efficiency (40% fuel to electricity), long life (10 years), low cost (\$3,000 per system), and low emissions. Heat engines and generators capable of achieving these targets may include internal and external combustion engines, turbines, and solid state devices such as thermophotovoltaics, thermionic emitters, and thermoelectrics.

Due Date: 12/1/2014

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$25,000,000

Award Ceiling: \$10,000,000

Award Floor: \$250,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268906>

Agency: Department of Energy
Golden Field Office

Program: Wind Energy - Bat Impact Minimization Technologies and Field Testing Opportunities

Description: This announcement is seeking to address and minimize the regulatory and financial risks associated with wind power development in locations with sensitive bat species - Specifically to fund Research and Development projects that advance the technical readiness of bat impact mitigation and minimization technologies. This FOA will also support the field testing and evaluation of near-commercial bat impact mitigation technologies, which if successful, will provide regulators and wind facility owner-operators with viable and cost effective tools to reduce their impacts on bats and ease the regulatory & financial uncertainty related to the development and long-term operation of wind farms in bat habitat.

Due Date: 1/7/2015

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=269000>

Agency: Department of Energy
Golden Field Office

Program: Buildings Energy Efficiency Frontier & Innovation Technologies - 2015

Description: The Emerging Technologies Program of the Building Technologies Office (BTO) supports applied research and development for technologies and systems that contribute to building energy consumption. BTO's goal is to deliver 50% primary energy savings in the year 2030, relative to the baseline energy consumption projected by the 2010 Annual Energy

Outlook. The ET Program is helping to meet this goal by enabling cost-effective, energy-efficient technologies to be developed and introduced into the marketplace. The ET Program maintains support for the national laboratories in five core areas: Solid-State Lighting, HVAC (includes water heating and appliances), Sensors & Controls, Windows & Envelope, and Modeling & Tools. This opportunity combines an early-stage research and development topic (Innovations) with a later-stage research and development topic (Frontiers) that complement the core funding provided to the national labs and allow all interested parties, including corporations, universities, and non-profits as well as the national labs, to contribute to advancement in two of these core technological areas: Non-vapor compression HVAC technologies and advanced vapor compression HVAC technologies. These topics are combined into this single, relatively large FOA in order to reduce administrative costs and to ensure that only the best applications are supported.

Due Date: 1/12/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$7,750,000

Award Ceiling: \$1,500,000

Award Floor: \$500,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268448>

Agency: Department of Energy
Golden Field Office

Program: Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Landscape Design for Sustainable Bioenergy Systems

Description: EERE is seeking interdisciplinary projects that apply landscape design approaches to integrate cellulosic feedstock production into existing agricultural and forestry systems while maintaining or enhancing environmental and socio-economic sustainability including ecosystem services and food, feed, and fiber production. For the purposes of this FOA, cellulosic feedstock production refers to dedicated annual and perennial energy crops, use of agricultural and forestry residues, or a combination of these options.

Due Date: 1/12/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$14,000,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268938>

Agency: Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory

Program: Solid-State Lighting Advanced Technology Research and Development
2015

Description: Through research and development of solid state lighting (SSL) including both light emitting diode and organic light emitting diode technologies the objectives of this opportunity are to maximize the energy efficiency of SSL products in the market place, remove market barriers through improvements to lifetime, color quality, and lighting system performance, reduce costs of SSL sources and luminaires, improve product consistency while maintaining high quality products, and encourage the growth, leadership, and sustainability of domestic US manufacturing within the SSL industry.

Due Date: 1/15/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$10,000,000
Award Ceiling: \$1,500,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268849>

Agency: Department of Energy
Office of Science

Program: Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing: High Energy Physics

Description: Applications should propose two-year research plans and demonstrate how the proposed research will advance the HEP mission by fully exploiting leadership class computing resources. Proposals should focus on computational advances for the HEP Science drivers and be aligned with 2014 P5 priorities. Proposals from established areas for use of supercomputers such as Computational Cosmology, Lattice Gauge Theory, and Accelerator Modeling and Simulation will be considered along with those from emerging HPC users. Innovative research for HEP data analysis and simulation tools and HEP crosscut initiatives.

Due Date: 1/7/2015

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268196>

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

Program: Physical Sciences-Oncology Network : Physical Sciences-Oncology
Projects (PS-Ops) (U01)

Description: The goal of the PS-OPs is to foster the convergence of physical sciences approaches and perspectives with cancer research to advance our understanding of cancer biology and oncology by forming small transdisciplinary teams of physical scientists and cancer biologists/physician scientists. Examples of physical scientists may include engineers, physicists, mathematicians, chemists, and computer scientists. The PS-OPs, individually and as a collaborative Network along with other PS-OPs and the Physical Sciences-Oncology Centers, will support transdisciplinary research that: (1) establishes a physical sciences perspective within the cancer research community; (2) facilitates team science and field convergence at the intersection of physical sciences and cancer research; and (3) collectively tests physical sciences-based experimental and theoretical concepts of cancer and promotes innovative solutions to address outstanding questions in cancer research.

Due Date: 9/21/2017

Funding: Award Ceiling:
\$500,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268953>

Agency: Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Program: FY 2015 Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders on Women's Leadership

Description: The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, invites proposal submissions for the design and implementation of two (2) Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders on Women's Leadership. Applicants may submit only one proposal to implement one Institute under this competition. Taking place over the course of five weeks at a U.S. academic institution, each Institute should be organized for a group of 20 foreign undergraduate female students focusing on the history and participation of women in public life in the United States and linkages to global women's issues

Due Date: 12/1/2014

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$245,000
Award Floor: \$235,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268979>

Agency: Department of State
International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

Program: Annual Program Statement - Enhance Culture of Lawfulness (CoL) in Mexico

Description: The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is seeking applications from qualified organizations to implement Culture of Lawfulness programs in Mexico. The overall objective of the CoL program, which is funded by the Merida Initiative, is to install a sense of individual responsibility for upholding the rule of law in Mexico and support the ability of Mexico's citizens to participate in the law enforcement process. Promoting the rule of law, and reducing insecurity and corruption, requires societal support by what has come to be known as a Culture of Lawfulness. In particular, INL aims to work with civil society organizations to implement programs that support CoL principles across a variety of sectors, mainly civil society, center of moral authority, public servants and law enforcement, education, children and youth.

Due Date: 10/1/2015

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000
Award Floor: \$250,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268088>

Agency: Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Program: The Coastal Program

Description: The Coastal Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements to coastal communities and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. Coastal Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the Coastal Program directs resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from Service field staff. Projects must advance our mission, promote biological diversity, and be based upon sound scientific biological principles. Program strategic plans inform the types of projects funded under this opportunity. Applicants seeking funding under this program should review the program strategic plan and also contact the regional Coastal Program office prior to submitting an application for funding.

Due Date: 9/30/2015

Funding: See announcement

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268288>

Agency: Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Program: The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

Description: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program staff coordinate with project partners, stakeholders and other Service programs to identify geographic focus areas and develop habitat conservation priorities within these focus areas. Geographic focus areas are where the PFW Program directs resources to conserve habitat for federal trust species. Project work plans are developed strategically, in coordination with partners, and with substantial involvement from Service field staff. Projects must advance our mission, promote biological diversity, and be based upon sound scientific biological principles. Program strategic plans inform the types of projects funded under this opportunity. Applicants seeking funding under this program should review the program strategic plan and also contact the regional PFW Program office prior to submitting an application for funding.

Due Date: 9/30/2015

Funding: See announcement; Award Ceiling: \$500,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268198>

Agency: National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Space Technology Mission Directorate

Program: NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts, Phase I

Description: This program will solicit multiple studies, each of which will investigate an architecture, mission, or system concept with the potential to enable a great leap in space or aeronautics. Aerospace architecture, mission, or system concepts proposed for NIAC Phase I study must be exciting, unexplored, far-term, and credible. Proposals for narrow technology or subsystem development, or incremental or near-term advancement, are explicitly out of scope for this program. Finally, while NIAC encourages daring vision and accepts the accompanying risk, proposals must be technically credible and plausibly implementable.

Due Date: 11/12/2014

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268870>

Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities
Division of Research

Program: Collaborative Research Grants

Description: Collaborative Research Grants support interpretive humanities research undertaken by a team of two or more scholars, for full-time or part-time activities for periods of one to three years. Support is available for various combinations of scholars, consultants, and research assistants; project-related travel; field work; applications of information technology; and technical support and services. All grantees are expected to communicate the results of their work to the appropriate scholarly and public audiences. Eligible projects include: research that significantly adds to knowledge and understanding of the humanities, conferences on topics of major importance in the humanities that will benefit scholarly research, archaeological projects that include the interpretation and communication of results (projects may encompass excavation, materials analysis, laboratory work, field reports, and preparation of interpretive monographs), and research that uses the knowledge and perspectives of the humanities and historical or philosophical methods to enhance understanding of science, technology, medicine, and the social sciences.

Due Date: 12/9/2014

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$300,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=267908>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute

Program: Vascular Dysfunction in the Pathogenesis of Severe Malaria (R01)

Description: This announcement seeks to solicit multiple-Program Director/Principal Investigator applications that propose collaborative studies to address the role of vascular activation and dysfunction in the pathogenesis of severe malaria. Multidisciplinary teams of investigators are needed to identify pathways and regulatory mechanisms by which vascular factors contribute to the complex etiology of severe malaria.

Due Date: 2/13/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$2,700,000
Award Ceiling: \$300,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268469>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Program: Hepatitis C Cooperative Research Centers: Immunity to HCV Infection (U19)

Description: The NIAID is seeking to fund research on the host immunological response to Hepatitis C Virus infection with the goal of defining the immune requirements critical to a) protection against HCV infection, and b) successful clearance of HCV infection, conducted through Hepatitis C Cooperative Research Centers.

Due Date: 2/3/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$3,000,000
Award Ceiling: \$500,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268268>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Program: Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study Coordinating Center (U01)

Description: This grant continues to address two critical scientific questions on the clinical course of perinatally acquired HIV infection in adolescents and the oral and systemic health consequences of in utero and infant exposure to antiretroviral chemotherapy in representative cohorts of children in the United States. The CC is responsible for maintaining the Scientific Leadership Group through performance-based subcontracts. The SLG should continue to have scientific specialty working groups to reflect the different disciplines required to successfully implement the protocols and substudies.

Due Date: 1/2/2015

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$1,100,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=269071>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Program: Systems Developmental Biology for Understanding Embryonic Development and the Ontogeny of Structural Birth Defects (R01)

Description: This initiative hopes to promote systems developmental biology. In the context of this FOA, systems developmental biology is defined as

research focused on understanding how biological components work together to produce the complex biological phenomena encompassing embryonic development.

Due Date: 10/10/2016

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268909>

Agency: National Institutes of Health

Program: Increasing Access and Uptake of HIV Testing and Counseling and Appropriate HIV-related Services for Adolescents in Low and Middle-income Countries (R01)

Description: This opportunity encourages applications for implementation science projects that will provide results to directly inform HIV prevention and care service delivery programs for HIV-infected and at-risk, uninfected adolescents in resource limited settings, in order to increase their impact, efficiency, and sustainability.

Due Date: 1/2/2015

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$250,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268470>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
&

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
Program: Biology of the Temporomandibular Joint in Health and Disease (R01)

Description: The NIDCR hopes to encourage research that will advance our understanding of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ) in health and disease and to stimulate research that complements previous efforts and focuses on the biology of joint function and the tissues that make up the TMJ. A better understanding of total joint structure and mechanics including the interactions of the skeletal, muscular, nervous, immune, and circulatory systems using new in vivo and in vitro models is needed. An expected outcome of this FOA is new knowledge that will provide a basis for developing novel approaches to prevent, diagnose, assess risk, and treat temporomandibular joint disorder.

Due Date: 9/7/2017

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=267953>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Program: Studies of HIV in Digestive Diseases Limited to Gastrointestinal Mucosal Immunology and Liver Diseases (R01)

Description: The goal of this funding opportunity is to fund innovative research with human subjects to elucidate the role of gastrointestinal mucosal immunity during HIV infection, to evaluate pathophysiologic mechanisms of injury to the liver and the biliary system during HIV infection, and to conduct epidemiological studies of liver diseases and disorders in HIV patients. Proposed projects must involve individuals with HIV infection or materials or data from HIV-infected individuals.

Due Date: 4/7/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$2,600,000

Award Ceiling: \$500,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268452>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
& National Cancer Institute

Program: Consortium for the Study of Chronic Pancreatitis, Diabetes and Pancreatic Cancer Coordination and Data Management Center (U01)

Description: The announcement seeks applications for the establishment of a clinical consortium, composed of one Coordination and Data Management Center and up to 9 Clinical Centers, to conduct studies on chronic pancreatitis and factors that increase the risk of pancreatic cancer in patients (children and adults) with CP, pancreatogenic diabetes, and in patients with newly diagnosed diabetes. The Consortium will form multi-disciplinary teams composed of members from the CCs and CDMC to undertake a comprehensive clinical, epidemiological and biological characterization of patients with CP (including those with Acute Recurrent Pancreatitis, ARP) to gain insight into the pathophysiology of chronic pancreatitis and its sequela: chronic pain, pancreatic insufficiency, T3cDM and the diabetes/pancreatic cancer association. The teams will also undertake studies on the development of pancreatic cancer in newly diagnosed diabetic patients.

Due Date: 4/2/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$6,000,000

Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268917>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of General Medical Sciences

Program: Regional Consortia for High Resolution Cryoelectron Microscopy (U24)

Description: The purpose of this fund is to provide regional access for cryoelectron microscopy (cryoEM) laboratories to state-of-the-art data collection capabilities. NIGMS will support consortia of established and early stage investigator laboratories whose research has an established specialization in and dependence on cryoEM. These laboratories will coordinate with each other to share facilities and resources for direct electron detection. Consortia will consist of a host institution which already has a modern high-performing cryoEM installation and proven capabilities for high-resolution data collection, partnered with regional participating institutions. A consortium will support surplus capacity for cryoEM data collection (infrastructure and services) at the host institution and make it available as a resource for the participating regional institutions. Projects will support access for cryoEM laboratories at participating institutions to resources and services at host sites. Projects will (a) contribute to the fixed costs of maintaining the host facility and extend services in proportion to the resources dedicated to the regional users and (b) support access to the facility by the regional laboratories. The host institution need not already have an electron detector; this FOA can help fund acquisition of direct detection equipment. Support is limited to enabling the participating cryoEM laboratories to collect data and perform the initial stages of processing raw images, and does not include other research activities. Consortia will consist of a minimum of 3-5 institutions; award budgets will depend on the number and data collection needs of the regional participating cryoEM laboratories.

Due Date: 12/27/2014

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$3,500,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=267951>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Mental Health

Program: Brain Somatic Mosaicism and its Role in Psychiatric Disorders
(Collaborative U01)

Description: The NIH invites Cooperative Agreement (U01) seeks applications from multi-disciplinary and synergistic teams of investigators proposing to identify and characterize the full spectrum of somatic variation in human brain samples and to assess the relationship of such variation with the pathophysiology of neuropsychiatric disorders.

Due Date: 2/24/2015

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268986>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Nursing Research
National Institute on Aging

Program: Biobehavioral and Technological Interventions to Attenuate Cognitive Decline in Individuals with Cognitive Impairment or Dementia

Description: The purpose of this grant is to stimulate clinical research focused on biobehavioral or technological interventions to attenuate cognitive decline in individuals with dementia (such as Alzheimer's disease, Lewy body dementia, vascular dementia), mild cognitive impairment, or disease- or age-related cognitive decline. There is particular interest in interventions that can be implemented in community settings by the affected individual, informal caregivers, or others in the community. Research to inform the development of such interventions is also of interest, as well as research examining underlying mechanisms and biomarkers associated with response to interventions. It is anticipated that the results of this research will help affected individuals maintain independence and quality of life, improve their ability to perform activities of daily living and instrumental activities of daily living, and additionally help to reduce stress, burden, and other poor outcomes in their caregivers.

Due Date: 1/7/2018

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$300,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268864>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Drug Abuse

Program: Epidemiology of Drug Abuse (R01)

Description: This announcement is intended to support research projects to enhance our understanding of the nature, extent, distribution, etiology, comorbidities, and consequences of drug use, abuse, and addiction

across individuals, families, communities, and diverse population groups. An application will be given preference if it strongly encourages applications that reflect the breadth of epidemiology research by addressing multiple levels of risk, resilience, and causation across scientific disciplines; by applying novel methods to advance knowledge of the interplay among genetic, environmental, and developmental factors and between social environments and associated health and disease outcomes; and by building on the research investments of NIH and sister HHS agencies to harness existing data on the epidemiology and etiology of drug abuse to improve public health prevention and treatment programs.

Due Date: 9/7/2017

Funding: See announcement

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=267970>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Program: NIMHD Academic Research Enhancement Award: Enhancing Health Disparities Research at Undergraduate Institutions (R15)

Description: The NIMHD encourages institutions that are eligible to apply for support through the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Awards program to submit applications for innovative research projects focused on minority health and health disparities. Awards are intended to support small-scale projects proposed by faculty members at eligible institutions to expose students to meritorious research and to strengthen the research environment of participating institutions. This initiative also seeks to stimulate interest in health disparities research careers among undergraduate students through hands-on participation in original research.

Due Date: 1/12/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$5,000,000

Award Ceiling: \$300,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268350>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
Office of Research on Women's Health

Program: Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (K12)

Description: The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health and its cosponsors invite institutional career development award applications for Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health Career Development Programs, hereafter termed "Programs." Programs will support mentored research career development of junior faculty members, known as BIRCWH Scholars, who have recently completed clinical training or postdoctoral fellowships, and who will be engaged in interdisciplinary basic, translational, behavioral, clinical, and/or health services research relevant to women's health, and where appropriate the use of both sexes to better understand the influence of sex as a variable on health and disease.

Due Date: 1/5/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$4,900,000
Award Ceiling: \$350,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268595>

Agency: National Institutes of Health
Office of the Director & NIH Common Fund

Program: NIH Director's Early Independence Awards (DP5)

Description: The NIH Directors Early Independence Award Program supports exceptional investigators who wish to pursue independent research directly after completion of their terminal doctoral/research degree or clinical residency, thereby forgoing the traditional post-doctoral training period and accelerating their entry into an independent research career.

Due Date: 12/30/2014

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$4,000,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268951>

Agency: National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences;
Division of Environmental Biology

Program: Long Term Research in Environmental Biology (LTREB)

Description: The Long Term Research in Environmental Biology Program supports the generation of extended time series of data to address important questions in evolutionary biology, ecology, and ecosystem science. Research areas include, but are not limited to, the effects of natural selection or other evolutionary processes on populations, communities, or ecosystems; the

effects of interspecific interactions that vary over time and space; population or community dynamics for organisms that have extended life spans and long turnover times; feedbacks between ecological and evolutionary processes; pools of materials such as nutrients in soils that turn over at intermediate to longer time scales; and external forcing functions such as climatic cycles that operate over long return intervals.

Due Date: 8/3/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$1,500,000

Award Ceiling: \$450,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=267916>

Agency: National Science Foundation
Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering

Program: US Ignite

Description: The primary goal of US Ignite is to break a fundamental deadlock: there is insufficient investment in gigabit applications that can take advantage of advanced network infrastructure because such infrastructure is rare and dispersed. And conversely, there is a lack of broad availability of advanced broadband infrastructure for open experimentation and innovation because there are few advanced applications and services to justify it. In particular, this solicitation has two tracks: the first encourages the development of applications in national priority areas that explore new uses for networks, giving rise to novel networking and application paradigms; and the second expands and enhances the ecosystems in which these applications will evolve and be evaluated.

Due Date: 1/21/2015

Funding: Estimated Total Program Funding: \$10,000,000

Award Ceiling: \$3,000,000

Award Floor: \$600,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=269080>

Agency: National Science Foundation
Directorate for Engineering

Program: Engineering and Systems Design

Description: The Engineering and Systems Design program supports fundamental research leading to new engineering and systems design methods and

practices for specific global contexts. In particular, ESD seeks intellectual advances in which the theoretical foundations underlying design and systems engineering are operationalized into rigorous and pragmatic methods for a specific context. In addition, the program funds the rigorous theoretical and empirical characterization of new or existing methods for design and systems engineering, identifying in which global contexts and under which assumptions these methods are effective and efficient. Such a global context includes both a domain (such as energy systems, consumer products, cyber-physical systems) and an economic, socio-political, environmental and technological context. Application of existing design methods or tools to new domains is out of scope. Research in ESD should advance the state of knowledge of design methodology, for instance, by adapting existing methods to a new context or by carefully characterizing existing or new design methods in a new context.

Due Date: 2/17/2015

Funding: Unspecified

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268952>

Agency: United States Agency for International Development
USAID/Bangladesh

Program: USAID Livestock Production for Improved Nutrition Program

Description: USAID/Bangladesh is seeking assistance to increase livestock productivity, improve access to hygienic, diverse and quality food as well as improve the nutrition status of rural households in Bangladesh with a focus on the Feed the Future Zone of Influence, which consists of 20 districts within the South central and Southwestern region of the country. The program is comprised of three inter-related components: Component 1: Increased Livestock Productivity Component 2: Improved Access of Rural Households to Hygienic, Diverse and Quality Food Component 3: Improved Nutrition Related Behaviors of Rural Households

Due Date: 10/16/2014

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$6,000,000

Award Floor: \$5,800,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=268888>

