

Congressional and Federal Agency Responses and Opportunities Regarding the COVID-19 Outbreak

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Table of Contents

Introduction	4
Update: Congressional and Federal Updates	4
Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education	6
Office of Management and Budget (OMB)	6
Update: Department of Education (ED)	6
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	11
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	12
Administration for Community Living (ACL)	14
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)	14
Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	15
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	16
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	17
Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)	17
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	18
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)	18
Administration for Children and Families	18
National Science Foundation (NSF)	18
Department of Energy (DOE)	19
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	20
Department of Defense (DOD)	22
Department of Labor (DOL)	27
Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	28
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	28
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)	28
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	29
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)	29

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	29
Department of State (DOS).....	30
Department of Justice (DOJ).....	30
Small Business Administration (SBA)	31
US Census Bureau.....	31
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).....	31
Federal Emergency Management Agency	32
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).....	32
Internal Revenue Service (IRS).....	33
The White House	34
Research and Funding Opportunities	35
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	35
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	41
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)	41
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)	41
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).....	42
National Science Foundation (NSF)	42
Department of Education	43
Economic Development Administration (EDA).....	44
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	44
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).....	45
Update: Department of Defense (DOD)	45
Update: Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	48
Department of Energy (DOE).....	49
United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	49
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	50
Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)	51
Update: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).....	51
United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).....	51
US Census Bureau.....	52
Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates	52

International News 53
UN-Water 53
World Bank Group (WBG) 53
World Health Organization (WHO) 53

Introduction

Today's edition includes congressional updates, as well as new and updated funding opportunities and guidance from federal agencies and offices related to the coronavirus outbreak. Highlights include:

Congressional and Federal Updates

- Senate Republicans Release COVID-19 Relief Bill, the HEALS Act

Federal Guidance

- **Department of Education (ED):** ED is soliciting feedback on the difficulties of reporting Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) data.

Research and Funding Opportunities:

- **Department of Defense (DOD):** The Joint Program Executive Office-Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) released new COVID-19 Medical Countermeasures (MCM) related solicitations.
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** DHS issued a new solicitation geared towards qualifying small businesses for potential sources of technologies to track and prevent spread of COVID-19.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office (CPO) released its fiscal year (FY) 2021 competitions, one of which is focused on atmospheric impacts due to changes in anthropogenic activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Update: Congressional and Federal Updates

NEW: Senate Republicans Release COVID-19 Relief Bill, the HEALS Act

On July 27, Senate Republicans unveiled their \$1 trillion plan for the next coronavirus aid package, known as the Health, Economic Assistance, Liability Protection and Schools (HEALS) Act. The aid package serves as an opening bid in negotiations with Democrats. Major elements of the package include a second round of tax rebate checks, slimmed-down unemployment benefits, a second round of forgivable small-business loans, education relief, and liability protection for employers. Congress' goal is to reach a deal and pass another aid package by the end of next week before the scheduled congressional August recess; however, that goal will be difficult to meet since Democrats have denounced the package as too little, too late. Republican Senators have also voiced concerns with the large price tag of the bill as well as some provisions contained in the package, such as one that would allocate nearly \$2 billion in funding for a new FBI headquarters. This early discord within the Republican party is indicative of how difficult it will be to hammer out a final deal. Democrats have already thrown their support behind the House-passed [HEROES Act](#), a \$3.5 trillion aid package, which contained \$1 trillion in aid to state and local governments.

The *HEALS Act* is made up of half a dozen separate bills, some of which touch upon different aspects of coronavirus response and relief, and others that represent additional congressional priorities. Below are highlights of some major elements of most interest to research, education, and healthcare communities followed by a more detailed analysis:

- Of the \$306 billion in **emergency appropriations**, the aid package would provide:
 - \$29 billion for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to support institutional expenses related to COVID-19 and additional student financial aid needs;
 - \$25 billion for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for healthcare provider relief;
 - \$16 billion for HHS to support COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, surveillance, containment, and mitigation, including at institutions of higher education;
 - \$15.5 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support additional COVID-19 research and relief for research institutions to offset the costs associated with productivity losses due to the pandemic; and
 - \$307.3 million for the Department of Energy (DOE) to support COVID-19-related research and development activities, and cybersecurity and information technology needs at the Department and national laboratories.
- **Student Loan Repayment:** The aid package offers two federal student loan repayment plans—a standard 10-year repayment plan and an income-based repayment plan, where borrowers would have to pay either 10 percent of their discretionary income or zero if earning less than 150% of the poverty level, combined with loan forgiveness after 20 or 25 years.
- **Liability protection:** The aid package would shield any business from coronavirus-related medical claims through October 1, 2024, if it makes reasonable efforts to comply with public health guidelines and is not engaged in gross negligence or willful misconduct.
- **Research and Security:** HEALS would incorporate the bipartisan *Safeguarding American Innovation Act*, led by Senators Rob Portman (R-IN) and Tom Carper (D-DE), that seeks to address congressional concerns about science and security. The higher education community has raised concerns about the bill’s changes to immigration related to export-controlled technologies, reductions to the reporting threshold to \$50,000 on foreign gifts to colleges and universities, and changes to interagency coordination around research security issues. The bill would also change federal grant application processes and disclosure requirements related to foreign compensation and potential conflicts of interest; require criminal penalties for any individual that knowingly prepares, submits, or falsifies a federal grant application that fails to disclose outside compensation, including foreign compensation; place new limitations on education and cultural exchange programs that do not have appropriate safeguards to prevent unauthorized access of export-controlled technologies; and require the Department of Education to go through negotiated rulemaking on any changes to Sec. 117 foreign gift reporting rules.
- **U.S. Leadership in Semiconductors:** The aid package includes the *CHIPS for America Act*, which would expand and create new programs to maintain U.S. leadership in the design, application, and fabrication of semiconductors. One of the main provisions is to expand semiconductor research and development across federal agencies. In particular, it would establish a

subcommittee on semiconductor technology and innovation within the National Science and Technology Council with one of its main tasks to develop a national strategy on semiconductor research, development, manufacturing and supply chain. The Commerce Department would also be required to establish a national semiconductor technology center to conduct research, launch a new Manufacturing USA Institute, and develop workforce training programs.

- **Critical Minerals:** The aid package includes the *American Mineral Security Act* that seeks to develop a secure and robust domestic supply chain of critical minerals to reduce current dependence on China. Some of the major provisions include directing the Department of Energy to advance research and development to recycle critical minerals or develop low-cost alternatives, and requiring the National Science Foundation to help institutions of higher education develop curriculum and research programs to build a critical minerals workforce.

A comprehensive analysis can be found [here](#).

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- On June 18, OMB issued Memorandum M-20-26 extending certain administrative flexibilities for recipients of federal grants. This guidance extends provisions included in three earlier memoranda issued in March and April that provided administrative, financial, and audit requirement flexibilities to assist grantee institutions during pandemic related disruptions and closures. Memorandum M-20-26 is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/M-20-26.pdf>.

Due to uncertainties associated with reopening and ramping up efforts, M-20-26 provides an extension of the *allowability of salaries and other project activities*, allowing grantee institutions to continue to charge salaries and benefits to active federal awards, through **September 30, 2020**. In addition, M-20-26 provides an extension of the *extension of single audit submission* provision through **December 31, 2020**. Agencies may allow grant recipients that have not yet filed their single audits with due dates from March 30-June 30, 2020 to delay submission up to six months.

Update: Department of Education (ED)

- **NEW:** On July 28, ED posted notice of forthcoming Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) annual reporting requirements and ED is soliciting public feedback on the difficulty and burden of reporting related data. Details are here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/07/29/2020-16429/agency-information-collection-activities-proposals-submissions-and-approvals-higher-education>.
- ED has added to the main HEERF website details on the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (a)(1) Reserve portion of funding for U.S. institutions that have Federal Student Aid Participation Agreements, but have not received notice of eligibility for an allocation of funds under CARES Act Section 18004(a)(1). Application and Certification and Agreement documents are available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>. The deadline application is **August 15, 2020**.

- Indicating a possible forthcoming Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) grant notice, ED announced a new information collection for application materials for institutions of higher education (IHE) left out of the original CARES Act funding allocation (Section 18004(a)(1)) for emergency financial relief because the required Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) enrollment data and Federal Student Aid (FSA) Pell data were not available. The federal register notice is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/07/22/2020-15825/agency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-cares-act-18004a1-reserve-fund-application>.
- Previewing forthcoming reporting requirements for grantees under Section 18004(a)(3) of the CARES Act, ED announced a new information collection for the budget and expenditure reporting form for institutions of higher education (IHE) eligible to receive funds designated for IHEs with the “greatest unmet needs related to coronavirus” from Secretary of Education through Section 18004(a)(3) of the CARES Act. The federal register notice on the new information collection is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/07/22/2020-15824/agency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-cares-act-18004a3-budget-and-expenditure>.
- ED posted an “Update on Required CARES Act Quarterly Reporting,” which outlines that reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) can be used to meet reporting obligations under the CARES Act, detailed at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/071020UpdateRequiredCARESActQtrlyReporting>.
- On July 10, ED announced additional regulatory flexibilities and deadline extensions due to the COVID-19 pandemic for Campus and Fire Safety reports, Equity in Athletics Disclosures, and Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate submissions. Details at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/071020AdditionalRegulatoryFlexRelatedCOVID>.
- ED published a notice establishing a deadline of August 1, 2020 for institutions of higher education that did not initially apply for their allocations from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) to submit their applications. The notice is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/24/2020-13645/application-for-new-awards-deadline-date-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-heerf-sections>.
- On June 17, ED published an interim final rule outlining student eligibility for CARES Act emergency funding, offered under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). The interim rule, which was likely issued in response to pending lawsuits, reiterates the Department’s on-going position that student eligibility for Title IV aid is required for HEERF student grants. A [press release](#) announcing the rule notes that aligning eligibility for CARES Act student aid grants with Title IV eligibility means “foreign nationals and most other non-citizens would not be eligible, as well as those who: (1) are dual-enrolled in secondary school; (2) do not meet academic progress standards; (3) are in default on a federal student loan or owe any refund relating to a federal student grant; (4) are without a high school diploma, GED certification, or recognized equivalent or exception; or (5) are in programs that are not Title IV-eligible programs.” The interim rule is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/17/2020-12965/eligibility-of-students-at-institutions-of-higher-education-for-funds-under-the-coronavirus-aid>.
- On June 16, ED released “Supplemental Frequently Asked Questions under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.” The guidance document addresses questions on the deadline to spend Higher Education Emergency Relief

Fund (HEERF) funds, the use of HEERF funds during summer and fall terms, and the use of CARES Act funds for scholarships, among other questions. The document is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresactsupplementalfags61620.pdf>.

- The Federal Reserve has indicated that it will extend the Main Street Lending Program to nonprofits, including institutions of higher education. Limitations on participation include participation based having less than 15,000 employees and an endowment of less than \$3 billion, among other limitations. Information on the “Nonprofit Organization New Loan Facility” is available at <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/files/monetary20200615b2.pdf>.
- On June 16, ED updated its May 15 guidance, which extended previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through **December 31, 2020**. The June 16 guidance updates the timeframe for relief from Return of Title IV Funds requirements. The guidance provides further details on implementation of CARES Act flexibilities related to Federal Work-Study (FWS) and Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) funds, as well as additional information on Return of Title IV determinations, Leave of Absence calculation, Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), and TEACH grants. The updated guidance is available at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020>.
 - The April 3 guidance is available at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19>.
 - The March 5 guidance is available at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>.
- The Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC) is holding its first FREE, fully virtual leadership development event this summer. The Smithsonian K-12 STEM Education Action Planning Institute (API) will run from July 28-30 and will tackle the challenge of ensuring science/STEM education remains a priority in classrooms and communities during COVID-19 and beyond. The API is open to educators, parents, community members, and industry stakeholders dedicated to ensuring continuity in K-12 STEM education for all students. More information is available at <https://ssec.si.edu/event/smithsonian-science-action-planning-institute>.
- ED is accepting comments on its reporting requirements for foreign institutions of higher education (IHE) under the CARES Act, which permits foreign institutions to provide distance education during emergencies and allows foreign institutions to enter into written agreements with U.S. IHEs. Comments are due by August 10, 2020. Additional information is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/06/11/2020-12613/agency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-foreign-institution-reporting-requirements>.
- ED released a FAQ document outlining COVID related grant flexibilities and guidance associated with ED’s non-CARES Act postsecondary grant programs under Title III, IV, V, and VII of the Higher Education Act, such as TRIO Grants and Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) programs. The FAQ is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/ope-covid19-faq.pdf>.
- On June 5, ED published a new FAQ document to address questions for states related to the Maintenance-of-Effort requirements applicable to ED’s CARES Act program funds, including the higher education funding requirements associated with state acceptance of the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Funds. The document is at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/06/CARES-Act-Programs-Maintenance-of-Effort-FAQ.pdf>.

- ED announced a public comment period, open through July 27, 2020, on the burden of the information collection requests related to the HEERF institutional and student funds allocated from the CARES Act. Additional information regarding the public comment call related Institutional Aid Certification and Agreement is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/27/2020-11354/agency-information-collection-activities-proposals-submissions-and-approvals-cares-act-recipients> and the call related to the Student Aid portion Certification and Agreement is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/27/2020-11355/agency-information-collection-activities-proposals-submissions-and-approvals-cares-act-recipients>.
- On May 6, ED announced, through the Federal Student Aid office, the initial reporting instructions for the CARES Act’s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) aid received by institutions of higher education. The guidance states, “The Department will provide instructions for providing the required information to the Secretary in the near future. In the meantime, each HEERF participating institution must post the information listed below on the institution’s primary website.” The information includes the total amount of funds that the institution will receive or has received, the total number of students who have received an Emergency Financial Aid Grant to students, among other information. Details can be found at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/050620HigherEdEmergencyReliefFundRptg>. On May 15, ED posted a short FAQ document specifically for students regarding the student grants from the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/studentfaqs515.pdf>.
- Information on the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund institutional and emergency student aid funding provided by CARES, including a letter from the Secretary, the Certificate of Agreement, a Frequently Asked Questions document, and other information is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.
- On May 19, ED released additional guidance and commonly asked questions on the CARES Act’s Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund that will provide state Governors a pool of funds to provide subgrants to local educational agencies (LEAs), higher education institutions, or education-related entities impacted by COVID-19. Acceptance of GEER Funds mandates certain assurances from Governors, such as a maintenance of effort educational spending requirements, but Governors will have discretion in determining the grantees. The new FAQ document is at <https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/05/FAQs-GEER-Fund.pdf>. More information on the GEER fund is available at <https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/>.
- On May 12, ED’s Office of Civil Rights posted a question and answer document outlining an institution of higher education’s obligations under Federal civil rights laws during the COVID-19 emergency, including details on an institution’s obligations to continue to meet Federal disability laws and investigate sexual harassment complaints during periods of virtual or distance learning. The document can be found at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/20200512-qa-psi-covid-19.pdf>.
- On April 30, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos [released](#) details on the CARES Act-funded Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEER) Fund’s specific allocations for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), other designated Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), such as Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), and low-resourced institutions serving over 50 percent needy students. ED also announced funds for smaller institutions available through the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) program. These allocations of funding are

on top of the general institutional and student grants funds already announced by ED, but do not have the same requirement to expend at least 50 percent of this new allocation on student grants. Similar to the process for general institutional funds, eligible institutions must sign a Certification and Agreement and apply through grants.gov. Institutions will have until **August 1, 2020** to apply. Details on the new funding allocations, Certification and Agreement documents, and applications procedures are available at

<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.

- On April 27, ED announced two CARES Act grant competitions to support state entities, the \$180 million for the “Rethink K-12 School Models Grant,” to meet needs of State educational agencies (SEAs), and “\$127.5 million for the Reimagining Workforce Preparation Grant (ESF-RWP).” A press release announcing the grants notes, “Reimagining Workforce Preparation Grants are designed to expand short-term postsecondary programs and work-based learning programs in order to get Americans back to work and help small businesses return to being our country’s engines for economic growth.” Information for ESF-RWP is managed by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education (OCTAE). Eligible applicants for the ESF-RWP grants will likely include State economic development or workforce agencies. The Notice Inviting Applications (NIA) notes “that interested parties do not submit their applications until after the publication of the supplemental notice.” More information on the competition, including the NIA, is available at <https://cte.ed.gov/grants/funding-opportunities>.
- On April 22, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos called on wealthy institutions, or those with large endowments, to forgo federal emergency grant support and urged Congress to restrict taxpayer funds from wealthy institutions to make sure no more taxpayer funds go to elite, wealthy institutions. Secretary DeVos’ statement is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-calls-wealthy-institutions-reject-taxpayer-emergency-funds-congress-change-eligibility>.
- ED’s Institute of Education Sciences (IES) has posted a Frequently Asked Questions website for its grantees related to COVID impacts on on-going research at https://ies.ed.gov/Covid_FAQ.asp.
- On April 1, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) proposed new rules on distance learning for higher education. The rules emerged from negotiated rulemaking that reached consensus in 2019. The proposed rules, “Distance Learning and Innovation,” address a wide range of policies including the definitions of “credit hour,” “distance education,” and clarify the requirements around “regular and substantive interaction,” among other changes. ED intends to publish a final regulation prior to Nov. 1, 2020. The press release announcing the distance learning rules is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/coronavirus-public-health-emergency-underscores-need-department-educations-proposed-distance-learning-rules>.
- ED’s Student Privacy Policy Office posted a recorded webinar discussion and related slides on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act’s (FERPA) implications for distance learning at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov>. Additionally, on March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating FERPA and student data privacy requirements as it relates to COVID-19 and possible disclosure of information. Details are available at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions_0.pdf.
- The CARES Act provides student loan borrowers with several benefits. This includes suspending borrowers’ obligation to make payments on their federal Direct Loans through September 2020, suspending interest on the payments and counting the suspended payments towards payment

requirements for forgiveness provisions. Additionally, CARES suspends the garnishment of wages, Social Security, and tax refunds, among other measures, for borrowers in default during this period. ED's Office of Federal Student Aid's website with information for students, borrowers, and parents is available at <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus>.

- On March 20, ED issued a "COVID-19 FAQs" document to accompany the March 5 guidance offering Title IV flexibility. The FAQ document is downloadable at <http://ifap.ed.gov/sites/default/files/attachments/2020-03/COVID-19FAQs.docx>.
- On March 16, Federal Student Aid (FSA) released guidance on how an institution can request a waiver of the community service expenditure requirements under the FWS Program for the 2020–21 Award Year. <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/031620FWSProgCommWaiverRequest202021>.
- On March 17, ED released a webinar and a fact sheet for protecting students' civil rights during COVID-19 response. They are both available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-webinar-fact-sheet-protecting-students-civil-rights-during-covid-19-response>.
- The Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has released a video on ensuring web accessibility for students with disabilities for schools using online learning. It is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCMLk4cES6A&feature=youtu.be>.
- On March 5, ED posted guidance for institutions of higher education related to interruptions of study, outlining increased flexibility for Title IV aid programs. This includes offering broad approval to move students into distance learning without regular approval and waiving accreditor review requirements. There are some limitations on clock-hour required licensure programs. Guidance is viewable at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>.
- The White House Office of Science and Technology launched an online learning resource, Tech for Learners, which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools. The website is available at <https://www.techforlearners.org/>.
- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- On June 25, NIH released [guidance](#) to implement memorandum M-20-26 issued by OMB on June 18, 2020 for grant recipients impacted by COVID-19. The guidance provides an extension on administrative relief provided previously through M-20-17 to continue to charge salaries and benefits to active NIH awards and to allow extensions to single audit submission due dates.
- NIH has created a central site for its current guidance at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters/corona-virus.htm.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - Special Exception to the NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Post-Submission Material Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-123.html>
 - NIH FAQs: COVID-19 Flexibilities for Applicants and Recipients: <https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm>
 - Guidance for NIH-funded Clinical Trials and Human Subjects Studies Affected by COVID-19: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-087.html>

- Guidance for NIH Peer Reviewers: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/files/Coronavirus-update-Guidance-for-Peer-Reviewers.pdf>
- COVID-19 Pandemic Contingency Planning for Animal Care and Use Programs: <https://olaw.nih.gov/covid-19.htm>

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- On July 23, HHS Secretary Alex Azar signed an extension of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) declaration ahead of its July 25 expiration. The national declaration will last another 90 days and extend temporary payment and enforcement flexibilities impacting healthcare providers. The formal declaration can be found here: <https://www.phe.gov/emergency/news/healthactions/phe/Pages/covid19-23June2020.aspx>.
- HHS announced a new program to coordinate feedback from federal officials, academia, and the private sector regarding COVID-19 testing and diagnostics through the National Testing Implementation Forum. The Forum will deliberate on testing supply chain issues across commercial, academic, and health sectors. The goal of the Forum will be to increase public health laboratory capacity, implement a national COVID-19 surveillance strategy, and streamline communications for efficient data sharing and reporting. The Forum is not a formal federal advisory committee but will be led by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health and include rotating membership from federal health agencies and other stakeholders. The full announcement is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/21/hhs-announces-national-covid-19-testing-implementation-forum.html>.
- HHS has allocated approximately \$114 billion of \$175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Details are available at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html>. Funding has been allocated as follows:
 - HHS allocated an additional \$3 billion to certain acute care facilities that were not previously eligible for funding under the safety net hospitals allocation. HHS additionally allocated \$1 billion to suburban hospitals that were not eligible for the rural hospital allocation but serve a certain threshold of rural patients. Additional information can be found at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/07/10/hhs-announces-over-4-billion-in-additional-relief-payments-to-providers-impacted-by-coronavirus-pandemic.html>.
 - HHS updated its COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund FAQs document. The updated FAQs include more details on how to calculate “revenue and lost revenues” (page 7), as well as more information on the duration of terms and conditions (page 9). The updated FAQs can be found at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/provider-relief-fund-general-distribution-faqs.pdf>
 - HHS announced two webcasts to learn more about the application process for the expected \$15 billion for eligible Medicaid and CHIP providers through the HHS Provider Relief Fund. To register for the June 23 webcast please visit https://webex.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1334670&tp_key=e1fef78f9b%20. To register for the June 25 webcast please visit https://webex.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei=1334682&tp_key=9dd6d30493.
 - HHS announced it will award approximately \$15 billion to Medicaid and CHIP providers who were not eligible for funding under the \$50 billion general allocation (see below). Providers must have billed their state Medicaid/CHIP programs or Medicaid managed

care plans between January 1, 2018 and May 31, 2020 to be eligible for this funding. Eligible providers must submit revenue information to HHS through the provider portal to receive payments of at least 2 percent of their reported gross revenues from patient care. Additional information can be found at

<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/09/hhs-announces-enhanced-provider-portal-relief-fund-payments-for-safety-net-hospitals-medicare-chip-providers.html>.

- HHS announced it will award \$10 billion to safety-net hospitals. Eligible hospitals must have: a Medicare Disproportionate Payment Percentage (DPP) of 20.2 percent or more; average uncompensated care of at least \$25,000 per bed; and profitability of three percent or less, as reported to CMS. Eligible hospitals will receive payments of between \$5 million and \$50 million. Additional information can be found at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/09/hhs-announces-enhanced-provider-portal-relief-fund-payments-for-safety-net-hospitals-medicare-chip-providers.html>.
 - HHS announced it will award \$12 billion to hospitals in COVID-19 “hot spots,” based on capacity and the number of COVID-19 cases. HHS plans to allocate an additional \$10 billion for this purpose. To be considered for this additional funding, hospitals must submit updated information on COVID-19 admissions and capacity to HHS by 9:00PM EDT June 15, 2020. Additional information can be found at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/06/09/hhs-announces-enhanced-provider-portal-relief-fund-payments-for-safety-net-hospitals-medicare-chip-providers.html>.
 - \$50 billion in relief funding to hospitals and healthcare providers to help mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including lost revenue from cancelled elective procedures.
 - \$30 billion was automatically distributed to providers based on their share of Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursements in 2019.
 - \$20 billion will be distributed to Medicare providers and facilities based on their share of 2018 net patient revenue. Some providers will automatically be sent payments based on submitted revenue data in Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) cost reports. All providers must submit revenue information to HHS to receive funding or verify accuracy of advance payments. The portal is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html>.
 - \$10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
 - \$4.8 billion was automatically distributed to skilled nursing facilities with more than six beds. Each eligible facility received \$50,000, plus an additional \$2,500 per bed.
 - \$400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
 - An unspecified amount to reimburse providers at Medicare rates for providing treatment and care to uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4. Additional information on registration and reimbursement is available at [coviduninsuredclaim.hrsa.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim).
 - HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining funding will be used to provide separate funding for dentists. However, no further details have been announced.
 - Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated.
- HHS has posted guidance on required data elements pertaining to COVID-19 testing. When submitting data to the CDC, labs must now include the type of test, patient zip code, and

demographic information (race, ethnicity, age, sex). More information can be found at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-laboratory-data-reporting-guidance.pdf>

- HHS released its “COVID-19 Strategic Testing Plan” to Congress. The report, which was released as part of the requirements set by the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*, notes that the amount of testing that can be accomplished depends on various factors in each state. Additionally, the report claims the nation will be capable of performing 40-50 million tests per month by September. States are required to submit a testing plan for the remainder of 2020 on June 15.

Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- ACL announced an upcoming webinar titled “Successfully Engaging Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities via Technology: Strategies and Best Practices.” The webinar will be held on July 9 at 1:00 PM ET and addresses “marketing/outreach, barriers to virtual participation, strategies for holding interactive and inclusive conversations, and more.” For more information and to register for the webinar please visit <https://acl.gov/news-and-events/announcements/webinar-79-successfully-engaging-older-adults-and-adults-disabilities>. The webinar will be recorded and posted on the agency’s COVID-19 Resources website <https://acl.gov/COVID-19>.
- ACL released new guidance for grantees, regarding the Centers for Independent Living CARES Act Annual Program Report Instructions and Instrument. The “FAQ: COVID-19 Response Program Reporting Guidance for OAA Title III Programs Older Americans Act – State Program Report (SPR)” document was also recently updated. More information on guidance for ACL grantees can be viewed on the agency’s COVID-19 Resources website <https://acl.gov/COVID-19>.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS released new recommendations providing guidance to health systems and patients, as the Trump Administration encourages healthcare providers and facilities to start re-opening. More details can be viewed here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-what-patients-should-know-about-seeking-health-care.pdf>.
- CMS issued another round of regulatory waivers and rule changes. The waivers and rule changes focus on: expanding the healthcare workforce through new flexibilities; increasing hospital and health system capacity to serve COVID-19 patients under the CMS Hospitals Without Walls Initiative; increasing access to telehealth services for Medicare patients; expanding at-home and community-based testing to minimize transmission of the virus; and reducing some administrative burdens for providers during the pandemic. More details can be viewed in the CMS fact sheet: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has suspended its Advance Payment program to Part B suppliers and is reevaluating its Accelerated Payments program to Part A providers, including hospitals. CMS will no longer accept Advance Payment program applications and is reevaluating amounts paid to Part A providers under new and pending applications to the Accelerated Payments program: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

- CMS has released an updated summary of blanket waivers and flexibilities for healthcare providers: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/summary-covid-19-emergency-declaration-waivers.pdf>.
- CMS and the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) have released a toolkit to help navigate healthcare workforce challenges. The toolkit includes resources and best practices for healthcare workforce decision-making at the state, local, and provider level: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-launches-new-toolkit-help-states-navigate-covid-19-health-workforce-challenges>.
- CMS has released updated recommendations for health facilities in areas with low and stable incidences of COVID-19 to resume non-emergency and elective procedures. Health facilities must be in locations that meet the “Phase 1” gating criteria outlined in the Trump Administration’s *Guidelines for Opening Up America Again* and must adhere to state and local guidelines and restrictions. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-flexibility-reopen-essential-non-covid-services.pdf>.
 - Current guidance on delay of adult elective and non-essential procedures for providers not meeting the above requirements is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.pdf>.
- CMS increased the payment amount to \$100 for certain COVID-19 lab tests using high-throughput technologies for rapid diagnosis: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-increases-medicare-payment-high-production-coronavirus-lab-tests-0>.
- CMS sent a letter on behalf of Vice President Mike Pence to the nation’s hospitals to request the reporting of certain data. The letter is available here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/32920-hospital-letter-vice-president-pence.pdf>.
- CMS has released a series of FAQs on flexibilities, exemptions, waivers, and other changes regarding availability and use of [telehealth services](#), coverage of [prescription drugs](#), the [Federal Medical Assistance Percentage \(FMAP\) increase](#), Medicare [Provider Enrollment](#), and enforcing [Open Payments deadlines](#).
 - CMS has released an updated video FAQ on coverage and payment for telehealth services: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdb9NKtybzo&feature=youtu.be>. A list of covered services is linked here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>. Clinicians can bill for dates of service beginning on March 6, 2020.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA issued guidance to help facilitate the development of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines. The guidance provides recommendations for those developing COVID-19 vaccines for the purpose of licensure and focuses on the data needed to facilitate the manufacturing, clinical development, and approval of a COVID-19 vaccine. Additionally, the FDA guidance encourages the inclusion of diverse populations in all phases of clinical development. The guidance “Development and Licensure of Vaccines to Prevent COVID-19” is available at <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/development-and-licensure-vaccines-prevent-covid-19>.

- The FDA issued emergency authorization around the sterilization of N95 respirators in hospital settings: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-issues-second-emergency-use-authorization-decontaminate-n95>. FDA previously issued guidance clarifying approved uses of face masks, N95 respirators, surgical masks, and related products: <https://www.fda.gov/media/136449/download>.
- The FDA issued guidance offering flexibilities to grantees on salaries, travel, conference registration fees, FDA-supported meetings, post-award financial reporting, and closeout that may have been impacted by COVID-19. Specific details on the flexibilities offered are available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-FD-20-019.html>.
- The FDA issued guidance aimed at expanding the availability of ventilators, anesthesia gas machines, and other respiratory devices by increasing flexibility for manufacturers and healthcare facilities. Additional information, including examples where this guidance would apply, is available at <https://www.fda.gov/media/136318/download>.
- The FDA released guidance on clinical trials and flexibility to modify certain protocols regarding COVID-19 testing. The guidance is available at <https://www.fda.gov/media/136238/download>.
- The FDA released guidance for industry, investigators, and institutional review boards on the conduct of clinical trials of medical products during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/fda-guidance-conduct-clinical-trials-medical-products-during-covid-19-pandemic>.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

CDC has released guidance on several topics related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including information on testing, clinical care, and infection control, as well as guidance for specific communities including institutes of higher education. The table below outlines this guidance. Consolidated and updated guidance on testing for SARS-CoV-2, based on current knowledge of COVID-19, is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>.

Topic	Date Released or Updated	Link
<i>Institutes of Higher Education:</i>		
Testing	6/30/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/ihe-testing.html
Reopening	5/30/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
For Administrators	3/18/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html
International travel and study abroad	3/9/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html
<i>Health care settings:</i>		
Non-COVID health care	6/30/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html

Dental settings	6/17/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html
Infection prevention and control	5/22/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html
Telehealth	6/10/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/telehealth.html
Mass gatherings and community events	6/12/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/considerations-for-events-gatherings.html
Mental health and coping	6/12/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/managing-stress-anxiety.html
Communities of faith	5/23/2020	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/faith-based.html

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has issued a notice to inform grantees of the agency’s intention to provide short-term administrative flexibilities for management of AHRQ grants. Like other federal agencies, AHRQ is adopting the administrative relief provisions outlined by OMB in memorandum M-20-17. These include extension of deadlines, no cost extensions, and allowability of salaries, among others. Full details are available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-010.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter.

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- HRSA has announced new flexibilities for 340B entities. HRSA stated on its COVID-19 resource page: “HRSA understands that many 340B stakeholders are concerned about the evolving impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The circumstances surrounding this public health emergency may warrant additional flexibilities, especially to affected 340B covered entities.” Flexibilities include use of abbreviated patient records for eligibility determination and guidance for volunteer care providers. Additional details can be found at <https://www.hrsa.gov/opa/COVID-19-resources>.
- HRSA has announced that it is waiving interest and extending the opportunity for administrative forbearance on health professions student loan and nurse faculty loan programs through September 30, 2020. Additional updates and information can be found at <https://bhw.hrsa.gov/loans-scholarships/coronavirus>.
- HRSA has announced new guidance for healthcare providers and facilities on filing reimbursement claims for COVID-19 care provided to uninsured patients. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will reimburse healthcare providers at Medicare rates for testing uninsured patients for COVID-19 and treating uninsured patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis. Healthcare providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or treated uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4 can request claims reimbursement. The sign-up period begins on April 27 and HRSA will begin accepting claims on May 6. Additional information and updates can be found at <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim>.

- HRSA has announced it will implement all 13 administrative flexibilities for grant recipients outlined in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [memo](#) from March 19. The flexibilities are further explained in an FAQ released by the agency, available at <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage-your-grant/COVID-19-frequently-asked-questions>.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- SAMHSA released an FAQ for current grantees on award management flexibilities during the COVID-19 epidemic, including reporting flexibilities, no cost extensions, budget modifications, and more: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-faqs-samhsa-discretionary-grant-recipients.pdf>.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI released an FAQ detailing flexibilities and policies regarding applications and award management during the COVID-19 epidemic: <https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/applicant-and-awardee-faqs-related-covid-19>.

Administration for Children and Families

- The Office of Head Start (OHS) within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released guidance: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-19-01> on additional flexibilities that can be applied to Head Start programs impacted by COVID-19. The guidance encourages grantees near “impacted areas” to assess how services and resources can be shared to assist others affected by an emergency or disaster. The guidance also states that OHS will “rely on the judgement of governing bodies and program administrators at the community level to determine the most expeditious steps necessary to resume services.” Grantees are encouraged to reach out to their Regional Office, especially if program operations are being impacted by COVID-19. More information on programmatic changes can also be found on OHS’ new Coronavirus Prevention and Response website: <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/physical-health/article/coronavirus-prevention-response>.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- On July 20, NSF issued “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Relating to NSF’s Implementation of OMB Memorandum M-20-26 for NSF Proposers and Awardees.” The FAQs are available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19faqs_m2026proposerandawardee.pdf.
- On June 25, NSF issued new guidance in response to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-20-261 “Extension of Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations.” The guidance extends administrative relief regarding the allowability of salaries and other project activities and single audit submission. The NSF guidance states, “In order to support charges against NSF awards, recipients are reminded of their responsibility to maintain appropriate records and documentation to support the charges in accordance with institutional policies and procedures.” NSF has collaborated with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop consistent implementation of the OMB memo that

NIH will issue separately. The NSF statement is available at

https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfomb2026implementation.pdf.

- On June 23, NSF announced it would extend the deadline for the Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) to Tuesday, August 11, 2020. The [announcement](#) states that “eligibility requirements specified in the solicitation remain unchanged, and proposers must meet all of the eligibility requirements as of the original deadline of July 27, 2020.” NSF strongly encourages proposals be submitted on or before the original July 27 deadline to ensure that the review process can be completed on schedule.
- On June 17, NSF updated [its chart of deadline extensions](#) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include both solicitations and Dear Colleague Letter extensions. If a program is not included in this chart, PIs should assume the deadline has not changed, but can contact the program director with any individual concerns or issues.
- On June 9, NSF issued a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) titled “IUCRC Program Policy Flexibility in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Situation.” The DCL offers guidance for IUCRCs with active NSF grants on how to manage challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, especially related to industry membership commitments. The DCL (available [here](#)) will be updated as needed, and the current guidance is applicable through December 31, 2020.
- The 2020 NSF [Proposal and Award Policy and Procedures Guide](#) will go into effect as planned on June 1. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NSF is delaying until October 1 implementation of the new requirement to use NSF-approved formats for the [biographical sketch](#) and [current and pending support](#) sections of proposals. Other [new requirements and changes](#) will continue to go into effect June 1.
- NSF Virtual Office Hours: Certain NSF Directorates and Divisions have held or are holding office hours for their research community. Examples and additional information below:
 - The Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) within the Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) will hold office hours the second Monday of each month, 1-2 pm EST. More information [here](#).
 - The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences within BIO will hold office hours the second Wednesday of the month. More information [here](#).
 - Slides from the early-April BIO-wide office hours are available [here](#).
 - The Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) held virtual office hours in early April. More information, including slides is available [here](#).
 - A presentation on the NSF response to coronavirus from the Directorate for Engineering Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7 is available [here](#).
- NSF is regularly updating their coronavirus website with FAQs. It is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- The DOE Office of Science recently clarified grant and other administrative/financial flexibilities it is providing during COVID-19, which are consistent with guidance from OMB Memo M-20-26 on Administrative Relief issued on June 18:
 - Investigators, staff, and students may continue to charge salaries and benefits to Office of Science awards if the recipient institution permits salaries to continue to be paid in the event of emergencies or disasters.

- The Office of Science is continuing to extend deadlines for proposals, pre-proposals, letters of intent, and progress reports.
- The Office of Science is committed to awarding no-cost extensions promptly.
- Supplemental requests continue to be considered, subject to availability of funds.
- The only flexibility that has been curtailed is that the recovery of costs not normally chargeable to awards, such as cancelled events and travel, are no longer allowable costs and will not be reimbursed.
- DOE has delayed the [2020 Solar Decathlon Build Challenge](#) due to the coronavirus. The challenge was set to take place in June 2020 and is now delayed to April 16-18, 2021. The competition will no longer take place on the National Mall in Washington, DC, but will be moved to DOE's [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) in Golden, Colorado, where it will “coincide with the Solar Decathlon 2021 Design Challenge competition.” The Solar Decathlon is a collegiate competition that challenges student teams to “design and build highly efficient and innovative buildings powered by renewable energy.” Read more [here](#).
- ARPA-E offered additional guidance for awardees to continue ongoing projects as well as provide administrative/financial relief for award recipients. The guidance recognizes the need for flexibility for researchers given limited access to facilities, and disrupted supply chains as a result of the COVID crisis. ARPA-E specifically details:
 - Flexibility with SAM registration;
 - Flexibility with application deadlines;
 - No-cost extensions;
 - Continuation requests;
 - Allowability of salaries and other project activities;
 - Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards;
 - Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
 - Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
 - Extension of closeout reports; and
 - Extension of single audit submissions.
- DOE's current guidance for grantees and grant applicants is available at <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/03/f72/doe-sc-accommodating-interruptions-to-applicants-awardees-due-to-covid-19.pdf>.
- DOE's COVID-19 website is at <https://www.energy.gov/coronavirus-hub>.
- Information on DOE's resources supporting coronavirus research is available at <https://science.osti.gov/DOE-Resources-Supporting-Coronavirus-Research>.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- On July 24, ICE released a Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) [update](#) “COVID-19: Update on Fall 2020 Guidance.” The update states that students on F and M visas, and institutions should abide by the [guidance](#) released in March 2020. The guidance states, however, that the “March 2020 guidance applies to nonimmigrant students who were actively enrolled at a U.S. school on March 9, 2020.” F and M students in new or initial status after March 9, 2020, will not be able to enter the United States to enroll in an institution for the fall term to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online. Institutions should not issue a Form I-20, “Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status,” for a student in new or initial status who is outside of the U.S. and plans to take classes at an institution fully online.

The guidance also states that SEVP will not issue a temporary final rule impacting F and M students for the fall school term. ICE's "Clarifying Questions for Fall 2020 Based On March 9 Spring Guidance Broadcast" is available at

<https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/fall2020faq.pdf>.

- The DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) updated its COVID-19 FAQ document on July 6 to include brief information on the new Fall 2020 guidance related to exemptions for nonimmigrant students. The updated FAQ is available at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf>.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updated a notice that the agency will extend flexibility for 60 calendar days for responses to Requests for Evidence, Notices of Intent to Deny, and other documents if the issuance date is between March 1 and September 11, 2020. Further details are available at <https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests-0>.
- The USCIS has announced that it is preparing some domestic offices to reopen and resume non-emergency public services on or after June 4. More information is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-preparing-resume-public-services-june-4>.
- The DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) released an advisory to raise awareness of the threat to COVID-19-related research, particularly cybersecurity threats from the People's Republic of China (PRC). The FBI is investigating the targeting and compromise of U.S. organizations conducting COVID-19-related research by cyber actors affiliated with the PRC and non-traditional collectors. "These actors have been observed attempting to identify and illicitly obtain valuable intellectual property (IP) and public health data related to vaccines, treatments, and testing from networks and personnel affiliated with COVID-19-related research," according to the joint announcement. Both agencies urge research organizations to implement dedicated cybersecurity and insider threat practices to protect COVID-19-related material. More information and recommended actions for COVID-19 researchers and organizations is available at <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/fbi-cisa-psa-prc-targeting-covid-19-research-organizations>.
- DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) recently released an expanded list of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During the COVID-19 Response. The list is advisory and highlights areas where CISA believes employees should go into work despite stay-at-home orders. The guidance has been expanded from a March 28 edition and "clarifies and expands critical infrastructure workers in several categories and provides additional information as considerations for both government and business." Among the changes from previous iterations, the new guidance clarifies "worker categories related to health care, public and environmental health, emergency medical services, and aligning related job functions." Several states have fully adopted previous iterations of the CISA guidance. The updated list can be found at <https://www.cisa.gov/news/2020/04/17/cisa-releases-version-30-guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workers-during>.
- USCIS maintains information about their response to COVID-19 on their website at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19>. Notable announcements include:
 - USCIS affirms it has flexibility to excuse a nonimmigrant's failure to file an extension of stay (EOS) or change of status (COS) application if the delay was due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on their special situations page, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Nonetheless, USCIS encourages all nonimmigrants to file timely EOS and COS applications and petitions to mitigate the immigration consequences of COVID-19, which they continue to accept and process.

- Petitioners should expect a delay in data entry and receipt notice generation for fiscal year (FY) 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions until at least May 1, 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Nonetheless, the specified filing window on registration selection notices will not change. For more information, see <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-electronic-registration-process>.
- USCIS announced measures to assist applicants and petitioners who are responding to certain Requests for Evidence (RFE), Notices of Intent to Deny (NOID), Notices of Intent to Revoke (NOIR), and Notices of Intent to Terminate (NOIT). For an RFE, NOID, NOIR, or NOIT with an issuance date listed on the request, notice or decision between March 1, 2020 and May 1, 2020, USCIS will consider any response received within 60 calendar days of the response due date before any action is taken.
- USCIS has suspended in-person appointments due to COVID-19. Appointments at USCIS domestic field offices will automatically be rescheduled once normal operations resume. Individuals with appointments with a Field Office must reschedule through the [USCIS Contact Center](#).
- The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) recently announced efforts to develop a COVID-19 Master Question List (MQL) with information on the status of current news and relevant research related to the COVID-19 outbreak, including critical gaps in knowledge of importance to first responders. These efforts are being led by S&T's new Probabilistic Analysis of National Threats, Hazards and Risks (PANTHR) Program and Hazard Awareness & Characterization Technology Center. In addition to identifying gaps in knowledge, these teams will also look to develop research solutions in some cases. Although a majority of this research will likely be conducted internally at DHS and through existing partners, there is a good chance MQL topics could be included in future DHS S&T funding opportunities. More information can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/blog/2020/03/18/st-mobilizes-key-data-inform-covid-19-response>
- International students on F or M visas technically have restrictions on the number of courses they can take remotely/via distance education. DHS, through Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), issued flexibility guidance on March 9 for how to handle procedural adaptations for F and M nonimmigrant students. Schools must provide SEVP notice of the operational and procedural changes within 10 business days of the date of the decision. The guidance note is at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2003-01.pdf>.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The National Security Agency (NSA) issued a joint advisory with the United Kingdom and Canadian security centers on recent Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) of the Russian hacker group APT28's (also known as "the Dukes" or "Cozy Bear") activities to target COVID-19 vaccine developers. The report details specific APT28 techniques used in attempts to steal information or intellectual property related to COVID-19 vaccine development, including initial infection vectors, persistent access, malware, and certificate usage. More information can be found in the full report at https://media.defense.gov/2020/Jul/16/2002457639/-1/-1/0/NCSC_APT29_ADVISORY-QUAD-OFFICIAL-20200709-1810.PDF.

- The Basic Research Office published a statement on its website noting that DOD is committed to working with awardees to implement the flexibilities from the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Memorandum M-20-26, "Extension of Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations." DOD continues to recommend that grantees and proposers engage with their program officers, as each agency has different authorities and may implement these flexibilities differently. The statement can be found at <https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Information-for-Research-Proposers-and-Awardees/>.
- DOD has released its plan for reopening and returning to normal operations, titled "Pentagon Reservation Plan for Resilience and 'Aligning with National Guidelines for Opening Up America Again.'" The plan includes five phases, with phases one through three (Restricted, Moderate, and Normal) aligning with previously released guidance from OPM and OMB. Given the wide geographic distribution of DOD offices and facilities, decisions for reopening will also be made in concert with Governors and mayors and be informed by State and local policies. Of relevance to Lewis-Burke clients, these developments will impact when and how DOD officials start taking in-person meetings at installations around the country such as the Air Force Research Laboratory. The plan can be found at <https://media.defense.gov/2020/May/26/2002305810/-1/-1/1/PENTAGON-RESERVATION-PLAN-FOR-RESILIENCE-AND-ALIGNING-WITH-NATIONAL-GUIDELINES-FOR-OPENING-UP-AMERICA-AGAIN.PDF>.
- President Trump announced on May 15 that [Army Gen. Gustave Perna](#), commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, will serve as chief operating officer of "Operation Warp Speed," an effort to catalyze the development, production, and distribution of a Coronavirus vaccine by the end of the year. The Department of Defense (DOD) will be partnering with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), among [other agencies](#), to leverage its distribution and research capabilities in the vaccine process. President Trump reported the operation is considering 14 vaccine candidates and likened the effort to the Manhattan project during WWII. Moncef Slaoui, former head of vaccines at GlaxoSmithKline, will also serve on the leadership team as chief scientist. Additional DOD-wide representation identified as key subject matter experts for the operation include leaders from the Defense Health Agency (DHA), Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Defense (CBRN), and the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Acquisition Enablers. More about the operation can be found at <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/15/trump-coronavirus-vaccine-development-team-260678>.
 - DOD's Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), announced a \$138 million contract with ApiJect Systems America to produce prefilled syringes in preparation for a COVID-19 vaccine. The effort, known as "Project Jumpstart," will seek to develop a domestic supply chain to manufacture 100 million prefilled syringes by the end 2020 and 500 million syringes in 2021. More information can be found at <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2184808/dod-awards-138-million-contract-enabling-prefilled-syringes-for-future-covid-19/>.
- The Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness released a supplemental memo on April 13 protecting personnel in DOD workplaces during COVID-19 response. The guidance, which shares updated CDC guidance, is available at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Apr/13/2002280147/-1/-1/1/FORCE-HEALTH-PROTECTION-GUIDANCE-SUPPLEMENT-8.PDF?source=GovDelivery>.

- The Defense Pricing and Contracting office issued a memo on April 9 describing procedures to reimburse defense contractors for providing paid leave to employees who can't work during the pandemic mitigation period because they are unable to telework or access their government work sites. This memo is the 17th instruction issued by the DOD office related to COVID-19 and the Pentagon said it is working with industry groups to identify cost, schedule, and performance impacts outside contractors' control. The memo implements Section 3610 of the CARES Act to allow agencies to reimburse contractors for paid leave and sick leave provided to employees or subcontractors to maintain a "ready state" during the national emergency. The memo is available at https://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/policy/policyvault/Implementation_Guidance_CARES_3610_DPC.pdf.
- The Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) issued a memorandum on April 3 providing guidance to the Intelligence Community (IC) on how to leverage flexibilities in the CARES Act to help their contractor employees continue to work and be compensated even if they are unable to access their government work sites. Intended to help contractors stay financially viable, maintain long-term health of the industrial base, and retain skilled and cleared contractors, the ODNI guidance implements provisions in Section 3610 of the CARES Act that authorize agencies to modify contracts when contract employees are restricted from work due to COVID-19-related health and safety concerns and encourages them to enable the maximum number of contractor personnel to convert to staying home in a "ready state" during the national emergency. ODNI said in the memo that it supports intelligence agency decisions to slip acquisition and development milestones, even if already required by approved documentation, if it is intended to limit staffing during the critical period for pandemic mitigation of March 27 through September 30, 2020. The memorandum can be found on the Lewis-Burke Associates website at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/odni_section_3610_guidance_memo.pdf.
- Secretary of Defense Mark Esper issued guidance April 5 requiring, to the extent practical, the use of [cloth face coverings](#) for military Service members, DOD civilian employees, their family members, DOD contractors, and all other individuals on DOD property, installations, and facilities to reduce further risks of spread and safeguard national security capabilities. The memorandum encourages adherence to CDC guidelines that cloth face coverings are to be worn in public settings where social distancing practices are difficult to maintain. This guidance is to take effect immediately as critical medical personal protective equipment (PPE), such as N95 respirators, are to be reserved for appropriate personnel. Local commanders and supervisors may issue exceptions to the guidance. The latest DOD policies in combating COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
- The Air Force Office of Scientific Research ([AFOSR](#)) and the Office of Naval Research ([ONR](#)) have now released additional guidance beyond the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) memo for prospective and current researchers regarding impacts to research from the COVID-19 pandemic. Both offices have allowed for no-cost extensions for existing grants active as of March 31, 2020. Both research labs still recommend faculty contact their program officers regarding COVID-19 impacts to their research.
- Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Will Roper [announced](#) the formation of a new acquisition task force to support the Air Force's industrial

base during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The Air Force is determined to ensure that the Department of the Air Force and its industrial base stay resilient and that acquisition programs are still able to move forward during and after the crisis. The Air Force will focus on leveraging small businesses and startups to provide COVID-19 response, and released a new solicitation aimed at harnessing small businesses' capabilities March 30. This will include four lines of effort:

- **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
 - **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
 - **Recovery:** What actions does the Air Force need to take after the crisis, to ensure programs keep on track and that the Air Force continues critical operations?
 - **Being Rapid for Small Businesses:** Led by AFVentures, this effort will ensure that the Air Force spends all its funds allocated to support small business contractors.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Army Acquisition Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) Bruce Jette released a memo on March 24 to the defense industrial base stating that the Army will continue to work with DOD and other stakeholders to ensure clear guidance and that contractors have been encouraged to assess and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the defense industrial base. The full memo can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/d4b8fa584e65444cb9b6d43c6e65c09e/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000.
 - The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition (ASN RDA) James (Hondo) Geurts released a memo on March 24 on engaging the research and development industrial base during COVID-19, urging Navy commands to leverage academia, small innovative research companies, large and small businesses, public-private venture companies, and startup companies engaged in research and development (R&D) and science and technology (S&T) to provide "immediate support" for COVID-19. The memo also includes additional actions for the Navy to consider sustaining national R&D during COVID-19 response, including:
 - Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
 - Initiating a Special Notice under the existing long-range Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) seeking submission of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
 - Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
 - Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
 - Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
 - Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefitsThe full memo can be found on Lewis-Burke's website at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/asn-rda_rd_engagement_24mar20.pdf.
 - DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) released a FAQ resource for grant applicants and recipients. The FAQ states that there are currently no plans to modify

existing application deadlines but encourages grant applicants to monitor grants.gov for any changes in due dates. The FAQ can be found at <https://cdmp.army.mil/about/covid-19/default>.

- Shortly following the announcement of the death of a DOD contractor in northern Virginia Saturday of complications from COVID-19, Defense Secretary Mark Esper announced March 23 the Pentagon was raising its status to Health Protection Condition C, which limits the number of access points to the Pentagon and increases the amount of personnel who will telework, and that the Department would evaluate ways to make additional medical facilities and resources available for COVID-19 treatment. Secretary Esper's press briefing can be viewed at <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2122022/esper-briefs-reporters-on-dods-covid-19-response/>.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Director of Contracting released a memo to prospective contractors on March 20 providing guidance on doing business with USACE in COVID-19 response, including small business and subcontracting opportunities. The memo can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/ff5f7b4834a546a3b18717882caed068/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000.
- The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) released on March 19 a FAQ resource for DARPA performers about COVID-19. The FAQ document confirms that DARPA will continue to evaluate proposals (whether already submitted or not yet submitted) at this time. The DARPA FAQ page can be found at <https://www.darpa.mil/news-events/2020-03-19>.
 - DARPA's FAQs encourages performers with research project ideas related to COVID-19 to respond to the Office-wide broad agency announcements (BAAs) for both the Defense Sciences Office (DSO) and Biological Technology Office (BTO), which both have open BAAs that can receive submissions at any time. The DSO and BTO Office-wide BAAs can be found at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/office-wide-broad-agency-announcements>.
- The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (OUSD(A&S)) released a memo that encourages contracting officers to engage with government program managers to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the welfare and safety of the defense workforce and on contract performance. The memo also includes a link to DOD's Emergency Preparedness Guidance that can be found at <https://www.dcpas.osd.mil/OD/EmergencyPreparedness>. The memo can be found at [here](#) or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "COVID-19-LRE."
- Ellen Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)), announced on March 17 that the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA), Aerospace Industries Association, Professional Services Council, the National Association of Manufacturers and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders will form a daily panel to discuss COVID-19 issues with DOD. The goal of the daily panel is "to ensure the security, reliability and resilience of our defense industrial base and our collective effort to execute the National Defense Strategy." The press release on the newly formed panel can be found at <https://www.ndia.org/about/media/press-releases/2020/3/17/panel>.
- The Office of Naval Research (ONR) has clarified its policy for administrative relief on ONR awards as a result of university or non-profit actions taken in response to COVID-19. At this time, ONR is utilizing OMB M-20-11 guidance for assistance awards (i.e. grants) directly supporting continued research or services necessary to carry out the emergency response related to COVID-19. Additionally, ONR is using a "limited statement" from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Basic Research Office for grantees

whose work does not fit the parameters of M-20-11, which is only applicable to awards that support the continued research and services necessary to carry out the emergency response related to COVID-19 during the period formally declared public health emergency. For grants outside those parameters, ONR will continue following current protocols for modifying awards as requested and warranted and will apply the following guidance:

- “Expenditure of award funds for salaries: DoD may only allow grantees to charge salaries and benefits to currently active awards for any work that is performed to meet the project activities, regardless of location where those duties are performed (i.e. telework eligible). Some approved activities may include data analysis, preparation of articles and papers based on the analysis of the research findings, monitoring sub-recipients, direct charged administrative costs. Applicable indirect costs may be charged to all allowed costs.
- Travel - Grantees will follow their organization's travel policy regarding any restrictions for approved travel. Further, DOD offices are encouraged to use alternative ways, such as VTC, to allow participation in any mandatory meetings sponsored by the DoD. “
- The DOD coronavirus response website is available at <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>.

Department of Labor (DOL)

- DOL Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has posted an employer resource, *Guidance for Returning to Work*, at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA4045.pdf>.
- OSHA also issued guidance for manufacturing industry workforce at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA4002.pdf>
- DOL has posted a new webinar on implementation of paid leave requirements in the Wage and Hour division COVID-19 resource website at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>.
- DOL posted a temporary rule for employers related to implementation of the new emergency sick and family leave provisions, which went into effect April 1. Details at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200401>.
- The DOL OSHA has released guidance and resources for employers related to workplace safety and COVID-19 prevention at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>.
- The DOL Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has announced additional guidance for employers on the implementation of the new COVID-19 paid leave requirements at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200326>.
- The WHD of DOL has published guidance, fact sheets, and a Q&A document for employers and employees on implementation of the new COVID-19 paid leave requirements at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200324>.
- DOL, along with Department of Treasury, posted an initial notice on the implementation of the payroll tax credit related to new COVID-19 paid leave, as included in the recently passed, *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. Details at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20200320>.
- On March 12, DOL announced flexibility for states to allow unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to be used in cases “where: (1) An employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work; (2) An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and (3) An individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member. In addition,

federal law does not require an employee to quit in order to receive benefits due to the impact of COVID-19.” Details are available at

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200312-0>.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- The VA made publicly available its COVID-19 Response Plan, which had previously been designated as “For Official Use Only,” meaning it had only been available to personnel within the VA system. In a press release, the VA notes that it has “shifted some outpatient care to telehealth and some elective and non-emergent procedures have been postponed. It also notes that “VA will begin to implement two zones within all inpatient units: one for dedicated staff and space to care for COVID-19 patients; the second will be a zone for all other care. These overall changes are aimed at minimizing the risk of infection as VA’s medical professionals make decisions based on what’s appropriate for the given environment and situation.” The full plan is available here: https://www.va.gov/opa/docs/VHA_COVID_19_03232020_vF_1.pdf.
- With the Senate and House passage of [S. 3503](#), legislation to ensure the continuation of GI Bill benefits use as institutions convert veterans to fully online programming, the VA has announced to School Certifying Officials the agency will continue to make benefit payments with online conversions and students will continue to receive the same monthly housing allowance payments through January 2021 or until the school resumes normal in-person operations. The VA will be hosting upcoming webinars and posting additional information at <https://www.va.gov/school-administrators/>.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- On March 31, NASA published two documents with additional information on the Science Mission Directorate’s response to the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic:
 - “SMD FAQ on Grants and Research during the COVID-19 Epidemic” - link: <https://science.nasa.gov/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/NASACOVDFQAQ033120.pdf>.
 - “COVID-19 and Federal Financial Assistance” - link: <https://science.nasa.gov/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/COVID-19%20and%20Federal%20Financial%20Assistance.pdf>
- Updates to SMD guidance or additional information will be announced at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/library-and-useful-links>.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- The NEH Office of Digital Humanities is offering virtual outreach to university instructors to assist in the switch to online learning. Details are available at <https://www.neh.gov/blog/odh-covid-response-virtual-visits>.
- NEH has provided an FAQ “Funding for NEH Applicants and Grantees Impacted by the Coronavirus,” which addresses questions related to the CARES Act and grantee impacts from COVID-19. The FAQ is available at https://www.neh.gov/COVID19_FAQs.
- NEH’s guidance in response to COVID-19 is at <https://www.neh.gov/news/information-neh-and-covid-19>.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- NEA has announced that its “Challenge America” grant application deadline has been cancelled to allow the “Endowment to prepare for distribution of funding from CARES Act.” NEA states that “Challenge America applicants should apply for Grants for Arts Projects with a deadline of July 9, 2020. For more information contact challengeamerica@arts.gov.”
- NEA’s FAQ’s in response to COVID-19, which has been updated with additional information for grantees, is at <https://www.arts.gov/COVID-19-FAQs>.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- IMLS hosted a second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) webinar on June 9 that focused on the loan forgiveness process for museum and library communities. The webinar can be found at <https://www.imls.gov/webinars/sba-paycheck-protection-program-loan-forgiveness-issues-museums-and-libraries>.
- IMLS hosted a Small Business Administration (SBA) webinar on May 12 to discuss Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) issues most relevant to museums and libraries. The on-demand webinar “addresses PPP issues pertaining to eligibility, payroll costs, and forgiveness calculations, as well as questions concerning unique business organizational structures.” The webinar can be found at <https://www.imls.gov/webinars/sba-paycheck-protection-program-issues-museums-and-libraries>.
- IMLS released a FAQ resource in response to COVID-19 for grant applicants and awardees. The IMLS FAQ page can be found at <https://www.imls.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-updates#grantees>. To date, IMLS has changed the application deadlines for five open library services grant programs; the new deadlines can be found in the FAQ or at <https://www.imls.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-imls-library-services-grants>.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- USAID’s Bureau for Management Office of Acquisition and Assistance established a webpage with resources for implementation partners to respond to COVID-19. The page can be accessed at <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners>. Noteworthy publications include:
 - On June 19, USAID issued updated guidance on administrative relief for recipients of Federal financial assistance directly impacted by COVID-19 in response to the latest guidance from OMB. The new “[Memorandum Extending COVID-19 Flexibilities Pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-26](#),” replaces the previous USAID guidance and extends the two OMB issued flexibilities. All other flexibilities included in the USAID memo issued on [May 8](#), 2020 may still be provided on a case by case basis.
 - Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 implementing partner guidance, available at <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/faqs>.
 - Interim guidance regarding the use of USAID funds to procure essential medical supplies necessary for implementing partners to proceed with critical programs, available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aZqJy_3x2ArWYYUINZwhK_6hyVcEflv/view and related frequently asked questions https://drive.google.com/file/d/14BEJPKl4P7SGlq7v0zWvRUPp_ElglrJO/view.

Department of State (DOS)

- On July 16, the State Department released an announcement on National Interest Exception (NIE) for travelers from the Schengen Area, UK, and Ireland. Of note, it states that “Students traveling from the Schengen Area, the UK, and Ireland with valid F-1 and M-1 visas, do not need to seek a national interest exception to travel.” The announcement also declares that DOS will continue to offer NIEs for those addressing the public health response to COVID-19 and national security. Details at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/News/visas-news/national-interest-exceptions-from-certain-travelers-from-the-schengen-area-uk-and-ireland.html>.
- On July 13, the Department announced that consular services will resume in stages to reflect the evolving global conditions and that U.S. states have begun to re-open. Since the resumption of consular services will occur on a post-by-post basis, the most reliable source of information regarding consular services offered and the timeline for those services will continue to be each embassy and consulate website.
 - An update on U.S. passport operations, including frequently asked questions, is available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/passport-covid-19.html>.
 - The latest information on the operational status of each embassy and consulate, by country, is available at <https://www.usembassy.gov/>.
- The level 4 travel advisory remains in effect. The guidance advises all U.S. citizens to avoid international travel and instructs all Americans abroad to either return to the United States or prepare to shelter in place since many countries have closed borders and/or cancelled or restricted international travel. More information is available <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>.
 - American overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- The State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) has temporarily paused all ECA-funded programs. Details at <https://www.state.gov/temporary-pause-of-international-exchange-programs-due-to-covid-19/>.

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- The DOJ Office of Justice Programs (OJP), which includes several extramural funding offices, including the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced a two-week extension on submission deadlines scheduled before April 1. OJP also offered guidance for solicitations that require “executed agreements,” or signed notices from decision-making authorities with research entities that certify their support for data collection as part of a research activity. These agreements are especially important to NIJ grants. Under the new guidance, OJP strongly encourages signed agreements where they can be obtained but note that they will not be

required in forthcoming applications. Applicants selected for awards will have to obtain signed agreements by January 1, 2021 and funds will be withheld until such agreements can be submitted. Additional information is available at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/current>.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

- SBA is providing low-interest disaster recovery loans for businesses and organizations directly impacted by COVID-19. SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans offer up to \$2 million in assistance for a small business with long-term repayment plans. States are required to request assistance from SBA for businesses to be eligible for these loans. On March 17, SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza released revised guidance that greatly streamlines this process and allows loan designation for entire states instead of targeted areas. This information is important to universities that provide consultation to local startups and other small businesses. Some non-profits and private universities are also eligible for some disaster loan programs. The press release on new SBA guidance for Economic Injury Disaster Loans is at <https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-newsroom/press-releases-media-advisories/sba-updates-criteria-states-requesting-disaster-assistance-loans-small-businesses-impacted>. Additional information on the loan programs impacted by COVID-19 can be found at <https://www.sba.gov/disaster-assistance/coronavirus-covid-19>.

US Census Bureau

- US Census Bureau guidance on counting college students is available at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/modifying-2020-operations-for-counting-college-students.html>.
- Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham sent a letter to university presidents the week of June 15 requesting "assistance in ensuring a complete and accurate count of the off-campus students enrolled at your school" and noting that local Census Bureau staff would be reaching out to institutions "starting June 16 to discuss the collection of basic information about students who live off-campus, including local address information." The Census press release explains that this information "allows the Census Bureau to count the students where they would have been staying on April 1, 2020, even if they went home early due to a school closure or shift to distance learning." The letter reminds recipients that information "will be protected by Title 13 U.S.C. Section 9" and that the Census Bureau will not share personally identifiable information. Additional information is available at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/2020-college-students.html>. The Census Bureau directs questions to Sarah Brady Clark (sarah.e.brady.clark@census.gov), who is managing this effort.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On May 26, USDA released additional updates to its Grants FAQ document, available here: <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs-052620.pdf>.
- On April 16, the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Dr. Scott Angle, and members of his staff held a webinar on FAQs relating to COVID-19. Presenters stressed that NIFA is routinely updating guidance, extending deadlines, and accepting proposals for COVID-19 research. Topics covered in the webinar included no cost-extensions; information on salaries and project activities; allowability of costs due to COVID-19 impact on research; and

procurement requirements, among others. Slides from the webinar can be found here: <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/COVID-19-FAQs-Webinar.pdf>.

- On April 13, USDA released the “COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide.” This document serves as a menu of programs to provide rural stakeholders, including universities, with technical, training, and management assistance; financial assistance; and state and local assistance. The Resource Guide can be found at https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf.
- NIFA released updated guidance for the implementation of the Office of Management and Budget’s March 19 Memo: “Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) due to Loss of Operations.” The guidance can be found at <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-20-006-implementation-omb-memo-m-20-17#>
- NIFA has released its guidance responding directly to the OMB memo on research relief, including specifics on extensions and salaries and other costs, which can be found here: <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-20-006-implementation-omb-memo-m-20-17>.
- NIFA announced that is extending deadlines for its Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program (<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-afri>). AFRI issued additional guidance that while other deadlines have not been extended, proposers whose applications would be delayed due to “valid extenuating circumstances” should contact the point of contact listed in the Request for Applications. A full list of deadlines can be found at <https://nifa.usda.gov/afri-deadlines>.
- NIFA released guidance for individuals who may experience delays in the distribution of funds. The guidance is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

- FEMA released its COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season. The guidance outlines FEMA’s plans to adapt response and recovery efforts and the anticipated risks for the upcoming Hurricane Season. This guidance will be helpful to emergency managers in at-risk states for information on any changes to FEMA emergency procedure. FEMA plans to continue working with State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) entities to make plans and decisions at the lowest level possible to ensure efficient use of resources. Among the changes to FEMA’s plan of operations is increased use of remote disaster operations to reduce personnel deployment. Some replacement efforts include increased communications through social media and virtual town halls, increasing IT support to deployed personnel and coordination through virtual mobilization centers. The full guidance is available at: https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1589997234798-adb5ce5cb98a7a89e3e1800becf0eb65/2020_Hurricane_Pandemic_Plan.pdf. A list of webinars that will be held to find additional information is available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/188203>.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- NOAA has released a [guidance](#) for administrative relief for recipients and applicants of federal funding who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. NOAA’s Grants Management Division and Program Offices are advised to use the following guidelines from NOAA’s Acquisition and Grants Office:

- NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
- Awards scheduled to end between March 31, 2020 and December 31, 2020 are eligible for extension for up to 12 months. Recipients should submit extension requests at least 30 days prior to the scheduled award end date.
- NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
- Recipients who have not yet submitted audits with the Federal Audit Clearinghouse that have fiscal year end dates through June 30, 2020 may delay submission by six months.
- Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
- NOAA will allow the use of funds to cover the costs of canceled events, travel, or other reasonable activities, but will not guarantee that funds will remain available should the event be rescheduled.
- For applicants, NOAA may provide flexibility for grant application submissions on a case by case basis. Specifics are not given as to how applicants should proceed if they need an extension, though Program Offices do have the ability to move deadlines.
- At the discretion of the Program office, NOAA will allow abbreviated non-competitive continuation requests. Those scheduled between April 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 may be submitted in the form of a brief statement explaining the capacity to continue the project. NOAA will post additional information regarding this on the website as the situation evolves.
- Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- Questions pertaining to this guidance should be directed to Arlene Simpson Porter, Director, Grants Management Division, at Arlene.S.Porter@noaa.gov, or by telephone at (301) 628-1314.

Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

- The IRS has issued guidance on the taxability of student grants under CARES and the receipt of Economic Impact Payments by international students. In “FAQs: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund and Emergency Financial Aid Grants under the CARES Act”, the IRS notes that the emergency financial aid grants to students provided through their institutions under CARES should be treated as a "qualified disaster relief payment" and therefore is not subject to taxation. Because this aid is not included in a student's gross income, students cannot claim any deduction or credit for expenses paid with the grant including the tuition and fees deduction, the American Opportunity Credit, or the Lifetime Learning Credit. For international students who may have incorrectly received Economic Impact Payments from the Treasury, the IRS has noted that “a non-resident alien in 2020 is not eligible for the Payment” and has provided instructions on how to return the payments. The FAQ on the taxability of emergency student aid grants under CARES is available here <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/faqs-higher-education-emergency-relief-fund-and-emergency-financial-aid-grants-under-the-cares-act> and information on potential incorrect payments to international students is available here <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payment-information-center#more> (specifically questions 11 and 41).

- The IRS announced it will extend the tax filing deadline until July 15, 2020 for all taxpayers, including individuals, trusts, estates, corporations and other non-corporate tax filers, with the current payment deadline falling on or after April 1, 2020, and before July 15, 2020. The notice expands this deadline for additional returns, tax payments, and other actions. Details are at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-extends-more-tax-deadlines-to-cover-individuals-trusts-estates-corporations-and-others>.
- The IRS also announced new guidance on net operating losses as revised under the CARES Act. Details are at <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-provides-guidance-under-the-cares-act-to-taxpayers-with-net-operating-losses>.

The White House

- On June 5, President Trump signed into law the *Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act of 2020* ([H.R. 7010](#)). The bill provides flexibilities by giving recipients more time to spend Payment Protection Program (PPP) funds and lowers the threshold on how much of the funding needs to be spent on payroll.
- President Trump announced via a new proclamation an expansion of the limitation on entry of certain foreign aliens to the U.S. due to foreign COVID outbreaks to include immigrants and nonimmigrants who were physically present within Brazil during the 14-day period preceding the entry or attempted entry into the United States. The proclamation, which is effective May 26, can be found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-novel-coronavirus/>.
- President Trump issued a proclamation on April 22 suspending entry for certain new immigrants for 60 days who do not already have an approved immigrant visa. This follows the president's alleged "immigration ban" announced via Twitter earlier this week. The proclamation suspends entry of individuals who were outside the United States on April 23; who do not have an approved immigrant visa that is valid on the effective date; and do not have an official travel document (such as a passport) by the time they seek entry or admission. The proclamation exempts several categories of people including essential employees such as health care workers and individuals conducting medical research or other research intended to combat the spread of COVID-19 and their family members. The proclamation argues the economic necessity and labor market pressures for these restrictions.

Of note, the proclamation does not impact applicants for adjustment of status to permanent residence, or nonimmigrants, such as students, exchange visitors, H-1B workers, etc. Unfortunately for foreign students and scholars, routine visa and consular services at U.S. embassies and consulates remain suspended, as per the Department of State announcement on March 20, 2020. A copy of the Presidential proclamation is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspending-entry-immigrants-present-risk-u-s-labor-market-economic-recovery-following-covid-19-outbreak/>.

- The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has released a fact sheet and FAQs about current HR flexibilities available to federal agencies to assist federal employees on issues related to the pandemic. That fact sheet is available here <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/covid-19/fact-sheet-additional-guidance-in-connection-with-the-covid-19-emergency/>.

Research and Funding Opportunities

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- On July 13, NIH released its [NIH-Wide COVID-19 Strategic Plan](#). The strategic plan focuses on how NIH plans to accelerate the development of therapeutics, vaccines, and diagnostics in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It outlines five research priorities that include the following:
 - Investing in fundamental research to understand the COVID-19 disease
 - Developing and retooling testing technologies
 - Developing and repurposing therapeutic treatments for COVID-19
 - Advancing vaccines and other prevention methods to mitigate the spread of the virus
 - Expanding knowledge of COVID-19 related health disparities and access to care in underserved and vulnerable populations

To address these unprecedented challenges the plan highlights a number of cross-cutting strategies that include the promotion of collaborative science through partnerships, strengthening the U.S. research workforce and infrastructure to advance COVID-19 research, and investing in data science. The strategic plan highlighted the existing Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) Initiative and the Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccine (ACTIV) partnership. These two programs were quickly stood up by NIH leadership in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and are an integral part of the NIH-wide response.

- The Office of the Director (OD) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) released a notice of intent to publish multiple funding opportunity announcements for the [Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Radical \(RADx-rad\) program](#). The RADx-rad program was created to support innovative and non-traditional approaches to rapid diagnostics and home-based testing technologies. NIH anticipates publishing several RFAs and NOSIs from **July 17-31, 2020** relating to the following topics:
 - Wastewater detection of SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
 - Exosome-based non-traditional technologies toward multi-parametric and integrated approaches for SARS-CoV-2
 - Chemosensory testing as a COVID-19 screening tool
 - Predicting Viral-Associated Inflammatory Disease Severity in Children with Laboratory Diagnostics and Artificial Intelligence (PreVAIL kids)
 - Multimodal COVID-19 surveillance methods for High Risk Populations in densely populated facilities
 - Novel Biosensing for Screening, Diagnosis and Monitoring of COVID-19 from Skin and The Oral Cavity
 - Automatic detection and tracing of SARS-CoV-2

The RADx-rad program will also have a Data Coordination Center (DCC) that will manage and oversee research across the program to coordinate data sharing, data management, and common data elements. The funding information for all the awards is currently “to be determined”. We can anticipate the first application due date to be in September 2020 and the first award date to be as early as December 2020. For detailed information on the individual research opportunities please review the full notice [here](#).

- The [Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines](#) (ACTIV) public-private partnership is a program dedicated to accelerating the development of promising treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) is very integrated into the ACTIV framework under the therapeutics clinical and clinical trial capacity working groups. At this time there are two planned OTA ([Other Transaction Authority](#)) research opportunities for extramural researchers through NHLBI for ACTIV that are described below.
 - **CLOSED:** NHLBI released the [OTA-20-011](#) research opportunity seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease.
 - NHLBI released a second contract opportunity, [OTA-20-011A](#), for observational studies of COVID-19. NHLBI is soliciting letters of interest to develop a master protocol to establish a cohort of cohorts to study the involvement of pulmonary, cardiovascular, and hematologic dysfunction in COVID-19 morbidity and mortality among diverse populations to inform future efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic or minimize its consequences. For “best consideration,” letters of request are due **July 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM EST.**
- The [Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics](#) (RADx) initiative released the funding opportunity announcements for the RADx – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) program on June 12. There are four different funding opportunities, three competitive revisions that require active NIH grants, and one U54 for a coordinating and data collection center. Further details regarding each opportunity can be found in the chart below.
 - There is a list of [frequently asked questions](#) for applicants. If you have a question that is not addressed by the FAQs, you should contact your Program Officer.
 - **Pre-Application Webinars:** NIH held [two pre-application webinars](#) covering the RADx-UP funding opportunities on June 26 and July 1.

<i>Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) Opportunities</i>			
Type of Funding	Description	Link	Due Date
Emergency Competitive Revision	This opportunity highlights the urgent need to investigate social, ethical, and behavioral implications (SEBI) of COVID-19 testing within underserved and/or vulnerable population. Approaches involving community partners will inform the development of these testing programs.	NOT-OD-20-119	9/9/2020

Emergency Competitive Revision	<p>This opportunity “highlights the urgent need to understand and address COVID-19 morbidity and mortality disparities among underserved and vulnerable populations.” The goal of this project is to determine the factors that led to the disproportionate burdens of the pandemic across underserved populations and determine interventions to address the disparities.</p> <p>Notice of Correction in Budget Request NOT-OD-20-141</p>	NOT-OD-20-120	9/9/2020
Limited Competition: Emergency Competitive Revision	<p>This opportunity “highlights the urgent need to understand and address COVID-19 morbidity and mortality disparities among underserved and vulnerable populations.” The goal of this project is to determine the factors that led to the disproportionate burdens of the pandemic across underserved populations and determine interventions to address the disparities. There are a limited number of existing grants that can be revised in response to this NOSI and this list can be found in the link provided.</p>	NOT-OD-20-121	8/8/2020
New – U54 Resource-Related Research Projects	<p>The Coordinating and Data Collection Center will serve as an integral part of the consortium of RADx-UP issues. It will serve as a resource for NIH scientific staff and consortium members to coordinate research activities.</p> <p>Notice of Correction in Budget and Review NOT-OD-20-140</p>	RFA-OD-20-013 Award: Up to \$80 Million over four years to fund one award	8/7/2020

The following **table tracks all COVID-19 research related Notices of Special Interest (NOSIs) and other funding opportunities released by NIH Institutes and Centers**. This table will be continually updated as additional funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are organized by type (i.e. new grant or supplemental funding) and by IC.

- Note:** NIH is currently using two competitive revision funding mechanisms, the Emergency Competitive Revision and the Urgent Competitive Revision. The Emergency mechanism can only be used for funding available through the supplemental bills provided by Congress due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Institutes use their base FY 2020 funding to support projects via the Urgent Competitive Revision that address an unforeseen public health crisis. More details on these two grant mechanisms and their uses can be found at <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2020/04/13/covid-19-funding-and-funding-opportunities/>.

Opportunities for New Grants			
Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Opportunity
NIAID	7/13/2020	<p>This grant is a “Limited Competition” emergency award only eligible for researchers conducting COVID-19 related vaccine and/or treatment trials and studies that are supported by NIAID’s emergency grants. This funding opportunity seeks to provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to directly support NIAID’s vaccine and treatment clinical trials and clinical studies for COVID-19.</p>	<p>New S10: PAR-20-256</p> <p>Expires: 7/08/2021</p>
NIDDK	7/10/2020	Soliciting applications for research on “COVID-19 susceptibility, routes of infection, course of disease, morbidity and mortality in people with pre-existing diseases, or adverse acute or chronic outcomes in organs, tissues, and biological systems of specific interest to NIDDK.”	<p>New R01: RFA-DK-20-021</p> <p>Expires: 12/17/2020</p>
NIMH	6/26/2020	Soliciting applications to determine the role and impact of digital health interventions to address secondary health effects of social, behavioral, and economic changes following the COVID-19 pandemic particularly in the populations who experience health disparities and vulnerable populations.	<p>New R01: PAR-20-243</p> <p>Expires: 3/3/2021</p>
NIMHD	6/17/2020	Soliciting applications for research on “NIH-designated health disparity populations and other vulnerable groups on community interventions to address the adverse psychosocial, behavioral, and socioeconomic effects of COVID-19.”	<p>New R01: PAR-20-237</p> <p>Expires: 12/2/2020</p>

NIA	6/15/2020	This FOA is soliciting applications to implement investigator-initiated multi-site clinical trials (all phases) of interventions focused on specific aging-related issues to reducing the impact of COVID-19 in at-risk older adult populations. Specifically, the FOA is interested in methods to reduce transmission, risk, morbidity, mortality, severity, and complications of the disease.	<p style="text-align: center;">New R01: PAR-20-234</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expires: 2/2/2021</p>
OD	5/21/2020	Soliciting applications responsive only to the COVID-19 public health emergency through funds from the CARES Act. The NIH Director's Transformative Research Award Program supports research proposing groundbreaking, innovative, and original research to create new and improved clinical approaches and develop transformative technology. This award will support 5 to 10 Transformative Research Awards focused on any relevant area of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 research.	<p style="text-align: center;">New R01: RFA-RM-20-020</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expires: 10/1/2020</p>
OD	5/21/2020	Soliciting applications responsive only to the COVID-19 public health emergency through funds from the CARES Act. The NIH Director's Early Independence Award supports exceptional junior investigators pursuing independent research careers soon after completion of their formal training to accelerate their entry into an independent research career. This award will support 5 to 10 Early Independence Awards focused on any relevant area of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 research.	<p style="text-align: center;">New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expires: 9/5/2020</p>
NIAID	4/30/2020	Areas of high priority include, but are not limited to, studies to understand critical aspects of viral infection/replication, studies to understand critical aspects of viral transmission, development and testing of SARS-CoV-2 therapeutic candidates, and studies to inform the development of vaccination strategies for at-risk populations. R01 Notice of Expiration: NOT-AI-20-062	<p style="text-align: center;">New R01: PAR-20-178</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expires: 8/14/2020</p> <p style="text-align: center;">New R21: PAR-20-177</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Expires: 8/14/2020</p>

		R21 Notice of Expiration: NOT-AI-20-063	
NIBIB	4/10/2020	New Research Project Grants and Small Business grants addressing the “urgent need for accelerating the development, translation, and commercialization of technologies to address Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The NIBIB is seeking applications to develop life-saving technologies that can be ready for commercialization within one to two years.”	New R01, R21, R03: NOT-EB-20-007 Expires: 3/31/2021 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006 Expires: 3/31/2021
<i>Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions</i>			
Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice	Expiration Date
NIAID	7/6/2020	NOT-AI-20-059	7/2/2021
OD	6/25/2020	NOT-OD-20-129	7/13/2021
NIDCD	6/4/2020	NOT-DC-20-008	9/8/2022
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-023 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-023 (5/13/2020)	11/2/2020
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-022 (5/13/2020)	11/2/2020
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051	4/15/2021
NCI	7/6/2020	NOT-CA-20-082	8/15/2020
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054	n/a
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782	10/6/2020
NCATS	6/15/2020	NOT-TR-20-029	11/11/2020
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028	11/11/2020
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017	1/26/2022
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012	10/17/2020
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011	7/10/2021
NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011	4/16/2021
NCCIH/ORWH	5/26/2020	NOT-AT-20-012	8/18/2020
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011	10/6/2020

NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)	5/1/2021
NIMH	6/5/2020	NOT-MH-20-053	12/30/2020
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047 Related: NOT-MH-20-061 (6/5/2020)	4/16/2021
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097	4/1/2021
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008	11/10/2020
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025	2/6/2021
NIMHD	6/5/2020	NOT-MD-20-022	12/30/2020
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019	5/1/2021
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020	5/4/2021
NIAID	5/19/2020	NOT-AI-20-051	9/8/2021
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047	3/31/2021

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC will award approximately \$560 million to states, localities, territories, and tribes using “existing networks to reach out to state and local jurisdictions to access this initial funding.” A breakdown of funds funneled to states and jurisdictions can be viewed here: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-funding-information.html>.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Fund received \$300 million in the COVID-19 emergency supplemental package. This fund was created in FY 2019 and had roughly \$100 million in reserve funding prior to the emergency supplemental. This funding can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to an infectious disease emergency, domestic or international. Money from this fund has previously been used to respond to an Ebola outbreak in the Congo.

Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

- The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) provided an additional \$250 million to health care systems responding to COVID-19, bringing total funding for this activity to \$350 million. The funds will support hospitals and other health care systems to train workforces, expand telemedicine and the use of virtual healthcare, procure supplies and equipment, and coordinate effectively across, regional, state and jurisdictional, and local health care facilities to respond to COVID-19. Additionally, the funding will be used to support the mission of the National Special Pathogen System to increase national capacity and capability to respond to infectious diseases now and in the future. Recipients of the program include hospital associations in all 50 states. More information on the state by state breakdown of funding

distribution can be found at

<https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/HPP/Pages/overview.aspx>.

- ASPR released a notice of funding opportunity for the Hospital Preparedness Program. Under this funding opportunity, ASPR will award a total of \$50 million to state hospital associations, which will then distribute funding directly to hospitals and other health care entities for preparedness and response activities. Congress provided \$250 million for this program through the *CARES Act*, and we expect additional notices will be released to disburse the remaining \$200 million in this account. Additional information on this notice can be found at: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=325751>.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI announced three funding opportunities related to COVID-19 research, engagement, and dissemination and implementation. Under these solicitations, current PCORI grantees can apply for funding enhancements to existing awards for work addressing both the original topic and a current important issue related to COVID-19. Applications were accepted on a rolling basis through July 17, 2020. Funded projects are listed at https://www.pcori.org/research-results?f%5B0%5D=field_award_funding_announcement%3A2061#search-results.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) for “Sentinel Cells for Surveillance and Response to Emergent Infectious Diseases (Sentinels)” on July 15. The DCL welcomes proposals through existing programs in the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) and the Directorate for Engineering (ENG) "on interdisciplinary research for the development of novel biological platforms that are capable of sensing and responding to emerging infectious agents." The DCL, which includes additional details about Sentinels priorities and submission information, is available at: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20105/nsf20105.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On June 22, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) for the [Civic Innovation Challenge \(CIVIC\) program](#) to inform proposers that research related to pandemics is considered appropriate for this competition. NSF also extended the deadline for Stage 1 proposals until August 3, 2020. CIVIC was announced earlier this year and is led by the Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate in partnership with other select NSF directorates and involvement from other federal agency partners. With the DCL, NSF announced that the NSF Division of Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI) within the Engineering Directorate has joined the program as well. CIVIC has tracks on Communities and Mobility and Resilience to Natural Disasters. NSF shared in the DCL that proposals that address “resilience to pandemics or mobility in the face of pandemics,” encompassing both tracks, are appropriate. Proposed research areas are not required to connect to pandemics, but NSF notes that topics related to the existing COVID-19 pandemic or future pandemics, as well as the compounding challenge of disasters during a pandemic, are acceptable. More information is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20100/nsf20100.jsp>.
- On June 4, the Computing Research Association (CRA) and the Computing Community Consortium (CCC) announced a five-day extension of the deadline for applications to the new

Computing Innovation Fellows (CIFellows) Program. The extension of the deadline to June 17, 2020 is “in recognition of the unrest and protests across the nation.” As background, on May 22, the NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE) announced the new CIFellows Program, which targets recent and soon-to-be PhD graduates in CISE research areas whose academic job search was impacted by COVID-19. The CIFellows program will be operated by CRA and CCC, and will offer two-year postdoctoral opportunities in computing and activities to support career development. Awards will cover an annual salary of \$75,000 and are open to all researchers whose work falls under the umbrella of CISE-supported disciplines. CISE hosted a webinar to describe the new program on May 26. More information on the CIFellows program and a recording of the webinar can be found at <https://cifellows2020.org/>.

- On May 29, NSF archived the COVID-19 Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) (NSF 20-052). Following thousands of inquiries to NSF staff on COVID-19 related research ideas, NSF has made over 500 RAPID [awards](#). Given the short-term focus of the RAPID mechanism, “NSF now seeks to enable broader-scope projects that build on the knowledge already acquired, and that sustain greater collaboration and coordination activities.” NSF encourages new COVID-19 research proposals to be submitted through existing funding opportunities. Interested researchers are advised to contact the relevant program officer before submitting a proposal. The SBIR/STTR DCL “Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19 (NSF 20-065)” has also been archived, but the SBIR/STTR program continues to welcome new projects focused on COVID-19. Additional information is included in the FAQs available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19faqs_dcl.pdf.
- On April 24, the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) issued a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) restating the opportunity to apply for funding supplements to active CISE awards for Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU). This DCL aims to address the disruption to undergraduates caused by COVID-19 and states, “In light of COVID-19, and to enable the CISE research community to provide additional opportunities to engage undergraduates who are US citizens and permanent residents in research pathways, CISE reiterates this interest via this DCL.” More information is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20075/nsf20075.jsp>.

Department of Education

- ED’s Office of Educational Technology has an overview of federal funding available to support digital learning. That overview is available at <https://tech.ed.gov/funding/>.
- On June 19, ED announced a new higher education discretionary grant program, the “Reimagine Workforce Preparation (RWP) Grant Program” which is funded through the Education Stabilization Fund (ESF), authorized by the CARES Act. The Reimagine Workforce Preparation Grant competition is open to a State Workforce Board, which may award subgrants to institutions of higher education. Grants may be used to develop and implement short-term education and training programs and/or career pathways programs (Absolute Priority 1). Grants may also be used to support the development of small business incubators located on the campuses of, or developed in association with, institutions of higher education (Absolute Priority 2). Information on the RWP grant is available at <https://cte.ed.gov/grants/funding-opportunities>.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- EDA announced its intention to launch a new funding opportunity as a part of their response to COVID-19, which is currently called the *Coronavirus Entrepreneurship & Innovation Challenge*. Details have not been finalized, but the program would allocate approximately \$25 million for a competition to address unique innovation and entrepreneurship-related challenges and opportunities associated with the pandemic, including providing support for the commercialization of new technologies to address COVID-19 and creative efforts to promote innovation activities under current conditions. A timetable for launch of the *Coronavirus Entrepreneurship & Innovation Challenge* has yet to be set. The announcement was made during a webinar on EDA and the CARES Act. Register to view a recording of the webinar at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/2331540102948216582>.
- On May 7, Department of Commerce's (DOC) Economic Development Administration (EDA) released guidelines for the \$1.5 billion allocated to the agency through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to advance economic development in areas negatively impacted by COVID-19. EDA's CARES Act Recovery Assistance funding will largely be provided through the EDA Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program, which supports a broad array of development initiatives with potential to expand economic activity and recovery through funding for construction, non-construction (i.e. strategic development, infrastructure development strategies etc.), technical assistance, and planning. The agency will also provide support for additional regional assistance beyond EAA activities for qualified applicants, including innovation grants that are similar to EDA's Build to Scale program (formerly "Regional Innovation Strategies"). Guidelines for the additional funding were added as an Addendum to the standing fiscal year (FY) 2020 Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). To be competitive, applicants must express how their proposed project would respond to the impacts of the pandemic and align with regional economic development plans. EDA's landing page for CARES Act Recovery Assistance, including links to the NOFO, FAQs, instructions for University Center grantees, and additional resources can be found at: <https://www.eda.gov/coronavirus/>.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- NASA announced on April 30 a *Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge* that will address COVID-related issues "using NASA's open-source data in an all-virtual, global hackathon." Specifically, the challenge will take place May 30-31 and focus on four key themes: Learning about the virus and its spread using Space-based data; Local response/change and solution; Impacts of COVID-19 on the Earth system/Earth system response, and; Economic opportunity, impact, and recovery during and following COVID-19. The competition will match participants with subject matter experts from NASA or other relevant government agencies. Registration and more information about the event is available at <https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/>.
- NASA's Earth Science Division (ESD) is alerting "Earth Science research, applications, and data systems communities" of the Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) 2020 [Program Element A.28 "Rapid Response and Novel Research in Earth Science" \(RRNES\)](#) as an opportunity for "making innovative use of NASA satellite data to address regional-to-global environmental, economic, and/or societal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic." NASA ESD anticipates reviewing proposals within 10 days of submission.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)

- Federal agency partners in the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) are leveraging the existing Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) TechWatch program to engage with industry, academia, and other stakeholders to accelerate technologies related to the novel coronavirus. Traditionally, TechWatch is a virtual meeting with BARDA scientific, technical, and contracting staff, as well as representatives from other interested federal agencies. For CoronaWatch, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture, among others, will be contacted to participate as relevant and needed. There are specific submission options for therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and other products through CoronaWatch. Additional information on CoronaWatch, as well as submission instructions, are available at: <https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/request-barda-techwatch-meeting/>.
- The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an Easy Broad Agency Announcement (EZ-BAA) on February 5 seeking proposals for the development of novel COVID-19 diagnostics. The solicitation notes that “the diagnostics must utilize platforms already cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with a viable plan to meet requirements for the FDA to consider Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) within 12 weeks of an award.” The solicitation is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/05/hhs-seeks-abstract-submissions-for-2019-ncov-diagnostics-development.html> and the most recent version of the BAA, updated on March 9, is available at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcb5bf981f7/view>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Joint Program Executive Office - Chemical, Biological, Radiological Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) released a new Area of Interest for “COVID-19 Neutralization Assay Services” under its Medical Countermeasures Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) in support of the President’s Operation Warp Speed Mission. Through this opportunity, the government specifically seeks to:
 - “[Technologically] transfer a high throughput qualified or validated neutralization assay for SARS-COV-2 in a Biosafety Level 3 (BSL3) laboratory to a new site in compliance with [Good Clinical Laboratory Practices] GCLP (Contract Base period) and subsequent validation and
 - Test serum samples from human subjects enrolled in clinical trials of COVID-19 vaccines using the new validated assay in compliance with GCLP.”

The CSO solicitation process for the Area of Interest consists of three phases: submission of written solution brief; presentation/pitches if invited; and a formal request for commercial solution proposal. Solution briefs are due **July 31, 2020 at 12:00 PM EDT**. The full solicitation and specific area of interest can be found on <https://beta.sam.gov/> under Notice ID “W911QY-20-S-C001-A002.”

- **NEW:** The Joint Program Executive Office - Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) released a request for project proposals (RPP) for prototype development of a “COVID-19

Pandemic Therapeutic Rapid Advanced Research and Development (ARD) to Large Scale Manufacturing.” The project goal is to “initiate an advanced development SARS-CoV-2 medical countermeasure (MCM) prototype for clinical/non-clinical development and/or manufacturing scale-up to demonstrate the capability to support sustained large scale manufacturing,” with MCMs being either direct acting antivirals or host directed therapeutics. Pre-proposals must be sent by email to lawrence.e.mize.civ@mail.mil by **February 28, 2021**. The full solicitation can be found on <https://beta.sam.gov/> under Notice ID “W911QY-20-S-0019.”

- The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Research Directorate posted its first topic under the Boosting Innovative GEOINT Research (BIG-R) broad agency announcement (BAA), “Modeling the Path to COVID-19 Recovery.” Topic 1 seeks to fund retrospective and predictive analyses of human behavior, human mobility, and spatial heterogeneity in infectious disease transmission during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposed efforts should focus on cases outside of the United States and answer two primary research questions:
 - “How do spatial and temporal heterogeneity in behavioral and sociocultural variables (e.g., skepticism of Western medical intervention, heterogeneity in sentiment toward travel restrictions, etc.) translate into quantitative population-scale variation in adherence to [non-pharmaceutical interventions] NPIs within a region?”
 - How does adherence to NPIs translate into quantitative spatiotemporal variation in patterns of infectious disease transmission?”

NGA anticipates funding one \$600,000 award for Topic 1. Abstracts are due **August 4, 2020** and proposals are due **September 9, 2020**. Details on Topic 1 are posted at <https://acq.westfields.net/>; registration is required for access. The solicitation can be found [here](#), as well. Questions can be emailed to Kirby Beard at BigRBAA@nga.mil.

The NGA Research Directorate released its BAA for basic and applied research proposals to advance future Geospatial-Intelligence (GEOINT) capabilities earlier this month. NGA plans to continuously update the BAA with new topics. The BAA is open for three years, and NGA anticipates making multiple awards. The BAA can be found on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID “HM0476-20-BAA-0001.”

- The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) updated its Commercial Solution Opening (CSO) seeking innovative solutions for commercial technologies that can support the DAF ACT's mission to “provide relief, resilience, recovery, and stability to the nation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.” DAF ACT is currently seeking solution briefs in four specific mission focus areas:
 - Masks/Fiber/Materials
 - Screening & Diagnostics
 - Gloves/Gowns
 - Pharmaceuticals

Proposals addressing the four specific mission focus areas are due on **August 3, 2020**, and the CSO officially closes on August 15, 2020. The full solicitation, which includes more information on the mission areas in the amendments, can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number “FA3002-20-S-0002.”

Multiple briefs may be submitted, but each brief can only address one DAF ACT Area of Interest. The CSO proposal process is comprised of three spirals: 1) Solution Briefs; 2) Oral Presentation (optional); and 3) Submission of a full proposal through an invitation-only Request of Commercial Solution Proposal (CSP). The CSO may result in the award of prototype projects, which include not only commercially available technologies, but also concept demonstrations, pilots, and agile development activities. The period of performance is expected to be one year, but with the possibility of prototype and follow-on production. Information will also be posted to the Air Force COVID-19 Response Team website run by AFWERX at <https://www.afwerx.af.mil/coronavirus.html>.

Also, the Air Force announced that its effort, known as “Unite and Fight,” has expanded to include all DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all the Service Branches, DOD components, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) can evaluate and potentially fund proposals.

- The Department of Defense’s (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, has a live [web portal](#) for academia, industry, and other non-government partners to submit solutions to support DOD’s coronavirus response. JATF, which was established by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (USD(A&S)), seeks to unify and build capacity in identified weak areas of the industrial base, use DOD’s authorities to expand acquisition flexibility in order to procure critical supplies, and ensure continuity of operations for defense contractors to respond to the virus.
- The National Center for Simulation (NCS) announced April 20 the launch of a [scholarship](#) to help students with tuition and educational expenses during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 crisis. The Modeling, Simulation & Training (MS&T) Community COVID-19 Response Scholarship program would offer at least \$1,000 specifically for students pursuing a STEM degree that supports the MS&T industry, and seeks to lift the financial burden off students and their families who may be significantly impacted directly or indirectly by the economic fallout from COVID-19. The scholarship ultimately supports the [NCS mission](#) to foster the education and development of the future MS&T workforce. NCS is a non-profit trade association based in Orlando, FL.

NCS is currently focused on collecting donations for the scholarship fund from entities across the country in order to ensure scholarships can be awarded nationwide. NCS offered to match the first \$5,000 in donations, which was immediately met with a \$5,000 contribution from the Central Florida Chapter of the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). More information about how to contribute to this scholarship is available at www.all-ncs.com. Applications for students to apply for the scholarship will be available on www.simulationinformation.com beginning on May 4. NCS anticipates awarding scholarships by August 15, 2020.

- The Department of Defense (DOD) has reprogrammed \$113 million, allocated through the *CARES Act*, from the Defense Health Program to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). This funding will go towards the Biological Technologies Office (BTO), Defense Sciences Office (DSO), and Information Innovation Office (I2O) to address efforts relevant to the COVID-19 response. These efforts include deploying Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based models to screen for Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved therapeutics that may be able to treat COVID-19, running trials to test a COVID-19 RNA vaccine, developing capabilities to detect and screen environments for the airborne COVID-19 virus, and addressing supply chain vulnerabilities to develop U.S.-based production capabilities for pharmaceuticals needed to treat COVID-19, among others. Some of the activities described in the reprogramming are

aligned with ongoing efforts at DARPA; it is unclear if this funding will be used to start any new efforts. More information on this reprogrammed funding can be found at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/dod_covid-19_reprogramming.pdf.

- The Army Futures Command's (AFC) Army Applications Laboratory (AAL) has expressed significant interest in new technologies to support the Army's COVID-19 response including innovative medical equipment, therapeutics, diagnostics, and vaccines. AAL has set up a webpage at <https://calendly.com/cv-aal> for organizations to schedule a brief phone call to discuss their ideas for technologies that support diagnosis, care, and the protection of healthcare providers, active duty service members, their families, and communities from COVID-19. AAL is a new organization, stood up under Army Futures Command headquarters in Austin, that seeks to work with industry and outside partners to find technology solutions to further the Army's modernization priorities. More information can be found at <https://aal.army/>.
- The Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.
- Lewis-Burke has learned that In-Q-Tel is interested in innovative technology ideas for COVID-19. In-Q-Tel is a not-for-profit investment entity that supports the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies across the defense and intelligence communities in accelerating the development of cutting edge "ready-soon" technologies. Specific technologies sought in support of COVID-19 include:
 - Point of care diagnostics
 - Swabs for sample collection
 - Serological diagnostics
 - Digital self-triage capabilities for telehealth

Lewis-Burke can help facilitate connections with In-Q-Tel to discuss COVID-19 related technology innovations. More information on In-Q-Tel is available <https://www.iqt.org/>.

- DARPA encourages performers with research project ideas related to COVID-19 to respond to the Office-wide broad agency announcements (BAAs) for both the Defense Sciences Office (DSO) and Biological Technology Office (BTO), which both have open BAAs that can receive submissions at any time. The DSO and BTO Office-wide BAAs can be found at <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/office-wide-broad-agency-announcements>.

Update: Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- **NEW:** DHS announced a [new solicitation](#) under its Science and Technology Directorate's Silicon Valley Innovation Program (SVIP) Emerging Needs Topic Call. Through this solicitation, DHS plans to issue multiple awards to qualifying **small businesses** for "potential sources of technologies to help various DHS components prevent the spread of COVID-19 at designated government facilities and points of entry." Specifically, the solicitation is seeking applications such as security validation for contact-tracing apps, open-source quantitative data collection, and noninvasive COVID-19 screening at DHS facilities. Responses are due by **September 30, 2020**. The full Emerging Needs Topic Call solicitation can be found on <https://beta.sam.gov> under Notice ID "70RSAT20R00000044."

Department of Energy (DOE)

- DOE launched a National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory (NVBL) to open up DOE national laboratory user facilities and specialized instrumentation to academic researchers and industry to address COVID-19. The NVBL lists all relevant DOE capabilities, such as light and neutron sources, nanoscale science centers, sequencing and bio-characterization facilities, and high performance computer facilities to help respond to COVID-19. Examples include developing innovations in testing capabilities, identifying new targets for medical therapeutics, providing epidemiological and logistical support, and addressing supply chain bottlenecks. The NVBL can be accessed at <https://science.osti.gov/nvbl>.
- DOE is participating in the COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium. Currently, the six leading DOE National Labs with high performance computing capabilities are involved in the Consortium—Argonne, Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, and Sandia National Laboratories. The purpose is to leverage the country's leading supercomputing capabilities to perform complex simulations employing machine learning and artificial intelligence to help address COVID-19. Researchers should submit COVID-19 related research proposals to the Consortium via an online portal (<https://www.xsede.org/covid19-hpc-consortium>), which will then be reviewed for matching with computing resources from one of the participating national laboratories.
- DOE is taking steps to address COVID-19 and is soliciting ideas about how the Department and the National Laboratories might contribute resources for science and technology efforts and collaborations. The Department is encouraging the scientific community and others to consider research questions that underpin COVID-19 response and is requesting input on strategic, priority research directions that may be undertaken using DOE user facilities, computational resources, and enabling infrastructure. More information is available in a Dear Colleague Letter on the DOE website at <https://science.osti.gov/-/media/sc-1/pdf/COVID-19-letter.pdf?la=en&hash=2A142317F56F185FC3E2CEF0AEAD6CACB3E70C7F>.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- To date, pledged funding from USAID includes more than \$227 million in assistance from USAID's Global Health Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF-USAID), approximately \$200 million in Global Health Programs (GHP-USAID) funds, nearly \$463 million in humanitarian assistance from USAID's International Disaster Assistance (IDA) account, and more than \$208 million from the Economic Support Fund (ESF). Activities supported by this funding include direct and indirect support to countries impacted by COVID-19 by providing heightened risk-communications and engagement with local communities; the prevention and control of infection in health facilities, including through the provision of personal protective equipment and other critical commodities; increasing laboratory, disease-surveillance, and rapid-response capacity; the management of COVID-19 cases; screening at points of entry; and global and regional coordination. As these funds have been directed to multilateral institutions and to USAID missions for deployment by in-country partners, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities for U.S.-based institutions.
- USAID established a COVID-19 Learning Lab for sharing of tools, approaches and lessons for monitoring, evaluation, and learning from implementation of programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit <https://usaidlearninglab.org/monitoring%2C-evaluation->

[and-learning-during-covid-19-pandemic](#) or e-mail
COVID19_PartnerResourceCenter@USAID.gov.

- USAID established an inbox (Covid19_Concepts@USAID.gov) for prospective partners to submit unsolicited proposals. Additional information is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus/funding-requests-unsolicited-proposals>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- FEMA released an opportunity for organizations to sell medical supplies or equipment to the federal government. FEMA requests specific items in the following categories: Diagnostics and Testing; Diagnostics and Testing: RNA Extraction Kits; Disinfection Consumables/Biohazardous Waste Management; Medical Equipment; and Personal Protective Equipment. All items must be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and all prevailing Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) standards. Offerors are to submit a price quote for consideration by the agency by September 25, 2020. The full solicitation can be found at: <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/3e05e664e606486ca34d1a41b47ff0ff/view>.
- **COVID-19 HPC Consortium** - On Sunday, March 22, President Trump announced the creation of the COVID-19 HPC Consortium, a new partnership between universities, national labs, and companies. The consortium will enable researchers access to the most powerful and advanced computers in the world to accelerate understanding of the COVID-19 virus and the development of treatments and vaccines. Access to computing resources in the COVID-19 HPC Consortium will be managed by the Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment (XSEDE). XSEDE is led by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is funded by the National Science foundation (NSF). Details on how to submit a request are available at https://www.xsede.org/covid19-hpc-consortium?mod=article_inline. The formal White House announcement is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/white-house-announces-new-partnership-unleash-u-s-supercomputing-resources-fight-covid-19/>.
- White House Calls on Tech Community to create new Machine Readable COVID-19 Dataset: On March 16, the Allen Institute for AI, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET), Microsoft, and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health released the *COVID-19 Open Research Dataset (CORD-19)* of scholarly literature about COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, and the Coronavirus group. Requested by The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the dataset represents the most extensive machine-readable Coronavirus literature collection available for data and text mining to date. The COVID-19 resources is available on the Allen Institute's website: <https://pages.semanticscholar.org/coronavirus-research>. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy also issued a call to action to artificial intelligence experts to develop new text and data mining techniques that can help the science community answer high-priority scientific questions related to COVID-19. Researchers should submit the text and data mining tools and insights they develop in response to this call to action via the [Kaggle platform](#). Through Kaggle, a machine learning and data science community owned by Google Cloud, these tools will be openly available for researchers. The OSTP call to action is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/call-action-tech-community-new-machine-readable-covid-19-dataset/>.

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- The IMLS announced on April 13 that it plans to award \$30 million in emergency relief grants through State Library Administrative Agencies (SLAAs) throughout all U.S. states and territories. Awards will be used to “expand digital network access, purchase internet accessible devices, and provide technical support services to citizens to address digital inclusion efforts and related technical support, using the following types of data to prioritize efforts:
 - Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
 - Unemployment; and
 - Broadband availability.”

According to the announcement, “the agency also plans to announce additional measures to aid museums and libraries, both through its current funding and that received through the CARES Act.” The announcement can be found at <https://www.ims.gov/news/ims-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america>.

Update: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- **NEW:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Program Office (CPO) has released its fiscal year (FY) 2021 competitions, one of which is focused on atmospheric impacts due to changes in anthropogenic activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. This competition will be held by the Atmospheric Chemistry Carbon Cycle and Climate (AC4) and the Climate Observations and Monitoring (COM) offices and proposals should budget for up to \$200K per year over 1-2 years. Letters of Intent are due on **August 17, 2020**, and full applications are due by 5:00 pm ET on **November 30, 2020**. The CPO overview as well as brief descriptions and information sheets for each competition are available at <https://cpo.noaa.gov/Funding-Opportunities/FY-2021-Notice-of-Funding-Opportunity#NOFOGlance>.
- NOAA has made available several datasets that can be utilized to model the impact of various environmental parameters on infectious disease, including COVID-19. The datasets are available at <https://climate.gov/maps-data/primer/what-environmental-data-are-relevant-study-infectious-diseases-covid-19>.

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

- USPTO has launched two new programs to support innovations to address COVID-19. The first is the *COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program*, which will provide priority consideration and exemption of certain additional fees for patents for inventions related to the prevention or treatment of COVID-19, subject to FDA approval. Eligibility is limited and includes small businesses with less than 500 employees, universities, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Requests for prioritization will be received **beginning July 13, 2020 and ending when USPTO has accepted 500 requests**. The second initiative, *Patents 4 Partnerships*, is a new online marketplace for patent owners to list patents and published applications that are available for licensing in fields that address COVID-19. The goal is to better connect in-demand intellectual property with industries interested in scaling the ideas. USPTO is considering expanding this platform to other technologies, including Artificial Intelligence. Additional information on the Prioritized Examination Pilot Program can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/05/14/2020-10372/covid-19-prioritized->

[examination-pilot-program](#). Additional information on Patents 4 Partnerships is at:
<https://developer.uspto.gov/ipmarketplace/search/patents>.

US Census Bureau

- In April, the US Census Bureau launched two experimental surveys to capture data on social and economic trends for households and small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The “Small Business Pulse Survey includes a limited number of questions on topics such as location closings, changes in employment, disruptions in the supply chain, the use of federal assistance programs, and expectations concerning future operations.” Additional information is available at <https://www.census.gov/data/experimental-data-products/small-business-pulse-survey.html>.
 - Data is published weekly on Thursdays and is available at <https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data/>.
 - The Household Pulse Survey collects data from individuals on their “experiences in terms of employment status, spending patterns, food security, housing, physical and mental health, access to health care, and educational disruption.” Additional information is available at <https://www.census.gov/householdpulsedata>.
 - Data is released weekly and is available at <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey/data.html>.
 - The Census Bureau hosted a [webinar](#) June 10 to explain and answer questions on the Household Pulse Survey. Webinar materials are expected to be posted at <https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2020/taking-the-pulse-of-american-households-during-covid-19.html>.
- A May 20 Brookings Institution webinar on the pulse surveys is available at <https://www.brookings.edu/events/webinar-taking-the-pulse-of-the-covid-19-economy-new-census-bureau-weekly-surveys/?#>.

U.S. Department of Agriculture

- On July 15, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) released a modified request for applications (RFA) for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program, focused on education and workforce development. The program, [Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus \(SARS-COV-2: Innovating Formal and Non-Formal Educational Experiences in Food and Agricultural Sciences During the Time of Social Distancing\)](#), seeks proposals that will address “the need to develop and deploy rapid, reliable, and readily-adoptable strategies in workforce preparation through formal K-14 education, as well as in youth development through non-formal (e.g., extension) education to cultivate interest and competencies in STEM and agriculture during this challenging time.” Applications for this program are due on **August 20 by 5 p.m. EST**.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- In response to the global pandemic, The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) is expanding and diversifying its COVID-19 vaccine portfolio to increase their chances of finding a successful vaccine which can be manufactured at scale. CEPI has opened an additional funding opportunity to accelerate the development of safe and effective vaccines by organizations who can rapidly deliver at scale and to ensure that the supply of vaccine doses is made available to

meet public health needs on a worldwide basis during the pandemic. Vaccine developers with end-to-end experience and capability for the global supply of COVID-19 vaccine doses in 12-18 months are encouraged to apply. Details about this opportunity are available at: https://cepi.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Call-text_COVID-19_CfP_C2ii_web.pdf. Submissions will be accepted through **September 28, 2020** and reviewed in batches every three weeks beginning on July 27.

International News

UN-Water

- UN-Water, the mechanism that coordinates efforts at the United Nations and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues, has compiled water and sanitation-related resources related to stopping the transmission of COVID-19. The resources provided by several UN-Water Members and Partners identify the ways water and sanitation are key to stopping the virus. This resource is enabling message campaigns and interventions by international organizations and bilateral aid agencies designed to improve access to handwashing and to measure how improved sanitation can slow the spread of new COVID-19 infections. More information is available at <https://www.unwater.org/coronavirus-global-health-emergency/>.

World Bank Group (WBG)

- The WBG has published its flagship report *Global Economic Prospects* for June 2020. The report describes both the immediate and near-term outlook for the impact of the pandemic and the long-term damage it has dealt to prospects for growth. In addition, the report highlights the necessity to strengthen health services and put in place targeted measures to stimulate worldwide economic growth. The report and raw data on which it is based are available for download at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/global-economic-prospects>.
- The WBG announced that it has funded and started implementing projects in 100 developing countries through its emergency support effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The WBG Board approved in March the deployment of up to \$160 billion for a 15-month period to help countries protect impoverished individuals, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. The regional development banks have also made an additional \$80 billion available to be deployed over the same period. Although Lewis-Burke does not anticipate any immediate funding opportunities for U.S. researchers, the projects funded by the WBG lend insight into national priorities of developing countries and international development needs. More information about the WBG effort is available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/05/19/world-bank-group-100-countries-get-support-in-response-to-covid-19-coronavirus>.
 - For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: <https://maps.worldbank.org/>.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The World Health Organization, UN Development Programme, UNAIDS and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University, jointly launched the COVID-19 Law Lab on July 22. The COVID-19 Law Lab, which is accessible at www.COVIDLawLab.org,

gathers and shares legal documents related to COVID-19 from over 190 countries across the world to help countries establish and implement strong legal frameworks to manage the pandemic. In addition, the website may be a valuable tool for those interested in the intersection of health systems and the law.

- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing a vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged \$8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate. On June 27, the European Commission and the advocacy group Global Citizen hosted another pledging summit which raised an additional \$6.9 billion in support for the global COVID-19 response. While several governments pledged to multilateral initiatives and global platforms including the ACT Accelerator, WHO's Solidarity Response Fund, the Global Fund, the Vaccine Alliance Gavi, and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), the United States pledged \$545 million to Coronavirus relief without stipulating through which institutions those funds will be directed. To learn more, visit: <https://www.who.int/initiatives/act-accelerator>.
- The WHO has created several global research platforms for data sharing of international scientific findings and knowledge of COVID-19. This and many other resources are available at <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>.