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

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Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

- **Department of Homeland Security** – Update on U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) notice that the agency will extend flexibility for 60 calendar days for several documents;
- **Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health –** National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) issued this Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to highlight the urgent need for research on COVID-19 and consequent biological effects on the nervous system;
- **Department of Defense** – New RFP from U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) to develop a "Wearable Diagnostic for Detection of COVID-19 Infection";
- **Department of Defense** – Deadline extension for RFI to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19.

As new information related to the pandemic decreases in volume, Lewis-Burke has transitioned to disseminating this update a few times each week, rather than daily. Also, if you – or your organization – are interested in helping the effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, FEMA has established a website (https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/how-to-help) with more information.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Update: Senate Returns to Washington Despite COVID-19 Concerns

The Senate returns to Washington today under controversial circumstances as Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) reconvenes the Senate amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Leader McConnell's decision to reconvene is thought to mostly be based on his interest in confirming federal judges and other political appointees. The House of Representatives was also originally scheduled to return to Capitol Hill today; however, after consulting with the Capitol's attending physician, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), and House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) made the decision to postpone the House's return until Monday, May 11 due to COVID-19 related concerns.

One hearing is scheduled for the Senate Health, Labor, & Pensions (HELP) Committee on Thursday to examine COVID-19 testing, and will feature the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Dr. Francis Collins and acting Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Director, Dr. Gary Disbrow as witnesses. With both the House and Senate expected to be back in session next week, additional details of a possible fourth COVID-19 package may start to emerge.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
    - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.
- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local

entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at
https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.

- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Department of Education (ED)

- 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 new 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.

- On April 21, ED announced the availability of emergency funding for the institutional portion, or "Recipient's Institutional Costs," of the higher education emergency grant aid as provided by the CARES Act. This follows funding for emergency financial aid grants to students, which was announced April 9. These funds are "to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus." In an FAQ on the funding for institutions, the Department of Education (ED) notes that institutions may use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds to students for room and board, tuition, and other fees. Information on the institutional funding provided by CARES, including a letter from the Secretary, the Certificate of Agreement, a Frequently Asked Questions, and other information is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- On April 21, ED also released a new FAQ on the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The guidance emphasizes that funding provided by the CARES Act for students must go to students, but institutions may also use student funding to reimburse emergency grants given to students on or after March 27. ED will publish a notice in the Federal Register to provide instructions to institutions on reporting requirements. The FAQ also notes that only "students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants." This means DACA students and international students would be ineligible for aid. The new FAQ is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf.

- Institutions should be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students under the CARES Act to www.grants.gov. Using opportunity number ED-GRANTS-041020-003, institutions should list the 50 percent direct-to-student allocation on the certificate. Certificates can be submitted at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326222.

- On April 14, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that funding for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, authorized by the CARES Act, was available. GEER grants are awarded by formula to Governors and are available to support local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance to address the impact that the coronavirus pandemic. More information on the GEER fund is available at https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/.

- 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.

- ED announced on April 9 plans for how it would distribute emergency student funding provided in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund as authorized by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provided a funding allocation of $12.56 billion that was to be distributed to institutions of higher education, with at least 50 percent reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. In a cover letter sent to institutions, ED notes that "each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to

allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need." Submission of a certification form will trigger a release of funds in ED's grants management system, G5. ED emphasizes that these funds are only to provide cash to students; institutions are not permitted to use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds (these include refunds for room and board, purchase of technology, and expenses already incurred). Congress has provided greater flexibility for the institutional portion of CARES Act funding, for which ED will outline the uses and methods by which institutions can use those funds for reimbursement in coming days and weeks. A letter from ED to institutions, the certification form, additional directions for applying for the funds, institutional allotments, and the methodology for calculating allocations is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- On April 3, ED released guidance providing additional regulatory flexibilities to institutions in several policy areas including verification, need analysis, and distance education. Previous guidance applied only to students enrolled in terms that ended on or before June 1, 2020; the updated guidance extends many of these flexibilities through June 30. One highlight of the new guidance that will be significant as aid from the CARES Act begins to flow to students relates to need analysis. The guidance states, "Any aid (in the form of grants or low-interest loans) received by victims of an emergency from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) under the Federal Methodology or as estimated financial assistance for packaging purposes." The updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19.

- 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. The proposed rules are open for a 30-day comment period, with ED intending 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 FERPA's implications for distance learning at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov. Additionally, on March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (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 additional information for accreditors offering regulatory flexibilities during COVID-19 outbreak, including allowing virtual site visits and extensions on accreditation. The guidance document is at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/20-007covid19accreditorsfromomb317s.pdf.
- 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, TechforLearners.org, which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching.
- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 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:
  - **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

- o **Guidance for NIH Peer Reviewers:** https://grants.nih.gov/grants/files/Coronavirus-update-Guidance-for-Peer-Reviewers.pdf
  - o **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)

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced its intention to allocate over $40 billion of additional provider relief funding. Congress initially provided $100 billion to support providers who have experienced increased costs or revenue loss due to COVID-19, of which HHS has already disbursed $30 billion. Additional funding will be allocated as follows:
  - o An additional $20 billion will be distributed to Medicare providers and facilities starting Friday, April 24, based on providers' 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 will be available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.
  - o $10 billion will be distributed to hospitals in areas heavily impacted by COVID-19. Hospitals can apply for this funding by submitting their Tax Identification Number, National Provider Identifier, total number of ICU beds as of April 10, and total number of admissions with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis between January 1 and April 10 to an authentication portal by midnight Pacific Time, April 23. Hospitals have been contacted directly to access the portal and provide this information.
  - o In allocating this funding, HHS will also consider the number of low-income patients served, using the applicant's Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Adjustment.
  - o $10 billion will be distributed to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
  - o $400 will be allocated for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
  - o An unspecified portion of the remaining $30 billion will be used to reimburse providers at Medicare rates for providing treatment and care to uninsured COVID-19 patients. Providers who have provided treatment to uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4 can request reimbursement starting in May 2020. Additional information on registration and reimbursement is available at coviduninsuredclaim.hrsa.gov.

HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining $30 billion will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and providers that solely take Medicaid. However, no further details have been announced.

Congress is currently working to provide an additional $75 billion for provider relief, and we anticipate these legislative efforts will be finalized later today (see immediately below). Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

COVID-19
Update

LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

- HHS has started distributing an initial $30 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. Funding will be automatically disbursed to all healthcare facilities and providers that received Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursements in 2019; no application or request for funding is required. Healthcare providers receiving funding must agree not to collect out-of-pocket payments for services provided to COVID-19 patients that would be greater than the cost to in-network patients (i.e. surprise medical bills). Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.
  - Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- 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.
  - o 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 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 posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.

- o The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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 COIVD-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)

- 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 available at https://www.nsf.gov/bio/deb/DEB_VOH.pdf.
  - The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences within BIO will hold office hours the second Wednesday of the month. More information at https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/office-hours/.
  - Slides from the early-April BIO-wide office hours are available at https://oadblog.nsfbio.com/2020/04/09/recap-bio-wide-office-hours/.
  - 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 at https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300336&WT.mc_id=USNSF_58&WT.mc_ev=click
  - A presentation on the NSF response to coronavirus from the Directorate for Engineering Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7 is available at https://www.nsf.gov/attachments/300069/public/NSF_response_to_coronavirus_ENG_AdCom_2020_Spring-508.pdf.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list is updated regularly and can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- 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)

- 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:
    - o Flexibility with SAM registration;
    - o Flexibility with application deadlines;
    - o No-cost extensions;
    - o Continuation requests;
    - o Allowability of salaries and other project activities;
    - o Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards;
    - o Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
    - o Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
    - o Extension of closeout reports; and
    - o Extension of single audit submissions.
- DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. Most recently, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) extended the deadline for the Bio-Optimized Technologies to Keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment (BOTTLE) solicitation. Concept papers are now due **April 29, 2020 at 5:00 PM ET**. Full applications will be due **July 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM ET.** For more information, DOE recommends referencing the full FOA at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=9365680f-656d-4e74-ba72-c9f5a7fdd290. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates.
- On March 31, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) issued deadline extensions to funding opportunities and requests for information (RFI), including:
    - o Range Extenders for Electric Aviation with Low Carbon Emission and High Efficiency (REEACH): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
    - o Aviation-class Synergistically Cooled Electric-motors with iNtegrated Drives (ASCEND): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
    - o For all other relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- DOE plans to release new guidance for grantees that directly addresses guidance in OMB Memo M-20-11, "Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)." The updated guidance should address all issues related to DOE's financial assistance awards, including allowable costs for supporting graduate students and postdocs.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.

- Information on DOE's resources supporting coronavirus research is available at https://science.osti.gov/DOE-Resources-Supporting-Coronavirus-Research.

Update: Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- **NEW:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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:
  - o 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/humantarian/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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has an updated FAQ on the impact of COVID-19 on SEVP-certified schools and F and M students. That FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2020/COVID-19FAQ.pdf. Regularly updated guidance is available at https://www.ice.gov/covid19.
- 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)

- On April 13, the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness released a supplemental memo on 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:
    o **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
    o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
    o **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?
    o **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 benefits

  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.
- 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://cdmrp.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.

- o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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)

- NEH announced a new limited submission grant opportunity funded out of the third stimulus package, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. The NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations opportunity, will offer grants to organizations, including higher education institutions, of up to $300,000 to support a range of short-term needs, including activities such as supporting faculty converting humanities courses online and planning for digitization of scholarship and humanities research. Applications are due May 11, 2020. Additional details and application information is available at https://www.neh.gov/program/neh-cares-cultural-organizations.
- 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. 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 posted the agency's CARES Act funded grant competition to help arts organizations endure financial impacts from COVID-19. NEA received $75 million in the CARES Act. Applicants must be previous NEA awardees from the past four years. Applications are due April 22 via www.grants.gov and also submitted to the Endowment's application portal between April 27 - May 4. Details at https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/CARES/grant-program-description.
- 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 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

Department of State (DOS)

- 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 oversees 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice. The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the NIFA FAQ document. More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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.

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- o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- o 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 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

- 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

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- On April 29, NIH announced a new fast-track program for COVID-19 test development and distribution. The **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program** will leverage the existing Point-of-Care Technology Research Network (POCTRN) supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to support novel solutions to ramp up national capacity for SARS-CoV-2 testing. NIBIB is urgently soliciting proposals and will provide up to $500 million across multiple projects to produce SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests. The RADx program will support all phases of product development from conceptualization and design to prototyping, performance evaluation, clinical validation, and manufacturing.

  Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis starting April 29 and will be reviewed within a week of submission. Additional details and the application portal can be found at https://www.poctrn.org/radx (note that the application portal can be accessed at the bottom of this webpage using the "Apply Now" button).

- On April 23, NIAID released a strategic plan outlining the Institute's priorities for COVID-19 related research in fiscal years (FY) 2020-2024. Complete details on the Strategic Plan can be found at https://www.niaid.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIAID-COVID-19-Strategic-Plan-2020.pdf.
- 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 Notice**
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 New R21: PAR-20-177
NLM	4/27/2020	Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: NOT-LM-20-011
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 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions		
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**
NEW: NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NINDS	4/14/2020	NOT-NS-20-046
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054

NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782
NHLBI	3/17/2020	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011
NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	4/10/2020	NOT-GM-20-027
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-018
NIDCD	4/9/2020	NOT-DC-20-004
NHGRI	3/31/2020	NOT-HG-20-030

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NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has released two Notices of Intent for upcoming funding opportunities designed to support studies evaluating health system and healthcare professional responsiveness to COVID-19. The agency plans to publish notices calling for both urgent revision supplements to existing AHRQ grants, and for novel high-impact studies to be funded through the R01 mechanism.
  - o Competitive revision supplements for existing AHRQ projects should "capitalize on the expertise of grant personnel and the institutional environment to expand the specific aims of the on-going research to develop high-impact new knowledge concerning COVID-19." AHRQ expects to make at least $2.5 million available for these supplements and will announce the full details of award size and eligibility available with the Funding Opportunity Announcement is released in April 2020. The Notice of Intent for these supplements can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-007.html.
  - o For new studies related to COVID-19, AHRQ is interested in "critical research focused on evaluating topics such as innovations and challenges encountered in the rapid expansion of telemedicine in response to COVID-19, effects on quality, safety, and value of health system response to COVID-19, and the role of primary care practices and professionals during the COVID-19 epidemic. AHRQ is particularly interested in understanding how digital health innovations contributed to health system and healthcare professional innovation and challenges and solutions to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations including older adults, people living with multiple chronic conditions, rural communities, and uninsured and underinsured populations." AHRQ expects to dedicate $5 million to this program. The agency plans to release the Funding Opportunity Announcement for these grants in early May 2020, with an expected deadline in June 2020. The Notice of Intent for this initiative can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-008.html.

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)

- 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?oppId=325751.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI is soliciting applications to a special engagement award opportunity, "Supporting Engagement in and Dissemination of PCOR/CER in the Context of COVID-19." PCORI intends to award $21 million to research support projects that encourage the integration of community and healthcare stakeholders into patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) on COVID-19. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-covid-19.
- PCORI intends to issue a Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies that "(1) strengthen the understanding of different approaches to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on individuals, communities, healthcare providers, and healthcare systems; and (2) provide evidence to inform clinical and public health responses, decision making, and planning." Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/covid-19-targeted-pfa.
- 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- Information on awarded Coronavirus RAPID Awards is available at https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=COVID+AND+RAPID&ActiveAwards=true.

- On April 3, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) that combines two of previous DCLs. The new DCL invites proposals "to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge." The solicitation invites researchers to submit proposals **through existing funding mechanisms as well as the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism**. The DCL also invites proposals that "request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources." NSF directs researchers to contact the NSF Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) before submitting a proposal. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf.
- On March 25, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19. NSF invites U.S.-based businesses to submit Phase I SBIR/STTR proposals focused on "the development and deployment of new technologies, products, processes, and services" that have the potential to help respond to COVID-19. The DCL highlights the following areas of research: artificial intelligence, digital health, diagnostics, distributed ledger, environmental technologies, medical devices, pharmaceutical technologies, disinfection and sterilization, and filtration and separations. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20065/nsf20065.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to develop a "Wearable Diagnostic for Detection of COVID-19 Infection." MTEC seeks wearable devices that can conduct continuous physiological monitoring without impacting the wearer's daily activities and that are focused on pre- and very early symptomatic detection of COVID-19 infection. Proposed projects must currently be in development or commercially available given the "urgent need for development of rapid, accurate wearable diagnostics to identify and isolate pre-symptomatic COVID-19 cases and track/prevent the spread of the virus," according to the solicitation. MTEC anticipates that $25 million will be available for up to 10 awards but does not specify the amount for individual awards. Proposals are due by **May 13, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET**. Additional requirements and information can be found in the RPP, located at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/0afc4ee652694b7d9c5bc2a9209cb65d/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000 or at https://beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "MTEC-20-12-COVID-19_Diagnostics."

    MTEC anticipates potential upcoming solicitations in the area of predictive analytics that can forecast potential hot spots and empower decision makers' response actions. MTEC membership is not required to respond to solicitations but membership will be required for applicants recommended for awards. More information on joining MTEC can be found at http://mtec-sc.org/how-to-join/.

    Lewis-Burke anticipates forthcoming RPPs to be released related to topics described in MTEC's pre-announcement, including:
    - "**Point-of-care diagnostic** that provides rapid and accurate determination on exposure to COVID-19.

- **Prophylactic(s)/Therapeutic(s) that can prevent and/or treat in a rapid manner (few hours to 2 days) potentially in a non-hospital environment**. Repurposing FDA-approved drugs/biologics for prevention/treatment of COVID-19 or testing of drugs/biologics that have already demonstrated safety in humans for the prevention/treatment of COVID-19 are preferred.
- **Disease predictive modeling** that provides early warning through data capture from several different streams of data to include **social media and artificial intelligence (AI)** parameter decision tools that would provide actionable information to medical service providers and command structures.
- **Patient monitoring, tracking, and management system** for in-home or non-hospital environment patient tele-health services to include interface into the Cerner electronic health record."

MTEC's preannouncement can be found at
https://beta.sam.gov/opp/53badf9fb02349e78839a541495efc6a/view#general.

- <mark>UPDATED:</mark> The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline to May 18, 2020 for its Request for Information (RFI) issued on April 8 to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19. DLA also seeks to identify alternatives or additional PPE items necessary to protect against viral contamination of COVID-19. Items of interest include:
  - Medical Examination Gloves
  - Medical Aprons
  - Medical Face Masks (N95 Respirator)
  - Medical Face Shields
  - Hand Sanitizer
  - Surgical Masks
  - Swab Viral Transport Kit
  - Viral Transport Swabs
  - SWAB Nasopharyngeal
  - Medical Thermometers
  - **Human Remains Pouches (new area of interest)**

This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **May 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**, extended from the previous deadline of May 2. DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after the new due date. Respondents are asked to provide either a technical data package for the item(s) or website links with detailed information on the product. For any questions, please contact Brian Schott at brian.schott@dla.mil. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "SPE2DS-20-R-COVID19."

- 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 Department of the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released a broad agency announcement (BAA) intended to engage the Defense Industrial Base. The BAA is seeking proposals that "demonstrate development and commercialization of dual-use technologies" in four specific topic areas:
  - Naval Depot Modernization and Sustainment
  - Digital Logistics
  - Deployable Systems Manufacturability
  - Rapid Reconstitution of Communications and Compact Hardware Solutions

  Proposals are due by **May 28, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET.** The SBIR program is a three-phase program, and phase I awards for this BAA will be $150,000 each for a performance period of five months. Phase II awards are expected to be $1.7 million. Awards are expected to be processed within 45 days after the BAA closes. The BAA and four topics can be found at https://navysbir.com/topics20_4.htm.
- The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) announced on April 15 its first area of interest: **Rapid Agile Manufacturing Platform (RAMP).** As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, the DAF ACT established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government.

For the newly released **RAMP** area of interest, the Air Force requests solutions for the design, engineering, testing, manufacturing, distribution, and associated digital planning tools required to deliver a variety of medically-related supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Relevant solutions should consider the suite of advanced manufacturing technologies and need not be specific to additive manufacturing, aka, 3D printing. Equipment needs will be focused on, though not exclusive to, environments suited for emergency response and security personnel in non-clinical environments. This effort intends to leverage progress made through the America Makes National Manufacturing Institute, which has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services to approve open source designs for Community Use and Clinical Use equipment. These designs are accessible through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Exchange (https://3dprint.nih.gov/collections/covid-19-response)." Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, DAF ACT Areas of Interest are expected to include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19

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. The Air Force also announced that its effort, known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and

solicitations, so that all of the Service Branches, DOD components, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) can evaluate and potentially fund proposals.

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:
    - **Investigator-Initiated Research Award:** This award is "designed to support research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements" in Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Research projects should focus on basic laboratory research through translational research. CDMRP anticipates a total of $12 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326174.
    - **Technology/Therapeutic Development Award:** This product-driven award supports the translation of preclinical findings into products for clinical applications for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products should be tangible items, such as a pharmacologic agent or device or a knowledge-based product. CDMRP anticipates a total of $25 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326175**.**
    - **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.
- The Basic Research Office within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering announced a one-time Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) on April 3 for the "Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic." The Newton Award will be presented to individuals or teams of two investigators to develop a "transformative idea" to resolve challenges, advance frontiers, and set new paradigms in areas of immense potential benefit to the DOD and the nation. Proposed research does not have to be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals should aim to produce novel conceptual frameworks or theory-based approaches, and DOD requires that all supporting data be generated without the use of laboratory-based experimentation or instrumentation. DOD anticipates that a total of $500,000 will be available for up to 10 awards. Individual awards will be funded at up to $50,000 for a single investigator and $100,000 for a two-person team. Proposals are due by **May 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM ET**, and the six-month period of performance is expected to start on June 30, 2020. More information is available at www.grants.gov under "BRO-20-NEWTON" or at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326034.

- The Department of Defense's (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, now 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."
- 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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:
- o Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- o Unemployment; and
- o Broadband availability."

Additional information on the anticipated grants is expected to be posted in the coming weeks. 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible.   More Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.
- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research

- FFAR is funding five additional Vet Fellowships to conduct pandemic and zoonotic research. As part of these additional fellowships, FFAR has waived the matching requirement and extended the deadline through May 6, 2020. More information is available at https://foundationfar.org/2020/04/08/ffar-funds-veterinary-research-to-address-pandemic-diseases/.

Other Sources

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- On March 26, a new public-private research consortium, the C3.ai Digital Transformation Institute (C3.ai DTI) was announced. Managed by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and the University of California, Berkeley, the consortium also involves C3.ai, Microsoft Corporation, Princeton University, the University of Chicago, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at UIUC. C3.ai DTI aims to use artificial intelligence (AI) and advanced computing to research solutions for COVID-19. The Institute has announced an initial call for proposals titled, "AI Techniques to Mitigate Pandemic," which brings together Health and AI research: "Up to $5.8 million in awards will be funded from this first call, ranging from $100,000 to $500,000 each." Proposals are due May 1, 2020 and more information is available at https://c3dti.ai/

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. With over 13,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 begun implementing proposals in 64 developing countries through its emergency support effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and expects to be operating in 100 countries by the end of April. The WBG Board approved deployment of up to $160 billion over the next 15 months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. The regional development banks have made an additional $80 billion available to be deployed over the same period. More information about the WBG effort is available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/02/the-world-bank-group-moves-quickly-to-help-countries-respond-to-covid-19.
  - For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO issued a scientific brief warning against the issuance of "immunity passports" to people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies, noting that there is no scientific evidence that those who have been infected are protected from second infection. Several countries are considering using these "immunity passports" as the basis for allowing individuals to re-enter the workforce. The WHO brief is available https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/immunity-passports-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- The WHO initiated a global platform to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $7.5 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.
- 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.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
May 7, 2020

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Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

- **Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA)** – New guidelines for the $1.5 billion allocated to the agency through the *CARES Act* to advance economic development in areas negatively impacted by COVID-19;
- **Department of Education** – The Federal Student Aid office released initial reporting instructions for the *CARES Act*'s Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) aid received by institutions of higher education;
- **Internal Revenue Service** – New guidance on the taxability of student grants under *CARES* and the receipt of Economic Impact Payments by international students;
- **National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute** – NHLBI is seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease;
- **National Institutes of Health, Nationa**l **Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research** – Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) for the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions and Administrative Supplements for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Research within the Mission of NIDCR was released this week.

As new information related to the pandemic decreases in volume, Lewis-Burke has transitioned to disseminating this update a few times each week, rather than daily. Also, if you – or your organization – are interested in helping the effort to combat the spread of COVID-19, FEMA has established a website (https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/how-to-help) with more information.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Update: Initial Discussions Begin for Next Relief Package; Republicans Name Members of Coronavirus Select Subcommittee

With the House of Representatives set to return to Washington next week, discussions have accelerated regarding the next stimulus package. House Democrats are close to a partisan draft proposal that will focus on aid to state and local governments among other emergency economic needs. Ideas floated so far have included a second round of individual stimulus checks, hazard pay, loan forgiveness for healthcare workers, and another influx of cash into the Paycheck Protection Program that was established in the *CARES Act*. Democrats have been pushing a sweeping relief package, but the House proposal is not likely to be well-received by the Republican-led Senate. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) has pushed for more time to assess impacts of previous packages before investing additional dollars. Senator McConnell has also raised objection to aid for states and local governments, setting up a potential partisan battle over these needs.

It is not yet clear what relief, if any, the next package will include for higher education stabilization and research relief. Several bipartisan Dear Colleague Letters from members of Congress advocating for both research and higher education funding in the next bill have been circulated, and sent to House and Senate leadership. A Senate Dear Colleague Letter, led by Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), asked for $26 billion for research relief and was signed by 33 Senators. A companion House Dear Colleague Letter asked for the same and was signed by 175 Representatives. A separate Dear Colleague Letter is

currently circulating in the House of Representatives that asks for $47 billion for the Department of Education for formula grants to institutions of higher education—half of those funds would be allocated to address student financial need, while the other half would be used by institutions to cover costs associated with losses due to the coronavirus.

In other Congressional news, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) selected House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA) as the Republican Chair of the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis this morning. Leader McCarthy also selected Reps. Jim Jordan (R-OH), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Jackie Walorski (R-IN), and Mark Green (R-TN). The Select Subcommittee was established by Speaker Pelosi to investigate the nation's COVID-19 response. It is chaired by House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn (D-SC). Pelosi previously announced the appointment of Reps. Maxine Waters (D-CA), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Nydia Velázquez (D-NY), Bill Foster (D-IL), Jamie Raskin (D-MD), and Andy Kim (D-NJ) to the subcommittee.

Today, Leader McCarthy also established a Republican-only "China Task Force" to be led by Representative Michael McCaul (R-TX), the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The task force will examine China's foreign influence, as well as its role in the global spread of COVID-19.

Update: EDA Releases COVID-19 Recovery Assistance

The 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. According to the NOFO, examples of projects funded by the program include "economic recovery planning and preparing or updating resiliency plans to respond to future pandemics, implementing entrepreneurial support programs to diversify economies, and constructing public works and facilities that will support economic recovery, including the deployment of broadband for purposes including supporting telehealth and remote learning for job skills."

As with all EDA awards, coordination with EDA's regional offices is crucial for ensuring proposed projects fit the scope, eligibility intentions and funding amounts designated for the program. Contact information for Economic Development Representatives for your state can be found at https://www.eda.gov/contact. While funding amounts are not specified, EDA will consider funding levels in excess of the historic averages provided for EAA awards on a case-by-case basis, which are

typically up to $1,000,000. EDA expects to fund at least 80 percent of proposed projects. 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/.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
    - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.
- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19

response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.

- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.

- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Update: Department of Education (ED)

- **NEW:** 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 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 new 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.

- On April 21, ED announced the availability of emergency funding for the institutional portion, or "Recipient's Institutional Costs," of the higher education emergency grant aid as provided by the CARES Act. This follows funding for emergency financial aid grants to students, which was announced April 9. These funds are "to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus." In an FAQ on the funding for institutions, the Department of Education (ED) notes that institutions may use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds to students for room and board, tuition, and other fees. Information on the institutional funding provided by CARES, including a letter from the Secretary, the Certificate of Agreement, a Frequently Asked Questions, and other information is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- On April 21, ED also released a new FAQ on the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The guidance emphasizes that funding provided by the CARES Act for students must go to students, but institutions may also use student funding to reimburse emergency grants given to students on or after March 27. ED will publish a notice in the Federal Register to provide instructions to institutions on reporting requirements. The FAQ also notes that only "students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants." This means DACA students and international students would be ineligible for aid. The new FAQ is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf.

- Institutions should be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students under the CARES Act to www.grants.gov. Using opportunity number ED-GRANTS-041020-003, institutions should list the 50 percent direct-to-student allocation on the certificate. Certificates can be submitted at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326222.

- On April 14, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that funding for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, authorized by the CARES Act, was available. GEER

grants are awarded by formula to Governors and are available to support local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance to address the impact that the coronavirus pandemic. More information on the GEER fund is available at https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/.

- 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.

- ED announced on April 9 plans for how it would distribute emergency student funding provided in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund as authorized by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provided a funding allocation of $12.56 billion that was to be distributed to institutions of higher education, with at least 50 percent reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. In a cover letter sent to institutions, ED notes that "each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need." Submission of a certification form will trigger a release of funds in ED's grants management system, G5. ED emphasizes that these funds are only to provide cash to students; institutions are not permitted to use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds (these include refunds for room and board, purchase of technology, and expenses already incurred). Congress has provided greater flexibility for the institutional portion of CARES Act funding, for which ED will outline the uses and methods by which institutions can use those funds for reimbursement in coming days and weeks. A letter from ED to institutions, the certification form, additional directions for applying for the funds, institutional allotments, and the methodology for calculating allocations is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- On April 3, ED released guidance providing additional regulatory flexibilities to institutions in several policy areas including verification, need analysis, and distance education. Previous guidance applied only to students enrolled in terms that ended on or before June 1, 2020; the updated guidance extends many of these flexibilities through June 30. One highlight of the new guidance that will be significant as aid from the CARES Act begins to flow to students relates to need analysis. The guidance states, "Any aid (in the form of grants or low-interest loans) received by victims of an emergency from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) under the Federal Methodology or as estimated financial assistance for packaging purposes." The updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19.

- 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. The proposed rules are open for a 30-day comment period, with ED intending 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 FERPA's implications for distance learning at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov. Additionally, on March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (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 additional information for accreditors offering regulatory flexibilities during COVID-19 outbreak, including allowing virtual site visits and extensions on accreditation. The guidance document is at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/20-007covid19accreditorsfromomb317s.pdf.

- 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, TechforLearners.org, which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching.
- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 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:
  - **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)
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced its intention to allocate over $40 billion of additional provider relief funding. Congress initially provided $100 billion to support providers who have experienced increased costs or revenue loss due to COVID-19, of which HHS has already disbursed $30 billion. Additional funding will be allocated as follows:
  - An additional $20 billion will be distributed to Medicare providers and facilities starting Friday, April 24, based on providers' 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 will be available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.
  - $10 billion will be distributed to hospitals in areas heavily impacted by COVID-19. Hospitals can apply for this funding by submitting their Tax Identification Number, National Provider Identifier, total number of ICU beds as of April 10, and total number of admissions with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis between January 1 and April 10 to an authentication portal by midnight Pacific Time, April 23. Hospitals have been contacted directly to access the portal and provide this information.
  - In allocating this funding, HHS will also consider the number of low-income patients served, using the applicant's Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Adjustment.
  - $10 billion will be distributed to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
  - $400 will be allocated for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.

o An unspecified portion of the remaining $30 billion will be used to reimburse providers at Medicare rates for providing treatment and care to uninsured COVID-19 patients. Providers who have provided treatment to uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4 can request reimbursement starting in May 2020. Additional information on registration and reimbursement is available at coviduninsuredclaim.hrsa.gov.

HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining $30 billion will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and providers that solely take Medicaid. However, no further details have been announced.

Congress is currently working to provide an additional $75 billion for provider relief, and we anticipate these legislative efforts will be finalized later today (see immediately below). Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

- HHS has started distributing an initial $30 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. Funding will be automatically disbursed to all healthcare facilities and providers that received Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursements in 2019; no application or request for funding is required. Healthcare providers receiving funding must agree not to collect out-of-pocket payments for services provided to COVID-19 patients that would be greater than the cost to in-network patients (i.e. surprise medical bills). Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.
    o Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- 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 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 posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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 COIVD-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)
- Virtual Office Hours: Certain NSF Directorates and Divisions have held or are holding office hours for their research community. Examples and additional information below:
    o 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 available at https://www.nsf.gov/bio/deb/DEB_VOH.pdf.
    o The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences within BIO will hold office hours the second Wednesday of the month. More information at https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/office-hours/.
    o Slides from the early-April BIO-wide office hours are available at https://oadblog.nsfbio.com/2020/04/09/recap-bio-wide-office-hours/.
    o 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 at

https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300336&WT.mc_id=USNSF_58&WT.mc_ev=click

- o A presentation on the NSF response to coronavirus from the Directorate for Engineering Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7 is available at https://www.nsf.gov/attachments/300069/public/NSF_response_to_coronavirus_ENG_AdCom_2020_Spring-508.pdf.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list is updated regularly and can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- 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)

- 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:
  - o Flexibility with SAM registration;
  - o Flexibility with application deadlines;
  - o No-cost extensions;
  - o Continuation requests;
  - o Allowability of salaries and other project activities;
  - o Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards;
  - o Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
  - o Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
  - o Extension of closeout reports; and
  - o Extension of single audit submissions.
- DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. Most recently, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) extended the deadline for the Bio-Optimized Technologies to Keep Thermoplastics out of Landfills and the Environment (BOTTLE) solicitation. Concept papers are now due **April 29, 2020 at 5:00 PM ET**. Full applications will be due **July 2, 2020 at 5:00 PM ET.** For more information, DOE recommends referencing the full FOA at https://eere-exchange.energy.gov/FileContent.aspx?FileID=9365680f-656d-4e74-ba72-c9f5a7fdd290. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates.
- On March 31, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) issued deadline extensions to funding opportunities and requests for information (RFI), including:
  - o Range Extenders for Electric Aviation with Low Carbon Emission and High Efficiency (REEACH): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - o Aviation-class Synergistically Cooled Electric-motors with iNtegrated Drives (ASCEND): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - o For all other relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.

- DOE plans to release new guidance for grantees that directly addresses guidance in OMB Memo M-20-11, "Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly impacted by the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)." The updated guidance should address all issues related to DOE's financial assistance awards, including allowable costs for supporting graduate students and postdocs.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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/humantarian/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

COVID-19 Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

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.

- o 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.
- o 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
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has an updated FAQ on the impact of COVID-19 on SEVP-certified schools and F and M students. That FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2020/COVID-19FAQ.pdf. Regularly updated guidance is available at https://www.ice.gov/covid19.
- 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)

- On April 13, the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness released a supplemental memo on 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:

- o **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
  - o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
  - o **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?
  - o **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:
  - o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
  - o 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
  - o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
  - o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
  - o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
  - o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
  - o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits
  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.

- 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://cdmrp.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:

- o "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.
- o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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)

- NEH announced a new limited submission grant opportunity funded out of the third stimulus package, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. The NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations opportunity, will offer grants to organizations, including higher education institutions, of up to $300,000 to support a range of short-term needs, including activities such as supporting faculty converting humanities courses online and planning for digitization of

scholarship and humanities research. Applications are due May 11, 2020. Additional details and application information is available at https://www.neh.gov/program/neh-cares-cultural-organizations.
- 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. 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 posted the agency's CARES Act funded grant competition to help arts organizations endure financial impacts from COVID-19. NEA received $75 million in the CARES Act. Applicants must be previous NEA awardees from the past four years. Applications are due April 22 via www.grants.gov and also submitted to the Endowment's application portal between April 27 - May 4. Details at https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/CARES/grant-program-description.
- 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 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

Department of State (DOS)
- 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.
    o American oversees 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice. The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the [NIFA FAQ document](). More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.
- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
  Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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:

- o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
- o 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.
- o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
- o 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.
- o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- o 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.

Update: **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)**

- **NEW:** 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

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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

- 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

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- On April 29, NIH announced a new fast-track program for COVID-19 test development and distribution. The **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program** will leverage the existing Point-of-Care Technology Research Network (POCTRN) supported by the National Institute of

Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to support novel solutions to ramp up national capacity for SARS-CoV-2 testing. NIBIB is urgently soliciting proposals and will provide up to $500 million across multiple projects to produce SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests. The RADx program will support all phases of product development from conceptualization and design to prototyping, performance evaluation, clinical validation, and manufacturing.

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis starting April 29 and will be reviewed within a week of submission. Additional details and the application portal can be found at https://www.poctrn.org/radx (note that the application portal can be accessed at the bottom of this webpage using the "Apply Now" button).

- On April 23, NIAID released a strategic plan outlining the Institute's priorities for COVID-19 related research in fiscal years (FY) 2020-2024. Complete details on the Strategic Plan can be found at https://www.niaid.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIAID-COVID-19-Strategic-Plan-2020.pdf.
- 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 Notice**
<mark>NEW:</mark> NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
NIAID	4/30/2020	Areas of high priority include, but are not limited to, studies to understand critical	New R01:

| | | 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. | PAR-20-178

New R21:

PAR-20-177 |
|---|---|---|---|
| NLM | 4/27/2020 | Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources. | New R21:

NOT-LM-20-011 |
| 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

New SBIR/STTR:

NOT-EB-20-006 |

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions		
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**
NEW: NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NINDS	4/14/2020	NOT-NS-20-046
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782

NHLBI	3/17/2020	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020) Expires: 05/15/2020
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011
NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	4/10/2020	NOT-GM-20-027
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-018
NIDCD	4/9/2020	NOT-DC-20-004
NHGRI	3/31/2020	NOT-HG-20-030
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has released two Notices of Intent for upcoming funding opportunities designed to support studies evaluating health system and healthcare professional responsiveness to COVID-19. The agency plans to publish notices calling for both urgent revision supplements to existing AHRQ grants, and for novel high-impact studies to be funded through the R01 mechanism.
  - Competitive revision supplements for existing AHRQ projects should "capitalize on the expertise of grant personnel and the institutional environment to expand the specific aims of the on-going research to develop high-impact new knowledge concerning COVID-19." AHRQ expects to make at least $2.5 million available for these supplements and will announce the full details of award size and eligibility available with the Funding Opportunity Announcement is released in April 2020. The Notice of Intent for these supplements can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-007.html.
  - For new studies related to COVID-19, AHRQ is interested in "critical research focused on evaluating topics such as innovations and challenges encountered in the rapid expansion of telemedicine in response to COVID-19, effects on quality, safety, and value of health system response to COVID-19, and the role of primary care practices and professionals during the COVID-19 epidemic. AHRQ is particularly interested in understanding how digital health innovations contributed to health system and healthcare professional innovation and challenges and solutions to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations including older adults, people living with multiple chronic conditions, rural communities, and uninsured and underinsured populations." AHRQ expects to dedicate $5 million to this program. The agency plans to release the Funding Opportunity Announcement for these grants in early May 2020, with an expected deadline in June 2020. The Notice of Intent for this initiative can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-008.html.

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)

- 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?oppId=325751.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI is soliciting applications to a special engagement award opportunity, "Supporting Engagement in and Dissemination of PCOR/CER in the Context of COVID-19." PCORI intends to award $21 million to research support projects that encourage the integration of community and healthcare stakeholders into patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) on COVID-19. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-covid-19.
- PCORI intends to issue a Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies that "(1) strengthen the understanding of different approaches to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on individuals, communities, healthcare providers, and healthcare systems; and (2) provide evidence to inform clinical and public health responses, decision making, and planning." Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/covid-19-targeted-pfa.
- 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- Information on awarded Coronavirus RAPID Awards is available at https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=COVID+AND+RAPID&ActiveAwards=true.
- On April 3, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) that combines two of previous DCLs. The new DCL invites proposals "to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge." The solicitation invites

researchers to submit proposals **through existing funding mechanisms as well as the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism**. The DCL also invites proposals that "request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources." NSF directs researchers to contact the NSF Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) before submitting a proposal. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf.

- On March 25, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19. NSF invites U.S.-based businesses to submit Phase I SBIR/STTR proposals focused on "the development and deployment of new technologies, products, processes, and services" that have the potential to help respond to COVID-19. The DCL highlights the following areas of research: artificial intelligence, digital health, diagnostics, distributed ledger, environmental technologies, medical devices, pharmaceutical technologies, disinfection and sterilization, and filtration and separations. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20065/nsf20065.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

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

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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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to develop a "Wearable Diagnostic for Detection of COVID-19 Infection." MTEC seeks wearable devices that can conduct continuous physiological monitoring without impacting the wearer's daily activities and that are focused on pre- and very early symptomatic detection of COVID-19 infection. Proposed projects must currently be in development or commercially available given the "urgent need for development of rapid, accurate wearable diagnostics to identify and isolate pre-symptomatic COVID-19 cases and track/prevent the spread of the virus," according to the solicitation. MTEC anticipates that $25 million will be available for up to 10 awards but does not specify the amount for individual awards. Proposals are due by **May 13, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET**. Additional requirements and information can be found in the RPP, located at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/0afc4ee652694b7d9c5bc2a9209cb65d/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000 or at https://beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "MTEC-20-12-COVID-19_Diagnostics."

  MTEC anticipates potential upcoming solicitations in the area of predictive analytics that can forecast potential hot spots and empower decision makers' response actions. MTEC membership is not required to respond to solicitations but membership will be required for applicants recommended for awards. More information on joining MTEC can be found at http://mtec-sc.org/how-to-join/.

  Lewis-Burke anticipates forthcoming RPPs to be released related to topics described in MTEC's pre-announcement, including:
  - "**Point-of-care diagnostic** that provides rapid and accurate determination on exposure to COVID-19.
  - **Prophylactic(s)/Therapeutic(s) that can prevent and/or treat in a rapid manner (few hours to 2 days) potentially in a non-hospital environment**. Repurposing FDA-approved drugs/biologics for prevention/treatment of COVID-19 or testing of drugs/biologics that have already demonstrated safety in humans for the prevention/treatment of COVID-19 are preferred.

- **Disease predictive modeling** that provides early warning through data capture from several different streams of data to include **social media and artificial intelligence (AI)** parameter decision tools that would provide actionable information to medical service providers and command structures.
- **Patient monitoring, tracking, and management system** for in-home or non-hospital environment patient tele-health services to include interface into the Cerner electronic health record."

MTEC's preannouncement can be found at
https://beta.sam.gov/opp/53badf9fb02349e78839a541495efc6a/view#general.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline to May 18, 2020 for its Request for Information (RFI) issued on April 8 to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19. DLA also seeks to identify alternatives or additional PPE items necessary to protect against viral contamination of COVID-19. Items of interest include:
  - Medical Examination Gloves
  - Medical Aprons
  - Medical Face Masks (N95 Respirator)
  - Medical Face Shields
  - Hand Sanitizer
  - Surgical Masks
  - Swab Viral Transport Kit
  - Viral Transport Swabs
  - SWAB Nasopharyngeal
  - Medical Thermometers
  - **Human Remains Pouches (new area of interest)**

  This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **May 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**, extended from the previous deadline of May 2. DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after the new due date. Respondents are asked to provide either a technical data package for the item(s) or website links with detailed information on the product. For any questions, please contact Brian Schott at brian.schott@dla.mil. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "SPE2DS-20-R-COVID19."

- 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 Department of the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released a broad agency announcement (BAA) intended to engage the Defense Industrial Base. The BAA is seeking proposals that "demonstrate development and commercialization of dual-use technologies" in four specific topic areas:
    - Naval Depot Modernization and Sustainment
    - Digital Logistics
    - Deployable Systems Manufacturability
    - Rapid Reconstitution of Communications and Compact Hardware Solutions

  Proposals are due by **May 28, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET.** The SBIR program is a three-phase program, and phase I awards for this BAA will be $150,000 each for a performance period of five months. Phase II awards are expected to be $1.7 million. Awards are expected to be processed within 45 days after the BAA closes. The BAA and four topics can be found at https://navysbir.com/topics20_4.htm.

- The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) announced on April 15 its first area of interest: **Rapid Agile Manufacturing Platform (RAMP).** As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, the DAF ACT established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government.

For the newly released **RAMP** area of interest, the Air Force requests solutions for the design, engineering, testing, manufacturing, distribution, and associated digital planning tools required to deliver a variety of medically-related supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Relevant solutions should consider the suite of advanced manufacturing technologies and need not be specific to additive manufacturing, aka, 3D printing. Equipment needs will be focused on, though not exclusive to, environments suited for emergency response and security personnel in non-clinical environments. This effort intends to leverage progress made through the America Makes National Manufacturing Institute, which has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services to approve open source designs for Community Use and Clinical Use equipment. These designs are accessible through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Exchange (https://3dprint.nih.gov/collections/covid-19-response)." Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, DAF ACT Areas of Interest are expected to include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19

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. The Air Force also announced that its effort, known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all of the Service Branches, DOD components, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) can evaluate and potentially fund proposals.
- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)

topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:

- **Investigator-Initiated Research Award:** This award is "designed to support research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements" in Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Research projects should focus on basic laboratory research through translational research. CDMRP anticipates a total of $12 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326174.

- **Technology/Therapeutic Development Award:** This product-driven award supports the translation of preclinical findings into products for clinical applications for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products should be tangible items, such as a pharmacologic agent or device or a knowledge-based product. CDMRP anticipates a total of $25 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326175**.

- **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.

- The Basic Research Office within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering announced a one-time Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) on April 3 for the "Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic." The Newton Award will be presented to individuals or teams of two investigators to develop a "transformative idea" to resolve challenges, advance frontiers, and set new paradigms in areas of immense potential benefit to the DOD and the nation. Proposed research does not have to be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals should aim to produce novel conceptual frameworks or theory-based approaches, and DOD requires that all supporting data be generated without the use of laboratory-based experimentation or instrumentation. DOD anticipates that a total of $500,000 will be available for up to 10 awards. Individual awards will be funded at up to $50,000 for a single investigator and $100,000 for a two-person team. Proposals are due by **May 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM ET**, and the six-month period of performance is expected to start on June 30, 2020. More information is available at www.grants.gov under "BRO-20-NEWTON" or at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326034.

- The Department of Defense's (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, now 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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:
    - o Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

- o   Unemployment; and
- o   Broadband availability."

Additional information on the anticipated grants is expected to be posted in the coming weeks. 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible.   More Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.
- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

Other Sources

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity

seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.

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. With over 13,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 begun implementing proposals in 64 developing countries through its emergency support effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and expects to be operating in 100 countries by the end of April. The WBG Board approved deployment of up to $160 billion over the next 15 months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. The regional development banks have made an additional $80 billion available to be deployed over the same period. More information about the WBG effort is available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/02/the-world-bank-group-moves-quickly-to-help-countries-respond-to-covid-19.
  - For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)
- The WHO issued a scientific brief warning against the issuance of "immunity passports" to people who have recovered from COVID-19 and have antibodies, noting that there is no scientific evidence that those who have been infected are protected from second infection. Several countries are considering using these "immunity passports" as the basis for allowing individuals to re-enter the workforce. The WHO brief is available https://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/immunity-passports-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- The WHO initiated a global platform to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $7.5 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

- 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.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
May 11, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

- **Department of Defense (DOD)**– Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced shifting some of its responsibilities for acquiring COVID-19 related supplies to the DOD's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA);
- **DOD—** Army releases new request for Project Proposals (RPP) to develop a "low-cost, readily manufacturable" COVID-19 emergency ventilator, as a follow- up to its xTechSearch Ventilator Challenge prize competition;
- **United States Agency for International Development**– New guidance issued that sets out administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis;
- **Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute—** New Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies on COVID-19. The RFA identifies three priority research tracks: Adaptations to healthcare delivery; Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations; and Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workforce well-being, management, and training; and
- **Institute of Museum and Library Sciences—** IMLS announced new CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic.

Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates:

- The **Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)** issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates; and
- The **International Fact Checking Network (IFCN)** announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation.

Lewis-Burke will send congressional and federal updates as new information is available.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Update: Democrats Plan to Unveil the Next Relief Package In The Next Week

House Democrats plan to release a proposal for a fifth coronavirus stimulus relief package within the next week. The package is expected to exceed $1 trillion and include Democratic priorities such as aid to state and local governments, additional funding for hospitals and COVID-19 testing, regulations to protect health care workers from virus exposure, nutrition assistance for low-income families, extension of unemployment benefits, and another round of direct payments to low income workers. The expected package currently lacks bipartisan support from Republicans and the White House, but House Democrats see it as an opening bid to start negotiations in the next relief bill. The White House has promoted payroll tax cuts and Republicans have made limited coronavirus liability protection for health

care and other businesses a top priority.   Regardless of the details of a final package, both the White House and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) have made it clear they do not plan on taking up any other spending measures for another four to six weeks. They have insisted that more time is needed to assess impacts of the previous four COVID-19 relief bills and the re-opening of state and local economies before investing additional federal dollars.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
    - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.

- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.
- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Department of Education (ED)

- 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 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 new 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.
- On April 21, ED announced the availability of emergency funding for the institutional portion, or "Recipient's Institutional Costs," of the higher education emergency grant aid as provided by the CARES Act. This follows funding for emergency financial aid grants to students, which was announced April 9. These funds are "to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus." In an FAQ on the funding for institutions, the Department of Education (ED) notes that institutions may use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds to students for room and board, tuition, and other fees. Information on the institutional funding provided by CARES, including a letter from the Secretary, the Certificate of Agreement, a Frequently Asked Questions, and other information is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.
- On April 21, ED also released a new FAQ on the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The guidance emphasizes that funding provided by the CARES Act for students must go to students, but institutions may also use student funding to reimburse emergency grants given to students on or after March 27. ED will publish a notice in the Federal Register to provide instructions to institutions on reporting requirements. The FAQ also notes that only "students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants." This means DACA students and international students would be ineligible for aid. The new FAQ is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf.
- Institutions should be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students under the CARES Act to www.grants.gov. Using opportunity number ED-GRANTS-041020-003, institutions should list the 50 percent direct-to-student allocation on the certificate. Certificates can be submitted at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326222.

- On April 14, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that funding for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, authorized by the CARES Act, was available. GEER grants are awarded by formula to Governors and are available to support local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance to address the impact that the coronavirus pandemic. More information on the GEER fund is available at https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/.
- 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.
- ED announced on April 9 plans for how it would distribute emergency student funding provided in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund as authorized by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provided a funding allocation of $12.56 billion that was to be distributed to institutions of higher education, with at least 50 percent reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. In a cover letter sent to institutions, ED notes that "each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need." Submission of a certification form will trigger a release of funds in ED's grants management system, G5. ED emphasizes that these funds are only to provide cash to students; institutions are not permitted to use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds (these include refunds for room and board, purchase of technology, and expenses already incurred). Congress has provided greater flexibility for the institutional portion of CARES Act funding, for which ED will outline the uses and methods by which institutions can use those funds for reimbursement in coming days and weeks. A letter from ED to institutions, the certification form, additional directions for applying for the funds, institutional allotments, and the methodology for calculating allocations is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.
- On April 3, ED released guidance providing additional regulatory flexibilities to institutions in several policy areas including verification, need analysis, and distance education. Previous guidance applied only to students enrolled in terms that ended on or before June 1, 2020; the updated guidance extends many of these flexibilities through June 30. One highlight of the new guidance that will be significant as aid from the CARES Act begins to flow to students relates to need analysis. The guidance states, "Any aid (in the form of grants or low-interest loans) received by victims of an emergency from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) under the Federal Methodology or as estimated financial assistance for packaging purposes." The updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19.
- 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

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around "regular and substantive interaction," among other changes. The proposed rules are open for a 30-day comment period, with ED intending 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 FERPA's implications for distance learning at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov. Additionally, on March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (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 additional information for accreditors offering regulatory flexibilities during COVID-19 outbreak, including allowing virtual site visits and extensions on accreditation. The guidance document is at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/20-007covid19accreditorsfromomb317s.pdf.

- 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, TechforLearners.org, which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching.
- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- 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:
  - **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)

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has allocated over $70 billion of a total $175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Funding has been allocated as follows:
  - $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.
    - Within 45 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-extends-deadline-attestation-acceptance-terms-and-conditions-provider-relief-fund-payments-45-days.html.

- o $10 billion to hospitals in areas heavily impacted by COVID-19. Hospitals can apply for this funding by submitting their Tax Identification Number, National Provider Identifier, total number of ICU beds as of April 10, and total number of admissions with a positive COVID-19 diagnosis between January 1 and April 10 to an authentication portal by midnight Pacific Time, April 23. Hospitals have been contacted directly to access the portal and provide this information.
    - In allocating this funding, HHS will also consider the number of low-income patients served, using the applicant's Medicare Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Adjustment.
  - o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
  - o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
  - o 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.
  - o HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining $30 billion will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and providers that solely take Medicaid. However, no further details have been announced.
  - o Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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 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 posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - o The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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 COIVD-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)
- 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 available at https://www.nsf.gov/bio/deb/DEB_VOH.pdf.
    - The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences within BIO will hold office hours the second Wednesday of the month. More information at https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/office-hours/.
    - Slides from the early-April BIO-wide office hours are available at https://oadblog.nsfbio.com/2020/04/09/recap-bio-wide-office-hours/.
    - 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 at https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300336&WT.mc_id=USNSF_58&WT.mc_ev=click
    - A presentation on the NSF response to coronavirus from the Directorate for Engineering Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7 is available at

https://www.nsf.gov/attachments/300069/public/NSF_response_to_coronavirus_ENG_AdCom_2020_Spring-508.pdf.

- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list is updated regularly and can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- 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)

- 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 continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities.   In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For example, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) issued deadline extensions to funding opportunities and requests for information (RFI) for:
  - Range Extenders for Electric Aviation with Low Carbon Emission and High Efficiency (REEACH): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - Aviation-class Synergistically Cooled Electric-motors with iNtegrated Drives (ASCEND): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - For all other relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.

- 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:

  o 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/humantarian/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.

  o 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.

  o 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.

  o 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
- Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) has an updated FAQ on the impact of COVID-19 on SEVP-certified schools and F and M students. That FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2020/COVID-19FAQ.pdf. Regularly updated guidance is available at https://www.ice.gov/covid19.
- 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.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on May 10 that it is shifting some of its responsibilities for acquiring COVID-19 related supplies to the DOD's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). According to FEMA, DLA will take over for FEMA to "coordinate longer-term purchasing of supplies, including personal protective equipment." FEMA's solicitation, which was seeking COVID-19 personal protective equipment and medical supplies, has since been withdrawn, citing the "transition of mission responsibility from FEMA to the DLA." In response to the transition, DLA extended the deadline for responses to its Request for Information (RFI) on COVID-19-related medical PPE to May 18, as described below.
- 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 benefits

  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.
- 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://cdmrp.army.mil/about/covid-19/default.

COVID-19 Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

- 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:

- o "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.
- o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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)

- NEH announced a new limited submission grant opportunity funded out of the third stimulus package, the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. The NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations opportunity, will offer grants to organizations, including higher education institutions, of up to $300,000 to support a range of short-term needs, including activities such as supporting faculty converting humanities courses online and planning for digitization of scholarship and humanities research. Applications are due May 11, 2020. Additional details and application information is available at https://www.neh.gov/program/neh-cares-cultural-organizations.

- 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. 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 posted the agency's CARES Act funded grant competition to help arts organizations endure financial impacts from COVID-19. NEA received $75 million in the CARES Act. Applicants must be previous NEA awardees from the past four years. Applications are due April 22 via www.grants.gov and also submitted to the Endowment's application portal between April 27 - May 4. Details at https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/CARES/grant-program-description.
- 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 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

Update: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- **NEW**: On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)
- 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.

- o American oversees 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.
  - o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice. The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the NIFA FAQ document. More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.
- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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

- 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 April 29, NIH announced a new fast-track program for COVID-19 test development and distribution. The **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program** will leverage the existing Point-of-Care Technology Research Network (POCTRN) supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to support novel solutions to ramp up national capacity for SARS-CoV-2 testing. NIBIB is urgently soliciting proposals and will provide up to $500 million across multiple projects to produce SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests. The RADx program will support all phases of product development from conceptualization and design to prototyping, performance evaluation, clinical validation, and manufacturing.

  Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis starting April 29 and will be reviewed within a week of submission. Additional details and the application portal can be found at https://www.poctrn.org/radx (note that the application portal can be accessed at the bottom of this webpage using the "Apply Now" button).

- On April 23, NIAID released a strategic plan outlining the Institute's priorities for COVID-19 related research in fiscal years (FY) 2020-2024. Complete details on the Strategic Plan can be found at https://www.niaid.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIAID-COVID-19-Strategic-Plan-2020.pdf.
- 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 Notice**

		Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
NHLBI	5/07/2020		
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 New R21: PAR-20-177
NLM	4/27/2020	Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: NOT-LM-20-011
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 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions		
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NINDS	4/14/2020	NOT-NS-20-046
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782
NHLBI	3/17/2020	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020) Expires: 05/15/2020
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011
NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	4/10/2020	NOT-GM-20-027
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025

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NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-018
NIDCD	4/9/2020	NOT-DC-20-004
NHGRI	3/31/2020	NOT-HG-20-030
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has released two Notices of Intent for upcoming funding opportunities designed to support studies evaluating health system and healthcare professional responsiveness to COVID-19. The agency plans to publish notices calling for both urgent revision supplements to existing AHRQ grants, and for novel high-impact studies to be funded through the R01 mechanism.
    - o Competitive revision supplements for existing AHRQ projects should "capitalize on the expertise of grant personnel and the institutional environment to expand the specific aims of the on-going research to develop high-impact new knowledge concerning COVID-19." AHRQ expects to make at least $2.5 million available for these supplements and will announce the full details of award size and eligibility available with the Funding Opportunity Announcement is released in April 2020. The Notice of Intent for these supplements can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-007.html.
    - o For new studies related to COVID-19, AHRQ is interested in "critical research focused on evaluating topics such as innovations and challenges encountered in the rapid expansion of telemedicine in response to COVID-19, effects on quality, safety, and value of health system response to COVID-19, and the role of primary care practices and professionals during the COVID-19 epidemic. AHRQ is particularly interested in understanding how digital health innovations contributed to health system and healthcare professional innovation and challenges and solutions to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations including older adults, people living with multiple chronic conditions, rural communities, and uninsured and underinsured populations." AHRQ expects to dedicate $5 million to this program. The agency plans to release the Funding Opportunity Announcement for these grants in early May 2020, with an expected deadline in June 2020. The Notice of Intent for this initiative can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-008.html.

COVID-19
Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

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)

- 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?oppId=325751.

Update: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- **NEW**: PCORI issued a Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies on COVID-19. The RFA identifies three priority research tracks: Adaptations to healthcare delivery; Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations; and Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workforce well-being, management, and training. Proposals outside of those tracks are also allowed. Applications are due May 26. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/covid-19-targeted-pfa.
- PCORI is soliciting applications to a special engagement award opportunity, "Supporting Engagement in and Dissemination of PCOR/CER in the Context of COVID-19." PCORI intends to award $21 million to research support projects that encourage the integration of community and healthcare stakeholders into patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) on COVID-19. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-covid-19.
- 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- Information on awarded Coronavirus RAPID Awards is available at https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=COVID+AND+RAPID&ActiveAwards=true.
- On April 3, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) that combines two of previous DCLs. The new DCL invites proposals "to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge." The solicitation invites researchers to submit proposals **through existing funding mechanisms as well as the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism**. The DCL also invites proposals that "request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources." NSF directs researchers to contact the NSF Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) before submitting a proposal. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf.
- On March 25, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19. NSF invites U.S.-based businesses to submit Phase I SBIR/STTR proposals focused on "the development and deployment of new technologies, products, processes, and services" that have the potential to help respond to COVID-19. The DCL highlights the following areas of research: artificial intelligence, digital health, diagnostics, distributed ledger, environmental technologies, medical devices, pharmaceutical technologies, disinfection and sterilization, and filtration and separations. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20065/nsf20065.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Army announced a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to develop a "low-cost, readily manufacturable" COVID-19 emergency ventilator, as a follow- up to its xTechSearch Ventilator Challenge prize competition. The Army is seeking proposals that can get approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and asks for proposals to share information on the status of FDA approval or a strategy for how the proposer will get its device approved. Proposals must be sent to richard.w.totten2.civ@mail.mil no later than **May 12, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET.** Specific requirements can be found in the RPP, located at https://beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "W911QY-20-S-0010." Information on the earlier ventilator prize competition can be found at https://www.challenge.gov/challenge/xTech-COVID-19-ventilator-challenge/.

- The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to develop a "Wearable Diagnostic for Detection of COVID-19 Infection." MTEC seeks wearable devices that can conduct continuous physiological monitoring without impacting the wearer's daily activities and that are focused on pre- and very early symptomatic detection of COVID-19 infection. Proposed projects must currently be in development or commercially available given the "urgent need for development of rapid, accurate wearable diagnostics to identify and isolate pre-symptomatic COVID-19 cases and track/prevent the spread of the virus," according to the solicitation. MTEC anticipates that $25 million will be available for up to 10 awards but does not specify the amount for individual awards. Proposals are due by **May 13, 2020 at 12:00 PM ET**. Additional requirements and information can be found in the RPP, located at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/0afc4ee652694b7d9c5bc2a9209cb65d/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000 or at https://beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "MTEC-20-12-COVID-19_Diagnostics."

  MTEC anticipates potential upcoming solicitations in the area of predictive analytics that can forecast potential hot spots and empower decision makers' response actions. MTEC membership is not required to respond to solicitations but membership will be required for applicants recommended for awards. More information on joining MTEC can be found at http://mtec-sc.org/how-to-join/.

  Lewis-Burke anticipates forthcoming RPPs to be released related to topics described in MTEC's pre-announcement, including:
  - "**Point-of-care diagnostic** that provides rapid and accurate determination on exposure to COVID-19.
  - **Prophylactic(s)/Therapeutic(s) that can prevent and/or treat in a rapid manner (few hours to 2 days) potentially in a non-hospital environment**. Repurposing FDA-approved drugs/biologics for prevention/treatment of COVID-19 or testing of drugs/biologics that have already demonstrated safety in humans for the prevention/treatment of COVID-19 are preferred.

- **Disease predictive modeling** that provides early warning through data capture from several different streams of data to include **social media and artificial intelligence (AI)** parameter decision tools that would provide actionable information to medical service providers and command structures.
- **Patient monitoring, tracking, and management system** for in-home or non-hospital environment patient tele-health services to include interface into the Cerner electronic health record."

MTEC's preannouncement can be found at
https://beta.sam.gov/opp/53badf9fb02349e78839a541495efc6a/view#general.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline to **May 18, 2020** for its Request for Information (RFI) issued on April 8 to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19. DLA also seeks to identify alternatives or additional PPE items necessary to protect against viral contamination of COVID-19. Items of interest include:
  - Medical Examination Gloves
  - Medical Aprons
  - Medical Face Masks (N95 Respirator)
  - Medical Face Shields
  - Hand Sanitizer
  - Surgical Masks
  - Swab Viral Transport Kit
  - Viral Transport Swabs
  - SWAB Nasopharyngeal
  - Medical Thermometers
  - **Human Remains Pouches (new area of interest)**

This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **May 18, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**, extended from the previous deadline of May 2. DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after the new due date. Respondents are asked to provide either a technical data package for the item(s) or website links with detailed information on the product. For any questions, please contact Brian Schott at brian.schott@dla.mil. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "SPE2DS-20-R-COVID19."

- 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 Department of the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released a broad agency announcement (BAA) intended to engage the Defense Industrial Base. The BAA is seeking proposals that "demonstrate development and commercialization of dual-use technologies" in four specific topic areas:
  - Naval Depot Modernization and Sustainment
  - Digital Logistics
  - Deployable Systems Manufacturability
  - Rapid Reconstitution of Communications and Compact Hardware Solutions

  Proposals are due by **May 28, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET.** The SBIR program is a three-phase program, and phase I awards for this BAA will be $150,000 each for a performance period of five months. Phase II awards are expected to be $1.7 million. Awards are expected to be processed within 45 days after the BAA closes. The BAA and four topics can be found at https://navysbir.com/topics20_4.htm.

- The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) announced on April 15 its first area of interest: **Rapid Agile Manufacturing Platform (RAMP).** As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, the DAF ACT established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government.

For the newly released **RAMP** area of interest, the Air Force requests solutions for the design, engineering, testing, manufacturing, distribution, and associated digital planning tools required to deliver a variety of medically-related supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Relevant solutions should consider the suite of advanced manufacturing technologies and need not be specific to additive manufacturing, aka, 3D printing. Equipment needs will be focused on, though not exclusive to, environments suited for emergency response and security personnel in non-clinical environments. This effort intends to leverage progress made through the America Makes National Manufacturing Institute, which has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services to approve open source designs for Community Use and Clinical Use equipment. These designs are accessible through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Exchange (https://3dprint.nih.gov/collections/covid-19-response)." Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, DAF ACT Areas of Interest are expected to include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19

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

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)

topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:

- **Investigator-Initiated Research Award:** This award is "designed to support research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements" in Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Research projects should focus on basic laboratory research through translational research. CDMRP anticipates a total of $12 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326174.
- **Technology/Therapeutic Development Award:** This product-driven award supports the translation of preclinical findings into products for clinical applications for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products should be tangible items, such as a pharmacologic agent or device or a knowledge-based product. CDMRP anticipates a total of $25 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326175**.**
- **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.

- The Basic Research Office within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering announced a one-time Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) on April 3 for the "Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic." The Newton Award will be presented to individuals or teams of two investigators to develop a "transformative idea" to resolve challenges, advance frontiers, and set new paradigms in areas of immense potential benefit to the DOD and the nation. Proposed research does not have to be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals should aim to produce novel conceptual frameworks or theory-based approaches, and DOD requires that all supporting data be generated without the use of laboratory-based experimentation or instrumentation. DOD anticipates that a total of $500,000 will be available for up to 10 awards. Individual awards will be funded at up to $50,000 for a single investigator and $100,000 for a two-person team. Proposals are due by **May 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM ET**, and the six-month period of performance is expected to start on June 30, 2020. More information is available at www.grants.gov under "BRO-20-NEWTON" or at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326034.
- The Department of Defense's (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, now 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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/.

*Update***: Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

- **NEW**: IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities."

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Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A webinar for this opportunity will be held on **May 14, 2:00-3:00 PM ET** and can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.

- 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."

    Additional information on the anticipated grants is expected to be posted in the coming weeks. 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible.   More Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.
- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related

advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

Update: Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- **NEW**: The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.
- **NEW**: The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals .

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. With over 43,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 begun implementing proposals in over 100 developing countries through its emergency support effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The WBG Board approved deployment of up to $160 billion over the next 15 months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. The regional development banks have made an additional $80 billion available to be deployed over the same period. More information about the WBG effort is available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/02/the-world-bank-group-moves-quickly-to-help-countries-respond-to-covid-19.
  - For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.
- 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.

Congressional and Federal Agency Responses and Opportunities Regarding the COVID-19 Outbreak
Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
May 13, 2020

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Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes Congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Congressional and Federal Updates
- **Analysis of the House Democrats' proposed newest relief package, the *Heroes Act***
- **Overviews of three COVID-19 Senate hearings**

Agency Updates
- **Department of Education** -- ED's Office of Civil Rights posted a Q&A document outlining an institution of higher education's obligations under Federal civil rights laws during the COVID-19 emergency
- **National Science Foundation (NSF) --** Announced Virtual Office Hours: Certain NSF Directorates and Divisions have held or are holding office hours for their research community
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS) --** The 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)
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** -- The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs
- **Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) --** A Small Business Administration (SBA) webinar was held on May 12 to discuss Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) issues most relevant to museums and libraries
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) --** USDA released additional updates to its Grants FAQ document
- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) --** Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) will soon publish opportunities for a total of $15 million in funding to support telehealth education and training of the health workforce that will be distributed through existing HRSA grant programs
- **Department of Defense (DOD) --** The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline for its Request for Information (RFI) to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19

Lewis-Burke will send congressional and federal updates as new information is available.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Update: Democrats Unveil Proposed $3 Trillion Response Package

On May 12, House Democrats unveiled their proposal for fifth coronavirus response package, dubbed the *Heroes Act* (H.R. 6800). This $3 trillion proposal does not have bipartisan support, but Democrats are using the bill to express their priorities in advance of protracted negotiations on the next relief package with Republicans and the White House. The House plans to vote on the *Heroes Act* on Friday

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and it will likely pass on a party line vote. However, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) does not plan to start negotiations or take up another spending package for at least another month in order to assess the impact of the four prior coronavirus spending packages and the economic conditions of state and local governments as they start to reopen businesses.

A centerpiece of the *Heroes Act* is nearly $1 trillion for state and local governments to help replace revenue shortfalls. The proposal also provides more loans to businesses, housing assistance, an extension of expanded unemployment insurance, tax breaks, medical research funding, and another round of $1,200 direct payments to low-income Americans. Of particular interest to institutions of higher education, the proposal would provide $100 billion for education, of which $90 billion is for grants to governors to distribute among K-12 schools and public colleges and universities and an additional $10 billion for higher education stabilization. The bill also proposes up to $10,000 in student loan forgiveness for each borrower. With respect to the research enterprise, the bill provides funding for lab stabilization and COVID-19 related research at select agencies. For example, it includes $4.8 billion for the National Institutes of Health to support both new COVID-19-related research and to offset costs associated with pandemic related laboratory closures and $125 million for the National Science Foundation to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

While the Democratic proposal addresses some of the issues raised by the higher education and research community, it falls short of relief requests submitted to congressional leadership. The higher education community had requested $26 billion to federal research agencies to address shutdown and restart costs of laboratories and support of faculty, students, and researchers as well as $47 billion for the Department of Education to use formula grants for institutions of higher education to address student financial need as well as cover costs associated with losses due to the coronavirus. Lewis-Burke will continue to advocate on behalf of institutions of higher education, scientific societies, and research organizations as Congress advances a fifth coronavirus response package.

Below is a more detailed analysis of funding proposals in the *Heroes Act* of most interest to institutions of higher education, scientific societies, and research organizations.

Heroes Act (H.R. 6800) Analysis

Higher Education
The *Heroes Act* would provide approximately $100 billion to the Department of Education (ED) to support educational needs. Of this amount, $90 billion would support a "State Fiscal Stabilization Fund" which would provide grants to states to support funding for K-12 and public postsecondary institutions. Of the state education fund, 30 percent would be allocated to public institutions of higher education. The remaining $10 billion not allocated to the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund would provide $1.7 billion in support for Minority-Serving Institutions, $7 billion for private non-profit institutions of higher education, and $1.4 billion for exclusively online institutions and institutions that would receive less than $1 million in an initial allocation.

Funding would support numerous efforts including training and professional development for higher education faculty and staff to support distance education; general expenditures for institutions of higher

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education for expenses associated with a disruption in services or operations related to coronavirus, including defraying expenses due to lost revenue, reimbursement for expenses already incurred, and payroll; and emergency financial aid to postsecondary students for housing, food, technology, health care, and child care. In addition to funding, the *Heroes Act* would make several policy changes impacting higher education. These include:

- Allowing institutions to provide the Census Bureau information about students living on campus for purposes of responding to the 2020 Census;
- Excluding emergency financial aid grants made to students, including those under the CARES Act, from being taxed;
- Allowing institutions to pay Federal Work-Study to students even if they are unable to complete their work due to the pandemic;
- Ensuring that emergency student aid does not impact eligibility for future federal financial aid;
- Prohibiting the Secretary of Education from imposing restrictions on the populations of students who may receive funds, including on grant funding available under the CARES Act;
- Repealing of the public employer exclusion from the emergency paid sick leave and emergency family leave tax credits;
- Providing $10,000 of debt relief for all Department of Education loan borrowers; and
- Removing the requirement that a borrower must be employed in a public service employer at the time of forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program.

Healthcare and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
The *Heroes Act* would provide additional funding for hospitals and healthcare providers for costs or lost revenue linked to the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill would also provide additional funding support for COVID-19 research and development to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) and National Institutes of Health (NIH). Of note, the bill would provide $3 billion in research relief for NIH-funded institutions to offset costs associated with pandemic related laboratory closures. Additionally, the bill would authorize new grants to support activities related to mental health and substance use. Specifically, the bill:
- Provides $4.75 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to support additional COVID-19 research and funding to offset startup costs of biomedical research laboratories. This includes:
  - $500 million to the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID);
  - $200 million to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH);
  - $4.02 billion to the Office of the Director, of which no less than $3 billion must be used for offsetting costs associated with pandemic related laboratory closures and associated loss of research productivity; and
  - Allows NIH to carry over FY 2020 funds into FY 2021 to ensure continuity of grant funding for multi-year awards.
- Provides $100 billion for hospitals and providers through grants and other mechanisms by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to reimburse for expenses or lost revenue related to COVID-19, based on quarterly calculations.
- Provides $75 billion for a COVID-19 National Testing and Contact Tracing Initiative, including grants to state and local health departments.
- Provides $180 billion to establish a COVID-19 Heroes Fund within the Department of the Treasury to provide grants to essential work organizations for the purposes of paying premium

hazard pay to essential workers, including inpatient healthcare workers, outpatient healthcare workers, pharmacy workers, biomedical researchers working with COVID-19 samples, and others.

- Provides $4.5 billion to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) for research and development of COVID-19 therapeutics and vaccines, antibacterial research, and construction of next-generation manufacturing facilities.
- Provides $3 billion for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to support activities and grants related to mental health and substance use services, treatment, and outreach.
- Provides $7.6 billion to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for Community Health Centers to expand capacity to provide testing, triage, and care for COVID-19.
- Lowers the interest rate to one percent and extends the repayment period to two years, under the Medicare Accelerated and Advance Payment Program.
- Delays finalization of the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule (MFAR) until the end of the pandemic.
- Eliminates cost sharing for Medicaid beneficiaries for treatment and vaccines related to COVID-19.
- Increases the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to fourteen percentage points starting July 1, 2020 - June 20, 2021.
- Increases Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments by 2.5 percent.
- Allows states to extend 1115 demonstration projects through December 31, 2021.
- Establishes HRSA grants to institutions of higher education in rural or underserved areas, or that are Minority-Serving Institutions, to build new schools of medicine and/or expand, enhance, modernize, support existing schools of medicine.
- Establishes several activities to support drug supply chain improvements, including a National Centers of Excellence Program in Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing.
- Establishes a loan repayment program to enhance recruitment and retention of the public health workforce.
- Requires CDC, in collaboration with NIH, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to support research and development on testing, contact tracing, and surveillance strategies.

National Science Foundation (NSF)
The package would provide $125 million for the National Science Foundation (NSF) Research and Related Activities account "to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus." Of this funding, $1 million "shall be for a study on the spread of COVID-19 related disinformation." The legislation notes that "up to 2 percent of funds may be transferred to the 'Agency Operations and Award Management' account for management, administration, and oversight" of the funding provided in the bill.

Department of Defense (DOD)
The *Heroes Act* would expand the use and oversight of Defense Production Act (DPA) authorities to help provide medical equipment for first responders and essential workers. DPA's expanded authorities would aim to:

- "increase the production and supply of critical medical supplies and equipment, such as diagnostic tests and personal protection equipment;
- focus efforts on supply chain mobilization;
- decrease the disruption of critical deliveries to state and local governments; and
- require assessments for both immediate and longer-term needs and plans to meet those needs, as well as requiring longer-term planning to ensure that the United States is better prepared for future pandemics."

Of note, the *Heroes Act* does not include additional provisions to support the nation's defense industrial base. This is counter to comments made by both the Secretary of Defense Mark Esper and Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Ellen Lord that they would pursue additional billions of dollars in funding for the defense industrial base.

Workforce Development
The Department of Labor would (DOL) receive $3.1 billion with $2 billion of that funding directed to support worker training. DOL would be directed to use National Dislocated Worker Grants to support training and would provide funds to support employers providing incumbent worker training, including employment supports such as work-based learning. Funding would also be available to states and intermediaries who are assisting employers that are participating in existing registered apprenticeships, including pre-apprenticeship and youth apprenticeship programs, to expand registered apprenticeship opportunities, and to pay for activities such as related instruction and supportive services.
DOL would also be directed to restart Trade Adjustment Assistance for Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) grants. The bill would also require DOL to establish an interagency agreement with the Secretary of Education for carrying out grants and coordinating funding priorities.

Small Business and Economic Development
The legislation would provide additional support for small businesses, non-profits, and economic development initiatives, including reforms to popular assistance programs created under the CARES Act. The bill would:
- Refine the popular SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provides forgivable loans to small businesses and certain non-profits including 501(c)3 organizations, through numerous changes, such as: extending eligibility to "all non-profits of all sizes"; extending of the coverage period from June 30 to December 31; and modifying funding allocations to include a 25 percent carveout for all non-profits regardless of size with half this amount going to nonprofits with fewer than 500 employees and 25 percent of funds for small businesses with fewer than 10 employees;
- Mandate that the Main Street Lending Program being developed by the Federal Reserve include non-profits as eligible borrowers, as well as the creation of a low-cost loan option for non-profits under the program;
- Provide an additional $10 billion for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) grants; and
- Temporarily waive matching fund requirements for federal support programs from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for programs covered by CARES Act, as well as disaster support funding from fiscal year (FY) 2019 and FY 2020 appropriations.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Of note, the *Heroes Act* would provide $1.3 billion to FEMA to address the coronavirus, including $100 million for state-based Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG). Further, the bill would clarify assistance to states, localities, and certain non-profits for activities under various grant programs, to include "costs of providing public guidance and information; costs for establishing virtual services and operating remote test sites; training provided in anticipation of, or response to, to the next emergency declaration; personal protective equipment for first responders; public health and medical supplies; non-congregate sheltering;" and several other services.

Department of Justice (DOJ)
The bill would provide hundreds of millions of dollars to further shore up criminal justice concerns related to COVID-19, including: $100 million to support Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) programs, including transitional housing assistance, victims assistance, and other grants to address violence against women; $300 million to support law enforcement hiring and personal protective equipment; $250 million for Second Chance Act grants to support the transition of ex-prisoners to society; and $600 million for new *Pandemic Justice Response Act* to address COVID-19 in correctional institutions.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Institute for Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)
The *Heroes Act* would provide the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) $10 million each for "grants to support the general operations of recipients and language to permit the waiver of matching requirements."
It would also provide the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) $5 million to help museums and libraries cover "expenses associated with coronavirus, including operational supports and providing technology and resources for their communities."

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
The *Heroes Act* continues a trend seen in previous relief legislation associated with the COVID-19 crisis, and would focus on supporting vulnerable elements of the food supply chain, from producers to consumers, with no funding for research relief or competitive research. The bill would establish new payment authorities for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide financial relief to producers and agricultural markets, with specific carve-outs for livestock, dairy, specialty crops and biofuels, including $16.5 billion in direct payments to producers. The legislation would also provide $14.3 billion for nutrition assistance programs, including $150 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, $1.1 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, and $10 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to account for the increased costs associated with new flexibilities created in the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*.

Provisions of particular interest to stakeholders in the Research, Education and Economics Mission Area are as follows:
- To support animal disease prevention and response, *Heroes* includes $300 million to support activities at the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.
- The legislation would provide $50 million for Farming Opportunities Training and Outreach activities.
- The legislation would provide $28 million for the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network, to provide up to $500,000 to states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the territories of the United States. As part of this funding, states are required to submit plans to USDA to describe

their strategies to sustain and expand ongoing stress assistance programs. States are encouraged to collaborate with a number of partners, including Cooperative Extension Services.

The bill would also create an Emergency Soil Health and Income Protection Pilot to fund the planting of cover crops on tracts of eligible cropland to conserve and improve soil, water, and wildlife resources.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
The *Heroes Act* would provide $40 million for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) "Surveys, Investigations, and Research" account for "technical assistance, biosurveillance of wildlife and environmental persistence studies and related research, database development," and activities related to the National Wildlife Health Center and wildlife-borne disease activities.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
The *HEROES Act* would provide an increase of $50 million for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) directed to support Environmental Justice (EJ) grants in response to coronavirus, which would bring EJ's total funding to more than six times the FY 2020 enacted level of $9.6 million. Under the *HEROES Act*, the additional funding would support funding to nonprofits and local, state, and tribal authorities for investigations into the linkages between "pollution exposure and the transmission and health outcomes of coronavirus."

Update: House, Senate Committees Hold Hearings on COVID-19 Response
As Congress moves towards resuming regular operations in Washington, committees with jurisdiction over public health issues have begun holding hearings to discuss the ongoing federal response to COVID-19. See below for summaries of the past week's three hearings.

NEW: May 12: Senate HELP Committee – "COVID-19: Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School"
The HELP Committee held another hearing on May 12 featuring NIAID Director Anthony Fauci, in his first appearance before Congress since early March. Other witnesses at the hearing included Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Robert Redfield, Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Brett Giroir, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Director Stephen Hahn. This hearing was unique in that all of the witnesses, as well as the vast majority of the HELP Committee members, appeared by video. Also of note was that every member of the Committee participated in the hearing, and, in a show of unity from the Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services, all of the witnesses' written testimonies were submitted as a single document.

HELP Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) opened the hearing by noting that "all roads back to work and school run through testing," and the scale and availability of testing was a major theme throughout the hearing. When Senator Alexander questioned Dr. Fauci on whether universities would be able to operate on campus this fall, Dr. Fauci emphasized pragmatism, and cautioned that expecting treatments or a vaccine for COVID-19 by this fall was "a bridge too far." Throughout the hearing Dr. Fauci emphasized that widespread testing, to help assuage fear and make the public feel safe, was the key to reopening schools and workplaces. Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) agreed about the need for

widespread testing and pushed the witnesses on when a national strategic plan for testing and contact tracing, with specific target testing goals, would be available and implemented.

<mark>NEW:</mark> May 7: Senate HELP Committee – "Shark Tank: New Tests for COVID-19"
On May 7, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held a quasi-virtual hearing on COVID-19 testing challenges and opportunities called "Shark Tank: New Tests for COVID-19." National Institutes of Health (NIH) Director Francis Collins and Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) Acting Director Gary Disbrow testified at the hearing.
Both witnesses discussed their respective agency's efforts in advancing potential testing solutions. Dr. Collins described the tremendous response NIH has received regarding its new competitive "shark tank" program, Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx), citing over 400 requests for applications and 850 expressions of interest in one week. He also discussed the goal of ramping up testing capacity to millions per week by the end of the summer but described the prospect as ambitious. Dr. Disbrow highlighted BARDA's role in working with NIH to ensure rapid development of diagnostics.

<mark>NEW:</mark> May 6: House Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee – "COVID-19 Response"
On May 6 the House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Ed) Appropriations Subcommittee held an in-person hearing on next steps for the federal response to COVID-19. Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), was called to testify before the Subcommittee, but was blocked from doing so by the White House. Dr. Tom Frieden, Former Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director and current President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, and Dr. Caitlin Rivers, Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, were able to testify at the hearing, both appearing in person.

Dr. Frieden's testimony stressed that the fight against COVID-19 will be long and difficult, but that data regarding the outbreak is the best weapon to reopen the country and create a new normal. Dr. Frieden also suggested that sustained funding is needed for public health programs to predict, detect, and respond to pandemics. He also recommended that Congress establish a Health Defense Operations (HDO) budget designation to exempt critical public health agencies from budget and spending caps. The HDO would operate like the Department of Defense (DOD) Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account which is used to fund many expenses associated with war and military operations, beyond the DOD base budget. Subcommittee Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK) was interested in this idea and mentioned that similar budget cap exemption discussions were taking place among members of the Subcommittee.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to

support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.

- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
    - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.
- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.
- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities

will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at
https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Update: Department of Education (ED)

- **NEW:** 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 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 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 new 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.
- On April 21, ED announced the availability of emergency funding for the institutional portion, or "Recipient's Institutional Costs," of the higher education emergency grant aid as provided by the CARES Act. This follows funding for emergency financial aid grants to students, which was announced April 9. These funds are "to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus." In an FAQ on the funding for institutions, the Department of Education (ED) notes that institutions may use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds to students for room and board, tuition, and other fees. Information on the institutional funding provided by CARES, including a letter from the Secretary, the Certificate of Agreement, a Frequently Asked Questions, and other information is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.
- On April 21, ED also released a new FAQ on the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The guidance emphasizes that funding provided by the CARES Act for students must go to students, but institutions may also use student funding to reimburse emergency grants given to students on or after March 27. ED will publish a notice in the Federal Register to provide instructions to institutions on reporting requirements. The FAQ also notes that only "students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants." This means DACA students and international students would be ineligible for aid. The new FAQ is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf.
- Institutions should be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants for students under the CARES Act to www.grants.gov. Using opportunity number ED-GRANTS-041020-003, institutions should list the 50 percent direct-to-student allocation on the certificate. Certificates can be submitted at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326222.
- On April 14, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that funding for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund, authorized by the CARES Act, was available. GEER grants are awarded by formula to Governors and are available to support local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance to address the impact that the coronavirus pandemic. More information on the GEER fund is available at https://oese.ed.gov/offices/education-stabilization-fund/governors-emergency-education-relief-fund/.
- 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.
- ED announced on April 9 plans for how it would distribute emergency student funding provided in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund as authorized by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provided a funding allocation of $12.56 billion that was to be distributed to institutions of higher education, with at least 50 percent reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. In a cover letter sent to institutions, ED

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notes that "each institution may develop its own system and process for determining how to allocate these funds, which may include distributing the funds to all students or only to students who demonstrate significant need." Submission of a certification form will trigger a release of funds in ED's grants management system, G5. ED emphasizes that these funds are only to provide cash to students; institutions are not permitted to use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds (these include refunds for room and board, purchase of technology, and expenses already incurred). Congress has provided greater flexibility for the institutional portion of CARES Act funding, for which ED will outline the uses and methods by which institutions can use those funds for reimbursement in coming days and weeks. A letter from ED to institutions, the certification form, additional directions for applying for the funds, institutional allotments, and the methodology for calculating allocations is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- On April 3, ED released guidance providing additional regulatory flexibilities to institutions in several policy areas including verification, need analysis, and distance education. Previous guidance applied only to students enrolled in terms that ended on or before June 1, 2020; the updated guidance extends many of these flexibilities through June 30. One highlight of the new guidance that will be significant as aid from the CARES Act begins to flow to students relates to need analysis. The guidance states, "Any aid (in the form of grants or low-interest loans) received by victims of an emergency from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) under the Federal Methodology or as estimated financial assistance for packaging purposes." The updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19.

- 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. The proposed rules are open for a 30-day comment period, with ED intending 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 FERPA's implications for distance learning at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov. Additionally, on March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (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 additional information for accreditors offering regulatory flexibilities during COVID-19 outbreak, including allowing virtual site visits and extensions on accreditation. The guidance document is at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/20-007covid19accreditorsfromomb317s.pdf.
- 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, TechforLearners.org, which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching.
- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- 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:
    - **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)

- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has allocated over $70 billion of a total $175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Funding has been allocated as follows:
    - o $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.
        - Within 45 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-extends-deadline-attestation-acceptance-terms-and-conditions-provider-relief-fund-payments-45-days.html.
    - o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
    - o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
    - o 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.
    - o HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining $30 billion will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and providers that solely take Medicaid. However, no further details have been announced.
    - o Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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 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 posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.

- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at
  https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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 COIVD-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

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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.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **NEW:** 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 Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) within BIO will host its office hours on May 21 at 1-2PM (EST).
  - 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. The next EAR virtual office hours will be held on May 21 at 3-4:30PM (EST). More information here.
  - A presentation on the NSF response to coronavirus from the Directorate for Engineering Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7 is available here.
  - The Division of Chemistry within the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences announced office hours to be held on May 15 at 4-5PM (EST). Details available here.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list is updated regularly and can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- 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)

- 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;

- o   Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards;
- o   Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
- o   Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
- o   Extension of closeout reports; and
- o   Extension of single audit submissions.
- DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities.   In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For example, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) issued deadline extensions to funding opportunities and requests for information (RFI) for:
  - o   Range Extenders for Electric Aviation with Low Carbon Emission and High Efficiency (REEACH): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - o   Aviation-class Synergistically Cooled Electric-motors with iNtegrated Drives (ASCEND): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - o   For all other relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- Information on DOE's resources supporting coronavirus research is available at https://science.osti.gov/DOE-Resources-Supporting-Coronavirus-Research.

Update: **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

- *NEW:* 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.
- *NEW:* On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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/humantarian/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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on May 10 that it is shifting some of its responsibilities for acquiring COVID-19 related supplies to the DOD's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). According to FEMA, DLA will take over for FEMA to "coordinate longer-term purchasing of supplies, including personal protective equipment." FEMA's solicitation, which was seeking COVID-19 personal protective equipment and medical supplies, has since been withdrawn, citing the "transition of mission responsibility from FEMA to the DLA." In response to the transition, DLA extended the deadline for responses to its Request for Information (RFI) on COVID-19-related medical PPE to May 18, as described below.

- 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:
  - o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
  - o 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
  - o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
  - o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
  - o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
  - o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
  - o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits
  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.
- 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://cdmrp.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.

- o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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. 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 posted the agency's CARES Act funded grant competition to help arts organizations endure financial impacts from COVID-19. NEA received $75 million in the CARES Act. Applicants must be previous NEA awardees from the past four years. Applications are due April 22 via www.grants.gov and also submitted to the Endowment's application portal between April 27 - May 4. Details at https://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/CARES/grant-program-description.
- 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.

Update: Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
- **NEW:** 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)
- On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)
- 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.
    o American oversees 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.
    o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice. The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause all ECA-funded programs. Details at https://www.state.gov/temporary-pause-of-international-exchange-programs-due-to-covid-19/.

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Update

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.

Update: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **NEW:** On May 13, 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-051320.pdf.
- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the NIFA FAQ document. More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-

opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.

- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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:
    - o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
    - o 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.
    - o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.

o   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.
o   Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
o   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.
o   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.
o   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.
o   Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
o   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

- 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

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NEW: On May 12, 2020, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Board of Scientific Advisors held their Advisory Council meeting and announced a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) concept based on a collaboration between NCI and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The purpose of this concept clearance is to mobilize collaborative efforts to rapidly expand national testing capacity. This appears to be the first concept clearance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) related research considered and approved by an NIH Institute Advisory Council.
  - The proposed serological sciences network for SARS-CoV-2 would contain five components. The **Frederick National Lab (FNL) Serology Lab** would serve as the core lab, mainly validating serological tests for SARS-CoV-2. **Capacity Building Centers** will be funded to focus on developing and expanding serological testing capacity and practices

in the community. **Serological Centers of Excellence** and **Serological Sciences Projects** will be funded to understand the mechanisms driving serological, humoral, and cellular immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 viral infection to inform the development of novel serological tests. Lastly, the **National Coordinating Center** at the Frederick National Lab will manage, coordinate, and provide communication across the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2**.** There will be a preference for a cancer relevant component when funding the centers of excellence and the serological sciences projects.

Potential Award Information: Funding opportunities will be available for three of the five components within the network.

- Funding for the **Capacity Building Centers** will be provided through a contract mechanism. NCI anticipates awarding between four and eight academic and/or private sector organizations with funding up to $3 million in total costs per year for each site for up to five years.
- Funding for the **Serological Centers of Excellence** will be funded through the Specialized Center – Cooperative Agreements (U54) mechanism. An estimated four to eight centers will be funded for awards up to $2 million in total costs per year for up to five years.
- Funding for the **Serological Sciences Projects** will be funded through the Research Project – Cooperative Agreements (U01) mechanism. An estimated five to ten investigators will be awarded with grants up to $500,000 in total costs per year for up to five years.

NCI plans to publish a Notice of Intent to Publish as well as a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input on the strategy for research in Coronavirus Serology Testing and Serological Sciences within the coming weeks. The RFI will remain open for comment for ten days and responses will be reviewed and incorporated into the design and scientific scope of the network. NCI plans to use the Emergency Funding Opportunity Announcement authorization to expedite the publication of this opportunity. Once the funding opportunity announcement is published, investigators will likely be given four to six weeks to prepare and apply. NCI expects to make awards by September 2020.

- o **A summary of the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 can be found at https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/bsa/0520/Singer.pdf.**

- On April 29, NIH announced a new fast-track program for COVID-19 test development and distribution. The **Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) program** will leverage the existing Point-of-Care Technology Research Network (POCTRN) supported by the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to support novel solutions to ramp up national capacity for SARS-CoV-2 testing. NIBIB is urgently soliciting proposals and will provide up to $500 million across multiple projects to produce SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic tests. The RADx program will support all phases of product development from conceptualization and design to prototyping, performance evaluation, clinical validation, and manufacturing.
Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis starting April 29 and will be reviewed within a week of submission. Additional details and the application portal can be found at https://www.poctrn.org/radx (note that the application portal can be accessed at the bottom of this webpage using the "Apply Now" button).
- On April 23, NIAID released a strategic plan outlining the Institute's priorities for COVID-19 related research in fiscal years (FY) 2020-2024. Complete details on the Strategic Plan can be found at https://www.niaid.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIAID-COVID-19-Strategic-Plan-2020.pdf.

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- 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 Notice**
NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 New R21: PAR-20-177
NLM	4/27/2020	Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: NOT-LM-20-011

COVID-19 Update
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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 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions

Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-023 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-023 (5/13/2020)
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-022 (5/13/2020)
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NINDS	4/14/2020	NOT-NS-20-046
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782
NHLBI	3/17/2020	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020) Expires: 05/15/2020
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011
NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)

NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	4/10/2020	NOT-GM-20-027
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-018
NIDCD	4/9/2020	NOT-DC-20-004
NHGRI	3/31/2020	NOT-HG-20-030
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has released two Notices of Intent for upcoming funding opportunities designed to support studies evaluating health system and healthcare professional responsiveness to COVID-19. The agency plans to publish notices calling for both urgent revision supplements to existing AHRQ grants, and for novel high-impact studies to be funded through the R01 mechanism.
    - o Competitive revision supplements for existing AHRQ projects should "capitalize on the expertise of grant personnel and the institutional environment to expand the specific aims of the on-going research to develop high-impact new knowledge concerning COVID-19." AHRQ expects to make at least $2.5 million available for these supplements and will announce the full details of award size and eligibility available with the Funding Opportunity Announcement is released in April 2020. The Notice of Intent for these supplements can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-007.html.
    - o For new studies related to COVID-19, AHRQ is interested in "critical research focused on evaluating topics such as innovations and challenges encountered in the rapid expansion of telemedicine in response to COVID-19, effects on quality, safety, and value of health system response to COVID-19, and the role of primary care practices and professionals during the COVID-19 epidemic. AHRQ is particularly interested in understanding how digital health innovations contributed to health system and healthcare professional innovation and challenges and solutions to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations including older adults, people living with multiple chronic

conditions, rural communities, and uninsured and underinsured populations." AHRQ expects to dedicate $5 million to this program. The agency plans to release the Funding Opportunity Announcement for these grants in early May 2020, with an expected deadline in June 2020. The Notice of Intent for this initiative can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HS-20-008.html.

Update: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- **NEW:** HRSA Associate Administrator for Health Workforce Luis Padilla said that the Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) will soon publish opportunities for a total of $15 million in funding to support telehealth education and training of the health workforce. Dr. Padilla stated that this funding will be distributed through existing HRSA grant programs, including the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program, the Centers of Excellence (COE) program, the Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP), and the Nurse Education, Practice, Quality and Retention (NEPQR) program.

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)

- 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?oppId=325751.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI issued a Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies on COVID-19. The RFA identifies three priority research tracks: Adaptations to healthcare delivery; Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations; and Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workforce well-being, management, and training. Proposals outside of those tracks are also allowed. Applications are due May 26. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/covid-19-targeted-pfa.
- PCORI is soliciting applications to a special engagement award opportunity, "Supporting Engagement in and Dissemination of PCOR/CER in the Context of COVID-19." PCORI intends to

award $21 million to research support projects that encourage the integration of community and healthcare stakeholders into patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) on COVID-19. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-covid-19.

- 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- Information on awarded Coronavirus RAPID Awards is available at https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=COVID+AND+RAPID&ActiveAwards=true.
- On April 3, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) that combines two of previous DCLs. The new DCL invites proposals "to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge." The solicitation invites researchers to submit proposals **through existing funding mechanisms as well as the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism**. The DCL also invites proposals that "request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources." NSF directs researchers to contact the NSF Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) before submitting a proposal. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf.
- On March 25, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19. NSF invites U.S.-based businesses to submit Phase I SBIR/STTR proposals focused on "the development and deployment of new technologies, products, processes, and services" that have the potential to help respond to COVID-19. The DCL highlights the following areas of research: artificial intelligence, digital health, diagnostics, distributed ledger, environmental technologies, medical devices, pharmaceutical technologies, disinfection and sterilization, and filtration and separations. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20065/nsf20065.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline to **June 1, 2020** for its Request for Information (RFI) issued on April 8 to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19. DLA also seeks to identify alternatives or additional PPE items necessary to protect against viral contamination of COVID-19. Items of interest include:
  - Medical Examination Gloves
  - Medical Aprons
  - Medical Face Masks (N95 Respirator)
  - Medical Face Shields
  - Hand Sanitizer
  - Surgical Masks
  - Swab Viral Transport Kit
  - Viral Transport Swabs
  - SWAB Nasopharyngeal
  - Medical Thermometers
  - **Human Remains Pouches (new area of interest)**

  This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **June 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**, extended from the previously updated deadline of May 18. DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after the new due date. Respondents are asked to provide either a technical data package for the item(s) or website links with detailed information on the product. For any questions, please contact Brian Schott at brian.schott@dla.mil. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "SPE2DS-20-R-COVID19."

- 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 Department of the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released a broad agency announcement (BAA) intended to engage the Defense Industrial Base. The BAA is seeking proposals that "demonstrate development and commercialization of dual-use technologies" in four specific topic areas:
  - Naval Depot Modernization and Sustainment
  - Digital Logistics
  - Deployable Systems Manufacturability
  - Rapid Reconstitution of Communications and Compact Hardware Solutions

  Proposals are due by **May 28, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET.** The SBIR program is a three-phase program, and phase I awards for this BAA will be $150,000 each for a performance period of five months. Phase II awards are expected to be $1.7 million. Awards are expected to be processed within 45 days after the BAA closes. The BAA and four topics can be found at https://navysbir.com/topics20_4.htm.

- The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) announced on April 15 its first area of interest: **Rapid Agile Manufacturing Platform (RAMP).** As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, the DAF ACT established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government.

For the newly released **RAMP** area of interest, the Air Force requests solutions for the design, engineering, testing, manufacturing, distribution, and associated digital planning tools required to deliver a variety of medically-related supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Relevant solutions should consider the suite of advanced manufacturing technologies and need not be specific to additive manufacturing, aka, 3D printing. Equipment needs will be focused on, though not exclusive to, environments suited for emergency response and security personnel in non-clinical environments. This effort intends to leverage progress made through the America Makes National Manufacturing Institute, which has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services to approve open source designs for Community Use and Clinical Use equipment. These designs are accessible through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Exchange (https://3dprint.nih.gov/collections/covid-19-response)." Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, DAF ACT Areas of Interest are expected to include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:

  - **Investigator-Initiated Research Award:** This award is "designed to support research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements" in Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Research projects should focus on basic laboratory research through translational research. CDMRP anticipates a total of $12 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326174.

  - **Technology/Therapeutic Development Award:** This product-driven award supports the translation of preclinical findings into products for clinical applications for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products should be tangible items, such as a pharmacologic agent or device or a knowledge-based product. CDMRP anticipates a total of $25 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326175.

  - **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.

- The Basic Research Office within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering announced a one-time Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) on April 3 for the "Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic." The Newton Award will be presented to individuals or teams of two investigators to develop a "transformative idea" to resolve challenges, advance frontiers, and set new paradigms in areas of immense potential benefit to the DOD and the nation. Proposed research does not have to be related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Proposals should aim to produce novel conceptual frameworks or theory-based approaches, and DOD requires that all supporting data be generated without the use of laboratory-based experimentation or instrumentation. DOD anticipates that a total of $500,000 will be available for up to 10 awards. Individual awards will be funded at up to $50,000 for a single investigator and $100,000 for a two-person team. Proposals are due by **May 15, 2020 at 4:00 PM ET**, and the six-month period of performance is expected to start on June 30, 2020.

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More information is available at www.grants.gov under "BRO-20-NEWTON" or at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326034.

- The Department of Defense's (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, now 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."
- 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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)

- IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities." Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A webinar for this opportunity will be held on **May 14, 2:00-3:00 PM ET** and can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.

- 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."

    Additional information on the anticipated grants is expected to be posted in the coming weeks. 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible.   More

Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.

- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.

- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.

- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is

available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 43,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 begun implementing proposals in over 100 developing countries through its emergency support effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The WBG Board approved deployment of up to $160 billion over the next 15 months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. The regional development banks have made an additional $80 billion available to be deployed over the same period. More information about the WBG effort is available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/02/the-world-bank-group-moves-quickly-to-help-countries-respond-to-covid-19.
  - For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.
- 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.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

May 19, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes Congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Congressional and Federal Updates
House Passes *Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions* **(Heroes) Act**

Agency Updates
- **Department of Education (ED)** -- ED posted a FAQ document regarding the student grants from the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) and an FAQ for the CARES Act's Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEERF);
- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)** -- HRSA is waiving interest and extending the opportunity for administrative forbearance on health professions student loan and nurse faculty loan programs;
- **Department of Defense (DOD)** -- President Trump announced that Army General Gustave Perna will serve as chief operating officer of "Operation Warp Speed;"
- **DOD** -- DOD's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) extended the deadline for responses to its RFI on COVID-19-related medical PPE; and
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** -- NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) released a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) for COVID-19 related research.

Lewis-Burke will send congressional and federal updates as new information is available.

Congressional and Federal Updates

House Passes Multi-Trillion Dollar COVID Response Package

The House of Representatives passed a fifth coronavirus response package, the *Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions* (Heroes) Act (H.R. 6800) by a vote of 208 to 199 on May 15. This $3 trillion spending package was developed by House Democrats without any input from House Republicans and is intended to reflect broad Democratic priorities heading into future negotiations. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) does not plan to take up the bill in the Senate and the White House has threatened a veto if the legislation were to advance. Both Republicans and the White House oppose many of the spending proposals and insist that any negotiations on another pandemic response should not occur until there has been more time to gauge the effectiveness of previous relief packages, including the CARES Act. There is growing interest in the Senate around providing increased direct aid to state and local governments in a future relief package. Here is a more detailed analysis of funding and policy provisions in the *Heroes Act* of most interest to institutions of higher education, scientific societies, and research organizations.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

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Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.

- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.

  - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.

- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local

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entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.

- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Update: Department of Education (ED)

- *NEW*: 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/.
- *NEW*: 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
- On May 15, ED posted additional guidance to extend previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020. It also included 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. Additional guidance is still anticipated from ED that will offer further detail on student grant aid through the CARES Act. The May 15 update guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020.
- 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 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 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 new 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.

- On April 21, ED announced the availability of emergency funding for the institutional portion, or "Recipient's Institutional Costs," of the higher education emergency grant aid as provided by the CARES Act. These funds are "to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus." In an FAQ on the funding for institutions, the Department of Education (ED) notes that institutions may use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds to students for room and board, tuition, and other fees. Information on the institutional funding provided by CARES, including a letter from the Secretary, the Certificate

of Agreement, a Frequently Asked Questions, and other information is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- On April 21, ED also released a new FAQ on the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Students. The guidance emphasizes that funding provided by the CARES Act for students must go to students, but institutions may also use student funding to reimburse emergency grants given to students on or after March 27. The FAQ also notes that only "students who are or could be eligible to participate in programs under Section 484 in Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA), may receive emergency financial aid grants." This means DACA students and international students would be ineligible for aid. The new FAQ is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf.

- 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.

- ED announced on April 9 plans for how it would distribute emergency student funding provided in the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund as authorized by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. The CARES Act provided a funding allocation of $12.56 billion that was to be distributed to institutions of higher education, with at least 50 percent reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. Submission of a certification form will trigger a release of funds in ED's grants management system, G5. ED emphasizes that these funds are only to provide cash to students; institutions are not permitted to use these funds to reimburse themselves for refunds (these include refunds for room and board, purchase of technology, and expenses already incurred). Congress has provided greater flexibility for the institutional portion of CARES Act funding. A letter from ED to institutions, the certification form, additional directions for applying for the funds, institutional allotments, and the methodology for calculating allocations is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- On April 3, ED released guidance providing additional regulatory flexibilities to institutions in several policy areas including verification, need analysis, and distance education. Previous guidance applied only to students enrolled in terms that ended on or before June 1, 2020; the updated guidance extends many of these flexibilities through June 30. One highlight of the new guidance that will be significant as aid from the CARES Act begins to flow to students relates to need analysis. The guidance states, "Any aid (in the form of grants or low-interest loans) received by victims of an emergency from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) under the Federal Methodology or as estimated financial assistance for packaging purposes." The updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19.

- 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. The proposed rules are open for a 30-day comment period, with ED intending to publish a final regulation prior to Nov. 1, 2020. The press release announcing the distance learning rules is available

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 FERPA's implications for distance learning at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov. Additionally, on March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (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, TechforLearners.org, which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching.

- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 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:
  - **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)
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has allocated over $70 billion of a total $175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Funding has been allocated as follows:
  - $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.
    - Within 45 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-extends-deadline-attestation-acceptance-terms-and-conditions-provider-relief-fund-payments-45-days.html.
  - $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
  - $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.
  - HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining $30 billion will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as skilled nursing facilities, dentists, and providers that solely take Medicaid. 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. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- 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 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 posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.

- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - o The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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.

Update: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- *NEW*: 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 COIVD-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)

- 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 Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) within BIO will host its office hours on May 21 at 1-2PM (EST).
  - 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. The next EAR virtual office hours will be held on May 21 at 3-4:30PM (EST). More information here.
  - A presentation on the NSF response to coronavirus from the Directorate for Engineering Advisory Committee meeting held on April 7 is available here.

- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list is updated regularly and can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- 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)

- 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 continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities.   In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For example, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) issued deadline extensions to funding opportunities and requests for information (RFI) for:
  - Range Extenders for Electric Aviation with Low Carbon Emission and High Efficiency (REEACH): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - Aviation-class Synergistically Cooled Electric-motors with iNtegrated Drives (ASCEND): the full application deadline is now **May 22.**
  - For all other relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- Information on DOE's resources supporting coronavirus research is available at https://science.osti.gov/DOE-Resources-Supporting-Coronavirus-Research.

COVID-19
Update
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Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- 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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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/humantarian/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.

- o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- NEW: 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.

- o 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/.

- **NEW:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on May 10 that it is shifting some of its responsibilities for acquiring COVID-19 related supplies to the DOD's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). DLA will take over for FEMA to "coordinate longer-term purchasing of supplies, including personal protective equipment." FEMA's solicitation, which was seeking COVID-19 personal protective equipment and medical supplies, has since been withdrawn, citing the "transition of mission responsibility from FEMA to the DLA." In response to the transition, DLA extended the deadline for responses to its Request for Information (RFI) on COVID-19-related medical PPE to June 1.

- 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:
  - o **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
  - o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
  - o **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?
  - o **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:
    o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
    o 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
    o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
    o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
    o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
    o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
    o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits
  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.
- 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://cdmrp.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.
  - o 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:
  - o "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.

- o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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 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)
- On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)
- 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.
  - o American oversees 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.
  - o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice. The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On May 13, 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-051320.pdf.
- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the NIFA FAQ document. More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.
- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
  Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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:
  - o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
  - o 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.
  - o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
  - o 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.
  - o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
  - o 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.

- o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
  - o 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

- 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

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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 May 15, the National Cancer Institute released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence. NCI expects to publish the final Funding Opportunity Announcement on **June 10**, with the first due date on **July 20**. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-066.html. See below for additional details about this program.
- On May 14, NCI published a **Request for Information** (RFI) seeking input on the strategy for research in Coronavirus Serology Testing and Serological Sciences. NCI is seeking suggestions and input on any research topics relevant to research in coronavirus serology testing. Responses must be submitted by **11:59 pm (ET) on Tuesday, May 26, 2020** via email to Serology_RFI@mail.nih.gov. Please reference the notice at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-065.html for additional details.
- A summary of the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 can be found at https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/bsa/0520/Singer.pdf.

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 Notice
NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 New R21: PAR-20-177
NLM	4/27/2020	Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: NOT-LM-20-011
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	New R01, R21, R03: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006

		commercialization within one to two years."	

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions

Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice
NEW: NIAID	5/19/2020	NOT-AI-20-051
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-023 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-023 (5/13/2020)
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-022 (5/13/2020)
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NINDS	4/14/2020	NOT-NS-20-046
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011
NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	5/15/2020	NOT-GM-20-033
NIGMS	4/10/2020	NOT-GM-20-027

NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-018
NIDCD	4/9/2020	NOT-DC-20-004
NHGRI	3/31/2020	NOT-HG-20-030
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent are due June 1, 2020 with full applications due June 15, 2020. Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.
- AHRQ is soliciting applications for competitive revision supplements to existing AHRQ projects for evaluation of healthcare system and provider responsiveness to COVID-19. Applications should "capitalize on the expertise of grant personnel and the institutional environment to expand the specific aims of the on-going research to develop high-impact new knowledge concerning COVID-19." Applications are due by May 29. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-20-070.html.

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)

- 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?oppId=325751.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI issued a Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies on COVID-19. The RFA identifies three priority research tracks: Adaptations to healthcare delivery; Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations; and Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workforce well-being, management, and training. Proposals outside of those tracks are also allowed. Applications are due May 26. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/covid-19-targeted-pfa.
- PCORI is soliciting applications to a special engagement award opportunity, "Supporting Engagement in and Dissemination of PCOR/CER in the Context of COVID-19." PCORI intends to award $21 million to research support projects that encourage the integration of community and healthcare stakeholders into patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) on COVID-19. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-covid-19.
- 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- Information on awarded Coronavirus RAPID Awards is available at https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=COVID+AND+RAPID&ActiveAwards=true.
- On April 3, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) that combines two of previous DCLs. The new DCL invites proposals "to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used

immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge." The solicitation invites researchers to submit proposals **through existing funding mechanisms as well as the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism**. The DCL also invites proposals that "request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources." NSF directs researchers to contact the NSF Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) before submitting a proposal. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf.

- On March 25, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19. NSF invites U.S.-based businesses to submit Phase I SBIR/STTR proposals focused on "the development and deployment of new technologies, products, processes, and services" that have the potential to help respond to COVID-19. The DCL highlights the following areas of research: artificial intelligence, digital health, diagnostics, distributed ledger, environmental technologies, medical devices, pharmaceutical technologies, disinfection and sterilization, and filtration and separations. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20065/nsf20065.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline to **June 1, 2020** for its Request for Information (RFI) issued on April 8 to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19. DLA also seeks to identify alternatives or additional PPE items necessary to protect against viral contamination of COVID-19. Items of interest include:
  - Medical Examination Gloves
  - Medical Aprons
  - Medical Face Masks (N95 Respirator)
  - Medical Face Shields

- o Hand Sanitizer
- o Surgical Masks
- o Swab Viral Transport Kit
- o Viral Transport Swabs
- o SWAB Nasopharyngeal
- o Medical Thermometers
- o **Human Remains Pouches (new area of interest)**

This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **June 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**, extended from the previously updated deadline of May 18. DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after the new due date. Respondents are asked to provide either a technical data package for the item(s) or website links with detailed information on the product. For any questions, please contact Brian Schott at brian.schott@dla.mil. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "SPE2DS-20-R-COVID19."

- 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 Department of the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released a broad agency announcement (BAA) intended to engage the Defense Industrial Base. The BAA is

seeking proposals that "demonstrate development and commercialization of dual-use technologies" in four specific topic areas:

- Naval Depot Modernization and Sustainment
- Digital Logistics
- Deployable Systems Manufacturability
- Rapid Reconstitution of Communications and Compact Hardware Solutions

Proposals are due by **May 28, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET.** The SBIR program is a three-phase program, and phase I awards for this BAA will be $150,000 each for a performance period of five months. Phase II awards are expected to be $1.7 million. Awards are expected to be processed within 45 days after the BAA closes. The BAA and four topics can be found at https://navysbir.com/topics20_4.htm.

- The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) announced on April 15 its first area of interest: **Rapid Agile Manufacturing Platform (RAMP).** As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, the DAF ACT established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government.

  For the newly released **RAMP** area of interest, the Air Force requests solutions for the design, engineering, testing, manufacturing, distribution, and associated digital planning tools required to deliver a variety of medically-related supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Relevant solutions should consider the suite of advanced manufacturing technologies and need not be specific to additive manufacturing, aka, 3D printing. Equipment needs will be focused on, though not exclusive to, environments suited for emergency response and security personnel in non-clinical environments. This effort intends to leverage progress made through the America Makes National Manufacturing Institute, which has partnered with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services to approve open source designs for Community Use and Clinical Use equipment. These designs are accessible through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Exchange (https://3dprint.nih.gov/collections/covid-19-response)." Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

  As previously reported by Lewis-Burke, DAF ACT Areas of Interest are expected to include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
  - Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
  - Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
  - Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)

- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:
    - **Investigator-Initiated Research Award:** This award is "designed to support research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements" in Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Research projects should focus on basic laboratory research through translational research. CDMRP anticipates a total of $12 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326174.
    - **Technology/Therapeutic Development Award:** This product-driven award supports the translation of preclinical findings into products for clinical applications for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products should be tangible items, such as a pharmacologic agent or device or a knowledge-based product. CDMRP anticipates a total of $25 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326175**.**
    - **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30

million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.

- The Department of Defense's (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, now 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."
- 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

COVID-19 Update

o 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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)

- IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities." Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A recording of the webinar held for this opportunity can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.
- 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."

  Additional information on the anticipated grants is expected to be posted in the coming weeks. 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible.   More Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.

- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.
- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 43,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 begun implementing proposals in over 100 developing countries through its emergency support effort to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The WBG Board approved deployment of up to $160 billion over the next 15 months to help countries protect the poor and vulnerable, support businesses, and bolster economic recovery. The regional development banks have made an additional $80 billion available to be deployed over the same period. More information about the WBG effort is available at https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2020/04/02/the-world-bank-group-moves-quickly-to-help-countries-respond-to-covid-19.
  - For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.
- 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.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

May 26, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes Congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Congressional and Federal Updates
Additional COVID Relief, Expiring Authorizations on Congressional Docket; Further Immigration Restrictions Expected

Agency Updates
- **Department of Education (ED)** -- ED announced its intention to extend its information collection requests related to CARES Act funding;
- **Department of Defense (DOD)**– the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals on topics relevant to COVID-19;
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH) –** NIH announced two opportunities for new grants and one opportunity for supplements and revisions;
- **National Science Foundation (NSF)** – NSF announced a new Computing Innovation Fellows (CIFellows) Program targeting recent PhD graduates whose job search was impacted by COVID-19;
- **The White House –** President Trump announced an expansion of the limitation on entry of certain foreign aliens to the U.S. due to foreign COVID outbreaks with emphasis on Brazil.

Lewis-Burke will send congressional and federal updates as new information is available.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Additional COVID Relief, Expiring Authorizations on Congressional Docket; Further Immigration Restrictions Expected

The Senate is out until June 1 and the House will be in session for an abbreviated week. The House is expected to take up and pass a bill to make fixes to the Paycheck Protection Program, which was created in the CARES Act. Conversations around additional COVID-19 relief efforts continue, while Senate Republicans and the White House continue to articulate the need to give current stimulus efforts time to be implemented. Other issues that will require attention from Congress include the fiscal year (FY) 2021 defense authorization bill, permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, reauthorization of national security surveillance provisions including the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court, and the government funding appropriations process for FY 2021. Additional issues needing congressional attention include a federal highway bill, flood insurance, and reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act, among other topics. These non-COVID related issues will be competing with the oversight of existing relief efforts and attempts to provide additional stimulus spending. Further complicating the legislative calendar is an August recess and an election that will limit the number of legislative days available.

Discussions emanating from the White House around the elimination or restriction of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program continue. The OPT program allows international students to work in the U.S. after graduation while remaining on their student visas. The proposed restrictions from the White House are framed as a way to assist U.S. citizens looking for work during a time of significant labor dislocations caused by the pandemic. Restricting the OPT program has been a regulatory goal for the current Administration for several years. The business community, in addition to the higher education community, have pushed back against the proposed restrictions. The restriction, potentially in the form of a limited suspension of the program with exceptions for some fields, could be included in an executive order in the coming days or weeks.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
  - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and

requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.

- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.
- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Update: Department of Education (ED)

- *NEW*: ED announced its intention to extend its information collection request includes the certification and agreement that institutions of higher education are required to submit in order to receive institutional and student federal aid allocated from the CARES Act. The public comment period will be open for 60 days following the publication of ED's notice in the federal register on May 27, 2020. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act 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. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act Student Aid 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 21, ED posted a statement regarding the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Guidance previously released by ED limited student funding provided by HEERF to students eligible to receive Title IV aid, precluding international students and DACA students, among others. ED's May 21 statement notes that earlier guidance regarding Title IV eligibility for student emergency grants under the CARES Act does not apply to the HEERF institutional funds. An institution can use its HEERF institutional funds to support non-Title IV eligible students, though not in the form of direct emergency grants. This restriction is due to the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act*, which limits the availability of aid to non-citizens. ED's statement also notes "The Department continues to consider the

issue of eligibility for HEERF emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act and intends to take further action shortly." The new statement is viewable at the top of HEERF website 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 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

- On May 15, ED posted additional guidance to extend previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020. It also included 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. Additional guidance is still anticipated from ED that will offer further detail on student grant aid through the CARES Act. The May 15 update guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020.

- 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 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 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 new 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.
- 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, and other information is available at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.
- 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 3, ED released guidance providing additional regulatory flexibilities to institutions in several policy areas including verification, need analysis, and distance education. Previous guidance applied only to students enrolled in terms that ended on or before June 1, 2020; the updated guidance extends many of these flexibilities through June 30. One highlight of the new guidance that will be significant as aid from the CARES Act begins to flow to students relates to need analysis. The guidance states, "Any aid (in the form of grants or low-interest loans) received by victims of an emergency from a federal or state entity for the purpose of providing financial relief is not counted as income for calculating a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) under the Federal Methodology or as estimated financial assistance for packaging purposes." The updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19.

- 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. The proposed rules are open for a 30-day comment period, with ED intending 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 FERPA's implications for distance learning at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov. Additionally, on March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (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, TechforLearners.org, which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching.
- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- 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:
  - **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)
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has allocated approximately $75 billion of a total $175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Funding has been allocated as follows:
  - $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. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/22/hhs-announces-nearly-4.9-billion-distribution-to-nursing-facilities-impacted-by-covid19.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.
    - Within 45 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-extends-deadline-attestation-acceptance-terms-and-conditions-provider-relief-fund-payments-45-days.html.

- o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
- o $12 billion to hospitals in COVID-19 "hot spots," based on capacity and the number of COVID-19 cases. Additional funding may be allocated for this purpose.
- o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
- o 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.
- o HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining funding will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as dentists and providers that solely take Medicaid. However, no further details have been announced.
- o Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- 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.

- o 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.
  - o 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 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 posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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
  COIVD-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)

- 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)

- 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 continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that

researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.

- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)

- 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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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

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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/humantarian/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)

- 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on May 10 that it is shifting some of its responsibilities for acquiring COVID-19 related supplies to the DOD's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). DLA will take over for FEMA to "coordinate longer-term purchasing of supplies, including personal protective equipment." FEMA's solicitation, which was seeking COVID-19 personal protective equipment and medical supplies, has since been withdrawn, citing the "transition of mission responsibility from FEMA to the DLA." In response to the transition, DLA extended the deadline for responses to its [Request for Information](#) (RFI) on COVID-19-related medical PPE to June 1.

- 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.

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- o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
- o **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?
- o **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:
  - o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
  - o 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
  - o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
  - o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
  - o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
  - o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
  - o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits
  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.
- 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://cdmrp.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.
  - o 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:

   o "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.

   o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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 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)

- On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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 oversees 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On May 13, 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-051320.pdf.
- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the NIFA FAQ document. More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.
- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
  Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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:
  - o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
  - o 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.
  - o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
  - o 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.
  - o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
  - o 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

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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.

<mark>Update: The White House</mark>

- <mark>NEW:</mark> 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

<mark>Update:</mark> National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- <mark>NEW:</mark> On May 15, the National Cancer Institute released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence. NCI expects to publish the final Funding Opportunity Announcement on **June 10**, with the first due date on **July 20**. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-066.html. See below for additional details about this program.
- On May 14, NCI published a **Request for Information** (RFI) seeking input on the strategy for research in Coronavirus Serology Testing and Serological Sciences. NCI is seeking suggestions and input on any research topics relevant to research in coronavirus serology testing. Responses must be submitted by **11:59 pm (ET) on Tuesday, May 26, 2020** via email to Serology_RFI@mail.nih.gov. Please reference the notice at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-065.html for additional details.
- A summary of the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 can be found at https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/bsa/0520/Singer.pdf.

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 Notice**

<mark>NEW 5/26:</mark> 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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020
<mark>NEW 5/26:</mark> 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.	New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021
NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178

New R21: PAR-20-177 |

		Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: NOT-LM-20-011
NLM	4/27/2020		
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 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions

Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice
New 5/26: NCCIH/ORWH	5/26/2020	NOT-AT-20-012
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-023 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-023 (5/13/2020)
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-022 (5/13/2020)
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011

NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	5/15/2020	NOT-GM-20-033
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-018
NIDCD	4/9/2020	NOT-DC-20-004
NIAID	5/19/2020	NOT-AI-20-051
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent are due June 1, 2020 with full applications due June 15, 2020. Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.
- AHRQ is soliciting applications for competitive revision supplements to existing AHRQ projects for evaluation of healthcare system and provider responsiveness to COVID-19. Applications should "capitalize on the expertise of grant personnel and the institutional environment to expand the specific aims of the on-going research to develop high-impact new knowledge concerning COVID-19." Applications are due by May 29. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-20-070.html.

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)

- 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?oppId=325751.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI issued a Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies on COVID-19. The RFA identifies three priority research tracks: Adaptations to healthcare delivery; Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations; and Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workforce well-being, management, and training. Proposals outside of those tracks are also allowed. Applications are due May 26. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/covid-19-targeted-pfa.
- PCORI is soliciting applications to a special engagement award opportunity, "Supporting Engagement in and Dissemination of PCOR/CER in the Context of COVID-19." PCORI intends to award $21 million to research support projects that encourage the integration of community and healthcare stakeholders into patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) on COVID-19. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-covid-19.
- 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- ***NEW:*** On May 22, the NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE) announced a new Computing Innovation Fellows (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, which will be operated by the Computing Research Association (CRA) and the Computing Community Consortium (CCC), 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 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?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

- Information on awarded Coronavirus RAPID Awards is available at https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/simpleSearchResult?queryText=COVID+AND+RAPID&ActiveAwards=true.

- On April 3, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) that combines two of previous DCLs. The new DCL invites proposals "to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge." The solicitation invites researchers to submit proposals **through existing funding mechanisms as well as the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism**. The DCL also invites proposals that "request the use of NSF-funded advanced computing resources." NSF directs researchers to contact the NSF Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) before submitting a proposal. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf.

- On March 25, NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter: Request for SBIR/STTR Phase I Proposals Addressing COVID-19. NSF invites U.S.-based businesses to submit Phase I SBIR/STTR proposals focused on "the development and deployment of new technologies, products, processes, and services" that have the potential to help respond to COVID-19. The DCL highlights the following areas of research: artificial intelligence, digital health, diagnostics, distributed ledger, environmental technologies, medical devices, pharmaceutical technologies, disinfection and sterilization, and filtration and separations. The DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20065/nsf20065.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- *NEW*: The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
    - Detection and Sensing;
    - Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
    - Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
    - Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
    - Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

  IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

  Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline to **June 1, 2020** for its Request for Information (RFI) issued on April 8 to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19. DLA also seeks to identify alternatives or additional PPE items necessary to protect against viral contamination of COVID-19. Items of interest include:
    - Medical Examination Gloves
    - Medical Aprons
    - Medical Face Masks (N95 Respirator)
    - Medical Face Shields
    - Hand Sanitizer

- o Surgical Masks
- o Swab Viral Transport Kit
- o Viral Transport Swabs
- o SWAB Nasopharyngeal
- o Medical Thermometers
- o **Human Remains Pouches (new area of interest)**

This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **June 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**, extended from the previously updated deadline of May 18. DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after the new due date. Respondents are asked to provide either a technical data package for the item(s) or website links with detailed information on the product. For any questions, please contact Brian Schott at brian.schott@dla.mil. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "SPE2DS-20-R-COVID19."

- 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 Department of the Navy's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released a broad agency announcement (BAA) intended to engage the Defense Industrial Base. The BAA is

seeking proposals that "demonstrate development and commercialization of dual-use technologies" in four specific topic areas:

- Naval Depot Modernization and Sustainment
- Digital Logistics
- Deployable Systems Manufacturability
- Rapid Reconstitution of Communications and Compact Hardware Solutions

Proposals are due by **May 28, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET.** The SBIR program is a three-phase program, and phase I awards for this BAA will be $150,000 each for a performance period of five months. Phase II awards are expected to be $1.7 million. Awards are expected to be processed within 45 days after the BAA closes. The BAA and four topics can be found at https://navysbir.com/topics20_4.htm.

- The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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. The Air Force also announced that its effort,

known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all of the Service Branches, DOD components, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) can evaluate and potentially fund proposals.

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:
    - **Investigator-Initiated Research Award:** This award is "designed to support research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements" in Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Research projects should focus on basic laboratory research through translational research. CDMRP anticipates a total of $12 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326174.
    - **Technology/Therapeutic Development Award:** This product-driven award supports the translation of preclinical findings into products for clinical applications for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products should be tangible items, such as a pharmacologic agent or device or a knowledge-based product. CDMRP anticipates a total of $25 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326175**.**
    - **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.
- The Department of Defense's (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, now 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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)

- IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities." Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A recording of the webinar held for this opportunity can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.

- 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible. More Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.
- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

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.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.
- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 68,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 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 194 WHO member states adopted a consensus resolution at the World Health Assembly on May 19 to collaboratively fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution called on the WHO to rapidly identify and provide options for scaling up the development, manufacturing, and distribution capacities needed to provide access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines. In addition, it called for an independent review of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the WHO's own performance. The U.S. has traditionally been the largest contributor to the WHO.
  - The resolution is available here: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA73/A73_CONF1Rev1-en.pdf
- The WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.

- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

May 29, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes Congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Congressional and Federal Updates

> House Passes Paycheck Protection Update, Trump Announces Proclamation Limiting Some Chinese Nationals

Agency Updates
- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** - The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has announced that it is preparing some domestic offices to reopen and resume non-emergency public services on or after June 4.
- **Department of Defense (DOD)** - 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.'"
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH) -** NIH released a notice of special interest (NOSI) encouraging eligible Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) cohort grantees to apply for supplements related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF) -** NSF archived the COVID-19 Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) (NSF 20-052).

Lewis-Burke will send congressional and federal updates as new information is available.

Congressional and Federal Updates

House Passes Paycheck Protection Update, Trump Announces Proclamation Limiting Some Chinese Nationals

With one dissenting vote, the U.S House of Representatives passed H.R. 7010, the *Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020*, which would provide increased flexibility to Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) borrowers. Those flexibilities include giving recipients more time to spend PPP funds and lowers the threshold on how much of PPP funds need to be spent on payroll. While there is general bipartisan support for increasing PPP flexibility, it is not certain the House bill will be able to pass the Senate.

On Friday, May 29, President Trump released a [proclamation](#), "Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People's Republic of China (PRC)." The proclamation will likely result in the suspension or limitation of F or J visas to study or conduct research of certain Chinese graduate students and researchers. The proclamation notes that these restrictions would cover individuals with ties to an "entity in the PRC that implements or supports the PRC's 'military-civil fusion strategy.'" The proclamation notes that "the term "military-civil fusion strategy" means actions by or at the behest of the PRC to acquire and divert foreign technologies, specifically critical and emerging technologies, to incorporate into and advance the PRC's military capabilities."

President Trump also announced other actions aimed at punishing China, including removing the United States from the World Health Organization.

Several Republican members of Congress have introduced the SECURE CAMPUS Act, which would seek to restrict Chinese nationals from receiving visas to study science and engineering fields in the United States. Additionally, the Trump Administration is considering placing temporary restrictions on the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program as part of their economic stimulus efforts to prioritize the hiring and employment of U.S. workers. More than 200,000 international students participate in the OPT program each year. Potential restrictions include limiting OPT for students by country of origin, limiting fields of study, or limiting the duration a student could be on OPT. An Executive Order announcing some form of these limitations is expected sometime in June. Both the business and higher education community are actively advocating for both maintenance of the OPT program and for processes to improve the enrollment of international students in the fall. Several Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives are supportive of these programs and are asking federal agencies to continue to support these initiatives. Additional efforts to restrict immigration are possible, given the upcoming November election.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
  - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source

for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.

- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.
- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Department of Education (ED)

- ED announced its intention to extend its information collection request includes the certification and agreement that institutions of higher education are required to submit in order to receive institutional and student federal aid allocated from the CARES Act. The public comment period will be open for 60 days following the publication of ED's notice in the federal register on May 27, 2020. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act 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. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act Student Aid 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 21, ED posted a statement regarding the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Guidance previously released by ED limited student funding provided by

HEERF to students eligible to receive Title IV aid, precluding international students and DACA students, among others. ED's May 21 statement notes that earlier guidance regarding Title IV eligibility for student emergency grants under the CARES Act does not apply to the HEERF institutional funds. An institution can use its HEERF institutional funds to support non-Title IV eligible students, though not in the form of direct emergency grants. This restriction is due to the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act*, which limits the availability of aid to non-citizens. ED's statement also notes "The Department continues to consider the issue of eligibility for HEERF emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act and intends to take further action shortly." The new statement is viewable at the top of HEERF website at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- o 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.
- o 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 15, ED posted additional guidance to extend previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020. This guidance provides updated information that expands upon the Department's March 5, 2020 and April 3, 2020 guidance. It also included 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. Additional guidance is still anticipated from ED that will offer further detail on student grant aid through the CARES Act. The May 15 updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-

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announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020. The April 3 is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19. The March 5 guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19.

- 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 new 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)
- 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:
    - **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)
- The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has allocated approximately $75 billion of a total $175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Funding has been allocated as follows:
    - $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. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/22/hhs-announces-nearly-4.9-billion-distribution-to-nursing-facilities-impacted-by-covid19.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.
        - Within 45 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-extends-deadline-attestation-acceptance-terms-and-conditions-provider-relief-fund-payments-45-days.html.

- o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
- o $12 billion to hospitals in COVID-19 "hot spots," based on capacity and the number of COVID-19 cases. Additional funding may be allocated for this purpose.
- o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
- o 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.
- o HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining funding will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as dentists and providers that solely take Medicaid. However, no further details have been announced.
- o Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- 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.
- o 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.
- o 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 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 posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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 COIVD-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)

- 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)

- 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 continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.

- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)

- **NEW**: The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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:
    - o 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/humantarian/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.
    - o 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.
    - o 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.
    - o 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.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **_NEW:_** 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on May 10 that it is shifting some of its responsibilities for acquiring COVID-19 related supplies to the DOD's Defense Logistics Agency (DLA). DLA will take over for FEMA to "coordinate longer-term purchasing of supplies, including personal protective equipment." FEMA's solicitation, which was seeking COVID-19 personal protective equipment and medical supplies, has since been withdrawn, citing the "transition of mission responsibility from FEMA to the DLA." In response to the transition,

DLA extended the deadline for responses to its [Request for Information](#) (RFI) on COVID-19-related medical PPE to June 1.

- 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:
  - o **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
  - o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
  - o **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?
  - o **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:
  - o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
  - o 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
  - o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
  - o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
  - o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
  - o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
  - o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits

The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.
- 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://cdmrp.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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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 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)

- On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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 oversees 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
    - The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
    - The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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

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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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- On May 13, 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-051320.pdf.
- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the NIFA FAQ document. More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.
- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
  Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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:
  o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
  o 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.
  o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
  o 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.
  o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o 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.
  o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.

- o 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

- 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

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- On May 15, the National Cancer Institute released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence. NCI expects to publish the final Funding Opportunity Announcement on **June 10**, with the first due date on **July 20**. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-066.html. A summary of the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 can be found at https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/bsa/0520/Singer.pdf.

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 Notice**

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.	New R01: [RFA-RM-20-020](#)
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.	New DP5: [RFA-RM-20-021](#)
NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: [OTA-20-011](#)
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.	New R01: [PAR-20-178](#) New R21: [PAR-20-177](#)
NLM	4/27/2020	Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify	New R21: [NOT-LM-20-011](#)

		or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	
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 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions

Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice
NEW: OD	5/27/2020	NOT-OD-20-107
NEW: NCCIH	5/26/2020	NOT-AT-20-012
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-023 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-023 (5/13/2020)
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-022 (5/13/2020)
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011

NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH/ORWH	5/26/2020	NOT-AT-20-012
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	5/15/2020	NOT-GM-20-033
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	NOT-DK-20-018
NIDCD	4/9/2020	NOT-DC-20-004
NIAID	5/19/2020	NOT-AI-20-051
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent are due June 1, 2020 with full applications due June 15, 2020. Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.
- AHRQ is soliciting applications for competitive revision supplements to existing AHRQ projects for evaluation of healthcare system and provider responsiveness to COVID-19. Applications should "capitalize on the expertise of grant personnel and the institutional environment to expand the specific aims of the on-going research to develop high-impact new knowledge concerning COVID-19." Applications are due by May 29. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-20-070.html.

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)

- 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?oppId=325751.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI issued a Request for Applications (RFA) on high-impact research studies on COVID-19. The RFA identifies three priority research tracks: Adaptations to healthcare delivery; Impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations; and Impact of COVID-19 on healthcare workforce well-being, management, and training. Proposals outside of those tracks are also allowed. Applications are due May 26. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/covid-19-targeted-pfa.
- PCORI is soliciting applications to a special engagement award opportunity, "Supporting Engagement in and Dissemination of PCOR/CER in the Context of COVID-19." PCORI intends to award $21 million to research support projects that encourage the integration of community and healthcare stakeholders into patient-centered outcomes research/comparative clinical effectiveness research (PCOR/CER) on COVID-19. Additional information is available at https://www.pcori.org/funding-opportunities/announcement/engagement-award-special-cycle-covid-19.
- 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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **NEW**: 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 May 22, the NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE) announced a new Computing Innovation Fellows (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, which will be operated by the Computing Research Association (CRA) and the Computing Community Consortium (CCC), 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 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?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
  - Detection and Sensing;
  - Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
  - Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
  - Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
  - Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

  IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

  Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate extended the deadline to **June 1, 2020** for its Request for Information (RFI) issued on April 8 to identify near-term specific products, potential sources, and availability and/or challenges to meeting Medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements to protect against COVID-19. DLA also seeks to identify alternatives or additional PPE items necessary to protect against viral contamination of COVID-19. Items of interest include:
  - Medical Examination Gloves
  - Medical Aprons
  - Medical Face Masks (N95 Respirator)
  - Medical Face Shields
  - Hand Sanitizer
  - Surgical Masks
  - Swab Viral Transport Kit
  - Viral Transport Swabs
  - SWAB Nasopharyngeal
  - Medical Thermometers
  - **Human Remains Pouches (new area of interest)**

This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **June 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**, extended from the previously updated deadline of May 18. DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after the new due date. Respondents are asked to provide either a technical data package for the item(s) or website links with detailed information on the product. For any questions, please contact Brian Schott at brian.schott@dla.mil. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "SPE2DS-20-R-COVID19."

- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:

- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:
  - **Investigator-Initiated Research Award:** This award is "designed to support research with the potential to yield highly impactful data that could lead to critical discoveries or major advancements" in Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Research projects should focus on basic laboratory research through translational research. CDMRP anticipates a total of $12 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326174.
  - **Technology/Therapeutic Development Award:** This product-driven award supports the translation of preclinical findings into products for clinical applications for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products should be tangible items, such as a pharmacologic agent or device or a knowledge-based product. CDMRP anticipates a total of $25 million available in funding for four awards. Pre-applications are due by **May 28, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 12, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**.

The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326175**.**

- **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.

- The Department of Defense's (DOD) Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF), in partnership with the Air Force, now 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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:
  - o Point of care diagnostics
  - o Swabs for sample collection
  - o Serological diagnostics
  - o 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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/.](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/call-action-tech-community-new-machine-readable-covid-19-dataset/)

Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

- IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities." Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A recording of the webinar held for this opportunity can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.
- 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:
    o Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
    o Unemployment; and
    o 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly

highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible. More Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.

- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

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.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to

those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.

- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.

- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 68,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 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.

- o For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The 194 WHO member states adopted a consensus resolution at the World Health Assembly on May 19 to collaboratively fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution called on the WHO to rapidly identify and provide options for scaling up the development, manufacturing, and distribution capacities needed to provide access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines. In addition, it called for an independent review of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the WHO's own performance. The U.S. has traditionally been the largest contributor to the WHO.
  - o The resolution is available here: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA73/A73_CONF1Rev1-en.pdf
- The WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

June 3, 2020

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COVID-19 Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes Congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Congressional and Federal Updates

    Trump Announces Proclamation Limiting Some Chinese Nationals

Agency Updates

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) –** HHS submitted its "COVID-19 Strategic Testing Plan" to Congress, detailing the steps that the federal government and states need to take to enhance national testing capacity and capability.
- **Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) –** ASPR provided an additional $250 million to health care systems responding to COVID-19.
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** – NIH released notices of intent to publish funding opportunity announcements for research on community interventions concerning health disparities and COVID-19, as well as funding opportunities regarding the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiative.
- **Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS)** – IMLS is hosting its second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) webinar, which will focus on the loan forgiveness process relevant to museum and library communities on **June 9, 2020 at 3:00 pm ET**.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Trump Announces Proclamation Limiting Some Chinese Nationals

On Friday, May 29, President Trump released a [proclamation](#), "Proclamation on the Suspension of Entry as Nonimmigrants of Certain Students and Researchers from the People's Republic of China (PRC)." The proclamation will likely result in the suspension or limitation of F or J visas to study or conduct research of certain Chinese graduate students and researchers. The proclamation notes that these restrictions would cover individuals with ties to an "entity in the PRC that implements or supports the PRC's 'military-civil fusion strategy.'" The proclamation notes that "the term "military-civil fusion strategy" means actions by or at the behest of the PRC to acquire and divert foreign technologies, specifically critical and emerging technologies, to incorporate into and advance the PRC's military capabilities." President Trump also announced other actions aimed at punishing China, including removing the United States from the World Health Organization.

Several Republican members of Congress have introduced the SECURE CAMPUS Act, which would seek to restrict Chinese nationals from receiving visas to study science and engineering fields in the United States. Additionally, the Trump Administration is considering placing temporary restrictions on the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program as part of their economic stimulus efforts to prioritize the hiring and employment of U.S. workers. More than 200,000 international students participate in the OPT program each year. Potential restrictions include limiting OPT for students by country of origin,

limiting fields of study, or limiting the duration a student could be on OPT. An Executive Order announcing some form of these limitations is expected sometime in June. Both the business and higher education community are actively advocating for both maintenance of the OPT program and for processes to improve the enrollment of international students in the fall. Several Republican members of the U.S. House of Representatives are supportive of these programs and are asking federal agencies to continue to support these initiatives. Additional efforts to restrict immigration are possible, given the upcoming November election.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
    - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-

content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.

- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.
- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Department of Education (ED)

- ED announced its intention to extend its information collection request includes the certification and agreement that institutions of higher education are required to submit in order to receive institutional and student federal aid allocated from the CARES Act. The public comment period will be open for 60 days following the publication of ED's notice in the federal register on May 27, 2020. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act 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. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act Student Aid 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 21, ED posted a statement regarding the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Guidance previously released by ED limited student funding provided by HEERF to students eligible to receive Title IV aid, precluding international students and DACA students, among others. ED's May 21 statement notes that earlier guidance regarding Title IV eligibility for student emergency grants under the CARES Act does not apply to the HEERF institutional funds. An institution can use its HEERF institutional funds to support non-Title IV eligible students, though not in the form of direct emergency grants. This restriction is due to the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act*, which limits the availability of aid to non-citizens. ED's statement also notes "The Department continues to consider the issue of eligibility for HEERF emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act and intends to

take further action shortly." The new statement is viewable at the top of HEERF website at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.

- o 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.
- o 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 15, ED posted additional guidance to extend previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020. This guidance provides updated information that expands upon the Department's March 5, 2020 and April 3, 2020 guidance. It also included 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. Additional guidance is still anticipated from ED that will offer further detail on student grant aid through the CARES Act. The May 15 updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020. The April 3 is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19. The March 5 guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19.
- 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 new 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)
- 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:
  - **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

Update: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- **NEW**: 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 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.
- HHS has allocated approximately $75 billion of a total $175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Funding has been allocated as follows:
  - $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. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/22/hhs-announces-nearly-4.9-billion-distribution-to-nursing-facilities-impacted-by-covid19.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.
    - Within 45 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-extends-deadline-attestation-acceptance-terms-and-conditions-provider-relief-fund-payments-45-days.html.
  - $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
  - $12 billion to hospitals in COVID-19 "hot spots," based on capacity and the number of COVID-19 cases. Additional funding may be allocated for this purpose.
  - $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.

o   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.

o   HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining funding will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as dentists and providers that solely take Medicaid. However, no further details have been announced.

o   Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for updates on how any current or future funding will be allocated. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- 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.

  o   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 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 posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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 COIVD-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)

- 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)

- 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 continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that

researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.

- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)

- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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/humantarian/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)

- 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:

- o **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
- o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
- o **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?
- o **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:

- o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
- o 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
- o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
- o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
- o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
- o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
- o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits

The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award.

Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.

- 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://cdmrp.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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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)

- **NEW:** IMLS is hosting its second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) webinar, which will focus on the loan forgiveness process for museum and library communities, on **June 9, 2020 at 3:00 pm ET**. Interested participants can register 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)

- On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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.
  - o American oversees 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.
  - o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - o The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - o The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On May 13, 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-051320.pdf.
- On April 21, NIFA reopened its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) opportunity until May 21 to solicit innovative proposals relevant to COVID-19. USDA made up to $25 million in funding available to support grants of up to $100,000. USDA encourages proposals relevant to the following topics: Animal Production and Protection; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural Development; and Small and Mid-Size Farms. Submissions relevant to COVID-19 should include "COVID-19 Rapid Response" in the title. Answers to other questions can be found in the NIFA FAQ document. More information can be found here: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/small-business-innovation-research-program-phase-i?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=.
- 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.
- USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (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.
  Deadlines are extended as follows and 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.

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:
  - o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
  - o 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.
  - o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
  - o 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.
  - o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.

o 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

- 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

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- **NEW**: On June 3, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research on community interventions to "ameliorate the impact of psychosocial, sociocultural, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 on the health of populations known to experience health disparities and other vulnerable populations." This funding opportunity is for new R01 grants. NIH expects that the full opportunity will be published on June 22, with the first application due date on July 22**.** More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MD-20-023.html.
- **NEW:** On June 1, the Office of the Director released a Notice of Intent to Publish for four funding opportunity announcements regarding the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiative. RADx-UP is one of five components of the broader RADx initiative focused on addressing the need for widespread testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. NIH expects to publish the funding opportunities on June 8, with the earliest application due date occurring in July 2020. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-112.html. A comprehensive summary of the RADx Initiative can be found at https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/05262020conceptclearance.pdf.
- On May 15, the National Cancer Institute released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence. NCI expects to publish the final Funding Opportunity Announcement on **June 10**, with the first due date on **July 20**. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-066.html. A summary of the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 can be found at https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/bsa/0520/Singer.pdf.

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 Notice**
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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020
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.	New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021

		Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
NHLBI	5/07/2020		
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178

New R21: PAR-20-177 |
| NLM | 4/27/2020 | Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources. | New R21: NOT-LM-20-011 |
| 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

New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006 |

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions		
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**
OD	5/27/2020	NOT-OD-20-107
NCCIH	5/26/2020	NOT-AT-20-012

NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-023 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-023 (5/13/2020)
NIDCR	5/5/2020	NOT-DE-20-022 FAQs on NOT-DE-20-022 (5/13/2020)
NINDS	4/30/2020	NOT-NS-20-051
NCI	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782
NLM	4/27/2020	NOT-LM-20-010
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015
NCATS	4/23/2020	NOT-TR-20-028
NCATS	4/9/2020	NOT-TR-20-017
NCATS	3/27/2020	NOT-TR-20-012
NCATS	3/24/2020	NOT-TR-20-011
NIAAA	4/16/2020	NOT-AA-20-011
NCCIH/ORWH	5/26/2020	NOT-AT-20-012
NCCIH, NIA, NIAAA	4/10/2020	NOT-AT-20-011
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
NIMH	4/9/2020	NOT-MH-20-047
OBSSR	4/13/2020	NOT-OD-20-097
NIBIB	4/10/2020	NOT-EB-20-008
NIGMS	5/15/2020	NOT-GM-20-033
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025
NIMHD	4/9/2020	NOT-MD-20-019
NIEHS	4/9/2020	NOT-ES-20-020
NIAID	5/19/2020	NOT-AI-20-051
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034

NIDA	3/19/2020	[NOT-DA-20-047](NOT-DA-20-047)

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent are due **June 1, 2020** with full applications due **June 15, 2020.** Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.

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.

Update: Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)

- **NEW:** 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?oppId=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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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 May 22, the NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE) announced a new Computing Innovation Fellows (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, which will be operated by the Computing Research Association (CRA) and the Computing Community Consortium (CCC), 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 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.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
  - Detection and Sensing;
  - Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
  - Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
  - Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
  - Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

  IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

  Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."

- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

  DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
  - Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
  - Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
  - Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
  - Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
  - Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
  - Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
  - Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:
    - **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.
    - Pre-applications for the Investigator-Initiated Research Award and the Technology/Therapeutic Development Award were due May 28, 2020.
- 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page

can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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:
  - o Point of care diagnostics
  - o Swabs for sample collection
  - o Serological diagnostics
  - o 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.

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

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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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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)

- IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities." Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A recording of the webinar held for this opportunity can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.
- 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:
  - o Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
  - o Unemployment; and
  - o 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- NIFA has announced a new opportunity under the AFRI Foundational and Applied Sciences RFA: Rapid Response to Novel Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) Impacts Across Food and Agricultural Systems. This funding track will support two-year research, extension, and integration projects of up to $1 million to develop and deploy "rapid, reliable, and readily adoptable strategies across the food and agriculture enterprise" that ensure the safety and accessibility of a nutritious food supply. Proposals should be interdisciplinary and focus on one or more of the following priority areas: Health and Security of Livestock; Well-being of Farm, Food Service Providers, and Rural Americans; Economic Security; and Food Safety. Proposals should explicitly highlight how the activities would directly address urgent stakeholder needs relating to COVID-19. Additionally, AFRI encourages proposals from or collaborations with minority serving institutions. The deadline to submit proposals is June 4, 2020. NIFA intends to expedite its evaluation and review processes to ensure projects can begin as soon as possible.   More Information on the funding opportunity is available at https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program.
- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

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

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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.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.

- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.

- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 68,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 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.
  - o For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The 194 WHO member states adopted a consensus resolution at the World Health Assembly on May 19 to collaboratively fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The resolution called on the WHO to rapidly identify and provide options for scaling up the development, manufacturing, and distribution capacities needed to provide access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines. In addition, it called for an independent review of the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the WHO's own performance. The U.S. has traditionally been the largest contributor to the WHO.
  - o The resolution is available here: https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA73/A73_CONF1Rev1-en.pdf
- The WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

June 5, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes Congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Congressional and Federal Updates

>   Congress Continues to Address COVID-19 Concerns; Discussions Shift to Need for Long-Term Changes

Agency Updates

- **Department of Education (ED)** – 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.
- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) –** HHS has posted guidance on required data elements pertaining to COVID-19 testing.
- **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) –** NOAA has made available several datasets that can be utilized to model the impact of various environmental parameters on infectious disease, including COVID-19.
- **Department of Defense (DOD) –** DOD released a Clean Sweep Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) seeking solution briefs on technologies or automated hardware to expedite decontamination and disinfection of enclosed spaces and mission-ready environments to limit the spread of disease or infection.
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH) –** NIH released a Notice of Intent to Publish for research that will "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."
- **National Science Foundation (NSF)** – NSF Environmental Research and Education (ERE) Advisory Committee announced that the Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) program expects to add sub-tracks related to COVID-19 to the existing Communities and Mobility and Resilience to Natural Disasters tracks.
- **The White House** – President Trump signed into law the *Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act of 2020* (H.R. 7010).

Update: Congressional and Federal Updates

NEW: Congress Continues to Address COVID-19 Concerns; Discussions Shift to Need for Long-Term Changes

This week, Congress held several hearings related to COVID-19, demonstrating continued interest in tackling both short-term and long-term challenges brought by the pandemic. It remains unclear when Congress will take up the next major piece of pandemic relief legislation, although there is an emerging bipartisan consensus to focus on relief for state and local governments. Senate Majority Leader

COVID-19 Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

McConnell has indicated it is unlikely that the Senate would take up any major relief legislation prior to the July 4 recess.

This week's hearings of most relevance to the academic, science, and research communities included a House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS-Ed) Appropriations Subcommittee hearing titled "COVID-19 Response" held on June 4th; a Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) hearing titled "COVID-19: Going Back to College Safely" held on June 4th; and a Senate Finance Committee hearing titled "COVID-19 and Beyond: Oversight of the FDA's Foreign Drug Manufacturing Inspection Process" held on June 2nd. A summary of each hearing can be found below:

House Labor-HHS-Ed Appropriations Subcommittee Hearing: COVID-19 Response
The House Labor-HHS-Ed hearing featured testimony from Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who reported on his agency's efforts to support COVID-19 surveillance and response activities. In response to several questions from Democratic members of the subcommittee about health disparities, Dr. Redfield mentioned new reporting requirements and how the CDC plans to address the negative impact of the pandemic in minority communities. In addition to reporting the outcome of all administered tests to the CDC, laboratories must now include the type of test ordered, the patients' resident zip code and county, and the patients' age, race, ethnicity, and sex. Throughout the hearing Democratic members continued criticisms of the administration's response to COVID-19, with Subcommittee Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) describing the response thus far as "inconsistent and incoherent." Republican members, including Ranking Member Tom Cole (R-OK), were focused on the economic impacts of the pandemic, as well as long-term funding plans for public health. Rep. Cole spoke about the need to build public health preparedness and infrastructure into the base budget for the CDC, rather than continuing to respond with supplemental funding packages. Additionally, Rep. Cole again expressed interest in establishing a Health Defense Operations (HDO) budget designation to exempt critical public health agencies like the CDC from spending caps, although no concrete plans for such an account have been announced.

Senate HELP Hearing: Going Back to College Safely
The HELP Committee recently held a hearing to consider how to return faculty, staff, and students to college campuses safely amid the COVID-19 pandemic. During the hearing, the Committee highlighted the need for vigilant testing, social distancing requirements, and comprehensive plans to deal with a resurgence of COVID-19 should campuses reopen in the fall. Members and witnesses discussed how athletics fits into reopening and the impact of the pandemic on at-risk students. Furthermore, there was bipartisan interest in the federal government providing clearer guidelines regarding how to safely reopen college campuses. Witnesses included the Presidents of Purdue University, Brown University, and Lane College and the Executive Director of the American Public Health Association. The university presidents emphasized steps they planned to take to keep their campuses safe, including reducing capacity of dorms, classrooms, and stadiums; investing in testing and cleaning supplies; and shifting to hybrid learning environments. The witnesses asked for additional federal investments in student aid and research relief; carefully crafted liability protections for universities; and clearer federal guidelines. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senate HELP Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) are

both in favor of liability protections, which are likely to be included in a future coronavirus stimulus package.

Senate Finance Committee Hearing: COVID-19 and Beyond: Oversight of the FDA's Foreign Drug Manufacturing Inspection Process

The Senate Finance Committee held an oversight [hearing](#) examining the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) capacity to inspect overseas pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities and secure the U.S. drug supply chain. While the hearing was not primarily focused on COVID-19, committee members often cited the COVID-19 response as justification for stronger inspection protocols for foreign drug manufacturing facilities. Republican members of the Committee emphasized the need for additional unannounced inspections of foreign facilities and increased onshoring of pharmaceutical manufacturing in order to decrease reliance on China in the U.S. drug supply chain. Committee Democrats questioned the FDA's decision to issue an Emergency Use Authorization allowing the importation of hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine from uninspected facilities in Pakistan and India, with some Democratic Senators echoing Republican calls for increased onshoring of pharmaceutical manufacturing. Further discussions around this topic are likely, given Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley's (R-IA) interest in prioritizing this issue.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.

- o During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.

- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.

- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.

- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

Update: Department of Education (ED)

- **NEW:** 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 its intention to extend its information collection request includes the certification and agreement that institutions of higher education are required to submit in order to receive institutional and student federal aid allocated from the CARES Act. The public comment period will be open for 60 days following the publication of ED's notice in the federal register on May 27, 2020. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act 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. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act Student Aid 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 21, ED posted a statement regarding the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Guidance previously released by ED limited student funding provided by HEERF to students eligible to receive Title IV aid, precluding international students and DACA students, among others. ED's May 21 statement notes that earlier guidance regarding Title IV eligibility for student emergency grants under the CARES Act does not apply to the HEERF institutional funds. An institution can use its HEERF institutional funds to support non-Title IV eligible students, though not in the form of direct emergency grants. This restriction is due to the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act*, which limits the availability of aid to non-citizens. ED's statement also notes "The Department continues to consider the issue of eligibility for HEERF emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act and intends to take further action shortly." The new statement is viewable at the top of HEERF website at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.
  - o 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.
  - o 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 15, ED posted additional guidance to extend previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020. This guidance provides updated information that expands upon the Department's March 5, 2020 and April 3, 2020 guidance. It also included 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. Additional guidance is still anticipated from ED that will offer further detail on student grant aid through the CARES Act. The May 15 updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020. The April 3 is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19. The March 5 guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19.
- 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 new 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)
- 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:
  - **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

Update: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- **NEW**: 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 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.
- HHS has allocated approximately $75 billion of a total $175 billion provided by Congress for healthcare provider relief. Funding has been allocated as follows:
  - $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. Additional information is available at

- $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.
  - Within 45 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at https://covid19.linkhealth.com/. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/05/07/hhs-extends-deadline-attestation-acceptance-terms-and-conditions-provider-relief-fund-payments-45-days.html.
- $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
- $12 billion to hospitals in COVID-19 "hot spots," based on capacity and the number of COVID-19 cases. Additional funding may be allocated for this purpose.
- $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.
- HHS has also stated that a portion of the remaining funding will be used to provide separate funding to certain providers, such as dentists and providers that solely take Medicaid. 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. Additional information is available at https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- 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 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 posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.

- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 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 COIVD-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)

- 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)

- 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

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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:
  - o Flexibility with SAM registration;
  - o Flexibility with application deadlines;
  - o No-cost extensions;
  - o Continuation requests;
  - o Allowability of salaries and other project activities;
  - o Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards;
  - o Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
  - o Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
  - o Extension of closeout reports; and
  - o Extension of single audit submissions.
- DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)
- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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

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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.

- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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/humantarian/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.

- o 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)

- 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

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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.

- o 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:

- o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
- o 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
- o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
- o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
- o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
- o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
- o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits

The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.

- 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://cdmrp.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.

- o 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:
  - o "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.
  - o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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 is hosting its second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) webinar, which will focus on the loan forgiveness process for museum and library communities, on **June 9, 2020 at 3:00 pm ET**. Interested participants can register 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)

- On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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 oversees 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On May 13, 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-051320.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.

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:
  - o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
  - o 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.
  - o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
  - o 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.
  - o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.

- o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- o 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.

Update: The White House

- **NEW**: 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

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- **NEW**: On June 4, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research that will "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." This is a funding opportunity for new R01 grants and researchers will be required to partner with digital health experts and/or existing digital health platforms to prepare and submit applications. NIMH expects to publish the full funding opportunity on June 20 with an estimated first application due date of July 20. The anticipated budget for each award will be up to $750K in direct costs per year for up to three years. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-20-058.html.
- On June 3, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research on community interventions to "ameliorate the impact of psychosocial, sociocultural, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 on the health of populations known to experience health disparities and other vulnerable populations." This funding opportunity is for new R01 grants. NIH expects that the full opportunity will be published on June 22, with the first application due date on July 22. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MD-20-023.html.

- On June 1, the Office of the Director released a Notice of Intent to Publish for four funding opportunity announcements regarding the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiative. RADx-UP is one of five components of the broader RADx initiative focused on addressing the need for widespread testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. NIH expects to publish the funding opportunities on June 8, with the earliest application due date occurring in July 2020. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-112.html. A comprehensive summary of the RADx Initiative can be found at https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/05262020conceptclearance.pdf.
- On May 15, the National Cancer Institute released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** a Funding Opportunity Announcement for Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence. NCI expects to publish the final Funding Opportunity Announcement on **June 10**, with the first due date on **July 20**. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-066.html. A summary of the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 can be found at https://deainfo.nci.nih.gov/advisory/bsa/0520/Singer.pdf.

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 Notice**
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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020

		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.	
OD	5/21/2020		New DP5: [RFA-RM-20-021](#)
NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: [OTA-20-011](#)
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.	New R01: [PAR-20-178](#) New R21: [PAR-20-177](#)
NLM	4/27/2020	Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: [NOT-LM-20-011](#)
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	New R01, R21, R03: [NOT-EB-20-007](#) New SBIR/STTR: [NOT-EB-20-006](#)

Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice	Expiration Date
		seeking applications to develop life-saving technologies that can be ready for commercialization within one to two years."	

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions			
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**	**Expiration Date**
<mark>NEW:</mark> NIDCD	6/4/2020	NOT-DC-20-008	9/8/2022
OD	5/27/2020	NOT-OD-20-107	6/23/2020
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	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054	n/a
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042	6/26/2020
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043	6/26/2020
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782	10/6/2020
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015	6/20/2020
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	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	5/15/2020	NOT-GM-20-033	6/19/2020

NIGMS	3/25/2020	[NOT-GM-20-025](NOT-GM-20-025)	2/6/2021
NIMHD	4/9/2020	[NOT-MD-20-019](NOT-MD-20-019)	5/1/2021
NIEHS	4/9/2020	[NOT-ES-20-020](NOT-ES-20-020)	5/4/2021
NIAID	5/19/2020	[NOT-AI-20-051](NOT-AI-20-051)	9/8/2021
NIAID	3/25/2020	[NOT-AI-20-034](NOT-AI-20-034)	3/25/2021
NIDA	3/19/2020	[NOT-DA-20-047](NOT-DA-20-047)	3/31/2021

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent were due **June 1, 2020** with full applications due **June 15, 2020.** Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.

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?oppId=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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **NEW**: On June 5, it was noted at the NSF Environmental Research and Education (ERE) Advisory Committee that the Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) program expects to add sub-tracks related to COVID-19 to the existing Communities and Mobility and Resilience to Natural Disasters tracks. The Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate leads this program and CISE Assistant Director Margaret Martonosi noted that NSF is likely to move back the July 1 deadline for CIVIC.
- 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 May 22, the NSF Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate (CISE) announced a new Computing Innovation Fellows (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, which will be operated by the Computing Research Association (CRA) and the Computing Community Consortium (CCC), 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 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.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) released a Clean Sweep Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) seeking solution briefs on technologies or automated hardware to expedite decontamination and disinfection of enclosed spaces and mission-ready environments to limit the spread of disease or infection. Prototype solutions should address the following Areas of Interest (AoIs):
    - Significantly reduce potential for spread of disease;
    - Serve as a repeatable, automated, and industrial solution to be placed on ships or other mission-ready environments;
    - Utilize technologies that will not damage infrastructure, electronics, and other mission-ready environment specifications; and
    - Demonstrate use and efficacy in tailored spaces (I.e. sleeping quarters, surgical suites, transit spaces, and more).

  Specific conditions and settings can be found in the CSO. Proposed solutions should be readily available and commercially viable for the FDA review process within six to twelve months of award. Upon evaluation of solution briefs, proposers may be invited to provide a pitch and subsequently submit a full proposal. Solutions briefs are due **June 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST**. The CSO can be found at https://www.diu.mil/work-with-us/submit-solution/PROJ01285.

COVID-19
Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
    - Detection and Sensing;
    - Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
    - Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
    - Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
    - Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

  IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

  Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."
- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

  DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
    - Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
    - Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
    - Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
    - Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
    - Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
    - Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
    - Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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

- DOD's Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) released specific funding opportunities for its fiscal year (FY) 2020 Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP)

topic area: **Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health**. As with other CDMRP funding opportunities, proposals should highlight the relevance to military health, and applications will undergo the standard two-tier peer and programmatic review process:

- **Clinical Trial Award**: This award supports the "rapid implementation" of clinical trials for Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate "new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies." Projects may range from small proof-of-concept trials to large-scale trials. CDMRP anticipates a total of $30 million available in funding for five awards. Pre-applications are due by **June 8, 2020 at 5:00pm ET** and applications are due by **June 22, 2020 by 11:59pm ET**. The full solicitation can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326173.
- Pre-applications for the Investigator-Initiated Research Award and the Technology/Therapeutic Development Award were due May 28, 2020.

- 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time**

for any ongoing requirements.” The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID “SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19.”

- 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:
  - o Point of care diagnostics
  - o Swabs for sample collection
  - o Serological diagnostics
  - o 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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)

- IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities." Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A recording of the webinar held for this opportunity can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.
- 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative

Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match.
While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their
application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than
11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at
https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

Update: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- **NEW**: 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.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for
technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school
closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled
initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math
and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity
seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a
network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to
attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to
those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to
participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting
organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-
up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19
vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available

for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.

- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 115,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 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 WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
June 11, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities and guidance related to the coronavirus outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Congressional Updates

- COVID-19 Discussions Slow Down on Capitol Hill; Lawmakers Signal Appetite for Other Business
- Treasury Secretary Hints at Next Round of Small Business Support in Congressional Hearing
- Senator Alexander Issues White Paper on Future Pandemic Recommendations and Requests Input from the Community

Agency Updates

- **Department of Education (ED)**: ED is accepting comments on its proposed information collection request on the foreign institution reporting requirements for institutions of higher education created by the CARES Act.
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** NIH released a Special Exception to the NIH/AHRQ/NIOSH Post-Submission Material Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** HHS announced plans for distributing additional funding for providers in "hot spots," safety-net hospitals, and Medicaid/CHIP providers who were not previously eligible for funding.
- **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.
- **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):** HRSA has announced new flexibilities for 340B entities.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** NSF issued a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) titled "IUCRC Program Policy Flexibility in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Situation."
- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID):** USAID issued interim guidance regarding the use of USAID funds to procure essential medical supplies necessary for implementing partners to proceed with critical programs.

Research and Funding Opportunities

- **NSF:** 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 to June 17, 2020.
- **NIH:** On Thursday, June 18 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, the National Cancer Institute will host a pre-application webinar for the Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) that are a part of NCI's Serological Sciences Network.
- **U.S. Census Bureau:** 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.

New: Congressional and Federal Updates

New: COVID-19 Discussions Slow Down on Capitol Hill as Lawmakers Signal Appetite for Other Business; OPT EO to be Released Soon

This week, discussions around COVID-19 response efforts continued but at a slower pace in comparison to previous weeks. The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee (HSGAC) held a hearing titled "Evaluating the Federal Government's Procurement and Distribution Strategies in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic," where several Democrats criticized the Trump Administration's delayed response to the pandemic. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee also held a hearing titled "COVID-19: Going Back to School Safely," which assessed risks associated with reopening K-12 schools in the U.S. Additionally, the Senate Small Business Committee held a hearing titled "Implementation of Title I of the CARES Act," where Treasury Secretary Mnuchin hinted at the next round of small business support (see article below). While several states continued to see an uptick in COVID-19 cases this week, policymakers have signaled an appetite to address other legislative items in the coming weeks, including fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations and policies examining police brutality. Negotiations on a fourth congressional COVID-19 relief package have not yet begun between the House and Senate and are not likely to proceed until July.

Noteworthy federal activities from this week include a rumored Executive Order (EO) limiting Optional Practical Training (OPT) and H-1B visas. The EO is expected to be released within the next week, with ongoing White House discussions likely wrapping up on June 11. Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor this and provide subsequent updates once more details are released.

New: Treasury Secretary Hints at Next Round of Small Business Support in Congressional Hearing

On June 10, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Small Business Administration (SBA) Administrator Jovita Carranza testified in front of the Senate Small Business Committee on the state of SBA lending programs, which have been the cornerstone of federal COVID-19 relief funding. During the hearing, Secretary Mnuchin previewed what could be needed in future stimulus legislation by noting that he supports additional funding for targeted industries that are struggling to reopen due to the pandemic, including the restaurant, hotel, and travel sectors, as well as reexamining enhanced unemployment programs from previous relief bills. Secretary Mnuchin has been a key negotiator between the Administration and Congress on previous stimulus bills. His remarks signify an early change from the Administration and congressional Republicans' recent strategy to wait and evaluate the impacts of previous bills before discussing additional support.

During the hearing, lawmakers were generally supportive of the small business relief measures from previous stimulus legislation, but there were concerns over transparency, as the Department of Treasury has maintained that recipients of the Paycheck Protection Program loan should remain anonymous. There was also frustration with SBA over long delays and caps on funding for their Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL) program. A recording of the hearing can be found here.

New: Senator Alexander Issues White Paper on Future Pandemic Recommendations and Requests Input from the Community

On Tuesday, June 9, Senator Alexander (R-TN) published a white paper on "Preparing for the Next Pandemic." In the white paper, the Senator identifies five recommendations to address future

pandemics along with a series of questions. Responses to those questions are intended to "elicit recommendations that Congress can consider and act on this year." The recommendations and questions are grouped under the following topics:

1. "Tests, Treatments, and Vaccines – Accelerate Research and Development
2. Disease Surveillance – Expand Ability to Detect, Identify, Model, and Track Emerging Infectious Diseases
3. Stockpiles, Distribution, and Surges – Rebuild and Maintain Federal and State Stockpiles and Improve Medical Supply Surge Capacity and Distribution
4. Public Health Capabilities – Improve State and Local Capacity to Respond
5. Who Is on the Flagpole? – Improve Coordination of Federal Agencies During a Public Health Emergency"

Senator Alexander asks that all responses be submitted by **June 26, 2020.** The press release is available here and the white paper is available here.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
    - Lewis-Burke has learned that federal agencies are working to provide OMB with additional information and justification for extending the administrative flexibilities provided under Memorandum M-20-22 beyond the June 17 expiration date. There is some political pressure to let M-20-22 expire in an effort to incentivize reopening efforts.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to

consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.

- o During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.
- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.
- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

New: Department of Education (ED)

- **New:** 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.

- ED will soon release an Interim Final Rule on the CARES Act emergency financial aid grants to students. The rule is intended to help institutions "appropriately determine which individuals attending their institution are eligible to receive emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act." The guidance may confirm that international students, DACA recipients, and undocumented students, among others, are not eligible for CARES Act emergency student aid. A prepublication notice announcing that the rule will be issued is available at https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-12491.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 its intention to extend its information collection request includes the certification and agreement that institutions of higher education are required to submit in order to receive institutional and student federal aid allocated from the CARES Act. The public comment period will be open for 60 days following the publication of ED's notice in the federal register on May 27, 2020. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act 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. Additional information regarding the information collection request for the CARES Act Student Aid 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 21, ED posted a statement regarding the CARES Act's Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF). Guidance previously released by ED limited student funding provided by HEERF to students eligible to receive Title IV aid, precluding international students and DACA students, among others. ED's May 21 statement notes that earlier guidance regarding Title IV eligibility for student emergency grants under the CARES Act does not apply to the HEERF institutional funds. An institution can use its HEERF institutional funds to support non-Title IV eligible students, though not in the form of direct emergency grants. This restriction is due to the *Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act*, which limits the availability of aid to non-citizens. ED's statement also notes "The Department continues to consider the issue of eligibility for HEERF emergency financial aid grants under the CARES Act and intends to take further action shortly." The new statement is viewable at the top of HEERF website at https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html.
  - 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.

- o 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 15, ED posted additional guidance to extend previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020. This guidance provides updated information that expands upon the Department's March 5, 2020 and April 3, 2020 guidance. It also included 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. Additional guidance is still anticipated from ED that will offer further detail on student grant aid through the CARES Act. The May 15 updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020. The April 3 is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19. The March 5 guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19.

- 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 new 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.

New: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- 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:
  - **New: 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

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

Update: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS has allocated approximately $110 billion of a total $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:
  - o **New:** 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
  - o **New:** 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
  - o **Update:** 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
  - o $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.
  - o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.

- o $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.
  - o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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 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.

New: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- **New:** 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 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 posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - o The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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.

New: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- **New**: 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 COIVD-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.

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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.

==New: National Science Foundation (NSF)==
- ==New:== 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)

- 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 continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)

- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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.

- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.

- 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/humantarian/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.

- o 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.
- o 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)

- 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.

- o 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:
     o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
     o 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
     o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
     o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
     o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
     o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
     o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits
  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.
- 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://cdmrp.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.
  - o 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:
  - o "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.

- o 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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 is hosting its second Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) webinar, which will focus on the loan forgiveness process for museum and library communities, on **June 9, 2020 at 3:00 pm ET**.

COVID-19 Update
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Interested participants can register 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.

New: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- **New**: USAID issued interim guidance regarding the use of USAID funds to procure essential medical supplies necessary for implementing partners to proceed with critical programs. Implementing partners may now use USAID's funding to procure "Covered Material" *without further approvals* for: (1) the protection of, and use by, staff under both acquisition and assistance awards, from USAID; or (2) for the safe and effective continuity of USAID-funded programs, including the protection of beneficiaries. The full interim policy guidance on Covered Material, including grant/contract language is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aZqJy_3x2ArWYYUINZwhK_6hyVcEflIv/view and frequently asked questions are available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/14BEJPkl4P7SGlq7v0zWvRUPp_EIgIrJO/view.
- On May 8, USAID issued updated guidance in its "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17." The guidance sets out USAID guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis. More information is available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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 oversees 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.

- o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - o The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - o The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) will temporarily pause 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On May 13, 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-051320.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.

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.

- o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
- o 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.
- o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- o 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

New: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **New**: On Thursday, June 18 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) will host a pre-application webinar for the Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) RFA-CA-20-038 and RFA-CA-20-039 (see details below in chart) that are a part of NCI's Serological Sciences Network. Those who would like to participate should email any questions by June 16, 2020 to Serology_Network@mail.nih.gov. More information can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-074.html.

- On June 4, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research that will "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." This is a funding opportunity for new R01 grants and researchers will be required to partner with digital health experts and/or existing digital health platforms to prepare and submit applications. NIMH expects to publish the full funding opportunity on June 20 with an estimated first application due date of July 20. The anticipated budget for each award will be up to $750K in direct costs per year for up to three years. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-20-058.html.

- On June 3, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research on community interventions to "ameliorate the impact of psychosocial, sociocultural, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 on the health of populations known to experience health disparities and other vulnerable populations." This funding opportunity is for new R01 grants. NIH expects that the full opportunity will be published on June 22, with the first application due date on July 22. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MD-20-023.html.

- On June 1, the Office of the Director released a Notice of Intent to Publish for four funding opportunity announcements regarding the Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiative. RADx-UP is one of five components of the broader RADx initiative focused on addressing the need for widespread testing during the COVID-19 pandemic. NIH expects to publish the funding opportunities on June 8, with the earliest application due date occurring in July 2020. Full details can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-112.html. A comprehensive summary of the RADx Initiative can be found at https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/05262020conceptclearance.pdf.

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 Notice**
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection.	New U54: RFA-CA-20-038
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Research Projects with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection.	New U01: RFA-CA-20-039
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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020
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.	New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021

Institute or Center	Release Date		
NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 New R21: PAR-20-177
NLM	4/27/2020	Seeking research methods for mining clinical data that can be used to identify or predict presence of COVID-19 in biomedical phenotype data and public heath surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: NOT-LM-20-011
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 New SBIR/STTR: NOT-EB-20-006
		Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions	
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**	**Expiration Date**
NIMH	6/5/2020	NOT-MH-20-053	12/30/2020
NIMHD	6/5/2020	NOT-MD-20-022	12/30/2020

NIDCD	6/4/2020	[NOT-DC-20-008](#)	9/8/2022
OD	5/27/2020	[NOT-OD-20-107](#)	6/23/2020
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	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: [NOT-CA-20-054](#)	n/a
NCI	4/10/2020	[NOT-CA-20-042](#)	6/26/2020
NCI	4/9/2020	[NOT-CA-20-043](#)	6/26/2020
NHLBI	4/27/2020	[NOT-HL-20-782](#)	10/6/2020
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	[NOT-RM-20-015](#)	6/20/2020
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	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	5/15/2020	[NOT-GM-20-033](#)	6/19/2020
NIGMS	3/25/2020	[NOT-GM-20-025](#)	2/6/2021
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
NIAID	3/25/2020	[NOT-AI-20-034](#)	3/25/2021

NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047	3/31/2021

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent were due **June 1, 2020** with full applications due **June 15, 2020.** Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.

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?oppId=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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **Update:** 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 June 5, it was noted at the NSF Environmental Research and Education (ERE) Advisory Committee that the Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) program expects to add sub-tracks related to COVID-19 to the existing Communities and Mobility and Resilience to Natural Disasters tracks. The Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate leads this program and CISE Assistant Director Margaret Martonosi noted that NSF is likely to move back the July 1 deadline for CIVIC.
- 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.

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) released a Clean Sweep Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) seeking solution briefs on technologies or automated hardware to expedite decontamination and disinfection of enclosed spaces and mission-ready environments to limit the spread of disease or infection. Prototype solutions should address the following Areas of Interest (AoIs):
  - o Significantly reduce potential for spread of disease;
  - o Serve as a repeatable, automated, and industrial solution to be placed on ships or other mission-ready environments;
  - o Utilize technologies that will not damage infrastructure, electronics, and other mission-ready environment specifications; and
  - o Demonstrate use and efficacy in tailored spaces (I.e. sleeping quarters, surgical suites, transit spaces, and more).

  Specific conditions and settings can be found in the CSO. Proposed solutions should be readily available and commercially viable for the FDA review process within six to twelve months of award. Upon evaluation of solution briefs, proposers may be invited to provide a pitch and subsequently submit a full proposal. Solutions briefs are due **June 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM EST**. The CSO can be found at https://www.diu.mil/work-with-us/submit-solution/PROJ01285.

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
  - o Detection and Sensing;
  - o Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
  - o Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
  - o Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
  - o Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."

- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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. The Air Force also announced that its effort, known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all of 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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.

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, USAID has announced $274 million in emergency health and humanitarian funding to address COVID-19 since February. 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 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)

- IMLS announced on May 8 a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for museums and libraries. The IMLS CARES Act Grants for Museums and Libraries "support museums and libraries in addressing their communities' immediate and future needs caused by the pandemic. Projects may focus on preserving jobs, training staff, addressing the digital divide, planning for reopening, or providing technical support and capacity building for digital inclusion and engagement. Applicants are encouraged to prioritize services for high-need communities." Institutions of higher education, including public and nonprofit universities, are eligible to apply. The NOFO deadline is **June 12, 2020**, with awards anticipated for August 2020. A recording of the webinar held for this opportunity can be found at https://www.imls.gov/webinars/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. More information can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-museums-and-libraries. IMLS also announced on May 8 a NOFO for Native American/Native Hawaiian museums and library

services, which can be found at https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/imls-cares-act-grants-native-americannative-hawaiian-museum-and-library-services.
- 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- On April 15, USDA's Office of Rural Development (RD) released a solicitation for its Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Loans and Grants. This $50 million solicitation includes the $25 million in funds appropriated by the CARES act to support DLT awards. DLT awards support the use of "telecommunications-enabled information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents." These grants are intended to "increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources." Non-profits and state and local government units, including universities and Cooperative Extension services, are eligible for these awards. Awards require a 15 percent cost-match. While not required, applicants are "encouraged to identify specific ways in which their application addresses COVID-19." Applications should be submitted electronically no later than 11:59 pm ET on July 13, 2020. More information on this opportunity can be found at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326343.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- 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.

New: US Census Bureau

- **New**: 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 the most recent data released June 11 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 the data released June 10 is available at https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/hhp/hhp5.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/?#.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-

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up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.

- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 115,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 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 WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
June 16, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today's edition includes congressional updates, as well as new and updated federal funding opportunities, guidance, and international news related to the coronavirus outbreak for the following agencies and offices:

Federal Guidance
- **Department of Education (ED):** ED posted its proposed interim final rule outlining which students eligible to receive CARES Act emergency funding, offered under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).
- **Centers for Disease Control (CDC):** CDC posted consolidated and updated guidance on testing for SARS-CoV-2, based on current knowledge of COVID-19.
- **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.
    - Frequently asked questions regarding COVID-19 implementing partner guidance are now available.

Research and Funding Opportunities
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** The Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics (RADx) initiative released the funding opportunity announcements for the RADx – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) on June 12.
- **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.*
- **USAID:** Updated information on USAID investments to date in response to COVID-19 and new information on the COVID-19 Learning Lab.

International News
- **World Bank Group (WGB):** The WBG has published its flagship report *Global Economic Prospects* for June 2020.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Senator Alexander Issues White Paper on Future Pandemic Recommendations and Requests Input from the Community

On Tuesday, June 9, Senator Alexander (R-TN) published a white paper on "Preparing for the Next Pandemic." In the white paper, the Senator identifies five recommendations to address future pandemics along with a series of questions. Responses to those questions are intended to "elicit recommendations that Congress can consider and act on this year." The recommendations and questions are grouped under the following topics:
1. "Tests, Treatments, and Vaccines – Accelerate Research and Development
2. Disease Surveillance – Expand Ability to Detect, Identify, Model, and Track Emerging Infectious Diseases

3. Stockpiles, Distribution, and Surges – Rebuild and Maintain Federal and State Stockpiles and Improve Medical Supply Surge Capacity and Distribution
4. Public Health Capabilities – Improve State and Local Capacity to Respond
5. Who Is on the Flagpole? – Improve Coordination of Federal Agencies During a Public Health Emergency"

Senator Alexander asks that all responses be submitted by **June 26, 2020.** The press release is available [here](#) and the white paper is available [here](#).

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- On April 17, OMB released Memorandum M-20-22 on "Preserving the Resilience of the Federal Contracting Base in the Fight Against the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)." The memo provides guidance for federal agencies to consider using authorities under Section 3610 of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act* to reimburse paid leave costs for contractors who may face closures and related disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and who may be unable to telework. OMB advises agencies to consider how paid leave will ensure that federal contractors remain resilient and ready to continue business operations to support the federal government as soon as possible. To achieve this, OMB lays out guiding principles for federal agencies, such as using available funds or modifying contracts for contractors who provide paid leave to keep their workers in a "ready state," and exercising good stewardship over the program to reduce the potential for duplicative payments while supporting reimbursement. OMB notes that agencies should carefully consider whether reimbursing paid leave is in the government's interest in meeting current and future needs and closely track and understand how paid leave reimbursement funds are being used. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-22.pdf.
    - Lewis-Burke has learned that federal agencies are working to provide OMB with additional information and justification for extending the administrative flexibilities provided under Memorandum M-20-22 beyond the June 17 expiration date. There is some political pressure to let M-20-22 expire in an effort to incentivize reopening efforts.
- On April 10, OMB released Memorandum M-20-21 to provide guidance for federal departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms provided in response to COVID-19 through recent legislation. The memo directs agencies to use existing financial transparency and accountability mechanisms, and to consider ways to use data and evidence to achieve program objectives; rapidly issue awards and fund programs to meet critical needs; and provide clear, accurate public reporting on awards.
    - During a webinar on April 16, OMB senior policy analysts emphasized that the Office's goal is to have no additional reporting requirements for recipients of COVID-19 relief funds. "OMB's goal is for USASpending.gov to be the primary and authoritative source for all COVID-19 related reporting," agency officials said, adding that the Administration is committed to minimizing recipient burden, and will leverage existing financial

reporting requirements for most awards. Agencies will be expected to incorporate reporting of performance on objectives for COVID-19 relief funding, such as loans, loan guarantees, and other awards, into their existing mission performance plans. The memo directs agencies to consider whether they can meet existing reporting deadlines on awards and financial assistance programs in light of the surge in funding and requests. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Implementation-Guidance-for-Supplemental-Funding-Provided-in-Response.pdf.

- On April 9, OMB released Memorandum M-20-20 to allow federal awarding agencies to repurpose federal assistance awards and grants, in whole or in part, to support COVID-19 response. The exception follows Administration direction that all federal departments and agencies should marshal all legally available resources to combat the crisis. Under the exception, medical equipment, medical devices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) purchased with federal grants as well as resources such as labor, supplies, and contract services funded through federal grants may be donated to hospitals, medical centers, and other local entities serving the public for COVID-19 response. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/M-20-20.pdf.
- On March 19, OMB released guidance to Executive branch agencies to extend flexibilities in federally sponsored research to all grantees impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These flexibilities include extension of deadlines, no cost-extensions, allowability of salaries, covering costs caused by cancellations, etc. The full memo can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-17.pdf.
- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities for research related to emergency COVID-19 response for such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf.

NEW: Department of Education (ED)

- **NEW:** On June 11, ED announced its proposed interim final rule outlining which students eligible to receive 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 CARES student grants. According to the press release, this 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 pre-publication of the interim rule is 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, with the expectation of official publication on June 17 at the above link.
- 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 15, ED posted additional guidance to extend previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020. This guidance provides updated information that expands upon the Department's March 5, 2020 and April 3, 2020 guidance. It also included 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. Additional guidance is still anticipated from ED that will offer further detail on student grant aid through the CARES Act. The May 15 updated guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/051520UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19May2020. The April 3 is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/040320UPDATEDGuidanceInterruptStudyRelCOVID19. The March 5 guidance is available at https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19.

- 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-

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LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

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)
- 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:
  o 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
  o NIH FAQs: COVID-19 Flexibilities for Applicants and Recipients: https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm
  o 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
  o Guidance for NIH Peer Reviewers: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/files/Coronavirus-update-Guidance-for-Peer-Reviewers.pdf
  o 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)
- HHS has allocated approximately $110 billion of a total $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:
  o 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

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

- o 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
- o 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
- o $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.
- o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
- o $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.
- o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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 that the amount of testing that can be accomplished depends on

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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.

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 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.

NEW: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- **NEW:** CDC posted consolidated and updated guidance on testing for SARS-CoV-2, based on current knowledge of COVID-19. The guidance can be viewed here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html.

- CDC posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 COIVD-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 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)

- 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;

- o Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
- o Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
- o Extension of closeout reports; and
- o Extension of single audit submissions.

- DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)

- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details

are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.

- 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/humantarian/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

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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)

- 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.

  o 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

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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:
  - o **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
  - o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
  - o **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?
  - o **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:
  - o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
  - o 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
  - o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
  - o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
  - o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
  - o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments

- o   Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits

  The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.

- 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://cdmrp.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.

  - o   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."

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- 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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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.

UPDATE: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- **UPDATE:** 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:

- o **NEW:** 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.
- o 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_6hyVcEfIlv/view and related frequently asked questions https://drive.google.com/file/d/14BEJPkl4P7SGlq7v0zWvRUPp_EIgIrJO/view.
- o Updated guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis, issued in a "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17," available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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.
  - o American oversees 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.
  - o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - o The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - o The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- 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.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- On May 13, 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-051320.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.

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.

- o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- o 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

NEW: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **NEW**: 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. A summary of the RADx initiative is available at https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/05262020conceptclearance.pdf.   Further details regarding each opportunity can be found in the chart below.

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	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.	NOT-OD-20-120	9/9/2020
Limited Competition: Emergency Competitive Revision	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.**	NOT-OD-20-121	8/8/2020
New – U54 Resource-Related Research Projects	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.	RFA-OD-20-013 **Award:** 1 award for $7.5 Million over a 4-yr project period	8/7/2020

- On Thursday, June 18 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) will host a pre-application webinar for the Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA) RFA-CA-20-038 and RFA-CA-20-039 (see details below in chart) that are a part of NCI's Serological Sciences Network. Those who would like to participate should email any questions by June 16, 2020 to

Serology_Network@mail.nih.gov. More information can be found at NOT-CA-20-074 https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-CA-20-074.html.

- On June 4, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research that will "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." This is a funding opportunity for new R01 grants and researchers will be required to partner with digital health experts and/or existing digital health platforms to prepare and submit applications. NIMH expects to publish the full funding opportunity on June 20 with an estimated first application due date of July 20. The anticipated budget for each award will be up to $750K in direct costs per year for up to three years. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-20-058.html.
- On June 3, the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research on community interventions to "ameliorate the impact of psychosocial, sociocultural, behavioral, and socioeconomic consequences of COVID-19 on the health of populations known to experience health disparities and other vulnerable populations." This funding opportunity is for new R01 grants. NIH expects that the full opportunity will be published on June 22, with the first application due date on July 22. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MD-20-023.html.

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/.

NEW: Opportunities for New Grants			
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Topic**	**Link to Opportunity**
NEW: NCI	6/16/2020	This contract opportunity is soliciting for Capacity Building Centers that will serve within the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 to focus on developing and expanding serological testing capacity and practices in the community. **To view the full solicitation, you must contact Heather Sewell at NCIFSSN@nih.gov.**	New Contract: S20-119 Due Date: 7/16/2020

		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.	New R01: PAR-20-234 Expires: 2/2/2021
NEW: NIA	6/15/2020		
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection.	New U54: RFA-CA-20-038 Expires: 7/23/2020
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Research Projects with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection.	New U01: RFA-CA-20-039 Expires: 7/23/2020
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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020 Expires: 10/1/2020
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	New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021 Expires: 9/5/2020

		Awards focused on any relevant area of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 research.	
NHLBI	5/07/2020	Seeking applications for multicentered phase 2 and 3 randomized, controlled clinical trials of host-targeting strategies to prevent and treat SARS-CoV-2 disease. They are also soliciting applications from experienced Data and Clinical Coordinating Centers with an established network or consortium of Clinical Centers to serve as the Administrative Coordinating Center for the Network of Networks Platform.	Research Opportunity Announcement: OTA-20-011
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 Expires: 4/30/2021 New R21: PAR-20-177 Expires: 4/30/2021
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

	NEW: Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions		
Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice	Expiration Date
NEW: NCATS	6/15/2020	NOT-TR-20-029	11/11/2020
NIMH	6/5/2020	NOT-MH-20-053	12/30/2020
NIMHD	6/5/2020	NOT-MD-20-022	12/30/2020
NIDCD	6/4/2020	NOT-DC-20-008	9/8/2022
OD	5/27/2020	NOT-OD-20-107	6/23/2020
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	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054	n/a
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042	6/26/2020
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043	6/26/2020
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782	10/6/2020
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015	6/20/2020
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	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	5/15/2020	NOT-GM-20-033	6/19/2020
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025	2/6/2021
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
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034	3/25/2021
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047	3/31/2021

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent were due **June 1, 2020** with full applications due **June 15, 2020.** Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.

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?oppId=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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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 June 5, it was noted at the NSF Environmental Research and Education (ERE) Advisory Committee that the Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) program expects to add sub-tracks related to COVID-19 to the existing Communities and Mobility and Resilience to Natural Disasters tracks. The Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate leads this program and CISE Assistant Director Margaret Martonosi noted that NSF is likely to move back the July 1 deadline for CIVIC.
- 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.

NEW: Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- **NEW:** 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
  - Detection and Sensing;
  - Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
  - Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
  - Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and

- o Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."

- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

  DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
  - Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
  - Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
  - Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
  - Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
  - Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
  - Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
  - Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

  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. The Air Force also announced that its effort, known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all of 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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:
  - o Point of care diagnostics
  - o Swabs for sample collection
  - o Serological diagnostics
  - o 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.

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.

UPDATE: United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- **UPDATE**: 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.

- **NEW:** 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-mailing 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:

- o Poverty/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);
- o Unemployment; and
- o 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- 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.
  - o 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 the most recent data released June 11 is available at https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data/.

- o 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 the data released June 10 is available at https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/hhp/hhp5.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/?#.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.
- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 175,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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/.

NEW: World Bank Group (WBG)
- **NEW**: 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 WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.

- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
June 19, 2020

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Introduction

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

Congressional Updates
- House Democrats Announce $1.5 Trillion Infrastructure Package

Federal Guidance
- **Office of Management and Budget (OMB):** On June 18, OMB issued Memorandum M-20-26 extending certain administrative flexibilities for recipients of federal grants through September 30, 2020.
- **Department of Education (ED):**
  o 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).
  o On June 16, ED released "Supplemental Frequently Asked Questions under Section 18004 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act."
  o The Federal Reserve has indicated that it will extend the Main Street Lending Program to nonprofits, including institutions of higher education.
  o On June 16, ED updated its May 15 guidance, which extended previous flexibilities for distance learning and accreditation through December 31, 2020.
  o The Smithsonian Science Education Center (SSEC) is holding its first FREE, fully virtual leadership development event this summer.
- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** 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.
- **Administration for Community Living (ACL):** ACL released new guidance for grantees, regarding the Centers for Independent Living CARES Act Annual Program Report Instructions and Instrument.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** On June 17, NSF updated its chart of deadline extensions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **U.S. Census Bureau:** 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."
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):** FEMA released its COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season.

Research and Funding Opportunities:
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):**
  o NIMHD is 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."
  o NCI posted two pre-application webinars for its two Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence open funding opportunities.

- - The Accelerating COVID-19 Therapeutic Interventions and Vaccines (ACTIV) public-private partnership plans to release an additional OTA research opportunity to study cohort and other longitudinal studies for community-based interventions.
- **Department of Education (ED):**
  - ED's Office of Educational Technology has an overview of federal funding available to support digital learning.
  - 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.
- **U.S. Census Bureau:** The Small Business Pulse Survey published updated data.

NEW: Congressional and Federal Updates

NEW: House Democrats Announce $1.5 Trillion Infrastructure Package
On June 18, House Democrats announced they will introduce the *Moving Forward Act*, a $1.5 trillion infrastructure package. While, this legislation predates discussion of COVID-related stimulus legislation of a much greater scale and scope, the bill would allocate $30 billion for healthcare infrastructure modernization "to upgrade hospitals to increase capacity and strengthen care, help community health centers respond to COVID-19 and future public health emergencies, improve clinical laboratory infrastructure, support the Indian Health Service's infrastructure, and increase capacity for community-based care."

While Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated that she intends for the House to pass the bill before the Fourth of July recess, Republicans have criticized the emphasis on green energy and climate provisions. Further, there is still debate on how to pay for the proposed programs. The bill includes a mix of Democratic signature legislative priorities and routine reauthorizations – some of which have already been introduced and approved by committees – into a single package. The legislation also aligns with the Democrats' *Moving Forward Framework* released in January. A summary fact sheet was released in advance of the full bill text.

Senator Alexander Issues White Paper on Future Pandemic Recommendations and Requests Input from the Community
On Tuesday, June 9, Senator Alexander (R-TN) published a white paper on "Preparing for the Next Pandemic." In the white paper, the Senator identifies five recommendations to address future pandemics along with a series of questions. Responses to those questions are intended to "elicit recommendations that Congress can consider and act on this year." The recommendations and questions are grouped under the following topics:
1. "Tests, Treatments, and Vaccines – Accelerate Research and Development
2. Disease Surveillance – Expand Ability to Detect, Identify, Model, and Track Emerging Infectious Diseases
3. Stockpiles, Distribution, and Surges – Rebuild and Maintain Federal and State Stockpiles and Improve Medical Supply Surge Capacity and Distribution
4. Public Health Capabilities – Improve State and Local Capacity to Respond
5. Who Is on the Flagpole? – Improve Coordination of Federal Agencies During a Public Health Emergency"

Senator Alexander asks that all responses be submitted by **June 26, 2020.** The press release is available [here](#) and the white paper is available [here](#).

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

NEW: Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- **NEW:** 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.

NEW: Department of Education (ED)

- **NEW:** 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.
- **NEW:** 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/caresactsupplementalfaqs61620.pdf.
- **NEW:** 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.

- **NEW:** 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.
- **NEW:** 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

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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)
- 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

NEW: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS has allocated approximately $110 billion of a total $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:
    - o **NEW:** 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.
    - o 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
    - o 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
    - o 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
    - o $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.
    - o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.

- o $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.
  - o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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 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.

<mark>NEW: Administration for Community Living (ACL)</mark>
- <mark>NEW:</mark> 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 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 posted consolidated and updated guidance on testing for SARS-CoV-2, based on current knowledge of COVID-19. The guidance can be viewed here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html.
- CDC posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.

- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 COIVD-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.

NEW: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **NEW:** 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.

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- 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)
- 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 continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)

- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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:
  - o 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/humantarian/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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.

COVID-19
Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

Department of Defense (DOD)

- 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:

- o **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
- o **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
- o **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?
- o **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:

- o Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
- o 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
- o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
- o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
- o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
- o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
- o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits

The 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 Office of Basic Research released a FAQ resource for DOD research proposers and awardees in response to OMB's March 19 memo M-20-17. The FAQ states that DOD will allow grantees to "delay submission of financial, performance and other reports on currently-active award accounts up to three months beyond the normal due date." Questions regarding other deliverables should be directed to the grants manager or program officer for an award. Additional information on travel expenses, salaries and benefits, no-cost extensions, and

upcoming deadlines can be found in the FAQ at https://basicresearch.defense.gov/COVID-19/Frequently-Asked-Questions/.

- 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://cdmrp.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 new interim guidance for employers on good faith efforts to ensure health standards during the pandemic at https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osha/osha20200416-0. OSHA also issued new 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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:
  - 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.

- o 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_6hyVcEflIv/view and related frequently asked questions https://drive.google.com/file/d/14BEJPkl4P7SGlq7v0zWvRUPp_EIgIrJO/view.
  - o Updated guidance on administrative relief to recipients affected by the loss of operational capacity and increased costs due to the COVID-19 crisis, issued in a "Memorandum authorizing COVID 19 flexibilities pursuant to OMB Memorandum M-20-17," available at https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/resources-for-partners/covid-19-guidance-implementing-partners/memorandum-authorizing-covid-19-flexibilities.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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.
  - o American oversees 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.
  - o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - o The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - o The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- 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.

NEW: 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.
- **NEW:** 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. Additional information is available at https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/2020-college-students.html.

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.

NEW: Federal Emergency Management Agency

- **NEW**: 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:

- o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
- o 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.
- o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
- o 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.
- o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- o 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

NEW: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **NEW:** See "Opportunities for New Grants" chart below for details on new funding opportunities out of the National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and updates to two funding opportunities from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).
- **UPDATE***:* 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 (NHBLI) 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.
    - On April 29, 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.
    - An additional OTA research opportunity is in progress to study cohort and other longitudinal studies for community-based interventions. We will monitor NHLBI's site for additional updates regarding this opportunity.
- 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. A summary of the RADx initiative is available at https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/05262020conceptclearance.pdf.   Further details regarding each opportunity can be found in the chart below.

Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) Opportunities			
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	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.	NOT-OD-20-120	9/9/2020
Limited Competition: Emergency Competitive Revision	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.**	NOT-OD-20-121	8/8/2020
New – U54 Resource-Related Research Projects	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.	RFA-OD-20-013 **Award:** 1 award for $7.5 Million over a 4-yr project period	8/7/2020

- On June 4, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research that will "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." This is a funding opportunity for new R01 grants and researchers will be required to partner with digital health experts and/or existing digital health platforms to prepare and submit applications. NIMH expects to publish the full funding opportunity on June 20 with an estimated first application due date of July 20. The anticipated budget for each award will be up to $750K in direct costs per year for up to three years. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-20-058.html.

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/.

NEW: Opportunities for New Grants			
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Topic**	**Link to Opportunity**
NEW: 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."	New R01: PAR-20-237 Expires: 12/2/2020
NCI	6/16/2020	This contract opportunity is soliciting for Capacity Building Centers that will serve within the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 to focus on developing and expanding serological testing capacity and practices in the community. **To view the full solicitation, you must contact Heather Sewell at NCIFSSN@nih.gov.**	New Contract: S20-119 Due Date: 7/16/2020
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.	New R01: PAR-20-234 Expires: 2/2/2021
UPDATE: NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection.	New U54: RFA-CA-20-038 Expires: 7/23/2020

		UPDATE: Visit this site to find the Pre-application webinar from June 18.	
UPDATE*: NCI*	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Research Projects with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection. **UPDATE**: Visit this site to find the Pre-application webinar from June 18.	New U01: RFA-CA-20-039 Expires: 7/23/2020
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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020 Expires: 10/1/2020
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.	New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021 Expires: 9/5/2020
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	New R01: PAR-20-178 Expires: 4/30/2021

		candidates, and studies to inform the development of vaccination strategies for at-risk populations.	New R21: PAR-20-177 Expires: 4/30/2021
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

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions

Institute or Center	Release Date	Link to Notice	Expiration Date
NCATS	6/15/2020	NOT-TR-20-029	11/11/2020
NIMH	6/5/2020	NOT-MH-20-053	12/30/2020
NIMHD	6/5/2020	NOT-MD-20-022	12/30/2020
NIDCD	6/4/2020	NOT-DC-20-008	9/8/2022
OD	5/27/2020	NOT-OD-20-107	6/23/2020
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	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054	n/a
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042	6/26/2020
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043	6/26/2020
NHLBI	4/27/2020	NOT-HL-20-782	10/6/2020
NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	NOT-RM-20-015	6/20/2020
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	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	5/15/2020	NOT-GM-20-033	6/19/2020
NIGMS	3/25/2020	NOT-GM-20-025	2/6/2021
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
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034	3/25/2021
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047	3/31/2021

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent were due **June 1, 2020** with full applications due **June 15, 2020.** Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.

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?oppId=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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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 June 5, it was noted at the NSF Environmental Research and Education (ERE) Advisory Committee that the Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) program expects to add sub-tracks related to COVID-19 to the existing Communities and Mobility and Resilience to Natural Disasters tracks. The Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate leads this program and CISE Assistant Director Margaret Martonosi noted that NSF is likely to move back the July 1 deadline for CIVIC.
- 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.

NEW: Department of Education
- **NEW**: 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/.
- **NEW:** 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
    - Detection and Sensing;
    - Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
    - Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
    - Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
    - Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

  IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

  Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both

phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."

- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

  DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:

- Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
- Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
- Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
- Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
- Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
- Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
- Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

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. The Air Force also announced that its effort, known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all of 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page

can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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.

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-mailing 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- 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.

UPDATE: US Census Bureau
- **UPDATE:** 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 the data, including from the most recent release June 18, 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 latest data was released June 17.
    - 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/?#.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.
- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 175,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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.
  - o For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
June 23, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

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

Congressional and Federal Updates
- Presidential Proclamation on Immigration Spares OPT
- Congress Plans to Advance FY 2021 Appropriations Bills in July

Federal Guidance
- **Department of Education (ED):** ED established 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.
- **Department of Defense (DOD):** 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."
- **Department of Labor (DOL):** DOL Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) posted a new employer resource.
- **United States Agency for International Development (USAID):** 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.

Research and Funding Opportunities:
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** NIH will hold two pre-application webinars covering the RADx-UP funding opportunities below on Friday, June 26 from 2 – 4 pm ET and on Wednesday, July 1 from 3 – 5 pm ET.
- **Department of Defense (DOD):** The Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) intend to release a Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) solicitation for specific capabilities to support Operation Warp Speed, the interagency effort to quickly produce and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine.
- **Department of State (DOS)**: The Department of State Global Engagement Center (GEC) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), with funding appropriated in the *CARES Act*, to address Pandemic Propaganda and Disinformation in Africa.

Congressional and Federal Updates

Update: Presidential Proclamation on Immigration Spares OPT

On June 22, President Trump issued "Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak." The proclamation is an extension and expansion of previous presidential proclamations restricting immigration. While the proclamation impacts visas important to higher education and research (H-1B, H-4, and some J-1 visas), it does not impact the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, as was initially feared. The proclamation

suspends through December 31, 2020 the entry of certain individuals who are outside the United States and do not have in their possession, as of June 24, a valid and unexpired visa or related travel document.

The suspension of visas comes with several exceptions. The proclamation states that "any alien whose entry would be in the national interest as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees" would be excluded from ban on entry. The proclamation states additional areas of potential exceptions include individuals "involved with the provision of medical care to individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and are currently hospitalized; are involved with the provision of medical research at United States facilities to help the United States combat COVID-19; or are necessary to facilitate the immediate and continued economic recovery of the United States." Exceptions for the J visa includes those in professor, research scholar, short-term scholar, college or university student, or alien physician categories. The suspension would apply to J visas for those in the intern, trainee, and Summer Work Travel program categories.

The proclamation directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to consider issuing regulations "ensuring that the presence in the United States of H-1B nonimmigrants does not disadvantage United States workers." DHS, Department of State, and the Department of Labor are also directed to recommend modifications to the proclamation within 30 days of June 24 and every 60 days thereafter. As such, restrictions could be extended to visas and programs not currently affected, including the OPT program and potentially adding more restrictions to H-1B visas. A fact sheet accompanying the proclamation states, "LEADING AN AMERICA FIRST RECOVERY: President Donald J. Trump is extending and expanding the suspension of certain visas through the end of the year to ensure American workers take first priority as we recover from the economic effects of the coronavirus." Future proclamations are likely to continue to use COVID-19 and economic recovery as justifications.

"Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak" is available here https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspending-entry-aliens-present-risk-u-s-labor-market-following-coronavirus-outbreak/

"President Donald J. Trump Is Putting American Workers First as We Restore Our Economy to Greatness" factsheet is available here https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-putting-american-workers-first-restore-economy-greatness/

Update: Congress Plans to Advance FY 2021 Appropriations Bills in July

Congress is gearing up to advance fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills after the July 4th holiday. Both the House and the Senate have released ambitious plans to advance all, if not most, of the 12 appropriations bills by the end of July. Congress sees FY 2021 appropriations bills as helping address the COVID-19 pandemic, stimulate the economy, and provide stable funding to critical federal agencies. The House and Senate are likely to include additional funding and guidance associated with COVID-19 response and recovery in the appropriations bills. Despite the ambitious plans, advancing appropriations bills may be further delayed if Congress takes up another coronavirus stimulus package in July. In addition, regardless of the outcome for FY 2021 appropriations bills, Congress will still rely on a Continuing Resolution that would fund federal agencies and programs at FY 2020 levels until at least the November elections.

Senator Alexander Issues White Paper on Future Pandemic Recommendations and Requests Input from the Community

On Tuesday, June 9, Senator Alexander (R-TN) published a white paper on "Preparing for the Next Pandemic." In the white paper, the Senator identifies five recommendations to address future pandemics along with a series of questions. Responses to those questions are intended to "elicit recommendations that Congress can consider and act on this year." The recommendations and questions are grouped under the following topics:

1. "Tests, Treatments, and Vaccines – Accelerate Research and Development
2. Disease Surveillance – Expand Ability to Detect, Identify, Model, and Track Emerging Infectious Diseases
3. Stockpiles, Distribution, and Surges – Rebuild and Maintain Federal and State Stockpiles and Improve Medical Supply Surge Capacity and Distribution
4. Public Health Capabilities – Improve State and Local Capacity to Respond
5. Who Is on the Flagpole? – Improve Coordination of Federal Agencies During a Public Health Emergency"

Senator Alexander asks that all responses be submitted by **June 26, 2020.** The press release is available here and the white paper is available 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:* 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://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-13645.pdf.
- 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/caresactsupplementalfaqs61620.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)

- 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)

- HHS has allocated approximately $110 billion of a total $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 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-medicaid-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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.

- o 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.
  - o $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.
  - o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
  - o $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.
  - o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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 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 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 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 posted consolidated and updated guidance on testing for SARS-CoV-2, based on current knowledge of COVID-19. The guidance can be viewed here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html.

- CDC posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
  - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 COIVD-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 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)

- 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;

- o Continuation requests;
- o Allowability of salaries and other project activities;
- o Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards;
- o Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
- o Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
- o Extension of closeout reports; and
- o Extension of single audit submissions.
- DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)
- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.

COVID-19
Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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/humantarian/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.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- *NEW*: 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 ca 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.

- o 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

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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

- o 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
  - o Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
  - o Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
  - o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
  - o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
  - o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits

  The 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://cdmrp.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.
  - o 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."

COVID-19 Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

- 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/.

<mark>Update: Department of Labor (DOL)</mark>
- *NEW:* 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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.

Update: 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:

- o **NEW:** 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.
- o 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.
- o 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_6hyVcEflIv/view and related frequently asked questions https://drive.google.com/file/d/14BEJPkl4P7SGlq7v0zWvRUPp_EIgIrJO/view.

Department of State (DOS)

- 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.
  - o American oversees 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.
  - o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - o The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - o The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- 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/.

COVID-19
Update
LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES

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:
  - o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
  - o 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.
  - o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
  - o 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.
  - o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
  - o 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

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- See "Opportunities for New Grants" chart below for details on new funding opportunities out of the National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and updates to two funding opportunities from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).
- 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 (NHBLI) 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.
    - On April 29, 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.
    - An additional OTA research opportunity is in progress to study cohort and other longitudinal studies for community-based interventions. We will monitor NHLBI's site for additional updates regarding this opportunity.
- 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. A summary of the RADx initiative is available at https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/05262020conceptclearance.pdf.   Further details regarding each opportunity can be found in the chart below.
    - *NEW:* Pre-Application Webinars: NIH will hold two pre-application webinars covering the RADx-UP funding opportunities below on Friday, June 26 from 2 – 4 pm ET and on Wednesday, July 1 from 3 – 5 pm ET. You can register and learn more about these webinars at https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/radx/events. Question can be pre-submitted at RADxInfo@nih.gov.

Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) Opportunities			
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	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.	NOT-OD-20-120	9/9/2020
Limited Competition: Emergency Competitive Revision	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.**	NOT-OD-20-121	8/8/2020
New – U54 Resource-Related Research Projects	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.	RFA-OD-20-013 **Award:** 1 award for $7.5 Million over a 4-yr project period	8/7/2020

- On June 4, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research that will "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." This is a funding opportunity for new R01 grants and researchers will be required to partner with digital health experts and/or existing digital health platforms to prepare and submit applications. NIMH expects to publish the full funding opportunity on June 20 with an estimated first application due date of July 20. The anticipated budget for each award will be up to $750K in direct costs per year for up to three years. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-20-058.html.

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**
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."	New R01: PAR-20-237

Expires: 12/2/2020 |
| NCI | 6/16/2020 | This contract opportunity is soliciting for Capacity Building Centers that will serve within the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 to focus on developing and expanding serological testing capacity and practices in the community. **To view the full solicitation, you must contact Heather Sewell at NCIFSSN@nih.gov.** | New Contract: S20-119

Due Date: 7/16/2020 |
| 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 | New R01: PAR-20-234

Expires: 2/2/2021 |

		populations. Specifically, the FOA is interested in methods to reduce transmission, risk, morbidity, mortality, severity, and complications of the disease.	
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection. Visit this site to find the Pre-application webinar from June 18.	New U54: RFA-CA-20-038 Expires: 7/23/2020
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Research Projects with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection. Visit this site to find the Pre-application webinar from June 18.	New U01: RFA-CA-20-039 Expires: 7/23/2020
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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020 Expires: 10/1/2020
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	New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021 Expires: 9/5/2020

		Awards focused on any relevant area of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 research.	
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 Expires: 4/30/2021 New R21: PAR-20-177 Expires: 4/30/2021
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

Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions			
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**	**Expiration Date**
NIDCD	6/4/2020	NOT-DC-20-008	9/8/2022
OD	5/27/2020	NOT-OD-20-107	6/30/2020
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	4/30/2020	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054	n/a
NCI	4/10/2020	NOT-CA-20-042	6/26/2020
NCI	4/9/2020	NOT-CA-20-043	6/26/2020
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
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034	3/25/2021
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047	3/31/2021

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and

safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent were due **June 1, 2020** with full applications due **June 15, 2020.** Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.

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?oppId=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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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 June 5, it was noted at the NSF Environmental Research and Education (ERE) Advisory Committee that the Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) program expects to add sub-tracks related to COVID-19 to the existing Communities and Mobility and Resilience to Natural Disasters tracks. The Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate leads this program and CISE Assistant Director Margaret Martonosi noted that NSF is likely to move back the July 1 deadline for CIVIC.
- 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

<mark>Update: Department of Defense (DOD)</mark>

- <mark>*NEW:*</mark> The Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) intend to release a Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) solicitation for specific capabilities to support Operation Warp Speed, the interagency effort to quickly produce and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine. The CSO outline interest in domestic manufacturing capabilities to produce "aseptic fill and finish" for critical vaccines and therapeutics that will allow for uninterrupted production during the entirety of the pandemic. BARDA and JPEO-CBRND anticipate releasing a solicitation no later than **June 29, 2020,** and recommend that potential proposers consistently check beta.sam.gov for updates. The special notice can be found at https://beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "W911QY-20-R-Natick-CSO."

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
    o Detection and Sensing;
    o Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
    o Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
    o Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
    o Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

    IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

    Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."
- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

  DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
    - Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
    - Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
    - Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
    - Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
    - Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
    - Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
    - Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

  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. The Air Force also announced that its effort, known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all of 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

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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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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.

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-mailing 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.

New: Department of State (DOS)

- *NEW:* The Department of State Global Engagement Center (GEC) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), with funding appropriated in the *CARES Act*, to address Pandemic Propaganda and Disinformation in Africa. GEC is specifically seeking proposals for activities that address the following in Kenya, Nigeria, and certain countries in the Sahel region:
  - "Proactively Address Harmful COVID-19-Related Propaganda and Disinformation from Malign State and Non-State Actors Targeting the United States and its Partners
  - Strengthen Influencers' Capacity to Recognize and Counter COVID-19-Related Propaganda and Disinformation"

  Proposals are due no later than **Wednesday, July 22, 2020** at **11:30 PM EDT.** Up to $2.5 million will be available 2-4 awards that will range from $625,000 to $1.25 million. This solicitation is open to U.S. and foreign non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and commercial entities. Interested applicants must create an account in the State Department's official application portal https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com/ilms/portal_login.do to see the full solicitation. The initial Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) can be found at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/addressing_pandemic_propaganda_and_disinformation_in_af_.pdf.

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

- 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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- 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 the data, including from the most recent release June 18, 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 latest data was released June 17.
    - 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/?#.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity

seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.

- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.

- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 225,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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 WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24. Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
June 25, 2020

Table of Contents

Introduction

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

Congressional and Federal Updates
- Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Authorize Supplemental Funding for Research Relief
- HELP Committee Holds Fourth Hearing on COVID-19; Investments in Public Health Infrastructure a Key Theme
- House E&C Committee Holds Hearing on COVID-19, Focusing on Vaccines, Testing, and Disparities

Federal Guidance
- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):** HHS updated its COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund FAQs document. The updated FAQs include more details on how to calculate "revenue and lost revenues", as well as more information on the duration of terms and conditions.
- **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."
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** CDC posted guidance on using telehealth to expand access to essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the guidance is to provide a landscape of telehealth services and provide considerations for healthcare systems, practices, and providers using telehealth.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):**
    - 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."
    - On June 23, NSF announced it would extend the deadline for the Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) to Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Research and Funding Opportunities:
- **National Institutes of Health (NIH):** The NIH Office of the Director posted Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions and Administrative Supplements for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Individuals with Down Syndrome for the INCLUDE Project.
- **National Science Foundation (NSF):** 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.

Congressional and Federal Updates

NEW: Bipartisan Legislation Introduced to Authorize Supplemental Funding for Research Relief

On June 24, Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO), Fred Upton (R-MI), Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX), Frank Lucas (R-OK), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH) introduced H.R. 7308, *The Research Investment to Spark the Economy Act (RISE Act)*. The bill would address the disruptions seen in the majority of on-site research activities of federally funded research laboratories. It authorizes approximately $26 billion in supplemental funding for federal research agencies to offset costs related to shifts in resources to support the COVID-19 response, laboratory closures, and reduction in research productivity. The bill authorizes funds for:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) – $380 million
- Department of Commerce – $650 million
- Department of Defense (DOD) – $3 billion
- Department of Education (ED)– $200 million
- Department of Energy (DOE) – $5 billion
- Department of the Interior (DOI)– $300 million
- National Institutes of Health (NIH), through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)– $10 billion
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) – $2 billion
- National Science Foundation (NSF) – $3 billion
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – $200 million

In addition, the RISE Act provides temporary regulatory relief similar to the provisions found in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) flexibilities and guidance memorandum M-20-17. Included in that regulatory relief was permission to continue to provide salary support while research activities have been reduced due to laboratory closures. The bill is consistent with recommendations made by a number of higher education associations and the Dear Colleague letter that over 180 House Members signed and sent to House leadership in April.

Rep. DeGette released a press release on the afternoon of June 24, which includes a link to the full text of the bill. If passed through the House and the Senate, the funds authorized in this bill would next need to be appropriated in the next COVID-19 relief funding package or another legislative vehicle.

NEW: HELP Committee Holds Fourth Hearing on COVID-19; Investments in Public Health Infrastructure a Key Theme

On June 23, the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee held its fourth hearing on the coronavirus (COVID-19) to discuss lessons learned in preparation for the next pandemic. HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) highlighted the Committee's plans to pass pandemic preparedness legislation this year, with his white paper "Preparing for the Next Pandemic" serving as a framework for policy discussions. Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA), along with several Democrats on the Committee, emphasized the need to first focus on the Administration's mistakes under the current pandemic before moving on to considerations for future pandemics.

Witnesses at the hearing included former U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist; Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy Director for Health, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Joneigh Khaldun; Executive Vice President of Merck & Co., Julie Gerberding; and former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, Michael Leavitt. Several common themes emerged out of the hearing, including the need for sustainable federal investments in the public health infrastructure.   Many witnesses also highlighted the role the federal government must play in coordinating a national plan for testing, as well as vaccine development, manufacturing, and allocation and uptake across states and localities. Additional areas of discussion included more actions around addressing health disparities and structural racism; the need for modernizing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) data infrastructure, particularly as it relates to surveillance and contact tracing; enhancing telehealth; and the importance of public-private partnerships in the vaccine manufacturing space. Chairman Alexander announced the Committee's next hearing "COVID-19: Update on Progress Toward Safely Getting Back to Work and Back to School," which will take place on June 30.

NEW: House E&C Committee Holds Hearing on COVID-19, Focusing on Vaccines, Testing, and Disparities

On June 23, the House Energy and Commerce (E&C) Committee held a full committee hearing entitled "Oversight of the Trump Administration's Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic." This hearing featured testimony from some of the key players in the Administration's response to COVID-19 thus far: Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Dr. Stephen Hahn, Director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and Admiral Brett Giroir, Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

As in previous hearings on the federal COVID-19 response, much of the discussion focused on whether the U.S.' capacity for testing is sufficient to keep pace with the virus' spread, especially as new surges of cases arise across the country. Admiral Giroir testified that he expects the country to be able to conduct 40-50 million tests per month by the fall, while E&C Chairman Frank Pallone Jr. (D-NJ) continued his and fellow Democrats' criticisms that current levels are still far too low. All four witnesses denied that President Trump had directed them to slow down testing, as the President had apparently suggested at a recent campaign event. Dr. Fauci also provided an update on Operation Warp Speed's vaccine efforts, stating that 14 candidate vaccines were currently under development and that he is still optimistic that an effective vaccine will be available to the public by the end of this year or early next year.

During the hearing, Admiral Giroir announced a new partnership between HHS' Office of Minority Health and the Morehouse School of Medicine. This initiative, called the National Infrastructure for Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 within Racial and Ethnic Minority Communities (NIMIC), is a three-year, $40 million project to coordinate a national network of community-based organizations to more effectively deliver education and resources on COVID-19 to minority, rural, and socially vulnerable communities. Admiral Giroir acknowledged the impact that social determinants of health are having on COVID-19 outcomes in disadvantaged communities, and noted that NIMIC is designed to help address those health disparities.

Presidential Proclamation on Immigration Spares OPT

On June 22, President Trump issued "Proclamation Suspending Entry of Aliens Who Present a Risk to the U.S. Labor Market Following the Coronavirus Outbreak." The proclamation is an extension and expansion of previous presidential proclamations restricting immigration. While the proclamation impacts visas important to higher education and research (H-1B, H-4, and some J-1 visas), it does not impact the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program, as was initially feared. The proclamation suspends through December 31, 2020 the entry of certain individuals who are outside the United States and do not have in their possession, as of June 24, a valid and unexpired visa or related travel document.

The suspension of visas comes with several exceptions. The proclamation states that "any alien whose entry would be in the national interest as determined by the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or their respective designees" would be excluded from ban on entry. The proclamation states additional areas of potential exceptions include individuals "involved with the provision of medical care to individuals who have contracted COVID-19 and are currently hospitalized; are involved with the provision of medical research at United States facilities to help the United States combat COVID-19; or are necessary to facilitate the immediate and continued economic recovery of the United States." Exceptions for the J visa includes those in professor, research scholar, short-term scholar, college or university student, or alien physician categories. The suspension would apply to J visas for those in the intern, trainee, and Summer Work Travel program categories.

The proclamation directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to consider issuing regulations "ensuring that the presence in the United States of H-1B nonimmigrants does not disadvantage United States workers." DHS, Department of State, and the Department of Labor are also directed to recommend modifications to the proclamation within 30 days of June 24 and every 60 days thereafter. As such, restrictions could be extended to visas and programs not currently affected, including the OPT program and potentially adding more restrictions to H-1B visas. A fact sheet accompanying the proclamation states, "LEADING AN AMERICA FIRST RECOVERY: President Donald J. Trump is extending and expanding the suspension of certain visas through the end of the year to ensure American workers take first priority as we recover from the economic effects of the coronavirus." Future proclamations are likely to continue to use COVID-19 and economic recovery as justifications.

Congress Plans to Advance FY 2021 Appropriations Bills in July

Congress is gearing up to advance fiscal year (FY) 2021 appropriations bills after the July 4th holiday. Both the House and the Senate have released ambitious plans to advance all, if not most, of the 12 appropriations bills by the end of July. Congress sees FY 2021 appropriations bills as helping address the COVID-19 pandemic, stimulate the economy, and provide stable funding to critical federal agencies. The House and Senate are likely to include additional funding and guidance associated with COVID-19 response and recovery in the appropriations bills. Despite the ambitious plans, advancing appropriations bills may be further delayed if Congress takes up another coronavirus stimulus package in July. In addition, regardless of the outcome for FY 2021 appropriations bills, Congress will still rely on a Continuing Resolution that would fund federal agencies and programs at FY 2020 levels until at least the November elections.

Senator Alexander Issues White Paper on Future Pandemic Recommendations and Requests Input from the Community

On Tuesday, June 9, Senator Alexander (R-TN) published a white paper on "Preparing for the Next Pandemic." In the white paper, the Senator identifies five recommendations to address future pandemics along with a series of questions. Responses to those questions are intended to "elicit recommendations that Congress can consider and act on this year." The recommendations and questions are grouped under the following topics:

1. "Tests, Treatments, and Vaccines – Accelerate Research and Development
2. Disease Surveillance – Expand Ability to Detect, Identify, Model, and Track Emerging Infectious Diseases
3. Stockpiles, Distribution, and Surges – Rebuild and Maintain Federal and State Stockpiles and Improve Medical Supply Surge Capacity and Distribution
4. Public Health Capabilities – Improve State and Local Capacity to Respond
5. Who Is on the Flagpole? – Improve Coordination of Federal Agencies During a Public Health Emergency"

Senator Alexander asks that all responses be submitted by **June 26, 2020.** The press release is available here and the white paper is available 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.

Department of Education (ED)

- 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://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-13645.pdf.
- 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/caresactsupplementalfaqs61620.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)

- 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

Update: Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- HHS has allocated approximately $110 billion of a total $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:
  - ***NEW***: 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-medicaid-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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.

- o 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-medicaid-chip-providers.html.

- o $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.

- o $10 billion to rural health clinics and hospitals based on operating expenses.
- o $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.
- o $400 million for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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 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.

Update: Administration for Community Living (ACL)

- *NEW:* 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 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.

Update: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- *NEW:* CDC posted guidance on using telehealth to expand access to essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of the guidance is to provide a landscape of telehealth services and provide considerations for healthcare systems, practices, and providers using telehealth. The guidance can be viewed at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/telehealth.html.
- CDC posted consolidated and updated guidance on testing for SARS-CoV-2, based on current knowledge of COVID-19. The guidance can be viewed here: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html.
- CDC posted health considerations guidance for institutions of higher education as schools move to reopen at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html
- CDC has posted guidance to provide healthcare systems with a framework to deliver non-COVID health care during the COVID-19 pandemic at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/framework-non-COVID-care.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for dental settings during the COVID-19 response at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/dental-settings.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html.
    - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html.

- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.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 COIVD-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.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- *NEW:* 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.
- *NEW:* 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

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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:
  o 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.
  o The Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences within BIO will hold office hours the second Wednesday of the month. More information here.
  o Slides from the early-April BIO-wide office hours are available here.
  o 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.
  o 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)

- 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:
  o Flexibility with SAM registration;
  o Flexibility with application deadlines;
  o No-cost extensions;
  o Continuation requests;
  o Allowability of salaries and other project activities;
  o Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards;
  o Exemption from certain procurement requirements;
  o Extension of financial, performance, and other reporting;
  o Extension of closeout reports; and
  o Extension of single audit submissions.

- DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. In general, DOE extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates. For all relevant deadlines, ARPA-E encourages checking the Funding Opportunity Exchange at https://arpa-e-foa.energy.gov/.
- 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.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript.
- 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)
- The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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.
- On May 12, the DHS Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) provided updates to its COVID-19 FAQs including questions and answers on managing school transfers, SEVP coordination with DOS and CBP on electronic I-20 issuance, and counting time spent studying outside the U.S., among other changes. The updated FAQ is available at https://www.ice.gov/doclib/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted 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 July 1, 2020. Further details are available at https://www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/uscis-extends-flexibility-responding-agency-requests.
- 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:
  - o 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/humantarian/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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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 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 ca 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.
  - o 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

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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

- o Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
- o Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
- o Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefits

The 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://cdmrp.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.
  - o 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

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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:
  - o "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.
  - o 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/NASACOVIDFAQ033120.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

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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.
- o 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.
- o 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_6hyVcEflIv/view and related frequently asked questions https://drive.google.com/file/d/14BEJPkl4P7SGlq7v0zWvRUPp_EIgIrJO/view.

Department of State (DOS)
- 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.
  - o American oversees 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.
  - o 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/.
- U.S. consulates have suspended most routine visa services until further notice.
  - o The latest information, by country, is available at https://www.usembassy.gov/.
  - o The DOS has consolidated notices which contain detailed information about the current status of visa services worldwide and visa restrictions related to the COVID-19 global pandemic here https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-visa-services-and-restrictions.html.
- 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:

- o NOAA will allow recipients to continue to charge benefits and salaries to active awards and will not require prior approval requests to be submitted.
- o 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.
- o NOAA will permit delayed submission of financial, performance, and other records for up to three months with no requirement of notifying the agency.
- o 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.
- o Recipients may continue to use currently approved indirect cost rates for an additional year without submission of an indirect cost proposal.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o 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.
- o Emergency Notices of Funding Opportunities may be published for less than 30 days, allowing for quick turnaround and reviews.
- o 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-

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oversight/covid-19/fact-sheet-additional-guidance-in-connection-with-the-covid-19-emergency/.

Research and Funding Opportunities

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)
- See "Opportunities for New Grants" chart below for details on new funding opportunities out of the National Institutes on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) and updates to two funding opportunities from the National Cancer Institute (NCI).
- 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 (NHBLI) 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.
  - On April 29, 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.
  - An additional OTA research opportunity is in progress to study cohort and other longitudinal studies for community-based interventions. We will monitor NHLBI's site for additional updates regarding this opportunity.
- 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. A summary of the RADx initiative is available at https://acd.od.nih.gov/documents/presentations/05262020conceptclearance.pdf.   Further details regarding each opportunity can be found in the chart below.
  - Pre-Application Webinars: NIH will hold two pre-application webinars covering the RADx-UP funding opportunities below on Friday, June 26 from 2 – 4 pm ET and on Wednesday, July 1 from 3 – 5 pm ET. You can register and learn more about these webinars at https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/radx/events. Question can be pre-submitted at RADxInfo@nih.gov.

Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics – Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) Opportunities			
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	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.	NOT-OD-20-120	9/9/2020
Limited Competition: Emergency Competitive Revision	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.**	NOT-OD-20-121	8/8/2020
New – U54 Resource-Related Research Projects	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.	RFA-OD-20-013 **Award:** 1 award for $7.5 Million over a 4-yr project period	8/7/2020

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- On June 4, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) released a **Notice of Intent to Publish** for research that will "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." This is a funding opportunity for new R01 grants and researchers will be required to partner with digital health experts and/or existing digital health platforms to prepare and submit applications. NIMH expects to publish the full funding opportunity on June 20 with an estimated first application due date of July 20. The anticipated budget for each award will be up to $750K in direct costs per year for up to three years. More information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-MH-20-058.html.

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**
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."	New R01: PAR-20-237 Expires: 12/2/2020
NCI	6/16/2020	This contract opportunity is soliciting for Capacity Building Centers that will serve within the Serological Sciences Network for SARS-CoV-2 to focus on developing and expanding serological testing capacity and practices in the community. **To view the full solicitation, you must contact Heather Sewell at NCIFSSN@nih.gov.**	New Contract: S20-119 Due Date: 7/16/2020
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	New R01: PAR-20-234 Expires: 2/2/2021

		populations. Specifically, the FOA is interested in methods to reduce transmission, risk, morbidity, mortality, severity, and complications of the disease.	
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection. Visit this site to find the Pre-application webinar from June 18.	New U54: RFA-CA-20-038 Expires: 7/23/2020
NCI	6/5/2020	Soliciting applications to establish Serological Sciences Research Projects with a main goal of identifying and advancing research characterizing the immune responses elicited by SARS-CoV-2 viral infection. Visit this site to find the Pre-application webinar from June 18.	New U01: RFA-CA-20-039 Expires: 7/23/2020
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.	New R01: RFA-RM-20-020 Expires: 10/1/2020
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	New DP5: RFA-RM-20-021 Expires: 9/5/2020

		Awards focused on any relevant area of coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 research.	
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.	New R01: PAR-20-178 Expires: 4/30/2021 New R21: PAR-20-177 Expires: 4/30/2021
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

==Opportunities for Supplements and Revisions==			
Institute or Center	**Release Date**	**Link to Notice**	**Expiration Date**
==NEW==: OD	6/25/2020	NOT-OD-20-129	7/13/2021
NIDCD	6/4/2020	NOT-DC-20-008	9/8/2022
OD	5/27/2020	NOT-OD-20-107	6/30/2020
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	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
NIAID	3/25/2020	NOT-AI-20-034	3/25/2021
NIDA	3/19/2020	NOT-DA-20-047	3/31/2021

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- AHRQ has published a Funding Opportunity Announcement for new research awards to explore the healthcare system and provider response to COVID-19. Priority topics include quality and safety of the healthcare system response; the role of primary care and other health professionals; the impact on underserved or minority populations; and digital health

innovations, including telehealth. Letters of intent were due **June 1, 2020** with full applications due **June 15, 2020.** Up to $5 million in total funding will be made available. Additional information is available at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-HS-20-003.html.

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?oppId=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 will be accepted on a rolling basis. Additional information is available at: https://www.pcori.org/content/pcori-funding-opportunities-covid-19-related-enhancements-existing-pcori-funded-projects.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- *NEW:* 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/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcbb5bf981f7/view.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Defense (JPEO-CBRND) and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) intend to release a Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) solicitation for specific capabilities to support Operation Warp Speed, the interagency effort to quickly produce and distribute a COVID-19 vaccine. The CSO outline interest in domestic manufacturing capabilities to produce "aseptic fill and finish" for critical vaccines and therapeutics that will allow for uninterrupted production during the entirety of the pandemic. BARDA and JPEO-CBRND anticipate releasing a solicitation no later than **June 29, 2020,** and recommend that potential proposers consistently check beta.sam.gov for updates. The special notice can be found at https://beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "W911QY-20-R-Natick-CSO."

- The Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) has issued a broad agency announcement (BAA) soliciting proposals for unclassified seedling projects across a range of topics that are relevant to COVID-19. These include:
  - Detection and Sensing;
  - Supply Chain Management and Integrity;
  - Geo-spatio-temporal Monitoring and Mapping, with Privacy Protection;
  - Information Discovery, Information Reliability, and Collaboration Tools; and
  - Modeling, Simulation, and Predictive Analytics.

  IARPA intends that projects funded under this BAA will be limited in scope and duration, with the potential to lead to longer-term efforts funded through a separate BAA in the future. The BAA explicitly calls for proposals that envision revolutionary, not evolutionary, capabilities, and that focus on research questions not currently being addressed by existing IARPA programs. In addition, IARPA will give priority to proposals that "not only provide rapid capability against the current COVID-19 pandemic, but also enhanced warning and response capacity for future similar events."

  Awards will be funded in two phases, with Phase A focusing on an initial proof of concept and Phase B being a demonstration. Individual award funding will be less than $1 million for both phases and the performance period will not exceed one year. Proposals for the initial round of selections are due **July 7, 2020**. The BAA will remain open through May 20, 2021 in case IARPA decides to issue additional calls. The full RFI can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "IARPA-BAA-20-01."

- 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) has established a 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." The CSO, a vehicle for solicitations, is open to defense contractors, large and small businesses, and research institutions with a focus on non-traditional organizations that do not typically work with the government. Responses to the CSO may be submitted until **September 30, 2020 at 5:00 PM CT**. The full solicitation can be found on www.beta.sam.gov under solicitation number "FA3002-20-S-0002." More information on the DAF ACT Areas of Interest and the submission process can be found below.

  DAF ACT Areas of Interest include the following COVID-19-related mission focus areas:
  - Combating the Spread (predictive analytics, next hotspot, threat to current activities, decision support, etc.)
  - Welfare of citizens (effects to transportation, movement of people and goods, education and development, physical training, regular HR functions, job transition, etc.)
  - Readiness (continuing operations through the outbreak, coordinating with allies and partners, continuing long term projects, etc.)
  - Logistics (security and protection, supply chain protection and assessment, etc.)
  - Industrial base impacts (small businesses, payments, contracts, large system programs, protection and expansion of critical assets, etc.)
  - Medical (telehealth, medical capacity and sustainment, medical supplies and equipment, etc.)
  - Other solutions that support the national response to COVID-19.

  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. The Air Force also announced that its effort, known as "Unite and Fight," has expanded to include all of DOD under forthcoming efforts and solicitations, so that all of 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 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 released a Request for Industry Information for COVID-19. The Request for Industry Information page "acts as the entry point for anyone wishing to provide information on ways to help." COVID-19 solution focus areas include but are not limited to combating the spread, welfare of citizens, readiness, logistics, industrial base impacts, and medical. This page can be accessed at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1SM8W-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKll0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting weekly webinars every Tuesday to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at https://zoom.us/s/462017807 or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Clothing and Textiles Directorate released a request for information (RFI) on March 20 to "determine industry capabilities for providing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against viral contamination, specifically COVID-19." DLA's RFI aims to identify potential sources and/or products that can be ready in the near term and protect against viral contamination, including but not limited to protective coveralls, aprons/gowns, hoods, masks, booties, globes, boots. Responses were due March 24, 2020 by 5:00pm ET; however, "**DLA will accept any and all responses received after this date and time for any ongoing requirements**." The RFI can be found here or on beta.sam.gov under Notice ID "SPE1C1-20-R-COVID19."

- 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:

- o Point of care diagnostics
- o Swabs for sample collection
- o Serological diagnostics
- o 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.

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-mailing 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.

Department of State (DOS)

- The Department of State Global Engagement Center (GEC) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), with funding appropriated in the *CARES Act*, to address Pandemic Propaganda and Disinformation in Africa. GEC is specifically seeking proposals for activities that address the following in Kenya, Nigeria, and certain countries in the Sahel region:
    - o "Proactively Address Harmful COVID-19-Related Propaganda and Disinformation from Malign State and Non-State Actors Targeting the United States and its Partners
    - o Strengthen Influencers' Capacity to Recognize and Counter COVID-19-Related Propaganda and Disinformation"

Proposals are due no later than **Wednesday, July 22, 2020** at **11:30 PM EDT.** Up to $2.5 million will be available 2-4 awards that will range from $625,000 to $1.25 million. This solicitation is open to U.S. and foreign non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, and commercial entities. Interested applicants must create an account in the State Department's official application portal https://mygrants.servicenowservices.com/ilms/portal_login.do to see the full solicitation. The initial Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) can be found at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/addressing_pandemic_propaganda_and_disinformation_in_af_.pdf.

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.imls.gov/news/imls-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- 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.
- The Office of Ocean Exploration and Research has extended the FY21 Federal Funding Opportunity pre-proposal deadline to 11:59 pm EDT on July 8, 2020. More information is available at https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/about/funding-opps/welcome.html.

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/?#.

Notable Non-Federal COVID-19 Updates

- The EdTech Hub, mEducation Alliance, and Global Innovation Exchange have launched a call for technology-focused ideas to respond to the learning emergency caused by COVID-19 school closures in low and middle-income countries. The group is interested in technology enabled initiatives that focus on innovative distance learning and education content for students in math and literacy as well as support for teachers and school education leaders. This opportunity seeks to identify deployable solutions or early-stage ideas that can benefit from exposure to a network of international partners. Finalists will have an opportunity to pitch their ideas to attract potential investment and obtain advice from leaders in the fields to bring their ideas to those who can benefit from them. More information about the program, deadlines, and how to participate are available at https://edtechhub.org/coronavirus/call-for-ideas/.
- The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) issued a call for proposals inviting organizations and partnerships worldwide to apply for funding to speed up development, scale-up manufacturing capacity, and expand the geographical footprint of production of COVID-19 vaccine candidates. It will support the rapid development of vaccines which could be available for licensure in 12-18 months or less, and which may be available for wide-spread global deployment. CEPI anticipates that vaccines funded under this opportunity will be procured and distributed through global mechanisms under discussion as a part of the WHO's COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, announced earlier this month. The Call for Proposals will be open until at least 30 June 2020, with applications reviewed on a rolling basis every two weeks. More information is available at https://cepi.net/news_cepi/cepi-seeks-to-expand-covid-19-vaccine-portfolio-focusing-on-speed-and-global-manufacturing/.
- The International Fact Checking Network (IFCN) announced a call for proposals from academics and researchers that will utilize the CoronaVirusFacts Alliance database to better understand the COVID-19 "infodemic" and to further elevate the fight against mis/disinformation. All accepted proposals will gain access to the database, which includes over 5,000 fact checks published by 88 organizations and has become the most comprehensive and active COVID-19 misinformation. In addition, those who can demonstrate needs for funding can be awarded up to $10,000 in support. Proposals can be submitted through May 29. More information is available at https://ifcn.submittable.com/submit/2185dbe6-d7ba-443b-925f-dfb9a2dd2974/coronavirusfacts-alliance-call-for-research-proposals.

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. With over 225,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Africa, 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.
  - o For information about active and planned investments in the World Bank pipeline, visit: https://maps.worldbank.org/.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO has published a document to provide an overview of public health and social measures that can be implemented to slow or stop the spread of COVID-19 and to propose strategies to limit any possible harm resulting from these interventions. The interim guidance is available here: https://www.who.int/publications-detail/overview-of-public-health-and-social-measures-in-the-context-of-covid-19.
- 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.
- The WHO initiated a global platform, the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT Accelerator) to accelerate cooperation on developing vaccine for COVID-19 and to share research, treatment protocols and medicines worldwide on a virtual summit on April 24.

Governments and philanthropies (including the Gates Foundation) pledged $8 billion to the accelerator, though the United States did not participate.