

THE STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF FLORIDA

WASHINGTON E-UPDATE

Prepared by Cavarocchi-Ruscio-Dennis Associates, Editor -- Brent Jaquet

Contributors -- Dom Ruscio, Erika Miller, Scott Johnson, Tiffany Kaszuba

August 2013

Budget & Appropriations Update -- Despite a last-minute flurry of activity before Congress left for a five-week summer recess, a decision on a pathway for completing 12 fiscal year 2014 spending bills will be left to negotiations in September. The most obvious possible solution is a stopgap spending bill that funds discretionary programs at current levels, minus any across-the-board cuts required to stay within spending limits agreed to back in 2011. However, the fate of a continuing resolution is tied up by an effort from conservative House and Senate Republicans to halt the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) plus Democratic insistence on halting the ongoing budgetary sequestration process — which particularly impacts public health programs.

But the question of whether to risk a government shutdown to defund the ACA is continuing to divide the Republican Party, with some lawmakers pushing forward while others question whether the approach would be political suicide.

Republicans Mike Lee of Utah, Marco Rubio of Florida and Ted Cruz of Texas are leading the charge on the Senate floor to halt funding for the health reform law as a condition of continuing to fund the government after September 30. But fellow conservative Tom Coburn of Oklahoma as well as a number of other Senate Republicans are pushing back against the proposal.

Previous attempts in the House to repeal the health care law have not garnered sufficient support in the Senate. On the other hand, the Democrats' call for a sequestration replacement hinges on a difficult and unlikely agreement on offsetting spending cuts or new revenue sources. However, Democrats may have picked up a new ally in their quest: Republican House appropriations chairman Harold Rogers of Kentucky.

“The House, Senate and White House,” Rogers said recently, “must come together as soon as possible on a comprehensive compromise that repeals sequestration, takes this nation off this lurching path from fiscal crisis to fiscal crisis, reduces our deficits and debt, and provides a realistic top-line discretionary spending level to fund the government in a responsible — and attainable — way,”

In the meantime, the congressional appropriations process has all but collapsed.

First, House leaders pulled from floor debate the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development spending bill. Reports were circulating that the cuts in the bill were so deep that Republican leaders did not have the votes from their Members to pass the

measure. The Transportation-HUD bill would have provided \$44.1 billion in discretionary spending, a reduction of about \$4.4 billion from the current spending level.

A few hours later, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) persuaded his fellow Republicans to oppose and block the Senate version of the Transportation-HUD bill, arguing that it exceeded the spending limits contained in the Budget Control Act of 2011. As a consequence, the Senate fell short, 54-43, on a cloture motion to limit debate on the first spending bill brought to the Senate floor this year.

Meanwhile, the House appropriations committee has delayed final action on an Interior-Environment spending bill that would slash funding for environmental programs.

The draft bill would provide \$24.3 billion for the Interior Department, EPA and related agencies, which would be \$4 billion less than the current spending level after accounting for sequestration cuts. It also would provide \$5.7, or 19 percent less than President Obama's request. The bill would provide the EPA \$5.5 billion, which would be \$2.8 billion, or 34 percent, less than the fiscal 2013 enacted level. The National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities would each get \$75 million, which would be a 49 percent cut compared to last year's enacted level.

The measure also would ban the implementation of a number of EPA regulations, including ones that would limit greenhouse gas emissions by power plants or the sulfur content of gas, and change the definition of navigable waters or fill material under the Clean Water Act.

Similarly, steep reductions to the Labor-HHS-Education bill in the House have prevented it from even moving to the subcommittee markup stage. Funding for the bill was allocated at \$121.8 billion, almost 20 percent below current spending. That amount is \$42 billion below the amount available to its Senate counterpart, making the prospect of a conference seemingly impossible.

The House subcommittee drafted a bill and scheduled a markup but it was cancelled a few days before and certainly Member unease with the level of cuts that would be required under the austere funding allocation had much to do with the cancellation.

When Congress returns in September there will only be nine legislative days before the end of the fiscal year leaving little time for anything but a continuing resolution to fund the government –at least in the short term. And with all the conflicting funding levels and agendas – confrontation over funding the government at the start of the next fiscal year is a likely scenario.

Bipartisan student loan interest rate bill finally passed by Congress

With one day to spare before heading out for its August recess, Congress concluded the on-again off-again saga of student loan interest rates July 31 by clearing new

legislation permanently tying rates to the 10-year Treasury note. Congressional calculations show that based on the legislation rates for the fall will be set at 3.86 percent for undergraduates, 5.41 percent for grad students and 6.41 percent for PLUS loans.

The Bipartisan Student Loan Certainty Act of 2013, HR 1911, passed the House of Representatives 392-31, having already passed the Senate July 24. Once it is signed by the President, it will apply the new rate scheme retroactively to all loans -- except Perkins loans – back to July 1 when previous legislation expired, doubling rates to 6.8 percent.

The bill amends the Student Assistance section (title IV) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to set the annual interest rate on Direct Stafford loans and Direct Unsubsidized Stafford loans issued to undergraduate students at the rate on high-yield 10-year Treasury notes plus 2.05 percent, but caps that rate at 8.25 percent.

For graduate or professional students, loans are set to the Treasury yield plus 3.6 percent with a 9.5 percent cap. PLUS loans will add 4.6 percent to the T-bill yield with a 10.5 percent cap. Interest rates will be fixed for the life of the loan.

The bill also sets the annual interest rate on direct consolidation loans at the weighted average of the interest rates on the loans consolidated, rounded to the nearest higher one-eighth of 1 percent.

The legislation also calls for a GAO study on the actual costs to the federal government of operating student loan programs in time for incorporating findings in the next reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. The Congressional Budget Office scored the legislation as producing projected savings of \$715 million over 10 years.

Immigration bills in the House wait for fall consideration

Congress is adjourning for the summer recess without any floor debate in the House to consider immigration reform. With the Senate having passed its comprehensive bill last month, House leaders have been taking a more targeted approach with multiple bills.

The House Judiciary Committee and other committees have been working to position five targeted immigration-related bills for floor debate. They deal with border security (HR 1417), state and local immigration (HR 2278), agricultural guest workers (HR 1773), employment verification (HR 1772) and high-skilled worker visas (HR 2131.) Two other bills are under development: one to cover a temporary guest-worker program for low-skill workers and a modified DREAM Act called the “KIDS Act” being developed by Majority Leader Eric Cantor and Judiciary Committee Chairman Robert Goodlatte.

The Committee held a hearing July 23 on the plight of DREAM Act children brought to the U.S. and it appears that support is building in the Republican caucus for legislation to offer either legal status or citizenship. Many distinctions were drawn in the hearing as to the children brought to this country by undocumented parents, and their parents.

As Republican positions related to Dream Act provisions appear to be softening, Democrats also signaled July 25 that they are open to supporting the House leadership's incremental approach to legislating. Minority Leader Pelosi said, "We have to find a path to go to conference and come up with a bill that the president will sign that we can all support in a bipartisan way," she said. "There are some poison pills, but they're not lethal and we can live with that."

At the same time, in other private negotiations, separate immigration reform legislation is being developed in the House by a bipartisan group of seven Representatives, including Florida Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart. The group had hoped to have the 500-page bill ready to release before the recess period but decided to wait until the fall so Members could be fully briefed when it is circulated.

Committee approves bipartisan bill to replace the SGR formula for physician Medicare reimbursement

New bipartisan legislation to replace the Medicare physician payment system, the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) calculator that governs reimbursement, was approved 51-0 July 31 by the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

In a rare display of bipartisanship, the original version of HR 2810 earlier in the month was supported by the top Republican and Democratic leaders on both the subcommittee and the full committee. Endorsements came from Reps. Fred Upton (R-MI) and John Dingle (D-MI), Joe Pitts (R-PA), Frank Pallone (D-NJ) and physician Michael Burgess (R-TX).

The legislation would replace the SGR with an enhanced fee-for-service system allowing providers to receive payment updates and incentives related to compliance with quality measures. The bill would also allow alternative payment models built on quality and efficiency of care.

HHS would be tasked to develop codes for physician services involving complex chronic conditions with that fee schedule beginning in 2015. The agency would also gather input from professional associations on how to develop payment "bundles" for services involving chronic and high-volume services.

The SGR formula was established in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 and it began to call for reimbursement reductions in 2002. Congress has prevented scheduled fee cuts under the current SGR every year since then. That accumulated cost is now estimated to be \$139 billion for the next decade by the Congressional Budget Office. To replace the SGR system, new legislation must cover the cost that has built up.

The new bill would transfer funding from the Medicare Part B trust fund to cover part of the accumulated costs and Committee Chair Upton has said the final bill will cover the full costs.

The Senate Finance Committee has held several hearings on how to resolve the “doc fix” issue but so far has not released any legislation. To read more from the House Committee, click [here](#).

Senate Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill approved

The Senate Appropriations Committee approved its FY14 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill July 11 that would provide \$165.6 billion to the covered agencies. The funding allocation to the committee assumes that sequestration is eliminated so funding levels were more generous than those in the House.

The bill is unlikely to move to the Senate floor and the House version has been the only Fiscal 2014 appropriations bill not considered in subcommittee. The following are some of the key provisions in the Senate bill:

NIH: The bill provides \$30.955 billion, an increase of \$307 million. This includes \$40 million for the new Brain Research through Application of Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. The bill includes an \$84 million increase for the National Institute on Aging, the NIH Institute with the primary responsibility for preventing, treating, and curing Alzheimer’s disease. The bill also includes \$20 million for a new Alzheimer’s Disease Initiative that will strengthen dementia-capable long-term services and supports, assist caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease, and train healthcare providers on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of Alzheimer’s and manage the disease. The bill includes \$50 million, five times the fiscal year 2013 level, for the Cures Acceleration Network, an NIH initiative intended to help speed the translation and application of discoveries that have shown signs of success at the laboratory level but have not advanced far enough to attract significant investments from the private sector.

Pell Grants: The bill maintains the discretionary portion of the maximum Pell grant award level at \$4,860 for the 2014–2015 school year. Combined with mandatory funding, the total maximum award would rise by \$140 to \$5,785.

Prohibition for colleges on use of federal funding: The bill includes a new provision prohibiting colleges and universities from spending federal educational funding on marketing, recruitment, and advertising. This reform, primarily targeted at for-profit schools, is intended to ensure that federal resources are targeted at educating students as opposed to online advertisements and aggressive recruiting activities.

TRIO: The bill includes nearly \$850 million, an increase of \$11.7 million for this program to help low-income and first generation college students.

Race to the Top—College Affordability and Completion: The bill includes \$400 million to support a new Race to the Top program focused on college affordability and completion. Funding would incentivize states to reduce costs for students and families and improve academic outcomes.

Investing in Innovation: The bill provides \$170 million for the Investing in Innovation education program, which allows grantees to develop and test promising new ideas and replicate programs that are successful.

Public Access to Federally Funded Research: Four years ago, Congress required NIH to improve the public's ability to access taxpayer-funded research by means of an online NIH repository. The bill includes a new provision that extends the requirement to other agencies funded in the bill.

Children's Hospitals Graduate Medical Education: The bill includes \$267 million for this program, the same level as in fiscal year 2013.

Firearm Public Health Research: The bill includes \$10 million to build the public health research base on how to reduce the threat of firearm-related violence.

Diabetes Prevention: The bill includes \$10 million for the Diabetes Prevention Program, a set of lifestyle interventions that has been proven to reduce the risk of developing diabetes by 58 percent in individuals at high risk.

Elder Falls: In a new initiative, the bill includes \$10 million to research and implement evidence-based approaches to preventing elderly falls.

Mental Health Workforce: \$40 million in new funding is included to address shortages in the behavioral health workforce through a joint initiative by HRSA and SAMHSA to train more providers through institutional grants.

NASA reauthorization advances in House and Senate

Committees on both sides of the Capitol marked up their versions of the next NASA authorization bill during July.

The Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee approved S.1317 developed by Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) and his Science and Space Subcommittee by a party line vote on July 30.

The bill provides a three-year authorization running through 2016, funding the agency at \$18.1 billion in FY14 with subsequent inflationary increases. It continues policy directions begun with last authorization in 2010. The Committee defeated attempts by Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz to reduce funding levels because of sequestration and the current budget caps.

The bill provides \$1.6 billion for heavy-lift rocket development and \$1.2 billion for the Orion multipurpose crew vehicle. Commercial space flight efforts receive \$800 million and the International Space Station is set at \$3 billion. The Space Station program

would be supported through 2020 with a report required on the feasibility of extending the station until at least 2028.

In the House, the Science, Space and Technology Committee, approved its legislation, H.R. 2687, a two-year authorization on a party line vote July 18. The legislation calls for \$16.9 billion annually. The amount closely mirrors the \$16.6 billion in Fiscal 2014 NASA funding approved as part of the House Appropriations Committee's Commerce-Justice-Science bill (H.R. 2687) approved the same week.

The previous NASA authorization ran for three years but this time House Republicans indicated their preference for a shortened bill and reduced funding levels in an effort to comply with the Budget Control Act and sequestration. Several Democratic amendments were defeated to extend the bill for another year and to boost funding for space exploration programs.

One successful amendment establishes a defined 6-year term for the NASA Administrator as well as a NASA Advisory Council with members such as former astronauts, scientists or other space experts to be appointed to terms by the Administration and Congress.

The legislation adds a new objective to NASA's goals: "the search for life's origin, distribution and future in the universe." The International Space Station would receive \$2.9 billion. The bill would authorize \$2.9 billion annually for the International Space Station, \$1.8 billion for the Space Launch System to replace retired space shuttles, and \$1.2 billion for the Orion crew capsule. The bill also would block the proposal to attempt to relocate an asteroid in space as a demonstration.

Senate Cybersecurity bill approved by Committee would boost university research

A new cybersecurity bill approved by the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee July 30 would increase research on cyber issues and involve the National Institute of Standards and Technology in developing voluntary guidelines to reduce risk to infrastructure.

The Cybersecurity Act, S.1353, would require the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to develop a Federal cybersecurity research and development plan covering a number of critical areas and providing priority to near-term, mid-term and long-term research in computer and information science and engineering.

NSF receives directives for research and action that "develops, evaluates, disseminates, and integrates new cybersecurity practices and concepts into the core curriculum of computer science programs and of other programs where graduates of such programs have a substantial probability of developing software after graduation, including new practices and concepts relating to secure coding education and

improvement programs; and develops new models for professional development of faculty in cybersecurity education, including secure coding development.”

The legislation also calls for coordination with universities involved in such research. The federal Cyber Scholarship-for-Service program would be extended in the bill. To read the bill, click [here](#).

House bill would fund new weather and hurricane research

The Weather Forecasting Improvement Act of 2013 (HR 2413) was approved with amendments by the House Science Committee’s Environment Subcommittee July 9.

The bill would require NOAA to “develop improved understanding of and forecast capabilities for atmospheric events, placing priority on developing more accurate and timely warnings and forecasts of high impact weather events that endanger life and property.”

Provisions are included to support the academic weather research community through grants and contracts to institutions of higher education. For each of three years, \$120 million would be authorized -- \$80 million for weather labs and cooperative institutes, \$20 million for weather and air chemistry programs, and \$20 million for a joint technology transfer initiative involving NOAA and academic and industry partners.

Committee member Rep. Alan Grayson (D-FL) successfully offered two amendments to emphasize hurricane-related research in the bill. One amendment added a provision for a “hurricane warning precision program” to be developed by NOAA along with a budget plan. The goal of the program is to “develop and extend accurate hurricane forecasts and warnings in order to reduce loss of life, injury, and damage to the economy.”

The bill also requires a plan from NOAA leadership on setting priorities for weather R&D research and on how to “restore United States leadership in weather modeling, prediction, and forecasting.” To read the bill, click [here](#).

Hearing considers bill to speed tech transfer by universities

Draft legislation to foster new approaches to technology transfer at universities, research institutes and national labs was the topic of a hearing July 24 by the Research and Technology Subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. The bill is being developed by Subcommittee Chair Larry Bucshon (R-IN) and freshman Rep. Christopher Collins (R-NY.)

The legislative draft, titled the “Innovative Approaches to Technology Transfer Act,” proposes changes to the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program currently in operation at the following federal agencies: the Departments of Energy,

Defense, and Health and Human Services, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation.

The draft legislation would direct those federal agencies to establish a grant program to fund proposals, through a competitive, merit-based process, that help facilitates and accelerate the transfer of federally funded research and technology into the marketplace.

In determining which proposals are awarded grants, agencies would consider whether the proposals demonstrate proven strategies that could achieve greater impact with grant funding, or whether the proposals outline new approaches that have the potential to increase or accelerate technology transfer outcomes and can be adopted by other qualifying institutions.

The draft legislation authorizes each participating federal agency and department to use up to 0.05 percent of its extramural research budget on the STTR program in fiscal years 2014 and 2015, and up to 0.1 percent of its extramural research budget on the program in fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

The legislation also requires federal agencies to develop a plan for program evaluation and data collection to assess the effectiveness of the program. In addition, the legislation requires the Small Business Administrator to include, on a publicly-available database required under the Small Business Act, information on the evaluation plan, recipients of program funding, and information on the use of program funding by recipients. To read the discussion draft, click [here](#).

NIH webinar planned on new \$96 million extramural “big data” centers program

An information webinar for prospective applicants will be held Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on a new NIH program to spend \$24 million per year for four years to create “big- data” centers of excellence. Applications will be due on Nov. 20, 2013.

Six to eight investigator-initiated “Big Data to Knowledge Centers of Excellence” are planned. NIH intends that the centers will improve the ability of the research community to use increasingly large and complex datasets through the development and distribution of innovative approaches, methods, software, and tools for data sharing, integration, analysis and management. The centers will also provide training for students and researchers to use and develop data science methods.

NIH launched its Big Data to Knowledge (BD2K) initiative in December to support research, implementation, and training in data science. The center of excellence program is the first of several BD2K funding opportunities to be announced in coming months. By encouraging the formation of interdisciplinary teams in a collaborative

environment, NIH hopes the BD2K centers will increase the involvement of investigators outside of traditional biomedical areas who are experienced with data science.

Applicants responding to the BD2K Center of Excellence funding opportunity announcement should identify a research topic and propose research in data science. They should develop approaches, methods, software, and tools for data integration, analysis, database development and management, and visualization and modeling to address important research questions. The products from this research and development will be shared and distributed broadly to the research community. The centers are expected to interact as a consortium that cooperatively builds on individual research efforts. For more details visit: <<http://bd2k.nih.gov>>.

DoD seeking university partner for \$1 million tech transfer center; proposals due August 14

The Defense Department announced in mid-July that it is searching for a university partner to operate a \$1 million center to transfer dual-use civilian-military technology from defense laboratories to the commercial marketplace. Proposals are due August 14.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense Research and Engineering (ASD(R&E))/ Research Development/ Defense Laboratory Office is sponsoring the Civilian-Military Dual-Use Technology Transfer Program, planning to establish a Technology Transfer University Center of Excellence with the goal of expanding the research and application capabilities of the Department of Defense to increase opportunities for a new generation of U.S. scientists and engineers to address defense technology needs.

The announcement number is HQ0034-13-R-0124. For more information contact: Grants Officer Michael J. Murtha, Washington Headquarters Services, Acquisition Directorate, 1225 South Clark St, Suite 910, Arlington, VA 22202
Michael.Murtha@whs.mil

\$30 million clinical trial sought on preventing elder falls

The National Institute on Aging at NIH is seeking applications for a clinical trial to prevent serious injuries resulting from falls in older people. The \$30 million request is part of an initiative by the new Falls Injuries Prevention Partnership between NIA and the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI). The agencies hope the collaboration joining scientists with clinicians and patients will result in an effective strategy to mitigate falls and related injuries. PCORI will provide the funding to the effort, and NIA will administer the project, including the application process and peer review.

The RFA issued by the NIA <<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-14-009.html>> outlines the rationale for the trial, along with the required elements of any proposal. A key element is the active involvement in the design and conduct of the study by older patients, family caregivers, health care professionals, and other stakeholders. The ultimate goal of bringing together these interests is to help ensure that the strategy can be reliably replicated and used in at least one health care setting. The strategy, NIA's request says, should be designed to identify individuals at high risk for falling, assess them to define their specific risk factors, select interventions to address these factors, and monitor progress toward risk factor reduction. Proposals are due on Nov. 13, 2013.

Harbor Branch Director testifies at Senate climate change hearing

Margaret Leinen, Executive Director of FAU's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, testified on climate change research findings at a packed hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee July 18.

Ten panelists including economists, reinsurance representatives, and researchers suggested by both political parties presented information from various perspectives during the hearing "Climate Change: It's Happening Now" which was often contentious. Senators often challenged speakers on interpretation of various data.

Leinen spoke as part of a panel on oceans to detail changes in the ecosystems of the U.S. East Coast, the rise in sea temperatures, and associated effects on various components of the ocean's food chain and related industries. She discussed the increasing extent and number of coral bleaching events on Florida and Caribbean reefs and the implications, and sea level rise and its potential effects in south Florida.

Leinen concluded her testimony saying: "This south Florida coastal ecosystem, of which people are so much a part, is already seeing the impact of climate change in the rate of sea level rise, as the thermal expansion of ocean waters with their warming is a major component of the sea level rise we are already seeing." To view a webcast of the hearing or read the testimony, click [here](#).

Hearing examines non-traditional alternatives in higher education

In light of the upcoming reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, the House Education and the Workforce Committee convened a hearing July 9 to discuss alternative and competency-based models of education.

"Keeping College Within Reach: Improving Higher Education through Innovation" was discussed by a panel of four including Alan Jenkins of Western Governors University, Pamela Tate of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning, Joann Broughman of the University System of Maryland and Burck Smith of StraighterLine, an online general education college course offeror.

Committee Chairman John Kline (R-MN) spoke of the changing landscape in higher education. He pointed out that in recent years, “non-traditional” students – those who pursue degrees later in life, often while employed full-time – have become the fastest growing student demographic in postsecondary education. With this shift, demand for innovative modes of delivering quality, accessible programs has risen, he added.

He noted that several states, including Kentucky and Wisconsin, have embraced competency-based learning designs that utilize Prior Learning Assessments (PLAs) to expedite the degree-earning process. PLAs exempt degree-seeking students from classes in which they already demonstrate mastery of content, allowing students to bypass unnecessary costs and redundant class time. Panelist Pamela Tate spoke to this topic and said assessments for class exemptions are rigorous, requiring documentation of learning and institutional examinations.

Legislators are also reevaluating online coursework as a flexible alternative to the traditional college classroom setting, an option that is particularly appealing to students who have family or career obligations. According to the Sloan Consortium’s annual survey of online learning, nearly 7 million students took at least one online course during the Fall 2011 term, an increase of more than half a million students over the previous year. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and private institutions are working to provide prerequisite courses, transferable to accredited degree programs, to help students obtain degrees faster and at reduced cost.

In the HEA reauthorization process, Alan Jenkins of Western Governors urged Congress to support institutions that are “disruptive innovators,” providing quality education at a lower cost. Watch the archived webcast [here](#). Statements and testimonies can be found [here](#).

Federal nursing panel seeking member nominations; Sept. 5 deadline

The Health Resources and Services Administration published a Federal Register Notice July 2 seeking nominations for persons to serve on its National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice. The deadline is September 5. The Council provides advice to the HHS Secretary and HRSA Administrator and staff on the operation of Title VIII programs to develop the nursing workforce.

Nominations should be submitted either by mail or email to CDR Serina A. Hunter-Thomas, Designated Federal Official, NACNEP, Division of Nursing, Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr), Health Resources and Administration (HRSA), Parklawn Building, Room 9-61, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857. SHunter-Thomas@Hrsa.gov. (301) 443-4499. For additional information, the current committee membership, charter, and reports see the NACNEP Web site at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/nursing/nacnep.htm>.

Education Department releases proposed rule on student assistance programs

The Department of Education released a new Notice of Proposed Rulemaking dealing with student assistance programs in the Federal Register July 29.

The summary says: "The Secretary proposes to amend the Student Assistance General Provisions, Federal Perkins Loan (Perkins Loan) Program, Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program, and William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program regulations. The proposed regulations would: amend the FFEL and Direct Loan program regulations to reflect changes made to the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), by the SAFRA Act included in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010; incorporate other recent statutory changes in the Direct Loan Program regulations; update, strengthen, and clarify various areas of the Student Assistance General Provisions, Perkins Loan, FFEL, and Direct Loan program regulations; and provide for greater consistency in the regulations governing the title IV, HEA student loan programs." To read the Notice visit:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2013-15812.pdf>

Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies

Agency: Department of Defense
Air Force -- Research Lab

Program: Optimized Integrated Multidisciplinary Systems (OPTIMUS)

Description: The OPTimized Integrated MULTidisciplinary Systems (OPTIMUS) program will bring new coupled systems (actuation, power, thermal, engines) to the Multidisciplinary Optimized MDO conceptual design space for high speed aircraft such as next generation air dominance aircraft. The desired outcome is enhanced MDO methods, integrated operational analyses, geographically distributed design, and demonstration of the work on a Future Air Dominance conceptual design. Some key issues include looking at key coupled aircraft systems earlier in the design process, and defining what fidelity is needed at various milestones in the process. In addition, the development of distributed co-design/simulation is expected. Optimization parameters shall be tied to focused mission level assessment methods.

Due Date: September 5, 2013

Funding: \$2,850,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswvnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?opId=238179&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of Defense
Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Program: Fiscal Year 2014 Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP)

Description: This announcement seeks proposals to purchase instrumentation in support of research in areas of interest to the DoD, including areas of research supported by the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR). The research areas of interest to the administering agencies are available on-line at the following addresses: Army Research Office: <http://www.aro.army.mil/> (select "Business" and then "Broad Agency Announcements") See the most recent ARO Core Broad Agency Announcement for Basic and Applied Scientific Research. Office of Naval Research: <http://www.onr.navy.mil/> (select "Contracts and Grants" and then "Broad Agency Announcements") See Long Range Broad Agency Announcement for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology 13-001. Air Force Office of Scientific Research: See BAA AFOSR-2013-0001 Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research available at <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=x8BxRCpDJ7zJvMJvVs91VFPYjnJqzyJJvBHW51LmJy0D21yfSXTc!284756989?oppld=218055&mode=VIEW>. For detailed information regarding technical goals, potential proposers are advised to refer to the websites cited above.

Due Date: October 20, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$43,400,000; Award Ceiling: \$1,500,000

Website:
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCvfl2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=238081&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of Education

Program: OSERS/NIDRR: Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program: Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers: Community Living Policy

Description: The purpose of the Disability and Rehabilitation Research Projects and Centers Program is to plan and conduct research, demonstration projects, training, and related activities, including international activities, to develop methods, procedures, and rehabilitation technology that maximize the full inclusion and integration into society, employment, independent living, family support, and economic and social self-sufficiency of individuals with

disabilities, especially individuals with the most severe disabilities, and to improve the effectiveness of services authorized under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (Rehabilitation Act). Interested parties are invited to participate in a pre-application meeting and to receive information and technical assistance through individual consultation with NIDRR staff. **The pre-application meeting will be held on August 8, 2013.** Interested parties may participate in this meeting by conference call with NIDRR staff from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., Washington, DC time.

Due Date: September 3, 2013

Funding: \$875,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCvfl2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237913&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of Energy
Office of Science

Program: Early Career Research Program

Description: The Office of Science of the Department of Energy invites grant applications for support under the Early Career Research Program in the following program areas: Advanced Scientific Computing Research; Biological and Environmental Research; Basic Energy Sciences, Fusion Energy Sciences; High Energy Physics, and Nuclear Physics. The purpose of this program is to support the development of individual research programs of outstanding scientists early in their careers and to stimulate research careers in the areas supported by the DOE Office of Science.

Due Date: November 19, 2013

Funding: \$6,000,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCvfl2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=238188&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of Energy
Office of Science

Program: FY2014 Research Opportunities in High Energy Physics

Description: The mission of the High Energy Physics (HEP) program is to understand how the universe works at its most fundamental level, which is done by

discovering the elementary constituents of matter and energy, probing the interactions between them, and exploring the basic nature of space and time. This Funding Opportunity Announcement invites applications in six specific areas: 1. Experimental Research at the Energy Frontier, 2. Experimental Research at the Intensity Frontier, 3. Experimental Research at the Cosmic Frontier, 4. Theoretical Research, 5. Accelerator Science and Technology Research and Development, 6. Particle Detector Research and Development.

Due Date: September 9, 2013

Funding: Not Specified

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=XJrGRLnLY7F5Yh9mnh8X1lThcXmxYyb5LL57hVX8DSZ1BYK1hth!-1083111288?oppld=236723&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children & Families

Program: Competitive Abstinence Education Grant Program

Description: Grantees under this program will be expected to develop a targeted and medically accurate approach to reducing teen pregnancies through abstinence education. Abstinence education programming is one intervention in a continuum of services that seeks to prevent teen pregnancy. The purpose of the CAE Program is to provide funding for additional tools to address the rates of teen pregnancy among adolescent youth who are at greatest risk of STDs/STIs and most likely to bear children out of wedlock. Program plans will focus on the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by delaying initiation of sexual activity and engaging in healthy relationships.

Due Date: August 29, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$4,165,834; Award Ceiling: \$800,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237717&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
Food & Drug Administration

Program: Predictive Methods for Characterizing Product Performance in Pediatric Patients, Case Study: Furosemide

Description: This project follows after earlier CDER research projects in which in vitro furosemide dissolution and/or solubility data were collected in various dissolution media such as simulated gastric and intestinal fluids. In two different studies with different approaches and dissolution testing apparatus, furosemide dissolution was higher in medium containing milk and baby formula than that in standard buffer medium. This research project will allow collecting in vivo data when furosemide (the model drug) will be given with milk, baby formula and Ensure Plus™ to healthy adults. The suitability of the in vitro methods using dissolution media containing milk, baby formula and Ensure Plus for predicting in vivo performance of furosemide (a poorly soluble and poorly permeable drug), classified as BCS (Biopharmaceutic Classification System) Class IV drug will be determined.

Due Date: August 15, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$250,000; Award Ceiling: \$100,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?opId=237973&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources & Services Administration

Program: Perinatal & Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) Pilot Grant Program

Description: The Maternal and Child Health Bureau is accepting applications for a four-year pilot grant program, the Perinatal and Infant Oral Health Quality Improvement (PIOHQI) Pilot. The purpose of the project is to integrate a successful community-based approach into a health care system with statewide reach, accomplishing statewide availability and increased utilization of quality preventive dental care and restorative services for pregnant women and infants most at risk. The long-term goal of this effort is to achieve sustainable improvement in the oral health care status of this MCH population. Documentation of successful outcomes and lessons learned will be applied to the development of a national strategic framework for the purpose of replicating effective and efficient approaches to serving the oral health care needs of this targeted MCH population.

Due Date: August 19, 2013

Funding: \$200,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?opId=237934&mode=VIEW>

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

Program: Research Linking Environmental Exposure to Neurodegenerative Disease (R21)

Description: The purpose of this announcement is to stimulate research on the role of environmental exposure in neurodegenerative disease by developing feasibility data for new concepts or by adapting new technologies, tools and methods of use for studies in neurodegenerative diseases. The emphasis for this funding would be especially focused on Alzheimers, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis and Parkinson's to stimulate advancement of neurodegenerative research by better establishing the importance of environmental exposure in disease causation in accordance with the goals of the new strategic plan.

Due Date: October 31, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$1,500,000; Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Website:
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCvFL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237506&mode=VIEW>

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

Program: Collaborative Studies on the Central Nervous System and Glycemia Grant

Description: This announcement, issued by NINDS and NIDDK, promotes new interdisciplinary collaborations by researchers in neuroscience and in diabetes/metabolism to further understanding of the mechanisms by which the CNS controls glucose levels and the consequences to the CNS of derangements in these mechanisms.

Due Date: January 7, 2014

Funding: \$750,000

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=58739>

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

Program: Understanding and Treating Co-Morbid Conditions in Adolescents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Grant

Description: This announcement, issued by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, encourages research project grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to focus investigator-initiated research upon the factors that impact functioning and quality of life in individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities during adolescence.

Due Date: January 7, 2014

Funding: Unknown

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=58808>

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

Program: Translating Basic Behavioral and Social Science Discoveries into Interventions to Improve Health-Related Behaviors (R01) Grant

Description: This announcement is being issued by the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, with participation from the National Cancer Institute, National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, National Institute on Drug Abuse, Office of Research on Women's Health. This announcement seeks highly innovative Research Project Grant applications that propose to translate findings from basic research on human behavior into effective clinical, community, or population-based behavioral interventions to improve health. Specifically, this program will support interdisciplinary teams of basic and applied biological, behavioral and/or social science researchers in developing and refining novel behavioral interventions with high potential impact to improve health-promoting behaviors (e.g., healthy dietary intake, sun safety, physical activity, or adherence to medical regimens), and/or reduce problem health behaviors (e.g., smoking, tanning or physical activity or alcohol or substance use, abuse or dependence).

Due Date: January 7, 2014

Funding: Unknown

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=59057>

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

Program: Research Into The Impact Of Economic Fluctuations On Alcohol Consumption, Drinking Patterns, And Prevention And Treatment Of Problem Drinking And Related Problems Grant

Description: This announcement issued by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health, encourages Research Project Grant applications from institutions/ organizations that propose to investigate the impact of national or local economic fluctuations on alcohol consumption, alcohol drinking patterns, and the prevention and treatment of problem drinking.

Due Date: January 7, 2014

Funding: Unknown

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=59068>

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

Program: Neuroimmune Mechanisms Of Alcohol Related Disorders Grant

Description: This announcement issued by National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institutes of Health, encourages Research Project Grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to study the neuroimmune mechanisms of alcohol related disorders. Studies supported by this program will provide fundamental insights of neuroimmune mechanisms underlying brain functional and behavioral changes induced by alcohol.

Due Date: January 7, 2014

Funding: Unknown

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=59071>

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

Program: Continued Development and Maintenance of Software Grant

Description: Biomedical research laboratories increasingly undertake a software development project to solve a problem of interest specifically related to that laboratory. These software packages sometimes become useful to a much broader community of users that can include translational and clinical researchers. The goal of this program announcement is to support the continued development, maintenance, testing and evaluation of existing software. The proposed work should apply best practices and proven methods for software design, construction, and implementation to

extend the applicability of existing biomedical informatics/computational biology software to a broader biomedical research community.

Due Date: January 7, 2014

Funding: Unknown

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=58738>

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

Program: Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects for Prevention and Management of Healthcare-Associated Infections (R18)

Description: This announcement issued by AHRQ solicits grant applications for funding to conduct Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects (R18) that propose to address strategies and approaches for prevention, reduction, and effective management of HAIs. The FOA describes the broad areas of HAI research for which funds are available to support Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Projects. Mechanism of Support. This FOA will use the AHRQ Large Health Services Research Demonstration and Dissemination Grant (R18) award mechanism. Funds Available and Anticipated Number of Awards. Because the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. The total amount awarded and the number of awards will depend upon the number, quality, duration, and costs of the applications received. Awards issued under this FOA are contingent upon the availability of funds and the submission of a sufficient number of meritorious applications.

Due Date: September 25, 2015

Funding: Not Specified

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=185293>

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

Program: Renewal of Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence [COBRE](P20)

Description: The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) invites renewal applications from eligible Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). The objective of the COBRE initiative is to strengthen an institution's biomedical research infrastructure through the establishment of a thematic, multi-disciplinary center and to enhance the

ability of investigators to compete independently for National Institutes of Health (NIH) individual research grants or other external peer-reviewed support. COBRE awards are supported through the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program, which aims to foster health-related research by increasing the competitiveness of investigators at institutions located in IDeA states.

Due Date: September 25, 2015

Funding: Not Specified

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=kFVtRK4HQFF3yZ1jps2BN59pN0s wgvLG3pSJS7JQRNcTnS7s42P6!-1329477910?oppld=236086&mode=VIEW>

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

Program: Physical activity and weight control interventions among cancer survivors: Effects on biomarkers of prognosis and survival

Description: This announcement encourages transdisciplinary and translational research that will identify specific biological or biobehavioral pathways through which physical activity and/or weight control (either weight loss or avoidance of weight gain) may affect cancer prognosis and survival. Research applications must test the effects of physical activity or weight control or both interventions on biomarkers of cancer prognosis among cancer survivors identified by previous animal or observational research, which may include but are not limited to intervention-induced changes in sex hormones, insulin or insulin-like growth factors or their binding proteins, insulin resistance, glucose metabolism, leptin and other adipokines, immunologic or inflammatory factors, oxidative stress and DNA damage or repair capacity, angiogenesis, or prostaglandins.

Due Date: September 7, 2015

Funding: Not Specified

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=183933>

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

Program: Alcohol Research Resource Awards

Description: In the pursuit of alcohol-related research, resources are occasionally developed that are used by and benefit the broader alcohol research community and are shared with scientists at both the resource developer's

home institution and at external institutions. While support for maintenance of these resources is often provided through a Regular Research Project Grant (R01) award or the core of an Alcohol Research Center (P50), situations may arise in which continued support of the resource through any or all of these instruments is not feasible. For example, demand for the resource by individuals from outside the home institution may exceed the capacity of support available through an investigator's R01 or an institution's P50. As well, the developers of the resource may have a reduced need for the resource, while other investigators continue to benefit from the resource.

Due Date: September 7, 2015

Funding: Not Specified

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=183513>

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

Program: NINDS Research Education Opportunities (R25)

Description: The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement is to request applications for the initiation or continuation of nationally-available neuroscience research education programs that will significantly advance the mission of NINDS.

Due Date: September 7, 2016

Funding: \$250,000

Website: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=yIGJRJyGKnzvw3PQxg0QxJ8LS2XcvnXhB7gS6cqgJxmznnDGXhdY!1503991855?oppld=236053&mode=VIEW>

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

Program: Adding Legacy Clinical Data to the Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury (FITBIR) Informatics System

Description: The goal of this initiative is to accelerate the process of building a large, rich database for meta- and secondary analysis of traumatic brain injury (TBI) clinical research data. TBI is a complex, major health problem and addressing many of the critical gaps in knowledge requires large data sets. To this end, the Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health are collaborating to create and advance the Federal Interagency TBI Research (FITBIR) Informatics System. FITBIR was launched in July

2011 and is currently accepting data from new research studies. However, accrual of new data takes time. To accelerate the process of populating FITBIR with data, the NIH is seeking applications from investigators who are interested in archiving their legacy data or federating their existing database with FITBIR.

Due Date: October 1, 2013

Funding: \$500,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237926&mode=VIEW>

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

Program: NIMHD Social, Behavioral, Health Services, and Policy Research on Minority Health and Health Disparities

Description: The purpose of this program is to solicit innovative social, behavioral, health services, and policy research that can directly and demonstrably contribute to the elimination of health disparities. Projects may involve primary data collection or secondary analysis of existing datasets. Projects that examine understudied health conditions; examine the effectiveness of interventions, services, or policies for multiple health disparity populations; and/or directly measure the impact of project activities on levels of health disparities are particularly encouraged.

Due Date: November 19, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$3,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$250,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=238033&mode=VIEW>

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

Program: NIBIB Biomedical Technology Resource Centers (P41)

Description: This announcement encourages grant applications for Biomedical Technology Resource Centers (BTRCs) that are funded using the P41 mechanism. BTRCs conduct research and development on new technologies that are driven by the needs of basic, translational, and clinical researchers. BTRCs also make their technologies available, train

members of the research community in the use of the technologies, and disseminate these technologies broadly.

Due Date: January 7, 2014

Funding: Not Specified

Website: <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppld=227477>

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

Program: Mid-life Reversibility of Early-established Biobehavioral Risk Factors (R01)

Description: The purpose of this funding opportunity announcement issued by the National Institute on Aging is to solicit two-year Research Project Grant applications that propose to explore the potential for midlife plasticity of biobehavioral or psychological systems affected by early life disadvantage. In order to speed the development of novel intervention strategies, applicants are encouraged either to use existing human cohort data to identify circumstances that mitigate or exacerbate the effects of early adversity or to use human and/or animal models to test the feasibility of developing interventions aimed specifically at increasing malleability in adulthood of risk persistence mechanisms.

Due Date: February 3, 2014

Funding: Total Funding: \$1,800,000; Award Ceiling: \$200,000

Website:
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswvnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmVl-699506938?oppld=237836&mode=VIEW>

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

Program: FY13 Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law for the CAFTA-DR region

Description: DRL seeks program proposals that are cognizant of the changing workplace dynamics within the region and strive to strengthen the protection of internationally recognized labor rights, particularly freedom of association, collective bargaining, and the right to strike. Well developed proposals should clearly build upon and not be duplicative of ongoing and previous technical assistance projects focused on labor rights in the CAFTA-DR region, and may: Provide advanced-level trainings on internationally recognized labor rights; labor law; advocacy, civil society engagement and building cross-organizational partnerships; and effective

management skills for building inclusive, democratic and representative unions for union members and leaders; Increase basic knowledge of labor rights at the local level, with a focus on previously under-served and marginalized populations; Support greater participation in and new affiliations to existing worker organizations; Include activities that address barriers to the collection of union dues, and increase capacity of trade unions to transparently and effectively manage dues collected; Incorporate a training-of-trainers approach to ensure sustainability; Propose activities that increase the capacity of workers and worker organizations to advocate on behalf of their interests with individual companies at the local, national and international level as well as governments; Include marginalized populations such as persons with disabilities, women, LGBT, and youth; Document and encourage the sharing of lessons learned and promising practices across CAFTA-DR countries, as well as increase collaboration across the regional sectoral level. Proposals should have a start date of no later than September 30, 2013 and project duration is to be determined by the applicant.

Due Date: August 9, 2013

Funding: \$1,300,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmVI-699506938?oppld=238083&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation - Mid-Pacific Region

Program: Central Valley Project Conservation Program and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program

Description: The Bureau of Reclamation intends to issue a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), R13AF20026, for grants/cooperative agreements for the following program: The Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) and Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP). These programs will improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the Central Valley Project (CVP), excluding fish. The programs are: 1) protection of species or existing habitats impacted by CVP through the purchase of fee title or conservation easements; 2) restoration of CVP impacted habitats or species populations on lands permanently protected for conservation where restoration actions would markedly improve conditions for impacted species. No funding will be provided for any restoration projects which would result in mitigation credits for the grant recipient; 3) research addressing status and habitat needs to facilitate species recovery; and 4) captive propagation and reintroduction of listed species in order to

increase numbers. A list of projects previously funded by the programs can be found on the website at: www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp. For FY 2014, land acquisition projects will receive the highest priority for funding. System for Award Management (SAM) applies to this FOA. Prospective recipients must be registered on the SAM database or offeror is ineligible for an award. Information on SAM registration can be obtained via the Internet at <http://www.sam.gov>.

Due Date: October 4, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$ 2,250,000; Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000; 10 Awards

Website:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=GSgjRLCRjGGZ4pLRQ2WLTy2pHcfJWvdKzQvz2XcQsQWCTBG8ft1p!-1083111288?oppld=236611&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Program: Gulf Coast Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative

Description: The Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative (GCPO LCC) is a non-regulatory conservation partnership comprised of private, state, and federal organizations and agencies that have come together to collectively define, design, and deliver landscapes capable of sustaining natural and cultural resources at desired levels now and into the future.

Due Date: August 30, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$1,750,000; Award Ceiling: \$350,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCvfl2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237704&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Science To Achieve Results (STAR) Research Program

Program: New Methods in 21st Century Exposure Science

Description: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications proposing innovative research to advance methods for characterizing real-world human exposure to chemicals associated with consumer products in indoor environments. This solicitation seeks to support research that will:
1) develop and/or apply innovative technologies and methods to characterize presence and co-occurrence of suites of semivolatile

chemicals (dozens to hundreds) in real-world indoor environments associated with emissions from and use of consumer products; 2) generate data to advance the scientific basis of exposure predictions by providing values for key model parameters, building confidence in model assumptions, and confirming model predictions for relevant pathways; and 3) develop and/or apply innovative technologies and methods to profile chemicals and related metabolites associated with consumer products in biological media. This solicitation provides the opportunity for the submission of applications for projects that may involve human subjects research.

Due Date: September 17, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$4,500,000; Award Ceiling: \$900,000; 5 Awards

Website:

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=GSgjRLCRjGGZ4pLRQ2WLTy2pHcfJWvdKzQvz2XcQsQWCTBG8ft1p!-1083111288?opId=236605&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Science To Achieve Results (STAR) Research Program

Program: Healthy Schools: Environmental Factors, Children's Health and Performance, and Sustainable Building Practices

Description: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications proposing research that will inform school (K-12 educational facilities) building design, construction and operation practices in order to foster safe and healthy school environments and maximize student achievement and teacher and staff effectiveness. Specifically, the goal is to understand the relationship between environmental factors defined broadly and the health, safety and performance of students, teachers and staff. In addition to health-related concerns, the school environment may similarly impact the performance of students, teachers and staff, including lowering student achievement outcomes, and reducing teacher effectiveness. Accordingly, research is needed to better understand the negative impacts of the school environment on students' health, safety, and achievement, and to measure the positive potential benefits of effectively managing environmental factors and applying sustainable building practices. The results of this research will help ensure that the risks of environmentally-induced illness and injury to America's students, teachers and other school staff are diminished or avoided and that students, teachers and staff are provided with optimal learning environments in their schools.

Due Date: October 8, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$6,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$1,000,000; 6 Awards

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=yIGJRJyGKnzvw3PQxg0QxJ8LS2XcvnXhB7gS6cgqJxmznnDGXhdY!1503991855?oppld=236133&mode=VIEW>

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Science To Achieve Results (STAR) Research Program

Program: Susceptibility and Variability in Human Response to Chemical Exposure

Description: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications proposing research to study life stage and/or genetic susceptibility in order to better characterize the sources of human variability in response to chemical exposure. The adverse outcome pathways concept has the potential to serve as a framework for using susceptibility indicators, biomonitoring, and high throughput screening (HTS) data in an integrated manner to predict population responses to novel, potentially harmful, chemicals. While much emphasis has been placed on improved biomonitoring and HTS approaches, research is needed to understand the underlying factors that influence human susceptibility and to develop tools and methods for the identification and use of susceptibility indicators in this context. This solicitation provides the opportunity for the submission of applications for projects that may involve human subjects research

Due Date: September 10, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$2,600,000; Award Ceiling: \$800,000; 4 Awards

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/synopsis.do;jsessionid=yIGJRJyGKnzvw3PQxg0QxJ8LS2XcvnXhB7gS6cgqJxmznnDGXhdY!1503991855>

Agency: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Program: B.2 System-Wide Safety Assurance Technologies (SSAT)

Description: Public benefits derived from continued growth in the transport of passengers and cargo are dependent on the improvement of the intrinsic safety attributes of current and future air vehicles that will operate in the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). The System-Wide Safety and Assurance Technologies Project (SSAT) project will identify risks and provide knowledge required to safely manage increasing complexity in the design and operation of vehicles and the air transportation systems, including advanced approaches to enable improved and cost-effective verification and validation of flight-critical systems. SSAT is focused on methods to assess and ensure system-wide safety of complex aviation systems. The project will emphasize proactive

methods and technologies, and utilize a systems analysis approach to identify key issues and maintain a portfolio of research leading to potential solutions. A proactive approach to managing system safety requires (1) the ability to monitor the system continuously and to extract and fuse information from diverse data sources to identify emergent anomalous behaviors after new technologies, procedures, and training are introduced; and (2) the ability to reliably predict probabilities of the occurrence of hazardous events and of their safety risks.

Due Date: August 22, 2013

Funding: Not Specified

Website:

<http://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/viewrepositorydocument/cmdocumentid=378329/solicitationId=%7BE3FA1CFF-455D-AC5E-5819-A8D7D4C6CB78%7D/viewSolicitationDocument=1/ROA%202013%20NRA%20Amendment%20No%203.pdf>

Agency: National Archives and Records Administration
National Historical Publications and Records Grants

Program: Innovation in Archives and Documentary Editing

Description: The National Historical Publications and Records Commission seeks projects that are exploring innovative methods to improve the preservation, public discovery, or use of historical records. Projects may also focus on techniques and tools that will improve the professional performance and effectiveness of those who work with such records, such as archivists, documentary editors, and records managers. Projects must anticipate results that will affect more than a single institution or a single state. Projects may focus on methods of working with records in any format, including born-digital records. Projects designed to publish historical records must focus on innovative methods of presenting archival records as primary sources. The Commission does not fund projects focused on artifacts or books. For a comprehensive list of the Commission's limitations on funding, please see What we do and do not fund (<http://www.archives.gov/nhprc/apply/eligibility.html>). Applications that consist entirely of ineligible activities will not be considered. A grant normally is for one to three years. The Commission expects to make up to six grants of between \$50,000 and \$150,000. The total amount allocated for this program is up to \$500,000.

Due Date: October 3, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$500,000; Award Ceiling: \$150,000; 6 Awards

Website:

http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=kFVtRK4HQFF3yZ1jps2BN59pN0s_wgvLG3pSJS7JQRNcTnS7s42P6!-1329477910?oppld=236014&mode=VIEW

Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities
Promotion of the Humanities_Office of Digital Humanities

Program: Digital Humanities Start-up Grants

Description: The Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants program awards relatively small grants to support the planning stages of innovative projects that promise to benefit the humanities. Proposals should be for the planning or initial stages of digital initiatives in any area of the humanities. Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants may involve • research that brings new approaches or documents best practices in the study of the digital humanities; • planning and developing prototypes of new digital tools for preserving, analyzing, and making accessible digital resources, including libraries' and museums' digital assets; • scholarship that focuses on the history, criticism, and philosophy of digital culture and its impact on society; • scholarship or studies that examine the philosophical or practical implications and impact of the use of emerging technologies in specific fields or disciplines of the humanities, or in interdisciplinary collaborations involving several fields or disciplines; • innovative uses of technology for public programming and education utilizing both traditional and new media; and • new digital modes of publication that facilitate the dissemination of humanities scholarship in advanced academic as well as informal or formal educational settings at all academic levels. Innovation is a hallmark of this grant category, which incorporates the "high risk/high reward" paradigm often used by funding agencies in the sciences. NEH is requesting proposals for projects that take some risks in the pursuit of innovation and excellence. Digital Humanities Start-Up Grants should result in plans, prototypes, or proofs of concept for long-term digital humanities projects prior to implementation.

Due Date: September 12, 2013

Funding: Award Ceiling: \$60,000

Website:

http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=kFVtRK4HQFF3yZ1jps2BN59pN0s_wgvLG3pSJS7JQRNcTnS7s42P6!-1329477910?oppld=235714&mode=VIEW

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs

Description: The Division of Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS) supports research and education projects that develop new knowledge in three core programs: The Cyber-Human Systems program; The Information Integration and Informatics program; and The Robust Intelligence program. The IIS program is also responsible for managing the review process for proposals in Computer Graphics and Visualization; these proposals may be submitted to any of the three core programs described in the full announcement. Proposers are invited to submit proposals in three project classes, which are defined as follows: Small Projects - up to \$500,000 total budget with durations up to three years; Medium Projects - \$500,001 to \$1,200,000 total budget with durations up to four years; and Large Projects - \$1,200,001 to \$3,000,000 total budget with durations up to five years.

Due Date: October 15, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$100,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$3,000,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237683&mode=VIEW>

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF): Core Programs

Description: The Division of Computing and Communication Foundations supports research and education projects that develop new knowledge in three core programs: The Algorithmic Foundations program; The Communications and Information Foundations program; and The Software and Hardware Foundations program. Proposers are invited to submit proposals in three project classes, which are defined as follows: Small Projects - up to \$500,000 total budget with durations up to three years; Medium Projects - \$500,001 to \$1,200,000 total budget with durations up to four years; and Large Projects - \$1,200,001 to \$3,000,000 total budget with durations up to five years. A more complete description of the three project classes can be found in the full announcement.

Due Date: November 19, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$100,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$3,000,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237682&mode=VIEW>

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases

Description: The Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases program supports research on the ecological, evolutionary, and socio-ecological principles and processes that influence the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases. The central theme of submitted projects must be quantitative or computational understanding of pathogen transmission dynamics. The intent is discovery of principles of infectious disease transmission and testing mathematical or computational models that elucidate infectious disease systems. Projects should be broad, interdisciplinary efforts that go beyond the scope of typical studies. They should focus on the determinants and interactions of transmission among humans, non-human animals, and/or plants. This includes, for example, the spread of pathogens; the influence of environmental factors such as climate; the population dynamics and genetics of reservoir species or hosts; or the cultural, social, behavioral, and economic dimensions of disease transmission. Research may be on zoonotic, environmentally-borne, vector-borne, or enteric diseases of either terrestrial or freshwater systems and organisms, including diseases of animals and plants, at any scale from specific pathogens to inclusive environmental systems. Proposals for research on disease systems of public health concern to developing countries are strongly encouraged, as are disease systems of concern in agricultural systems. Investigators are encouraged to involve the public health research community, including for example, epidemiologists, physicians, veterinarians, food scientists, social scientists, entomologists, pathologists, virologists, or parasitologists with the goal of integrating knowledge across disciplines to enhance our ability to predict and control infectious diseases.

Due Date: November 20, 2013

Funding: Total Funding: \$11,000,000; Award Ceiling: \$2,500,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?opId=237525&mode=VIEW>

Agency: National Science Foundation

Program: Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace

Description: Cyberspace has transformed the daily lives of people for the better. The rush to adopt cyberspace, however, has exposed its fragility and vulnerabilities: corporations, agencies, national infrastructure and individuals have been victims of cyber-attacks. In December 2011, the National Science and Technology Council with the cooperation of NSF

issued a broad, coordinated federal strategic plan for cybersecurity research and development to "change the game," minimize the misuses of cyber technology, bolster education and training in cybersecurity, establish a science of cybersecurity, and transition promising cybersecurity research into practice. This challenge requires a dedicated approach to research, development, and education that leverages the disciplines of mathematics and statistics, the social sciences, and engineering together with the computing, communications and information sciences. The Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace program welcomes proposals that address Cybersecurity from a Trustworthy Computing Systems perspective and/or a Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences perspective.

Due Date: September 19, 2014

Funding: Total Funding: \$74,500,000; Award Ceiling: \$10,000,000

Website:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=KJq7RvyVv6NBNrLktQyJpm3PMhswwnJhn9L1y4cGCVfL2vsXnLmV!-699506938?oppld=237689&mode=VIEW>