Oportunidades de Fondos Externos
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UPR external funding success is of utmost importance to strengthen the connection between its investigators/faculty and funding entities who have the potential to sponsor their research and academic endeavors. This publication has been developed in order to summarize funding opportunities and promote the participation of faculty and collaborative research groups in their intent to apply for external funds. Such efforts are aligned with the UPR Strategic Plan 2017-2022: A New Era of Innovation and Transformation for Student Success; Certification 50 (2016-2017) of the Governing Board, December 19, 2016. Strategic Area: Research and Creative Work. Goal 2: Increase Applications for and awards of external funds for research and creative work.

SELECTED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

This is a selection of identified funding opportunities for the period ending 03/12/2021 and is in no way all-inclusive of funding opportunities available. Further information has been shared with External Resource Coordinators and Research Coordinators at each UPR campus by e-mail or MS Teams.

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1. MUREP INCLUDES Activity, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Application Deadline: April 23, 2021

NASA MUREP INCLUDES aims to introduce creative solutions executed by a team of STEM authorities and advocates. Proposals shall demonstrate carefully constructed partnerships that connect a wide range of stakeholders to achieve the goals of the proposed effort. Specifically, NASA has a strong interest in partnership teams with industry partners that will address critical skills and increase the employment of URMs. Proposals inclusive of diverse organizations and agencies (including industry), offering perspectives from traditional and non-traditional stakeholders, are recommended. A comprehensive structuring of the core partnership can deliver the depth and breadth of a novel approach or enhance the expansion of a successful methodology that can effectively broaden participation of URMs in engineering.

Proposals shall describe how the coalition will achieve MUREP INCLUDES' goals and objectives, leverage significant sources of additional funding, obtain essential services that are not available at the proposer's home institution, and describe how the proposed effort will contribute to sustainability. Proposed partners shall have the capacity to make practical contributions to resolving the critical problem of broadening participation. Responsibilities of each partner shall be clearly defined and measurable. Partners will be assessed individually for their unique contribution to the collective implementation at the end of each performance year.

Institutions receiving MUREP INCLUDES awards may choose to build collaborations with NASA Centers and JPL when such collaborations will mutually benefit the concept implementation and the goals of NASA's Mission Directorates. Letters of support from partners are required.

NASA MUREP INCLUDES ("MUREP INCLUDES") Activity facilitates the formation of MSI-led coalitions to broaden participation in engineering. MUREP INCLUDES enables MSIs to organize and lead coalitions comprised of multiple organizations, institutions, agencies, and industries to implement novel programmatic endeavors or support the expansion of existing successful programs or methodologies to address critical challenges with broad impact. Proposers are encouraged to demonstrate the efficacy of an approach using recent and relevant literature or evidence-based data of existing activity designated for expansion. As an element of the NASA and NSF partnership, MUREP INCLUDES grantees will have direct access to the NSF INCLUDES National Network. NSF's INCLUDES National Network and Coordination Hub are designed to broaden participation and expand opportunities in STEM to underrepresented minorities (URMs) nationwide. Also, MSI-led coalitions will have an opportunity to participate in joint NASA and NSF National Network Convenings to discuss challenges, barriers and explore solutions.

MUREP INCLUDES seeks to demonstrably impact the participation of URMs in engineering fields by 2026.The multi-year goals of the NASA MUREP INCLUDES Activity are as follows:

- Goal 1: Build multi-sector partnerships that unite the expertise and resources of a broad range of stakeholders at the federal, state, and local levels.
    - Objective 1.1: Leverage systems, networks, and processes established by NSF INCLUDES to engage partners and stakeholders to develop and expand engineering coalitions.
    - Objective 1.2: Foster an MSI-led community that identifies and documents the expertise and resources of stakeholders focused on engineering workforce development.
    - Objective 1.3: Establish diverse networks of partners and collaborators to effectively address issues associated with broadening participation in engineering. Goal 2: Identify shared goals, objectives and specific strategies designed to foster the leadership role of MSIs in strengthening and expanding the engineering workforce.
    - Objective 2.1: Significantly increase the opportunity for MSIs to plan, collaborate and share successful practices and research associated with increasing underserved and underrepresented groups entering engineering fields.
    - Objective 2.2: Address NASA's Mission Directorate's engineering priorities and increase MSIs efforts to effectively align with NASA's critical needs. Goal 3: Synthesize, build, and enhance the broadening of participation of URMs in engineering fields.
    - Objective 3.1: Increase the number of URMs participating in engineering programs through strategic engagement activities.
    - Objective 3.2: Contribute to the strengthening of URMs' engineering research skills and enhance the learning of engineering principles.
    - Objective 3.3: Support the proficiency of educators' delivery of theories and engineering concepts through an improved curriculum or professional development activities.
    - Objective 3.4: Employ science and evidence-based strategies to attract and retain URMs in engineering fields.

To achieve maximum impact and success of the institutions awarded, proposals shall focus on the above goals and objectives. In addition, all proposed activities shall address the requirements outlined in this appendix and in the broader Engagement Opportunities in NASA STEM (EONS) 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Link to Additional Information: https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/solicitations/summary!init.do?solId=%7bD96FC2DD-AD2A-2BB0-F6FA-D9191AF3CBDE%7d&path=open

2. Boosting Research Ideas for Transformative and Equitable Advances in Engineering, National Science Foundation

Application Deadline: May 25, 2021

The National Science Foundation's strategic goals are to expand knowledge and build capacity for a diverse science and engineering workforce. The goal of this solicitation is to enable and create opportunities to advance scientific discoveries and new research using a variety of approaches that harness the national talent ecosystem of experienced faculty. Recognizing that a successful faculty research career is neither linear nor continuous, this BRITE solicitation seeks proposals that enable experienced researchers and scholars (tenured or equivalent) to forge new directions or to enter new fields by capitalizing or branching out of their established knowledge domains. All BRITE proposals are expected to address fundamental research that creates new knowledge in one or more CMMI program areas. BRITE proposals must identify key research outcomes and describe the research plans for the period of funding sought. Although collaborative proposals are not permitted and will be returned without review, the PI can include a collaborator in a limited role as senior personnel. The solicitation includes four funding tracks: Synergy, Pivot, Relaunch, and Fellow in support of experienced scientists and engineers (tenured or equivalent).

- The BRITE Synergy Track is intended to support synthesis proposals borne out of a disaggregated and accumulated body of prior research outcomes that remain unstudied and unprobed to forge or conceptualize a novel direction, methodology, paradigm, or outcome that is more than the sum of the parts.
- The BRITE Pivot Track is intended to enable researchers to quickly adapt to the fast-moving pace of research and create new knowledge and research products in their field by infusing new concepts from a different discipline or sub-field.
- The BRITE Relaunch Track is intended to support tenured or equivalent faculty, who have had a pause in research activity, to relaunch back into active research, and to diversify the experiences of the nation's STEM researchers.
- The BRITE Fellow Track is intended to support established tenured or equivalent researchers who have demonstrated impact beyond scientific output to request extended time and freedom to use their intellectual creativity to explore divergent, bold, and ambitious research ideas where the expected scientific outcomes are highly uncertain and, therefore, high-risk.

All funded projects will form an NSF BRITE cohort and investigators will participate in NSF-organized convenings in the form of an annual review. The expected funding ranges for BRITE Research Grants are: $100,000-$200,000 per year The typical duration is 2 years for the BRITE Synergy track awards, 3 years for the BRITE Pivot and Relaunch tracks, and up to 5 years for the Fellow track awards. Variations from the typical durations will be considered with a clearly stated justification. BRITE proposals responding to this solicitation must include additional sections within the 15-page Project Description entitled: Past Contributions, Research Approach and Research Plan, Track Relevance, Outcomes, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan. Please see "Full Proposal Preparation Instructions" for additional details. Investigators who do not align with one of the tracks are not eligible for this solicitation.

An informational webinar about this solicitation will be held on March 19, 2021 at 12:00 PM EST. Details about how to join this webinar will be posted at https://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=ENG.

Link to Additional Information: http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf21568

3. The Midlife in the United States Study, Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health

Application Deadline: November 18, 2021

The purpose of this FOA is to solicit an application for the next 6-year cycle of the Midlife in the United States (MIDUS) Study. The goals of this next phase are to complete the fourth wave of longitudinal data collection for the core MIDUS sample and the second wave of the MIDUS refresher sample. Harnessing the data potential in MIDUS for research that contributes in novel ways to the field of aging is critical to the continuation of the MIDUS project. NIA is particularly interested in promoting areas of science prioritized by the NIA Division of Behavioral and Social Research described here: http://www.nia.nih.gov/research/dbsr. Such areas include, but are not limited to: (1) improved understanding of health disparities in aging; (2) increased understanding of how macro-social trends influence aging; (3) use of a range of approaches to better understand behavioral, psychological, social, and geroscience explanations

of aging; and (4) incorporation of a life course perspective to examine integrative pathways linking behavioral and psychosocial factors with biological mechanisms of health and illness.

A required component of the next project period is to enhance retention of at-risk and minority participants in MIDUS, including prior respondents lost to follow-up, to promote the potential for studying risk and resiliency among individuals in the most vulnerable segments of society.

Additionally, the next project period should minimize the lag between survey, biomarkers, and other measures, and the lag between the survey and an individual's participation in the various projects should be shortened and clarified. To enhance informed comparisons among participants on the various measures collected - across both the MIDUS continuation and the adjunct Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (AD/ADRD)-focused project - the lag between different assessments for a given participant must be explicitly reported. Although it is understood that the same sequencing of projects cannot be done for all participants, it is nonetheless worthwhile to attain closer temporal alignment between the survey and project-specific measures. The temporal tightening of multi-project data collection will reduce the time lag between projects and waves and help mitigate the problem of time decay in what might otherwise be stronger cross-sectional associations between survey constructs and sub-project constructs, and more cleanly establish the nature of the associations as longitudinal versus cross-sectional. This is particularly important in older participants for whom considerable change can occur over time gaps.

The general objectives for the next 6-year cycle of MIDUS are listed below. Applicants are not expected to address all the research objectives; if all research objectives are addressed, applicants are not expected to address them evenly. Applicants are encouraged to balance among these and justify their priorities and focus.

- Improve understanding of health disparities in aging – particularly regarding the sources of growing socioeconomic status (SES) and regional differences in mortality and life expectancy, as well as persistent racial inequalities.
- Increase understanding of how macro-social trends influence aging, including major social shifts like changing family lives; the rising number of older adults living alone; the rapidly changing nature of work; growing income inequality; trends in ageism and discrimination; immigration; climate change; and worsening mental and physical health that characterizes adults now entering older ages.
- Utilize a range of approaches to understand aging processes within a broader geroscience framework, with a particular focus on evaluating the interplay between social and psychological processes and biological mechanisms that accelerate or slow aging and accelerate or delay the onset of disease and that affect many aspects of physical, social, and cognitive functioning as well as mortality.
- Repeat and enhance the assessment of biomeasures currently collected, but also consider cryopreservation and biobanking of specimens for future analyses. A unique and exciting aspect of MIDUS lies in creating the opportunity to examine decades worth of changes in diurnal cortisol (and other) patterns. It is rare to be able to examine long-term stability or prediction of longer-term health outcomes across the MIDUS time span.
- Genomic data collection is another valuable contribution made by the MIDUS study to date, both in terms of the functional constructs it provides, as well as the ability to study changes in genomic features like CTRA over time. It is noted, however, that technology is moving so rapidly in this area that cryopreserving Peripheral Blood Mononuclear Cells (PBMC) is likely to prove worthwhile for future 'bulk' cell-type analyses. If properly banked, the blood can be processed/analyzed in subsequent projects armed with advance analytic techniques.
- Enhance the assessment of psychosocial factors, such as daily stress and well-being, by adding tablet (or other) technology to improve on the complex interactions between individual psychosocial characteristics and cognition, health, and socioeconomic outcomes in mid and later life.
- Foster innovation in statistical approaches to modeling longitudinal and cross-project data on health; cognition; daily stress processes; economic and subjective well-being; multi-system physiological dysregulation; behavioral and psychological phenotypes; and social and economic conditions, to shed light on pathways of health and illness in mid and later life. In a related vein, clarify the population representativeness of the study overall and within its subjects to facilitate use of the data by scientists who are external to the MIDUS team. Whereas the overall MIDUS sample may be representative, the effective sample in any cohort is likely skewed in the subprojects, and as such the sub-projects may have quite select groups.
- Enhance cross-project participation, retention, and data quality across the full range of MIDUS subprojects (including the adjunct AD/ADRD-focused project, PAR-21-157). The sampling/testing plan should make clear the participation of study participants in the various projects, including the timeline of participation and interval(s) between different tests.

Link to Additional Information: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-156.html

4. Advancing technologies to improve delivery of pharmacological, gene editing, and other cargoes for HIV and SUD mechanistic or therapeutic research (R01), Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health

Application Deadlines: October 25, 2021 & October 25, 2022

This initiative focuses on technologies to improve the delivery of pharmacological, gene editing, or other cargoes for HIV and SUD mechanistic or therapeutic research. The development of combination Anti-retroviral therapy for HIV has transformed HIV/AIDS into a chronic disease by suppressing viral replication to undetectable levels. However, even after combination anti-retroviral therapy, HIV reservoirs remain in the gut, the immune system, and the nervous system where HIV infected CD4+ T cells, macrophages, dendritic cells and microglia may reside. Thus, no cure has been found for HIV infection and no effective vaccine for HIV exists. Current anti-retroviral therapies also have problems with drug toxicity, bioavailability, and have not been formulated for sustained release. Long term sustained delivery is needed among people with substance use disorders where compliance with an anti-retroviral therapy regimen may be problematic. To address these issues the development of improved reagents or technologies to enable targeted delivery of reagents (e.g. small molecules, biologics, gene editing reagents, etc.) to particular CNS regions or cell types is of great interest. Such delivery systems would improve our ability to monitor or manipulate HIV and SUD processes and could serve as the foundation for improved future therapeutics for HIV and/or SUD. Targeted delivery of CRISPr/CAS9 constructs, a gene editing technology, to HIV reservoirs has the potential to eradicate and cure HIV. The effectiveness of gene editing technology may be enhanced through combination with nano-formulations of anti-retroviral therapeutic agents. Such nano-formulations could potentially reduce drug toxicity, improve bioavailability, and provide vehicles for sustained delivery to the periphery and the central nervous system. Sustained delivery formulations that suppress viral expression in the blood stream may eradicate HIV transmission as effectively as a vaccine among drug abusing populations who have problems with treatment compliance.

Applications without proposed technology developments to improve the delivery of cargoes for HIV and SUD research will be considered non-responsive and returned without review.

Design, Analysis, and Sample Size for Studies to Evaluate Group-Based Interventions: Investigators who wish to evaluate the effect of an intervention on a health-related biomedical or behavioral outcome may propose a study in which (1) groups or clusters are assigned to study arms and individual observations are analyzed to evaluate the effect of the intervention, or (2) participants are assigned individually to study arms but receive at least some of their intervention in a real or virtual group or through a shared facilitator. Such studies may propose a parallel group- or cluster-randomized trial, an individually randomized group-treatment trial, a stepped-wedge design, or a quasi-experimental version of one of these designs. In these studies, special methods may be warranted for analysis and sample size estimation. Applicants should show that their methods are appropriate given their plans for assignment of participants and delivery of interventions. Additional information is available at https://researchmethodsresources.nih.gov/.

Link to Additional Information: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DA-22-010.html

5. Build to Scale Program, Department of Commerce

Application Deadline: April 29, 2021

EDA's Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship is committed to furthering technology-based economic development initiatives that accelerate high quality job growth, create more economic opportunities, and support the future of the next generation of industry leading companies. To advance these goals, EDA awards grants through the Build to Scale Program for activities designed to develop and support regional innovation initiatives. EDA thereby advances the growth of connected, innovation-centric economies that increase job growth, enable the workforce of tomorrow, enhance global competitiveness, and foster global competitiveness through technology commercialization and entrepreneurship as described in Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (hereafter "Section 27").

The Build to Scale Program invites organizations who are aiding companies in developing the next generation of technologies to apply for funding. These organizations may be operating initiatives to unlock investment capital across a region or sector, operating programs to accelerate company growth, empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs, and/or enabling technology commercialization.

Under the Build to Scale Program, EDA is soliciting applications for two separate competitions:

(1) Venture Challenge: The Venture Challenge invites organizations to submit competitive proposals that seek to support entrepreneurship and accelerate company growth in their community, region, or combination of regions. Competitive proposals will outline how the project will strengthen economic competitiveness through new product innovation or new

technology adoption, enhancing research commercialization processes and outcomes, remediating structural barriers that inhibit regional innovation capacity and resilience, and/or leveraging regional competitive strengths to stimulate innovation and job creation. Companies served by the applicant organization should be challenging the status quo of established markets, commercializing technologies, and furthering job creation within their businesses. Applicants should provide evidence that illustrates how funds leveraged through this competition will not only launch new programming and/or scale, existing programming, but also generate sustainable added value for the region's entrepreneurial ecosystem by augmenting existing regional assets for innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Venture Challenge is a single competition but is comprised of two funding levels: Build and Scale. Venture Challenge Build applicants may not request in excess of $750,000 over the three-year period of performance. Venture Challenge Scale applicants must request more than $750,000 and may not request in excess of $1,500,000 over the three-year period of performance.

(2) Capital Challenge: The Capital Challenge provides operational support for the formation, launch, or scale of investment funds that seek to invest their capital in scalable startups (i.e., venture funds, seed funds, angel funds) or to organizations with a goal to expand capital deployment within a community, region, or regional industry (i.e., angel networks or investor training programs). Funding will primarily support operational and programmatic costs and may not be used as investment capital.

Applicants must provide a matching share from non-Federal sources of at least 50 percent of the total project cost; i.e., applicants must match each Federal dollar requested with at least one dollar of local match.

Link to Additional Information: http://www.eda.gov/oie/buildtoscale

6. New Chemistries for Un-drugged Targets through A Specialized Platform for Innovative Research Exploration (ASPIRE) Collaborative Research Program

Application Deadline: July 8, 2021

The purpose of the ASPIRE Collaborative Research Program is to facilitate translational and clinical research between NCATS intramural scientists and the extramural community to develop approaches that will enhance the ability to discover and develop new chemistries towards previously undrugged biological targets (i.e., biological targets with no known drugs to modulate their function) across many human diseases and conditions. NCATS intramural scientists have established an integrated NCATS ASPIRE platform consisting of physical and virtual modules for automated synthetic chemistry, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), engineering, informatics, and biological testing. The FOA will support intramural - extramural collaborations to develop additional physical modules that will enhance the platforms capabilities. The anticipated outcome includes identification, design, synthesis, and validation of new chemical entities as starting points for drug development of novel targets, and the expansion of chemical space available for drug screening.

For this FOA, the focus is to expand the chemical space from which new and improved therapeutics can be drawn upon through the identification, synthesis, and validation of new chemical entities. Extramural investigators will collaborate with the NCATS ASPIRE Laboratory (ncats.nih.gov/aspire/about/intramural-laboratory) to develop a physical module that will be integrated with the overall NCATS ASPIRE platform to help address a translational problem proposed by the extramural laboratory. The module will be initially designed and developed in the extramural PI/PDs laboratory based on the technical and functional specifications provided by the NCATS ASPIRE Laboratory. The module will then be transferred to NCATS on an agreed upon timeline, validated at the NCATS ASPIRE Laboratory and coupled to NCATS ASPIRE platform's chemical synthesis and biological screening capabilities. The goal is to enhance the overall capabilities of the NCATS ASPIRE platform and, ultimately, open the platform to non-chemists who can formulate a molecular hypothesis and utilize the platform to translate their ideas into testable compounds.

Active engagement with open communication channels is expected between the extramural researchers and NCATS ASPIRE Laboratory. To promote collaborative efforts from the outset, the partnering intramural and extramural investigators must work jointly in developing the application for this FOA. Extramural collaborators will provide expertise relevant to the development of a physical module of interest. Where applicable, this must include disease and disease-relevant biological assay development expertise. The applicants must have infrastructure and experiences that will allow them to immediately begin designing and building a proposed module. This includes adequate facilities that allow for development of complex mechanical, electrical and chemical interfaces, as well as access to software, mechanical electrical, chemical and automation engineering resources, strong familiarity with complex laboratory instrumentation, and experience with distributed software development projects using shared cloud shared repositories and cloud resources. The role of NCATS ASPIRE Laboratory will be to provide additional expertise relevant to development of the module and how it will be integrated with the overall platform to address a scientific question posed by the investigator. Depending

upon the type of a physical module selected, the involvement of NCATS may vary, ranging from cloud computing, expertise in a biological target of interest, small molecule or biological synthesis, automation, informatics analysis, or other related computational, chemistry and biology disciplines.

The collaborations in this FOA will sustain an innovative and collaborative ecosystem where the intramural ASPIRE platform provides access to capabilities that may be beyond the capabilities of extramural investigators. In turn, the extramural investigators will provide access to, for example, disease expertise and the latest cutting-edge techniques for potential integration. Specifically, this FOA is seeking collaborators with:

- Extensive clinical and biological knowledge of the disease and specific biological target of interest, respectively. NCATS is particularly interested in previously undrugged biological targets.
- Expertise in developing protocols for fast, high-throughput quantitative measurements of drug candidate efficacy such as colorimetric or fluorescence analysis, either cell or tissue-based, enzymatic, or other activity test.

Prior to submitting an application, applicants are expected to have already completed the following activities relevant to the project:

- If applicable to the physical module proposed, identified a specific disease-relevant biological target
- Developed a bioassay to quantitatively test the efficacy of a potential drug candidate. If the assay is currently in a low throughput format, the assay needs to be amenable to high-throughput screening (HTS). NCATS will assist the PI/PD in amending the assay to the capabilities of NCATS HTS. Assays that require manual processing and transfer to a different platform (e.g., histology) most likely will not be compatible to high throughput screening but should be discussed with the investigators at DPI before submission for alternative options.
- Knowledge of a drug or a family of drug candidates with known potential to modulate a specific disease is beneficial, but not required.

Link to Additional Information: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-TR-21-001.html

7. FY22 Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP), Department of Defense, Office of Naval Research

Application Deadline: May 14, 2021

The Department of Defense (DoD) announces the Fiscal Year 2022 Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP). DURIP is designed to improve the capabilities of accredited United States (U.S.) institutions of higher education to conduct research and to educate scientists and engineers in areas important to national defense, by providing funds for the acquisition of research equipment or instrumentation. For-profit organizations are not eligible for DURIP funding.

This announcement seeks proposals from universities to purchase equipment and instrumentation in support of research in areas of interest to the DoD. DoD interests include the areas of research supported by the Army Research Office (ARO), the Office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), hereafter generally referred to collectively as "we," "our," "us," or "administering agency." We use "administering agency" to provide a generic reference to any of the administering agencies. A central purpose of the DURIP is to provide equipment and instrumentation to enhance research related education in areas of interest and priority to the DoD. Therefore, your proposal must address the impact of the equipment or instrumentation on your institution's ability to educate students through research in disciplines important to DoD missions.

Each administering agency will make grant awards to fund the purchase of research equipment or instrumentation costing $50,000 or more that cannot typically be purchased within the budgets of single-investigator awards. We refer to this as major equipment or instrumentation for the remainder of the announcement. We generally cannot make any individual award that exceeds more than $1,500,000 in DoD funding unless your proposal qualifies for one of the two exceptions listed in section C.3.b Amount of Requested DoD Funding.

DoD can make awards to universities conducting, or demonstrably capable of conducting, research in areas of interest to the DoD with the new equipment or instrumentation proposed. DURIP awards are typically one year in length.

Link to Additional Information: Select "Work With Us (https://www.onr.navy.mil/en/work-with-us/funding-opportunities/announcements)," then "Funding Opportunities" and then click "BAAs, FOAs, and Special Program Announcements" from the menu on the left-hand side to see the Long Range Broad Agency Announcement for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology, N00014-21-S-B001.

8. Fiscal Year 2022 Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP), Department of Defense, Air Force Office of Scientific Research

Application Deadline: May 14, 2021

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Navigate to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=314753 to view the Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research," BAA FA9550-19-S-0003.

Each administering agency will make grant awards to fund the purchase of research equipment or instrumentation costing $50,000 or more that cannot typically be purchased within the budgets of single-investigator awards. We refer to this as major equipment or instrumentation for the remainder of the announcement. We generally cannot make any individual award that exceeds more than $1,500,000 in DoD funding unless your proposal qualifies for one of the two exceptions listed in section C.3.b Amount of Requested DoD Funding.

DoD can make awards to universities conducting, or demonstrably capable of conducting, research in areas of interest to the DoD with the new equipment or instrumentation proposed. DURIP awards are typically one year in length.

Link to Additional Information: Go to https://www.grants.gov and search for opportunity number **FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2021-0002**

9. Preventing Violence Affecting Young Lives (PREVAYL), Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control

Application Deadline: May 1, 2021

The purpose of this funding is to address multiple forms of violence impacting adolescents and young adults, particularly in communities with high rates of violence, by implementing prevention approaches with an emphasis on the outer levels of the social-ecological model (i.e., community/societal levels). PREVAYL requires recipients to implement community/societal level strategies and approaches that address multiple forms of violence impacting adolescents and young adults, develop and/or enhance a jurisdictional violence prevention strategic plan, develop and implement an evaluation plan, develop a sustainability plan, and participate in a multi-sector coalition. In addition, this funding will address risk factors such as social determinants of health (e.g., concentrated poverty, limited educational/employment opportunities) and racial inequity (e.g., structural, systemic, and institutional racism).

This NOFO will address multiple forms of violence impacting adolescents and young adults in communities with high rates of violence. This includes youth violence, teen dating violence, and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), as well as conditions that put communities at greater risk for violence. Recipients of this NOFO should address risk factors such as social determinants of health (e.g., concentrated poverty, limited educational/employment opportunities) and racial inequity. This is accomplished by implementing complementary prevention strategies at outer levels of the social-ecological model to prevent and decrease the rates of violence in high burden communities (see Glossary). Recipients of this NOFO will be tasked with implementing at least 2 strategies at the community/societal level. One of the strategies must be a public engagement and education campaign that addresses multiple forms of violence in the target population (adolescents and young adults ages 10-24). Recipients will also be expected to enhance a current/active jurisdiction-level strategic plan that integrates multiple forms of violence impacting adolescents and young adults; evaluate implementation quality, reach, and impact based on short-term and intermediate outcomes, and participate in a multi-sector coalition.

This NOFO will allow for the implementation of complementary community and societal level strategies, and address social determinants of health and racial inequity to prevent violence impacting adolescents and young adults in order to decrease the high rates of violence (e.g. in communities of color) and sustain widespread impact and reach of violence prevention strategies. It builds on the accomplishments and outcomes achieved in CDC-RFA-CE16-1605, Addressing Teen Dating and Youth Violence Through Shared Risk and Protective Factors, and places an emphasis on outer-level (community and societal level) strategies.

- Community-level strategies are those strategies that target the characteristics of settings (e.g., schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods) that increase the risk for or protect people from violence particularly the social, economic, and environmental characteristics of settings.
- Societal-level strategies are those strategies that look at the broad societal factors that help create a climate in which violence is encouraged or inhibited. These factors include social and cultural norms that support violence as an acceptable way to resolve conflicts. Other large societal factors include the health, economic, educational and social policies that help to maintain economic or social inequalities between groups in society.

Applicants must demonstrate a strong understanding of the public health approach to violence prevention and have experience implementing adolescents and young adult violence prevention strategies. Eligible applications must include the following to be responsive and move forward for review: Letter of support (LOS) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the applicant's local health department. Current/active violence prevention plan (the quality of the plan will be assessed via the evaluation criteria). Applicants must submit the MOU, MOA, LOS, and violence prevention plan as appropriate, name the file MOUs/MOAs/LOS/VPP, and upload it as a PDF file at www.grants.gov. Applications that do not meet the above criteria will be considered non-responsive and will not move forward for review.

Link to Additional Information: Go to www.grants.gov and search for opportunity number **CDC-RFA-CE21-2104**

10. Caribbean Partners for Conservation (CPC), USDA/NRCS

Application Deadline: May 31, 2021

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is announcing the potential availability of funding for agreements for the purpose of leveraging NRCS resources, addressing local natural resource issues, encouraging collaboration and developing stat and community-level conservation leadership. Proposals must be for projects based in the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands) and focus on conservation issues as noted in Section A (2) of this notice. Collaborative projects that provide on-the-ground support for Caribbean NRCS Field Offices are highly encouraged. Research proposals will not be accepted, nor considered. NRCS anticipates that the amount available for support of this program in FY 2021 will be up to $450,000.00. Proposals are requested from City or township governments, county governments, Federally recognized Native American tribal governments, state governments, nonprofits having a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS (other than institutions of higher education), or institutions of higher education for competitive consideration of awards for projects between 1 and 3 years in duration. Organizations may use this opportunity to request additional funding for existing agreements in the Caribbean Area.

The purpose of the Caribbean Partners for Conservation awards will be to leverage NRCS and partner resources on proposals that address the following goals:

1. Increase implementation of conservation practices that promote the four Soil Health Principles (Disturbing Soil Less, Diversify Soil Biota, Keep Living Roots and Keep the Soil Covered)
2. Increase the implementation of conservation practices that aid in adapting to and mitigating against increasing extreme weather events and promoting drought resiliency measures.
3. Increase productivity of grasslands and improve animal husbandry.
4. Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern as listed in Puerto Rico and USVI State Wildlife Action Plans.
5. Increase urban farming and conservation in Puerto Rico and the USVI.

Priority will be placed on projects that:

1. Provide support to both Puerto Rico and USVI field offices and/or clients.
2. Provide support to Landscape Planning efforts at the watershed or landscape level that reduces sediment, and nutrient loading by assisting with technical assistance, Farm Bill program promotion, innovative conservation approaches, evaluating conservation outcomes, and/or demonstration farms.
3. Conduct conservation planning, on-site (field) practice certifications and/or follow up with producers on establishment of conservation practices.

4. Build tools and technical capacity of NRCS and partner field conservation employees.
5. Build the capacity of local watershed groups to develop and implement effective projects.
6. Conduct surveys and gathering materials cost for conservation practices (electronic Field Office Technical Guide) that will serve NRCS to include cost analysis in the conservation plans.

Awarded organizations may be required to attend administrative training and may be required to present project updates in the form of a formal presentation to the Caribbean NRCS Leadership.

This notice identifies the objectives, eligibility criteria, and application instructions for projects. Proposals will be screened for completeness and compliance with the provisions of this notice. Incomplete and/or non-compliant proposals may be eliminated from competition, and notification of elimination will be sent to the applicant. Questions regarding this notice of funding opportunity (NFO) may be submitted until April 15, 2021. Responses to questions posed will be posted on Grants.gov approximately two weeks before the application due date.

The agency anticipates making selections by June 30, 2021 and expects to execute awards by August 1, 2021.

Link to Additional Information: Go to www.grants.gov and search for Funding Opportunity number **USDA-NRCS-PR-CPC-21-NOFO0001067**

11. Advanced Manufacturing Project, Department of Commerce

Application Deadline: April 8, 2021

This notice requests applications for programs aligned with the Minority Business Development Agency's (MBDA) strategic plans and mission goals to service minority business enterprises (MBE's). This notice also provides the public with information and guidelines on how MBDA will select proposals and administer discretionary Federal assistance under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

The Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce, will provide Federal assistance to support innovative projects seeking to promote and ensure the growth of minority enterprises. The MBDA Advanced Manufacturing Project (AMP) program provides technical assistance and business development and manufacturing assistance services to minority business enterprises (MBEs). In accordance with Executive Order 11625 and 15 U.S.C. § 1512, MBDA is soliciting competitive applications from eligible organizations for the operation of Advanced Manufacturing Projects as described in this NOFO. MBDA anticipates awarding four (4) individual cooperative agreement pursuant to this NOFO for a specialty project located within any of the 50 United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, or U.S. Virgin Islands.

The AMP awards will be used to identify, screen, promote, and refer minority business enterprises (MBEs) to specialized advanced manufacturing programs (e.g., the NIST Manufacturing Extension Program (MEP)), and to provide technical and business development services. The technical assistance and business development services will generate increased financing and contract opportunities for MBEs and will assist MBEs in creating and retaining jobs. The AMP awardees also will assess regulatory changes pertaining to manufacturing in domestic and global markets, economic impact, and need for minority manufacturers. AMP awardees will educate federal, state, local government, and private sector entities on ways to expand resources and to use minority manufacturers.

The MBDA provides Federal assistance in support of innovative projects that promote and seek to resolve the challenges faced by minority enterprises. The funds to be awarded by this program are not congressionally directed funds or designated for existing funded awards. In the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriations bill, Congress authorized funding to MBDA for the necessary expenses of fostering, promoting, and developing minority business enterprises, including the expenses of grants with public or private organizations. See Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-260 (Dec. 27, 2020). MBDA is authorized pursuant to Executive Order 11625 to provide financial assistance to public and private organizations so that they may render technical and management assistance to minority business enterprises and defray all or part of the costs of pilot or demonstration projects conducted by public or private agencies or organizations that are designed to overcome the special challenges of minority business enterprises.

The primary drivers of the AMP are: (i) capacity building, and (ii) job creation/retention resulting from facilitating contracts/financing for medium-sized minority businesses in the manufacturing industry. AMP services include, but are not limited to: the vetting of MBE manufacturers; referral of clients to advanced manufacturing resources; development of a pool of contract and finance opportunities; direct matching of opportunities with qualified/vetted advanced manufacturing MBEs; relationship management and deal sourcing initiatives (such as but not limited to industry clusters); facilitating MBE growth through exports (identifying global markets and financing); identifying, matching, and securing alternative sources of capital and financing; educating MBEs on the benefits of

strategic growth alternatives (e.g., mergers, acquisitions and/or joint ventures); MBE advocacy; and providing service referrals to MBEs of all sizes. The AMP awardees will assess regulatory changes pertaining to manufacturing in domestic and global markets, economic impact, and need for minority manufacturers.

Register for the Pre-Application Conference: MBDA Business Center Program pre-application conference will be held on March 12, 2021 at 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. E.D.T. at: https://www.mbda.gov/mbda-advanced-manufacturing-project-pre-application-conference

Link to Additional Information: https://www.mbda.gov/mbda-advanced-manufacturing-project

12. Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19, DHHS, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health/Office of Minority Health

Application Deadline: April 20, 2021

This notice solicits applications for projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of local government implementation of evidence-based health literacy strategies that are culturally appropriate to enhance COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and/or other mitigation measures (e.g., public health prevention practices and vaccination) in racial and ethnic minority populations and other socially vulnerable populations, including racial and ethnic minority rural communities. This initiative will align with, but not duplicate, existing federal efforts to disseminate resources for COVID-19 responses.

The Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19 initiative aligns with: (1) HHS Strategic Plan Goal 2: Protect the Health of Americans Where They Live, Learn, Work, and Play; (2) Healthy People 2030 objectives: (a) HC/HIT-01: Increase the proportion of adults whose health care provider checked their understanding; (b) HC/HIT-02: Reduce the proportion of adults who report poor patient and provider communication; (c) HC/HIT-03: Increase the proportion of adults whose health care providers involved them in decisions as much as they wanted; and (d) IID-D02: Increase the proportion of people with vaccination records in an information system; and (3) the OASH priority on health disparities (1, 2). OMH will consider the following additional factors when making recommendations for funding, listed below in no particular order:

- Applicants serving localities with the highest social vulnerability. This may be determined by being in the top 4th as defined by the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) county maps at https://svi.cdc.gov/prepared-county-maps.html, or alternate similar data source if SVI is not available.
- Applicants with identified Minority Serving Institution partners. Minority Serving Institutions are defined by the U.S. Department of Education as a category of institutions of higher education enrolling populations with significant percentages of undergraduate minority students, or that serve certain populations of minority students under various programs created by Congress. Find the full definition and list of Minority Serving Institutions here: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html. See Appendix G for a list of Minority Serving Institutions, which can also be found here https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/assets/PDF/2020_Minority_Serving_Institutions.pdf.
- Equitable geographic distribution.

OMH expects recipients to partner with a Minority Serving Institution (Appendix G) when possible to establish and implement an ongoing quality improvement process and project evaluation. OMH expects recipients to use the quality improvement processes to refine the health literacy interventions that support improvements in the disparities identified in the disparity impact statement. The project evaluation should determine whether the health literacy intervention was implemented as planned, whether it reached the target population described in the Disparity Impact Statement, and whether there were any changes in the access, use and outcomes of COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and related activities (e.g., contact tracing, preventive behaviors). OMH expects recipients to provide periodic project data stratified by demographic characteristics, on changes in the access, use and outcomes of COVID-19 vaccination, testing, and related activities (e.g., contact tracing, preventive behaviors) and project data related to the Healthy People 2030 objectives HC/HIT-01, HC/HIT-02, HC/HIT-03 and IID-D02. See Appendix C – Healthy People 2030 for details and resources.

Link to Additional Information: https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/preaward/previewPublicAnnouncement.do?id=92239

13. Industrial Assessment Centers, Department of Energy

Application Deadline: April 22, 2021

This Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is being issued by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO). The U.S. manufacturing sector uses 25% of the nation's energy and has an annual energy bill of more than $150 billion. Efficiency improvements in manufacturing not only benefit

the manufacturing sector, but also impact the energy efficiency of products used throughout the economy. AMO's technical partnerships support the development, deployment and validation of technologies and practices including increasing the productivity and competitiveness of American manufacturers and other large energy-using facilities and continuing the education and development of the US workforce of energy professionals. The Federal Government has been funding the Industrial Assessment Center (IAC)[1] program, formerly called the Energy Analysis and Diagnostic Center program, since 1976. The goal of the IAC program is twofold: first, to help US manufacturing competitiveness by providing assessments and recommendations for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) on energy efficiency, productivity, sustainability and competitiveness – including measuring the impacts of these recommendations on reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and second, to address a growing shortage of engineering professionals with applied energy and manufacturing-related skills by training a diverse cross-section of engineering students through hands-on involvement in these assessments. This is a restricted eligibility announcement. Eligibility is restricted to the following types of entities:

- A U.S. college or school of engineering that is an integral part of its institutional structure and that has at least one of its four-year undergraduate programs accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission or the Technology Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) or equivalent (The IAC must be in the engineering department that holds the programmatic ABET or equivalent accreditation).
- The U.S. college or school of engineering must be physically located in the U.S.
- Eligible minority-serving institutions (MSIs) that meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Section 452 (e), as codified in 42 U.S.C. 17111(e), which authorizes this activity, specifically identifies the purposes for IACs:

(e) Institution of higher education-based industrial research and assessment centers. The Secretary shall provide funding to institution of higher education-based industrial research and assessment centers, whose purpose shall be –

1. to identify opportunities for optimizing energy efficiency and environmental performance;
2. to promote applications of emerging concepts and technologies in small- and medium-sized manufacturers;
3. to promote research and development for the use of alternative energy sources to supply heat, power, and new feedstocks for energy-intensive industries;
4. to coordinate with appropriate Federal and State research offices, and provide a clearinghouse for industrial process and energy efficiency technical assistance resources; and
5. to coordinate with State-accredited technical training centers and community colleges, while ensuring appropriate services to all regions of the United States.

[1]U.S. Department of Energy. Advanced Manufacturing Office. IAC Program website, http://www.energy.gov/eere/amo/industrial-assessment-centers-iacs.

Link to Additional Information: Go to https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/ and search for Funding Opportunity Number **DE-FOA-0002452**


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