

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 federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak. As new information related to the pandemic decreases in volume, Lewis-Burke will transition 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 Update

NEW: Congress on Recess until April 20 after passing Third Coronavirus Relief Package

The House and Senate are both on recess until at least April 20 after passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on Friday, enacting the largest emergency relief package in U.S. history. Read Lewis-Burke’s [analysis](#) of the bill.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 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's Student Privacy Policy Office will host a webinar on March 30 from 1-2 pm EDT for a discussion of FERPA's implications for distance learning. Materials from the webinar will be available at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov>.
- ED has announced that the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits of people who are in default on their federal student loans will be paused. A memo has been sent to federal student loan servicers calling for a pause in collections until further notice and makes the policy retroactive to March 13. This retroactive application will likely result in approximately \$1.8 billion being refunded to borrowers. More information is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-directs-fsa-stop-wage-garnishment-collections-actions-student-loan-borrowers-will-refund-more-18-billion-students-families>
- On March 20, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that all federal student loan borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow greater flexibility during the national emergency. Student loan servicers have also been directed to grant an administrative forbearance to any borrower with a federally held loan who requests one. The forbearance will be in effect for a period of at least 60 days, beginning on March 13, 2020. For borrowers continuing to make payments, the full amount of their payment will be applied to the principal amount of their loan once all interest accrued prior to March 13 is paid. A press release with the announcement is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/delivering-president-trumps-promise-secretary-devos-suspends-federal-student-loan-payments-waives-interest-during-national-emergency>.
- 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, the 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 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.

- 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>.
- 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>.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH released a Notice on March 26 that all grant applications due between March 9, 2020 and May 1, 2020 will be accepted through May 1, 2020. This announcement applies to all relevant funding opportunity announcements, including those that indicate no late applications will be accepted. Institutions no longer need to request advance permission to submit late applications and a cover letter justifying the late submission is not required due to this declared emergency. For funding opportunity announcements that expire prior to May 1, 2020, NIH will extend the expiration date for 90 days to accommodate the submission of late applications. Under this new guidance, NIH anticipates, but cannot guarantee, that all late applications submitted by May 1, 2020 will be reviewed in the council round to which they were submitted. The full details are provided in the Notice at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>.
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include "care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals." The agency has not yet issued guidance for extramural grantees working on mission-critical research, or for grantees who collaborate with intramural researchers on non-mission-critical operations. The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.
- For researchers interested in managing animal care during the COVID-19 crisis, the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare held a webinar on March 19 on "Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care." The archived webcast and additional resources are available at <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>.
- NIH has released a General FAQ on Proposal Submission and Award Management Related to COVID-19 which is available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-083.html>.
 - This is a resource for anyone concerned about COVID-19 impacts on research, travel, field work, and more. It provides answers to any questions a grant recipient may have regarding travel, conferences, and continuity of research.

- NIH has created a central site for its current guidance – including newly updated guidance on late applications, flexibilities for applicants and recipients, and clinical trials - which can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters/corona-virus.htm. NIH leadership is emphasizing flexibility at this point and has indicated they will be sending regular updates to the research community through the NIH Extramural Nexus newsletter.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **NEW:** CMS sent a letter on behalf of Vice President Mike Pence to the nation’s hospitals to request that “hospitals report COVID-19 testing data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in addition to daily reporting regarding bed capacity and supplies to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity Module.” 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.
- CMS has released a recommendation that all adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures be delayed, in order to free up medical equipment, supplies, and personnel: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-releases-recommendations-adult-elective-surgeries-non-essential-medical-surgical-and-dental>.
- CMS released more information on the expansion of telehealth benefits during the COVID-19 outbreak. CMS is expanding this on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver. A list of FAQs can be viewed here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-telehealth-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-31720.pdf> and a list of covered services is linked here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>.
- CMS also released a fact sheet on these new telemedicine changes for providers here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-telemedicine-health-care-provider-fact-sheet>. Clinicians can bill for dates of service beginning on March 6, 2020.
- CMS released guidance regarding blanket waivers for hospitals and healthcare facilities and COVID-19. This includes that “CMS will temporarily waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP requirements. CMS will also issue several blanket waivers, listed on the website below, and the CMS Regional Offices will review other provider-specific requests.” More information on the CMS waivers is available at <http://www.cms.gov/emergency>.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA issued guidance clarifying its position that FDA device marketing authorization is not required and FDA regulations do not apply to face masks and N95 respirators not intended for a medical purpose, such as construction masks. The guidance further states that medical face masks not intended to provide liquid barrier protection and surgical masks intended to provide can be used during the emergency without prior submission of a premarket notification, and

identifies several other areas of acceptable noncompliance. Finally, the guidance requests engagement from mask manufacturers interested in receiving Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to reprocess filtering facepiece respirators for N95 masks or manufacture surgical face masks and N95 respirators. Additional information available at <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 to source parts and materials from alternate suppliers or otherwise make changes to increase the manufacturing and supply of devices. The guidance also allows healthcare facilities to modify the FDA-cleared indications, claims, or functionality of respiratory devices and use these devices beyond indicated shelf life and duration of use. Additional information, including examples where this guidance would apply, is available at <https://www.fda.gov/media/136318/download>.
- The FDA released a guidance which calls for clinical trials to move to alternative methods of participant contact wherever possible including virtual visits, and alternative locations for assessment. If novel coronavirus (COVID-19) testing is required for participants by local health authorities, it does not need to be reported as an amendment to the protocol unless it is being incorporated as part of a new research objective. Generally, FDA recommends that all sponsors and investigators reach out to their Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and or Independent Ethics Committees (IECs) to determine if there are any necessary changes to clinical trial protocols. 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>.

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 March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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)

- DOE plans to release new guidance for grantees the week of March 30 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 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>.
- Regarding DOE grants and deadlines for funding opportunity announcements, DOE has started to extend deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. 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.
 - The DOE Early Career Research Program call, which was due on March 16, has been extended to March 30.
 - The High-Energy-Density Laboratory Plasma Science funding call, which was due on March 16, was extended until April 6.
- 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) has 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. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- 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>.

- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.
- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of->

Department of Defense (DOD)

- 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 to sustain 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 proof of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line 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.
 - 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)

- The DOL Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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>.

- DOL’s Wage and Hour division has released Q&A documents for employers related to COVID-19 and Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>.

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 20, NASA’s Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate Thomas Zurbuchen held a virtual town hall for SMD’s stakeholders in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Points of interest have been summarized below and a recording of the event with slides can be found at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/virtual-townhall-2020>.
- Dr. Zurbuchen noted that NASA field centers and headquarter’s operating status are operating either completely via telework or have very limited in-person staffing.
- Work on missions currently in development (Phases A, B, and C) can largely be executed remotely. Missions undergoing testing and integration are likely to experience greater repercussions. In the latter group, NASA will continue work to the extent practicable using smaller teams. Dr. Zurbuchen noted this will impact the James Webb Space Telescope, but that NASA remains committed to launching the Mars 2020 Perseverance Rover this summer as scheduled.
- Funding for individual investigator awards will be impacted. NASA is making modifications to ROSES 2020 program elements and will announce future modifications on NSPRIES. At this point, SMD has determined the following opportunities will be affected:
 - Step-1 due dates for the “Emerging Worlds”, “Solar System Observations”, and “Yearly Opportunities for Research in Planetary Defense” program elements will be postponed.
 - Step-2 due dates for the “Applied Information Systems Research” and “Interdisciplinary Consortia for Astrobiology Research” program elements have been sifted to April 17, 2020.

- NASA is taking steps to provide clarity for future opportunities and current awardees. Dr. Zurbuchen stated that SMD:
 - May change all Step-1 deadlines in the next 30 days to mandatory Notices of Intent.
 - Will no-cost extend or re-phase existing awards on a case-by-case basis.
 - Will exercise leniency in enforcing solicitation deadlines with accommodations made on a case-by-case basis.
- Lastly, Dr. Zurbuchen emphasized that SMD and NASA leadership are committed to alleviating burdens on NASA's external community. Faculty are encouraged to continue support for graduate students, post-docs, and laboratory staff through existing awards.

Update: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- **NEW:** 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 notes, "NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020." 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'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>.

Department of State (DOS)

- The level 4 travel advisory, issued by DOS on March 19th, 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 with little advanced notice. More information is available <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>.
 - Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 have resulted in some students on study abroad programs being stranded (along with thousands of other Americans). Some of these stories were recently reported: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/21/world/virus-students-abroad.html>.
- DOS announced that, beginning March 20, U.S. consulates will suspend most routine visa services until further notice. The latest information, by country, is available at <https://www.usembassy.gov/>.
 - Restrictions on consular services are already impacting academic institutions. A recent article focuses on how the temporary hold on J-1 class visas could impact care at U.S. teaching hospitals by delaying the arrival of over 4,200 foreign doctors chosen to do medical residencies in the United States. Additional information can be found at https://www.statnews.com/2020/03/23/as-coronavirus-spreads-thousands-of-foreign-doctors-could-be-blocked-from-u-s-entry-group-warns/?utm_source=STAT+Newsletters&utm_campaign=fd314cc27e-

[MR COPY 01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-fd314cc27e-152057261](https://www.lbw.com/copy-01?utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8cab1d7961-fd314cc27e-152057261).

- The DOS has issued updated guidance for international travelers. American overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
- The DOS has re-issued its guidance for international travelers to register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announced it will temporarily pause all ECA-funded programs. Details at <https://www.state.gov/temporary-pause-of-international-exchange-programs-due-to-covid-19/>.

Update: Department of Justice (DOJ)

- **NEW:** 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://ojdp.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)

- USDA has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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>:
 - Proposals due March 19 will be due April 2
 - Proposals due March 26 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 2 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- NIFA released guidance for individuals who may experience delays in the distribution of funds. The guidance is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants>.

The White House

- 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:** The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to solicit research proposals on “the 2019 novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and the disease it causes, i.e., “coronavirus disease 2019” (COVID-19)”. With this NOSI, NCATS is specifically interested in supporting research that repurposes existing drugs or biologics that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial. Additional information, including more details on specific types of studies NCATS seeks to support and the different award mechanisms it will use to fund these projects, is available at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-TR-20-012.html>.
- The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) released a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) for administrative supplements to “provide support to conduct worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties” through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP). The funding for these supplements was provided in the *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2020*, passed earlier this month. Awardees in this new NIEHS WTP Coronavirus Bio-Safety Training Initiative should develop health and safety training programs for workers at high risk for accepting or being closely exposed to COVID-19 patients, as well as hazardous waste and bodily fluid, through air transport, medical treatment, environmental services, waste handling, and/or clean up. Applicants for these supplements must be active grantees of existing NIEHS WTPs (specific programs are listed in the NOSI), and applications are due on April 24, 2020. Additional details about this initiative can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-ES-20-014.html>.
- The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions for Research on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This Notice (*along with the Notice released on March 25 by NIGMS – see below*) replaces the original NOSI released February 6 by NIAID and NIGMS that will expire on April 8. The NOSI details NIAID’s research priorities and the urgent need for projects focused on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, and projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19. NIAID is calling for applications for Administrative Supplements and through the Emergency Competitive Revision mechanisms.
 - Full details, including more information on research objectives and application submission is available in the NOSI: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-034.html>
 - Full details of the notice of early expiration for the previous NOSI is available through this notice. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AI-20-040.html>
- The National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to highlight the urgent need for research related to the novel coronavirus COVID-

19. The NOSI details NCATS research priorities for COVID-19, including “use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.” NCATS is calling for applications for Administrative Supplements, Collaborative Innovation Awards, and Competitive Revisions under this NOSI. Full details, including more information on research topics and award mechanisms, is available in the NOSI:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-TR-20-011.html>.

- The National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to address the urgent need for research on the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 virus (COVID-19). NIGMS is soliciting competitive revisions that address three specific research priorities: “incorporation of data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents; repurposing or modification of diagnostic tools currently under development to enable rapid detection of SARS-CoV-2 infection (SBIR/STTR grants only); rapid development of potential therapeutic agents for COVID-19 (SBIR/STTR only).” Investigators interested in submitting proposals in response to this NOSI are strongly encouraged to contact relevant NIGMS staff prior to submission. Full details are available in the NOSI: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-GM-20-025.html> and on the NIGMS blog: <https://loop.nigms.nih.gov/2020/03/urgent-competitive-revisions-to-nigms-grants-to-address-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>.
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) issued a Notice of Special interest (NOSI) “to highlight the urgent need for research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV, also known as COVID-19) specifically related to collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.” Due to COVID-19’s attack on the lungs this virus could be a serious threat to those with a history of smoking, vaping, and other substance use like opioids or methamphetamines. Topics of specific interest to NIDA include but are not limited to respiratory effects of SARS-CoV2 infection among individuals with SUD, research to determine whether substance abuse is a risk factor for the onset and progression of COVID-19, and research to evaluate drug-drug interaction of medication to treat SARS-CoV-2 and substances of abuse or medications to treat SUDs. Investigators can apply for both Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions through this NOSI. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DA-20-047.html>
- The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) “to highlight the urgent need for research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and on biological effects of its causative agent, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Topics of specific interest to NHLBI include host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.” Investigators can apply for both Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions through this NOSI. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-20-757.html>
- The emergency funding package signed into law on March 6 included \$826 million for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), intended to be used primarily for vaccine research and development. NIAID is currently using two mechanisms to award funding to investigators for work within this scope: non-competitive administrative supplements and, for the first time, competitive Urgent Awards. More information about these two opportunities, as well as a list of NIAID’s research priorities related to COVID-19, can be found at <https://www.niaid.nih.gov/grants-contracts/response-covid-2019->

[outbreak?utm_campaign=+41725024&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=](https://www.fda.gov/oc/outbreak?utm_campaign=+41725024&utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=).

- Elsewhere at NIH, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) received \$10 million in funding in the emergency supplemental package, but no details are available yet on how this funding will be awarded. We also anticipate that, in the coming weeks and months, additional Institutes and Centers will be issuing opportunities for administrative supplements for research on COVID-19 that is related to their underlying programmatic priorities. We will share such information as we get it.

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 (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.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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.
- NSF’s Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on March 5 inviting supplemental funding requests and RAPID proposals for research utilizing data or software approaches to research on COVID-19 related challenges. NSF is also accepting proposals for use of NSF advanced cyberinfrastructure to conduct COVID-19 related research. More information is available <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20055/nsf20055.jsp>.
- NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter on March 4 for 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 the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism. The Dear Colleague Letter is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf>.

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

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

Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) within 12 weeks of an award.” The solicitation is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/05/hhs-seeks-abstract-submissions-for-2019-ncov-diagnostics-development.html> and the most recent version of the BAA, updated on March 9, is available at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcb5bf981f7/view>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The 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/>.
- **NEW:** The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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 will be hosting multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held at the following times:
 - Tuesday March 31, 1PM ET
 - Thursday April 2, 1PM ET
 - Tuesday April 7, 1PM ET
 - Thursday April 9, 1PM ET
- 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, gloves, 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.igt.org/>.

- The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) announced the fifth cohort of the Army Expeditionary Technology Search (xTechSearch 5) competition. Executed under the America Competes Act, xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to “uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions.” The Army’s comprehensive list of focus areas can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/xTechSearch-Focus-Areas.pdf>. According to recent reporting, a number of the xTechSearch 4 Semifinalists have presented pitches for emerging biotechnologies and medical innovations to address the coronavirus (COVID-19). Additional details are available at https://breakingdefense.com/2020/03/covid-19-biotech-innovators-pitch-army-rapid-test-kits-more/?utm_campaign=Breaking%20News&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=84958319&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-90AwbifruJYyZuZ6QnEfTkM91a9ntGkyKftnxE4hLeStd06L_xi7uul_nb_x9bOOntdMK&utm_content=84958319&utm_source=hs_email. Examples include diagnostic capability amplification and revolutionary wound treatments for the warfighter. These pitches and their success in the competition reflect the Army’s strong interest in medical technologies addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and indicate that these technologies will be of interest in the xTechSearch5 competition.
 - The xTechSearch competition has four phases, with Application Part I (Concept White Paper) submissions due **March 31, 2020**. White papers that are selected will receive a \$5,000 prize and additional monetary prizes will be awarded to select companies as they advance in the competition. Subsequent competition phases include Application Part II (Technology Pitches), the Semifinals, and the Finals.
 - Finalists will present their technology solutions and transition plans at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Global Force Symposium and Exposition March 2021, in Huntsville AL. It is expected that the grand prize winner will be selected in March 2021 and will be awarded a \$250,000 prize. All other finalists will receive a \$10,000 prize. More information on xTechSearch, including competition timelines and rules, can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/about.html>.
- As mentioned above, 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 North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) recently announced that Project Vulcan released a **COVID-19 Innovation Challenge** call for “innovative capabilities that addresses the challenges presented by COVID-19, as well as its resulting impacts on public safety and national security processes, systems, and resources.” Project Vulcan is a collaboration between Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SOF AT&L), the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the DOD Information Analysis Centers, and the National Defense University” and “incorporates online and offline engagement

opportunities to broadly connect SOF operators and acquisition professionals with their counterparts in the high tech community.”

Proposed innovations and solutions for COVID-19 will be shared with a “wide network of government personnel” involved with combatting COVID-19. Responses are due as soon as possible and no later than March 31, 2020. NCMBC’s announcement and more information on applying can be found at <http://www.ncmbc.us/announcements/new-vulcan-call-covid-19-innovation-challenge-responses-due-31-march/>.

Note: Applicants must fill out a “scout card” summary describing solutions/capabilities. New members of the Vulcan network can request access at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/auth/login?requestedUrl=%2Fhome>.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- 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=2A142317F56F185FC3E2CEFOAEAD6CACB3E70C7F>.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

The White House

- **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/>.

Other Sources

- 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

International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support international efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](#). The funds raised through this effort will be overseen by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America. This appeal is additional to the [WHO's Solidarity Response Fund](#), which has already raised \$195 million from governments and an additional \$69 million in pledges from both public non-public sources.

- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world's poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19. This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.
- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing international support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

Update: World Health Organization (WHO)

- **NEW:** To enable international COVID-19 clinical, epidemiological, and virological research and to facilitate systematic data collection, tabulation, aggregation, and analysis, WHO experts developed standard protocols and forms for early COVID-19 investigations that can be used across different global settings. Further, the WHO is encouraging countries and interested research centers to share data collected using these protocols to enable a global effort to further refine clinical recommendations and inform outbreak-related guidance. More information is available <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>.
- The WHO has initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial, as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study will test four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of care. The innovation in the study will be in its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. Countries that have joined the study include: Argentina, Canada, France, Iran, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand. There is also a European clinical trial, Discovery, that will work in partnership with this effort with patients from France, Spain, UK, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg. More information on the WHO SOLIDARITY trial can be found at <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/03/who-launches-global-megatrial-four-most-promising-coronavirus-treatments>.
- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:

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- COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
- Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
- Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
 April 1, 2020

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke’s COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak. 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 Update

Congress on Recess until April 20 after passing Third Coronavirus Relief Package

The House and Senate are both on recess until at least April 20 after passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on Friday, enacting the largest emergency relief package in U.S. history. Read Lewis-Burke’s [analysis](#) of the bill.

Now that Congress has finished work on the third stimulus package, attention has turned to a fourth stimulus package. This next package will likely include funding to support additional efforts needed to directly address the COVID-19 pandemic, such as additional help to individuals and small businesses, as well as infrastructure investments and other recovery funding that could jumpstart economic activity once the health crisis has abated. Lewis-Burke is actively monitoring these discussions and developing ideas where investments could address critical needs for the research, higher education, and healthcare communities.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 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 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 will host a webinar on March 30 from 1-2 pm EDT for a discussion of FERPA’s implications for distance learning. Materials from the webinar will be available at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov>.
- ED has announced that the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits of people who are in default on their federal student loans will be paused. A memo has been sent to federal student loan servicers calling for a pause in collections until further notice and makes the policy retroactive to March 13. This retroactive application will likely result in approximately \$1.8 billion being refunded to borrowers. More information is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-directs-fsa-stop-wage-garnishment-collections-actions-student-loan-borrowers-will-refund-more-18-billion-students-families>
- On March 20, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that all federal student loan borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow greater flexibility during the national emergency. Student loan servicers have also been directed to grant an administrative forbearance to any borrower with a federally held loan who requests one. The forbearance will be in effect for a period of at least 60 days, beginning on March 13, 2020. For borrowers continuing to make payments, the full amount of their payment will be applied to the principal amount of their loan once all interest accrued prior to March 13 is paid. A press release with the announcement is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/delivering-president-trumps-promise-secretary-devos-suspends-federal-student-loan-payments-waives-interest-during-national-emergency>.

- 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, the 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 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.
- 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>.
- 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>.

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.
- NIH leadership is emphasizing flexibility and has indicated they will be sending regular updates to the research community through the NIH Extramural Nexus newsletter.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>

- **OLAW Webinar: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care:**
<https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The agency has not yet issued guidance for extramural grantees working on mission-critical research, or for grantees who collaborate with intramural researchers on non-mission-critical operations. The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **NEW:** CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months’ Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- CMS sent a letter on behalf of Vice President Mike Pence to the nation’s hospitals to request that “hospitals report COVID-19 testing data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in addition to daily reporting regarding bed capacity and supplies to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity Module.” 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.
- CMS has released a recommendation that all adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures be delayed, in order to free up medical equipment, supplies, and personnel: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-releases-recommendations-adult-elective-surgeries-non-essential-medical-surgical-and-dental>.
- CMS released more information on the expansion of telehealth benefits during the COVID-19 outbreak. CMS is expanding this on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver. A list of FAQs can be viewed here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-telehealth-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-31720.pdf>, a list of covered services is linked here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>, and a fact sheet providers is here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare->

[telemedicine-health-care-provider-fact-sheet](#). Clinicians can bill for dates of service beginning on March 6, 2020.

- CMS released guidance regarding blanket waivers for hospitals and healthcare facilities and COVID-19. This includes that “CMS will temporarily waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP requirements. CMS will also issue several blanket waivers, listed on the website below, and the CMS Regional Offices will review other provider-specific requests.” More information on the CMS waivers is available at <http://www.cms.gov/emergency>.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA issued guidance clarifying its position that FDA device marketing authorization is not required and FDA regulations do not apply to face masks and N95 respirators not intended for a medical purpose, such as construction masks. The guidance further states that medical face masks not intended to provide liquid barrier protection and surgical masks intended to provide can be used during the emergency without prior submission of a premarket notification, and identifies several other areas of acceptable noncompliance. Finally, the guidance requests engagement from mask manufacturers interested in receiving Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to reprocess filtering facepiece respirators for N95 masks or manufacture surgical face masks and N95 respirators. Additional information available at <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 to source parts and materials from alternate suppliers or otherwise make changes to increase the manufacturing and supply of devices. The guidance also allows healthcare facilities to modify the FDA-cleared indications, claims, or functionality of respiratory devices and use these devices beyond indicated shelf life and duration of use. Additional information, including examples where this guidance would apply, is available at <https://www.fda.gov/media/136318/download>.
- The FDA released a guidance which calls for clinical trials to move to alternative methods of participant contact wherever possible including virtual visits, and alternative locations for assessment. If novel coronavirus (COVID-19) testing is required for participants by local health authorities, it does not need to be reported as an amendment to the protocol unless it is being incorporated as part of a new research objective. Generally, FDA recommends that all sponsors and investigators reach out to their Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and or Independent Ethics Committees (IECs) to determine if there are any necessary changes to clinical trial protocols. 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>.

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 March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to

support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.

- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.pdf.
- NSF is regularly updating their coronavirus website with FAQs. It is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/.

Update: Department of Energy (DOE)

- **NEW:** DOE continues to extend certain deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. Most recently, on March 31, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) issued deadline extensions to funding opportunities and requests for information (RFI), including:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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/>.

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.

- DOE plans to release new guidance for grantees the week of March 30 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:** 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 list has been expanded from a March 19 edition in response to community comments, particularly from large industry associations. The new list adds several industrial areas where CISA believes workers should be deemed essential, including specific occupations within electricity and communications and information technology. Several states including Maryland and California have fully adopted the guidance. The updated list can be found at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has 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. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- 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>.
- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.

- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** 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 of 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 to sustain 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 proof of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000

- Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line 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.
 - 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/>.

Update: Department of Labor (DOL)

- **NEW:** 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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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>.
- DOL’s Wage and Hour division has released Q&A documents for employers related to COVID-19 and Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>.

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/>

Update: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- **NEW:** On March 31, NASA published two documents with additional information on the Science Mission Directorate’s response to the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic:

- “SMD FAQ on Grants and Research during the COVID-19 Epidemic” - link: <https://science.nasa.gov/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/NASACOVDFQAQ033120.pdf>.
- “COVID-19 and Federal Financial Assistance” - link: <https://science.nasa.gov/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/COVID-19%20and%20Federal%20Financial%20Assistance.pdf>
- **NEW:** Updates to SMD guidance or additional information will be announced at <https://science.nasa.gov/researchers/sara/library-and-useful-links>.
- **NEW:** 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.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- 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 notes, “NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020.” 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>.

Update: National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- **NEW** The NEA Chair statement on the \$75 million in supplemental funding the agency received through the CARES Act for non-profit arts organizations and NEA applicants is at <https://www.arts.gov/news/2020/national-endowment-arts-distribute-75-million-relief-aid-arts-organizations-need>.
- 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 released a FAQ resource in response to COVID-19 for grant applicants and awardees. The IMLS FAQ page can be found at <https://www.ims.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.ims.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-ims-library-services-grants>

Department of State (DOS)

- The level 4 travel advisory, issued by DOS on March 19th, 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 with little advanced notice. 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) announced it 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>.

Update: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **NEW:** NIFA has released its FAQ document following the OMB guidance for administrative relief for grantees. Among other responses, NIFA is prepared to offer both No-Cost Extensions (NCE) and supplemental funding to researchers whose experiments are disrupted by COVID-19. The FAQ document says that additional guidance will follow on how NIFA intends to approach both NCEs and supplemental funding. The FAQ document is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-20-005-nifa-coronavirus-faqs#>.
- USDA has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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>:
 - Proposals due March 19 will be due April 2
 - Proposals due March 26 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 2 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16

- NIFA released guidance for individuals who may experience delays in the distribution of funds. The guidance is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants>.

The White House

- 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:** The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) to solicit research proposals focused on “a better understanding of host response, associated diseases, and short- and long-term clinical outcomes of individuals infected with SARS-CoV-2.” Research interests include but are not limited to the development of novel methods using genomic techniques to identify signatures of infection, prognosis, and severity of disease, development of novel genomic-based tools, kits or reagents to track and monitor SARS-CoV-2 infected individuals, and use of tools to understand the genetic epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2. Additional details and application and submission details can be found in the Notice. Investigators can apply for both Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions through this NOSI. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HG-20-034.html>
- The following table tracks all NOSIs released by NIH Institutes and Centers. This table will be continually updated as additional NOSIs are released.

Notice	Institute	Release Date
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Repurposing Existing Therapeutics to Address the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	3/27/2020
Notice of Special Interest: NIEHS Worker Training Program Coronavirus and Infectious Disease Response Training (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	3/27/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions for Research on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	3/25/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Applications to Address 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Need	NCATS	3/24/2020

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)	NIAID and NIGMS	2/6/2020 Note: Expires 4/8/2020

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

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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.
- NSF’s Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on March 5 inviting supplemental funding requests and RAPID proposals for research utilizing data or software approaches to research on COVID-19 related challenges. NSF is also accepting proposals for use of NSF advanced cyberinfrastructure to conduct COVID-19 related research. More information is available <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20055/nsf20055.jsp>.
- NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter on March 4 for 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 the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism. The Dear Colleague Letter is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf>.

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

- Federal agency partners in the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) are leveraging the existing Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) TechWatch program to engage with industry, academia, and other stakeholders to accelerate technologies related to the novel coronavirus. Traditionally, TechWatch is a virtual meeting with BARDA scientific, technical, and contracting staff, as well as representatives from other interested federal agencies. For CoronaWatch, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National

Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture, among others, will be contacted to participate as relevant and needed. There are specific submission options for therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and other products through CoronaWatch. Additional information on CoronaWatch, as well as submission instructions, are available at: <https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/request-barda-techwatch-meeting/>.

- The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an Easy Broad Agency Announcement (EZ-BAA) on February 5 seeking proposals for the development of novel COVID-19 diagnostics. The solicitation notes that “the diagnostics must utilize platforms already cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with a viable plan to meet requirements for the FDA to consider Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) within 12 weeks of an award.” The solicitation is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/05/hhs-seeks-abstract-submissions-for-2019-ncov-diagnostics-development.html> and the most recent version of the BAA, updated on March 9, is available at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcb5bf981f7/view>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “HR001120S0019-02.”
- **NEW:** The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - “Blue-Sky” solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above
 The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “AF20R-DCSO1.”
- 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 U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
- The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking "treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection" and "therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment." MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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 will be hosting multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held at the following times:
 - Tuesday March 31, 1PM ET
 - Thursday April 2, 1PM ET
 - Tuesday April 7, 1PM ET
 - Thursday April 9, 1PM ET
- 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, gloves, 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/>.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) announced the fifth cohort of the Army Expeditionary Technology Search (xTechSearch 5) competition. Executed under the America Competes Act, xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to “uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions.” The Army’s comprehensive list of focus areas can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/xTechSearch-Focus-Areas.pdf>. According to

recent reporting, a number of the xTechSearch 4 Semifinalists have presented pitches for emerging biotechnologies and medical innovations to address the coronavirus (COVID-19). Additional details are available at https://breakingdefense.com/2020/03/covid-19-biotech-innovators-pitch-army-rapid-test-kits-more/?utm_campaign=Breaking%20News&utm_medium=email&_hsmi=84958319&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-90AwbifrujYyZuZ6QnEfTkM91a9ntGkyKftnxE4hLeStd06L_xi7uul_nb_x9bOOntdMK&utm_content=84958319&utm_source=hs_email. Examples include diagnostic capability amplification and revolutionary wound treatments for the warfighter. These pitches and their success in the competition reflect the Army's strong interest in medical technologies addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and indicate that these technologies will be of interest in the xTechSearch5 competition.

- The xTechSearch competition has four phases, with Application Part I (Concept White Paper) submissions due **March 31, 2020**. White papers that are selected will receive a \$5,000 prize and additional monetary prizes will be awarded to select companies as they advance in the competition. Subsequent competition phases include Application Part II (Technology Pitches), the Semifinals, and the Finals.
- Finalists will present their technology solutions and transition plans at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Global Force Symposium and Exposition March 2021, in Huntsville AL. It is expected that the grand prize winner will be selected in March 2021 and will be awarded a \$250,000 prize. All other finalists will receive a \$10,000 prize. More information on xTechSearch, including competition timelines and rules, can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/about.html>.
- As mentioned above, 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 North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) recently announced that Project Vulcan released a **COVID-19 Innovation Challenge** call for "innovative capabilities that addresses the challenges presented by COVID-19, as well as its resulting impacts on public safety and national security processes, systems, and resources." Project Vulcan is a collaboration between Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SOF AT&L), the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the DOD Information Analysis Centers, and the National Defense University" and "incorporates online and offline engagement opportunities to broadly connect SOF operators and acquisition professionals with their counterparts in the high tech community."

Proposed innovations and solutions for COVID-19 will be shared with a "wide network of government personnel" involved with combatting COVID-19. Responses are due as soon as possible and no later than March 31, 2020. NCMBC's announcement and more information on applying can be found at <http://www.ncmbc.us/announcements/new-vulcan-call-covid-19-innovation-challenge-responses-due-31-march/>.

Note: Applicants must fill out a "scout card" summary describing solutions/capabilities. New members of the Vulcan network can request access at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/auth/login?requestedUrl=%2Fhome>.

Update: Department of Energy (DOE)

- **NEW:** 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=2A142317F56F185FC3E2CEF0AED6CACB3E70C7F>.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

The White House

- **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/>.

Other Sources

- 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

International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support international efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](#). The funds raised through this effort will be overseen by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America. This appeal is additional to the [WHO's Solidarity Response Fund](#), which has already raised \$195 million from governments and an additional \$69 million in pledges from both public non-public sources.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world's poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19.

This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.

- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing international support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- To enable international COVID-19 clinical, epidemiological, and virological research and to facilitate systematic data collection, tabulation, aggregation, and analysis, WHO experts developed standard protocols and forms for early COVID-19 investigations that can be used across different global settings. Further, the WHO is encouraging countries and interested research centers to share data collected using these protocols to enable a global effort to further refine clinical recommendations and inform outbreak-related guidance. More information is available <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>.
- The WHO has initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial, as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study will test four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of care. The innovation in the study will be in its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. Countries that have joined the study include: Argentina, Canada, France, Iran, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand. There is also a European clinical trial, Discovery, that will work in partnership with this effort with patients from France, Spain, UK, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg. More information on the WHO SOLIDARITY trial can be found at <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/03/who-launches-global-megatrial-four-most-promising-coronavirus-treatments>.
- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;

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- Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
- Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
 April 3, 2020

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke’s COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak. 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.

Update: Congressional Update

NEW: Congress Monitoring Implementation of the Third Coronavirus Relief Package and Shifting Attention to a Fourth Relief Package

The House and Senate are both on recess until at least April 20 after passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on Friday, enacting the largest emergency relief package in U.S. history. Read Lewis-Burke’s [analysis](#) of the bill.

Now that Congress has finished work on the third stimulus package, attention has turned to a fourth stimulus package. Given the growing public health and economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, the fourth stimulus package will likely focus on immediate needs related to COVID-19 and expand on efforts from the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed into law last week. This includes more funding to aid states, local governments, hospitals, small

businesses, and major industries, expanding unemployment benefits, and another round of direct cash payments to individuals. This focus is being driven by the growing infection rate in the United States and the release of new unemployment numbers showing 10 million Americans applying for jobless benefits in the last two weeks. The university and research communities are also actively identifying potential areas for more funding for higher education institutions, further tax relief, and funding to support research activities and personnel impacted by the pandemic. With the House and Senate out of session until April 20 and the likelihood of extending that recess period into May, the fourth stimulus package would likely not advance and be passed into law for at least another month (or longer).

House Democrats, and in particular House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), have also started discussions about an additional stimulus package which would focus on long-term job growth and economic recovery, including infrastructure investments. Early Democratic planning includes infrastructure investments to help address future public health and other emergencies, such as more resources for community health centers, modernizing the nation's electric grid, and expanding broadband for telemedicine, teleworking, and tele-schooling. Current plans also expand infrastructure investments to more traditional shovel-ready projects that can create jobs to stimulate the economy and address critical needs, such as repairs to roads and bridges, expansion of public transportation, improvements to drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, and accelerating construction of world-leading research facilities. Senate Democrats have also called on individual Senators and Committees to provide infrastructure and other policy ideas for a future package. However, House and Senate Republicans currently oppose these broader investments until the CARES Act and another potential stimulus bill is fully implemented and there is time to evaluate the state of the economy. While President Trump has expressed support for including infrastructure in a future stimulus, it can only advance with bipartisan support, especially in the Senate where 60 votes are needed to advance legislation and Republicans are in the majority. Lewis-Burke is actively working with congressional committees and community partners to identify academic, health, and research infrastructure needs that could receive funding in a future package.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 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 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 will host a webinar on March 30 from 1-2 pm EDT for a discussion of FERPA’s implications for distance learning. Materials from the webinar will be available at <https://studentprivacy.ed.gov>.
- ED has announced that the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits of people who are in default on their federal student loans will be paused. A memo has been sent to federal student loan servicers calling for a pause in collections until further notice and makes the policy retroactive to March 13. This retroactive application will likely result in approximately \$1.8 billion being refunded to borrowers. More information is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-directs-fsa-stop-wage-garnishment-collections-actions-student-loan-borrowers-will-refund-more-18-billion-students-families>
- On March 20, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced that all federal student loan borrowers with federally held student loans will automatically have their interest rates set to 0% for a period of at least 60 days. In addition, each of these borrowers will have the option to suspend their payments for at least two months to allow greater flexibility during the national emergency. Student loan servicers have also been directed to grant an administrative forbearance to any borrower with a federally held loan who requests one. The forbearance will be in effect for a period of at least 60 days, beginning on March 13, 2020. For borrowers continuing to make payments, the full amount of their payment will be applied to the principal amount of their loan once all interest accrued prior to March 13 is paid. A press release with the announcement is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/delivering-president-trumps-promise-secretary-devos-suspends-federal-student-loan-payments-waives-interest-during-national-emergency>.
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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>.
- 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>.

Update: 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.
 - **NEW:** NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- NIH leadership is emphasizing flexibility and has indicated they will be sending regular updates to the research community through the NIH Extramural Nexus newsletter.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **OLAW Webinar: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The agency has not yet issued guidance for extramural grantees working on mission-critical research, or for grantees who collaborate with intramural researchers on non-mission-

critical operations. The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- CMS sent a letter on behalf of Vice President Mike Pence to the nation's hospitals to request that "hospitals report COVID-19 testing data to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in addition to daily reporting regarding bed capacity and supplies to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) COVID-19 Patient Impact and Hospital Capacity Module." 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.
- CMS has released a recommendation that all adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures be delayed, in order to free up medical equipment, supplies, and personnel: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-releases-recommendations-adult-elective-surgeries-non-essential-medical-surgical-and-dental>.
- CMS released more information on the expansion of telehealth benefits during the COVID-19 outbreak. CMS is expanding this on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver. A list of FAQs can be viewed here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-telehealth-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-31720.pdf>, a list of covered services is linked here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>, and a fact sheet providers is here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-telemedicine-health-care-provider-fact-sheet>. Clinicians can bill for dates of service beginning on March 6, 2020.
- CMS released guidance regarding blanket waivers for hospitals and healthcare facilities and COVID-19. This includes that "CMS will temporarily waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP requirements. CMS will also issue several blanket waivers, listed on the website below, and the CMS Regional Offices will review other provider-specific requests." More information on the CMS waivers is available at <http://www.cms.gov/emergency>.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA issued guidance clarifying its position that FDA device marketing authorization is not required and FDA regulations do not apply to face masks and N95 respirators not intended for a medical purpose, such as construction masks. The guidance further states that medical face masks not intended to provide liquid barrier protection and surgical masks intended to provide can be used during the emergency without prior submission of a premarket notification, and identifies several other areas of acceptable noncompliance. Finally, the guidance requests engagement from mask manufacturers interested in receiving Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) to reprocess filtering facepiece respirators for N95 masks or manufacture surgical face masks and N95 respirators. Additional information available at <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 to source parts and materials from alternate suppliers or otherwise make changes to increase the manufacturing and supply of devices. The guidance also allows healthcare facilities to modify the FDA-cleared indications, claims, or functionality of respiratory devices and use these devices beyond indicated shelf life and duration of use. Additional information, including examples where this guidance would apply, is available at <https://www.fda.gov/media/136318/download>.
- The FDA released a guidance which calls for clinical trials to move to alternative methods of participant contact wherever possible including virtual visits, and alternative locations for assessment. If novel coronavirus (COVID-19) testing is required for participants by local health authorities, it does not need to be reported as an amendment to the protocol unless it is being incorporated as part of a new research objective. Generally, FDA recommends that all sponsors and investigators reach out to their Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) and or Independent Ethics Committees (IECs) to determine if there are any necessary changes to clinical trial protocols. 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>.

Update: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- **NEW:** 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>.

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 March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.

- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.pdf.
- NSF is regularly updating their coronavirus website with FAQs. It is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/.

Update: Department of Energy (DOE)

- **NEW:** 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 plans to release new guidance for grantees the week of March 30 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)

- 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 list has been expanded from a March 19 edition in response to community comments, particularly from large industry associations. The new list adds several industrial areas where CISA believes workers should be deemed essential, including specific occupations within electricity and communications and information technology. Several states including Maryland and California have fully adopted the guidance. The updated list can be found at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has 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. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- 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>.
- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised

of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.

- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** 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 of 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 to sustain 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 proof of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
- Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line 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.
 - 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/>.

Update: Department of Labor (DOL)

- **NEW:** 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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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/NASACOVIFAQ033120.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>.
- 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.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- 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 notes, "NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020." 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)

- The NEA Chair statement on the \$75 million in supplemental funding the agency received through the CARES Act for non-profit arts organizations and NEA applicants is at <https://www.arts.gov/news/2020/national-endowment-arts-distribute-75-million-relief-aid-arts-organizations-need>.
- 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, issued by DOS on March 19th, 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 with little advanced notice. More information is available <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>.
 - American overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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) announced it 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)

- NIFA has released its FAQ document following the OMB guidance for administrative relief for grantees. Among other responses, NIFA is prepared to offer both No-Cost Extensions (NCE) and supplemental funding to researchers whose experiments are disrupted by COVID-19. The FAQ document says that additional guidance will follow on how NIFA intends to approach both NCEs and supplemental funding. The FAQ document is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-20-005-nifa-coronavirus-faqs>.
- USDA has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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>:
 - Proposals due March 19 will be due April 2
 - Proposals due March 26 will be due April 9

- Proposals due April 2 will be due April 9
- Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- NIFA released guidance for individuals who may experience delays in the distribution of funds. The guidance is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants>.

Update: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

- **NEW:** 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.

The White House

- 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:** The National Institute on Aging (NIA) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) highlighting the need for mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. NIA is encouraging applications for both Administrative Supplements and Competitive Revisions that address research interests relevant to work within the Division of Aging Biology, Division of Neuroscience, Division of Geriatrics and Clinical Gerontology, and the Division of Behavioral and Social Research. Details about the specific research priorities within each Division are listed in the full NOSI. As part of this announcement, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) will also accept applications for supplements and revisions to existing NIMH grants; these applications should focus on “how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond/adapt to and maintain services or provide additional care for new or worsening mental health needs and/or suicide risk in midlife and older age adults.” Additional details can be found at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-AG-20-022.html>.
- The following table tracks all NOSIs released by NIH Institutes and Centers. This table will be continually updated as additional NOSIs are released.

Notice	Institute	Release Date
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Repurposing Existing Therapeutics to Address the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	3/27/2020
Notice of Special Interest: NIEHS Worker Training Program Coronavirus and Infectious Disease Response Training (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	3/27/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions for Research on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	3/25/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Applications to Address 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Need	NCATS	3/24/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)	NIAID and NIGMS	2/6/2020 Note: Expires 4/8/2020

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 (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?oppld=325751>.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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.
- NSF’s Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on March 5 inviting supplemental funding requests and RAPID proposals for research utilizing data or software approaches to research on COVID-19 related challenges. NSF is also accepting proposals for use of NSF advanced cyberinfrastructure to conduct COVID-19 related research. More information is available <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20055/nsf20055.jsp>.
- NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter on March 4 for 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 the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism. The Dear Colleague Letter is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf>.

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 Air Force announced during a webinar April 2 its intention to issue a COVID-19 focused Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) call for proposals by Saturday, April 4. This CSO call is separate from the Air Force SBIR Direct-to-Phase-2 CSO released earlier this week and the new open solicitation may have rolling deadlines. Information will be posted as soon as it is available 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,” is expanding 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 Air Force currently has an RFI focused on seven specific areas of interest:
 - 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.)
- **NEW:** 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business

Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "HR001120S0019-02."

- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - "Blue-Sky" solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above

The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "AF20R-DCSO1."

- 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 U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking "treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection" and "therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment." MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKlI0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force will be hosting multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held at the following times:
 - Tuesday March 31, 1PM ET
 - Thursday April 2, 1PM ET

Tuesday April 7, 1PM ET

Thursday April 9, 1PM ET

- 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, gloves, 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/>.

- The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) announced the fifth cohort of the Army Expeditionary Technology Search (xTechSearch 5) competition. Executed under the America Competes Act, xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to “uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions.” The Army’s comprehensive list of focus areas can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/xTechSearch-Focus-Areas.pdf>. According to recent reporting, a number of the xTechSearch 4 Semifinalists have presented pitches for emerging biotechnologies and medical innovations to address the coronavirus (COVID-19). Additional details are available at https://breakingdefense.com/2020/03/covid-19-biotech-innovators-pitch-army-rapid-test-kits-more/?utm_campaign=Breaking%20News&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=84958319&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-90AwbifruJYyZuZ6QnEfTkM91a9ntGkyKftnxE4hLeStd06L_xi7uul_nb_x9bOOntdMK&utm_content=84958319&utm_source=hs_email. Examples include diagnostic capability amplification and revolutionary wound treatments for the warfighter. These pitches and their success in the competition reflect the Army’s strong interest in medical technologies addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and indicate that these technologies will be of interest in the xTechSearch5 competition.
 - The xTechSearch competition has four phases, with Application Part I (Concept White Paper) submissions due **March 31, 2020**. White papers that are selected will receive \$5,000 prize and additional monetary prizes will be awarded to select companies as they advance in the competition. Subsequent competition phases include Application Part II (Technology Pitches), the Semifinals, and the Finals.

- Finalists will present their technology solutions and transition plans at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Global Force Symposium and Exposition March 2021, in Huntsville AL. It is expected that the grand prize winner will be selected in March 2021 and will be awarded a \$250,000 prize. All other finalists will receive a \$10,000 prize. More information on xTechSearch, including competition timelines and rules, can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/about.html>.
- As mentioned above, 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 North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) recently announced that Project Vulcan released a **COVID-19 Innovation Challenge** call for "innovative capabilities that addresses the challenges presented by COVID-19, as well as its resulting impacts on public safety and national security processes, systems, and resources." Project Vulcan is a collaboration between Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SOF AT&L), the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the DOD Information Analysis Centers, and the National Defense University" and "incorporates online and offline engagement opportunities to broadly connect SOF operators and acquisition professionals with their counterparts in the high tech community."

Proposed innovations and solutions for COVID-19 will be shared with a "wide network of government personnel" involved with combatting COVID-19. Responses are due as soon as possible and no later than March 31, 2020. NCMBC's announcement and more information on applying can be found at <http://www.ncmbc.us/announcements/new-vulcan-call-covid-19-innovation-challenge-responses-due-31-march/>.

Note: Applicants must fill out a "scout card" summary describing solutions/capabilities. New members of the Vulcan network can request access at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/auth/login?requestedUrl=%2Fhome>.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

The White House

- **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/>.

Other Sources

- 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

Update: World Bank Group (WBG)

- **NEW:** The WBG has launched an 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. More information 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>.

Update: World Health Organization (WHO)

- **NEW:** The WHO initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial called the “Solidarity Study,” as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study is testing four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of care. The innovation in the study is its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. To date, 74 countries have either joined the study or are in the process of joining and 200 patients have been randomly assigned to treatment groups.
- To enable international COVID-19 clinical, epidemiological, and virological research and to facilitate systematic data collection, tabulation, aggregation, and analysis, WHO experts developed standard protocols and forms for early COVID-19 investigations that can be used across different global settings. Further, the WHO is encouraging countries and interested research centers to share data collected using these protocols to enable a global effort to further refine clinical recommendations and inform outbreak-related guidance. More information is available <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>.
- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;

- Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
- Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support international efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](#). The funds raised through this effort will be overseen by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America. This appeal is additional to the [WHO’s Solidarity Response Fund](#), which has already raised funds from both public non-public sources.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world’s poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19. This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.
- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing international support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
 April 6, 2020

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke’s COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak, including new research guidance from various agencies, additional information from the Department of Education on regulatory flexibilities for institutions, two unique funding opportunities from the Department of Defense, the House Science Committee’s recent effort to collect proposals for the next stimulus, and several other updates from across the federal government.

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.

Update: Congressional Update

NEW: House Science Committee Seeks Research and Infrastructure Ideas

On the afternoon of Monday, April 6, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee (HSST) emailed stakeholders requesting feedback as it considers input for future COVID-19 stimulus and relief packages.

Congressional committees are preparing priorities in anticipation of additional opportunities to address near-term impacts and emergency relief related to the pandemic as well as longer-term items that may be addressed once the current crisis period has ended and Congress looks more to recovery. Towards that end, HSST outlined the following categories where the staff are seeking ideas:

- Opportunities for additional R&D and related activities specific to COVID-19 response and recovery, including COVID-related research, COVID-related infrastructure, and COVID-related manufacturing efforts
- Near-term response to COVID impacts on the larger research enterprise, such as needs for supplements, student support, and research facility relief
- “Shovel-Ready” research infrastructure, including agency facility research needs, National Science Foundation (NSF) mid-scale infrastructure projects, other major scientific or research instruments, or national lab modernization
- Long-term economic stimulus/recovery, including funding for new research areas related to economic competitiveness, STEM workforce efforts, and efforts to ensure the long-term health of American manufacturing and supply chains

HSST’s jurisdiction has broad oversight of the research enterprise including NSF, Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Committee also has jurisdiction broadly on STEM education and manufacturing issues. Please note that Committee jurisdiction does not include the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the Department of Defense (DOD) and ideas should not focus on these agencies.

Feedback is requested by Monday, April 13. Note that organizations and institutions should seek to coordinate responses so as not to flood the Committee with ideas. A copy of the email from the Committee with more information and instructions for submitting ideas can be found [here](#).

Congress Monitoring Implementation of the Third Coronavirus Relief Package and Shifting Attention to a Fourth Relief Package

The House and Senate are both on recess until at least April 20 after passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on March 27, enacting the largest emergency relief package in U.S. history. Read Lewis-Burke’s [analysis](#) of the bill.

Now that Congress has finished work on the third stimulus package, attention has turned to a fourth stimulus package. Given the growing public health and economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, the fourth stimulus package will likely focus on immediate needs related to COVID-19 and expand on efforts from the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed into law last week. This includes more funding to aid states, local governments, hospitals, small businesses, and major industries, expanding unemployment benefits, and another round of direct cash payments to individuals. This focus is being driven by the growing infection rate in the United States and the release of new unemployment numbers showing 10 million Americans applying for jobless benefits in the last two weeks. The university and research communities are also actively identifying potential areas for more funding for higher education institutions, further tax relief, and funding to

support research activities and personnel impacted by the pandemic. With the House and Senate out of session until April 20 and the likelihood of extending that recess period into May, the fourth stimulus package would likely not advance and be passed into law for at least another month (or longer).

House Democrats, and in particular House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), have also started discussions about an additional stimulus package which would focus on long-term job growth and economic recovery, including infrastructure investments. Early Democratic planning includes infrastructure investments to help address future public health and other emergencies, such as more resources for community health centers, modernizing the nation's electric grid, and expanding broadband for telemedicine, teleworking, and tele-schooling. Current plans also expand infrastructure investments to more traditional shovel-ready projects that can create jobs to stimulate the economy and address critical needs, such as repairs to roads and bridges, expansion of public transportation, improvements to drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, and accelerating construction of world-leading research facilities. Senate Democrats have also called on individual Senators and Committees to provide infrastructure and other policy ideas for a future package. However, House and Senate Republicans currently oppose these broader investments until the CARES Act and another potential stimulus bill is fully implemented and there is time to evaluate the state of the economy. While President Trump has expressed support for including infrastructure in a future stimulus, it can only advance with bipartisan support, especially in the Senate where 60 votes are needed to advance legislation and Republicans are in the majority. Lewis-Burke is actively working with congressional committees and community partners to identify academic, health, and research infrastructure needs that could receive funding in a future package.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 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 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>.
- 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>.
- ED has announced that the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits of people who are in default on their federal student loans will be paused. A memo has been sent to federal student loan servicers calling for a pause in collections until further notice and makes the policy retroactive to March 13. This retroactive application will likely result in approximately \$1.8 billion being refunded to borrowers. More information is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-directs-fsa-stop-wage-garnishment-collections-actions-student-loan-borrowers-will-refund-more-18-billion-students-families>
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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](https://www.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.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- NIH leadership is emphasizing flexibility and has indicated they will be sending regular updates to the research community through the NIH Extramural Nexus newsletter.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **OLAW Webinar: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The agency has not yet issued guidance for extramural grantees working on mission-critical research, or for grantees who collaborate with intramural researchers on non-mission-critical operations. The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **NEW:** 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>.
- **NEW:** 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.
- CMS has released a recommendation that all adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures be delayed, in order to free up medical equipment, supplies, and personnel: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-releases-recommendations-adult-elective-surgeries-non-essential-medical-surgical-and-dental>.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA issued guidance clarifying approved uses of face masks, N95 respirators, surgical masks, and related products. Additional information available at <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>.

Update: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

- **NEW:** 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 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>.

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 March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.pdf.
- NSF is regularly updating their coronavirus website with FAQs. It is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/.

Update: Department of Energy (DOE)

- **NEW:** 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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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)

- 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 list has been expanded from a March 19 edition in response to community comments, particularly from large industry associations. The new list adds several industrial areas where CISA believes workers should be deemed essential, including specific occupations within electricity and communications and information technology. Several states including Maryland and California have fully adopted the guidance. The updated list can be found at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has 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. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- 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>.
- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised

of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.

- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** 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 of 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 to sustain 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 proof of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line 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.

- 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 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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has released guidance and resources for employers related to workplace safety and COVID-19 prevention at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>.
- The DOL Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has announced additional guidance for employers on the implementation of the new COVID-19 paid leave requirements at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200326>.
- The WHD of DOL has published guidance, fact sheets, and a Q&A document for employers and employees on implementation of the new COVID-19 paid leave requirements at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200324>.
- DOL, along with Department of Treasury, posted an initial notice on the implementation of the payroll tax credit related to new COVID-19 paid leave, as included in the recently passed, *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. Details at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20200320>.
- On March 12, DOL announced flexibility for states to allow unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to be used in cases "where: (1) An employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work; (2) An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and (3) An individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member. In addition, federal law does not require an employee to quit in order to receive benefits due to the impact of COVID-19." Details are available at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200312-0>.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- The VA made publicly available its COVID-19 Response Plan, which had previously been designated as "For Official Use Only," meaning it had only been available to personnel within the VA system. In a press release, the VA notes that it has "shifted some outpatient care to telehealth and some elective and non-emergent procedures have been postponed. It also notes that "VA will begin to implement two zones within all inpatient units: one for dedicated staff and space to care for COVID-19 patients; the second will be a zone for all other care. These overall changes are aimed at minimizing the risk of infection as VA's medical professionals make decisions based on what's appropriate for the given environment and situation." The full plan is available here: https://www.va.gov/opa/docs/VHA_COVID_19_03232020_vF_1.pdf

- With the Senate and House passage of [S. 3503](#), legislation to ensure the continuation of GI Bill benefits use as institutions convert veterans to fully online programming, the VA has announced to School Certifying Officials the agency will continue to make benefit payments with online conversions and students will continue to receive the same monthly housing allowance payments through January 2021 or until the school resumes normal in-person operations. The VA will be hosting upcoming webinars and posting additional information at <https://www.va.gov/school-administrators/>

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

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

Update: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- **NEW:** 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 notes, "NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020." 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>.

Update: National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- **NEW:** 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."

- The NEA Chair statement on the \$75 million in supplemental funding the agency received through the CARES Act for non-profit arts organizations and NEA applicants is at <https://www.arts.gov/news/2020/national-endowment-arts-distribute-75-million-relief-aid-arts-organizations-need>.
- 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, issued by DOS on March 19th, 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 with little advanced notice. More information is available <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>.
 - American overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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) announced it 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://ojidp.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:** The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has released an updated FAQ document providing information beyond the OMB guidance for administrative relief. Among other responses, NIFA is prepared to offer both No-Cost Extensions (NCE) and supplemental funding to researchers whose experiments are disrupted by COVID-19. The document also includes guidance for researchers who would like to submit proposals relevant to COVID-19. The FAQ document is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-20-005-nifa-coronavirus-faqs>. NIFA has also 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - "Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It's now more important than ever to respond

promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.

- The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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>:
 - Proposals due March 19 will be due April 2
 - Proposals due March 26 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 2 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- 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.

The White House

- 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)

- The following table tracks all COVID-19 research related NOSIs released by NIH Institutes and Centers. This table will be continually updated as additional NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released.

Notice	Institute	Release Date
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): National Institute on Aging Availability of Administrative and Revision Supplements on COVID-19	National Institute on Aging (NIA) and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/2/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Repurposing Existing Therapeutics to Address the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	3/27/2020
Notice of Special Interest: NIEHS Worker Training Program Coronavirus and Infectious Disease Response Training (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	3/27/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions for Research on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	3/25/2020

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Applications to Address 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Need	NCATS	3/24/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)	NIAID and NIGMS	2/6/2020 Note: Expires 4/8/2020

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 (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?oppld=325751>.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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.
- NSF’s Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on March 5 inviting supplemental funding requests and RAPID proposals for research utilizing data or software approaches to research on COVID-19 related challenges. NSF is also accepting proposals for use of NSF advanced cyberinfrastructure to conduct COVID-19 related research. More information is available <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20055/nsf20055.jsp>.
- NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter on March 4 for 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 the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism. The Dear Colleague Letter is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf>.

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

- Federal agency partners in the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) are leveraging the existing Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) TechWatch program to engage with industry, academia, and other

stakeholders to accelerate technologies related to the novel coronavirus. Traditionally, TechWatch is a virtual meeting with BARDA scientific, technical, and contracting staff, as well as representatives from other interested federal agencies. For CoronaWatch, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture, among others, will be contacted to participate as relevant and needed. There are specific submission options for therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and other products through CoronaWatch. Additional information on CoronaWatch, as well as submission instructions, are available at: <https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/request-barda-techwatch-meeting/>.

- The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an Easy Broad Agency Announcement (EZ-BAA) on February 5 seeking proposals for the development of novel COVID-19 diagnostics. The solicitation notes that “the diagnostics must utilize platforms already cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with a viable plan to meet requirements for the FDA to consider Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) within 12 weeks of an award.” The solicitation is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/05/hhs-seeks-abstract-submissions-for-2019-ncov-diagnostics-development.html> and the most recent version of the BAA, updated on March 9, is available at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcb5bf981f7/view>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The 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?oppld=326034>.
- **NEW:** The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent Masks

DLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil

by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA's Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.

- The Air Force announced during a webinar April 2 its intention to issue a COVID-19 focused Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) call for proposals by Saturday, April 4. This CSO call is separate from the Air Force SBIR Direct-to-Phase-2 CSO released earlier this week and the new open solicitation may have rolling deadlines. Information will be posted as soon as it is available 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," is expanding 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 Air Force currently has an RFI focused on seven specific areas of interest:
 - 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.)
- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "HR001120S0019-02."
- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the

ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:

- Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
- Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
- Technologies to enable telework at scale
- Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
- New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
- “Blue-Sky” solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above

The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “AF20R-DCSO1.”

- 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 U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are

due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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 will be hosting multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held at the following times:
 - Tuesday March 31, 1PM ET
 - Thursday April 2, 1PM ET
 - Tuesday April 7, 1PM ET
 - Thursday April 9, 1PM ET
- 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/>.

- The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) announced the fifth cohort of the Army Expeditionary Technology Search (xTechSearch 5) competition. Executed under the America Competes Act, xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to “uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions.” The Army’s comprehensive list of focus areas can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/xTechSearch-Focus-Areas.pdf>. According to recent reporting, a number of the xTechSearch 4 Semifinalists have presented pitches for emerging biotechnologies and medical innovations to address the coronavirus (COVID-19). Additional details are available at https://breakingdefense.com/2020/03/covid-19-biotech-innovators-pitch-army-rapid-test-kits-more/?utm_campaign=Breaking%20News&utm_medium=email&hsmi=84958319&hsenc=p2ANqtz-90AwbifruJYyZuZ6QnEfTkM91a9ntGkyKftnxE4hLeStd06L_xi7uul_nb_x9b0OontdMK&utm_content=84958319&utm_source=hs_email. Examples include diagnostic capability amplification and revolutionary wound treatments for the warfighter. These pitches and their success in the competition reflect the Army’s strong interest in medical technologies addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and indicate that these technologies will be of interest in the xTechSearch5 competition.
 - The xTechSearch competition has four phases, with Application Part I (Concept White Paper) submissions due **March 31, 2020**. White papers that are selected will receive \$5,000 prize and additional monetary prizes will be awarded to select companies as they advance in the competition. Subsequent competition phases include Application Part II (Technology Pitches), the Semifinals, and the Finals.
 - Finalists will present their technology solutions and transition plans at the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) Global Force Symposium and Exposition March 2021, in Huntsville AL. It is expected that the grand prize winner will be selected in March 2021 and will be awarded a \$250,000 prize. All other finalists will receive a \$10,000 prize. More information on xTechSearch, including competition timelines and rules, can be found at <https://www.arl.army.mil/xtechsearch/about.html>.
- As mentioned above, 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 North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) recently announced that Project Vulcan released a **COVID-19 Innovation Challenge** call for “innovative capabilities that addresses the challenges presented by COVID-19, as well as its resulting impacts on public safety and national security processes, systems, and resources.” Project Vulcan is a collaboration between Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SOF AT&L), the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the DOD Information Analysis Centers, and the National Defense University” and “incorporates online and offline engagement opportunities to broadly connect SOF operators and acquisition professionals with their counterparts in the high tech community.”

Proposed innovations and solutions for COVID-19 will be shared with a “wide network of government personnel” involved with combatting COVID-19. Responses are due as soon as possible and no later than March 31, 2020. NCMBC’s announcement and more information on applying can be found at <http://www.ncmbc.us/announcements/new-vulcan-call-covid-19-innovation-challenge-responses-due-31-march/>.

Note: Applicants must fill out a “scout card” summary describing solutions/capabilities. New members of the Vulcan network can request access at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/auth/login?requestedUrl=%2Fhome>.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affect by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

The White House

- **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/>.

Other Sources

- 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

World Bank Group (WBG)

- The WBG has launched an 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. More information 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>.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial called the “Solidarity Study,” as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study is testing four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of care. The innovation in the study is its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. To date, 74 countries have either joined the study or are in the process of joining and 200 patients have been randomly assigned to treatment groups.
- To enable international COVID-19 clinical, epidemiological, and virological research and to facilitate systematic data collection, tabulation, aggregation, and analysis, WHO experts developed standard protocols and forms for early COVID-19 investigations that can be used across different global settings. Further, the WHO is encouraging countries and interested research centers to share data collected using these protocols to enable a global effort to further refine clinical recommendations and inform outbreak-related guidance. More information is available <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>.
- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support international efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](#). The funds raised through this

effort will be overseen by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America. This appeal is additional to the [WHO's Solidarity Response Fund](#), which has already raised funds from both public non-public sources.

- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world's poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19. This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.
- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing international support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
 April 8, 2020

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke’s COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak, including Congressional discussions on an interim emergency relief package, new research guidance from various agencies, recommendations from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, funding directions from the National Endowment for the Arts, new opportunities to engage with the Department of Defense, and multiple additional updates from across the federal government.

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.

Update: Congressional Update

NEW: Congressional Leaders Discuss Interim Emergency Relief Package as Committees Set Priorities for Larger Stimulus Legislation

Prompted by a White House request for an additional \$251 billion to support loan programs at the Small Business Administration (SBA), Democratic and Republican leaders have started posturing this week for a near-term “Interim Emergency Coronavirus Relief” package that could be passed quickly to provide additional support for ailing communities. Although Congress is on recess through April 20 after passing the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act on March 27, Senate Republican leadership was considering using a pro forma session on April 9 to quickly move the new legislation supporting the White House’s request to supplement the already oversubscribed \$349 billion in SBA loans under the CARES Act without having to bring all 100 Senators back to Washington. The House could have followed suit with the potential to pass the bill this week, but those plans may be sidelined by new demands from Democratic leaders for a more expansive interim package that could bring another partisan debate over next steps.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) released a [statement](#) of demands on April 8 calling for \$250 billion for small business loans with a set-aside of \$125 billion for community-based financial institutions and unspecified improvements to ensure access for all eligible small businesses. In addition, the statement requested \$100 billion more for hospitals and healthcare providers for resources such as testing kits and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); \$150 billion for states and local governments to mitigate costs; and a 15 percent increase to the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit. The statement notes that this package would be considered “interim,” and Democratic leaders intend to consider future legislation for additional benefits and relief funding. These demands complicate the possibility of any bill being passed by unanimous consent this week, as Senator Schumer or another Democrat could object to the motion if these additional provisions are not included.

As House and Senate leadership negotiate an interim measure to complement the CARES Act, congressional committees continue the process of setting priorities for more comprehensive stimulus legislation to provide funding for other institutions impacted by COVID-19 and potential investments in infrastructure and innovation. Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA), Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said during a press briefing on April 7 that the committee might seek additional funding for the military to produce coronavirus test kits and equipment and additional aid for defense contractors, particularly through advance payments on contracts and provisions focused on leveraging the capabilities of small- and medium-sized manufacturers and other businesses. Lewis-Burke continues to engage various congressional committees to determine their processes for obtaining input for future stimulus bills.

Read Lewis-Burke’s [analysis](#) of the CARES Act.

House Science Committee Seeks Research and Infrastructure Ideas

On the afternoon of Monday, April 6, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee (HSST) emailed stakeholders requesting feedback as it considers input for future COVID-19 stimulus and relief packages.

Congressional committees are preparing priorities in anticipation of additional opportunities to address near-term impacts and emergency relief related to the pandemic as well as longer-term items that may be addressed once the current crisis period has ended and Congress looks more to recovery. Towards that end, HSST outlined the following categories where the staff are seeking ideas:

- Opportunities for additional R&D and related activities specific to COVID-19 response and recovery, including COVID-related research, COVID-related infrastructure, and COVID-related manufacturing efforts
- Near-term response to COVID impacts on the larger research enterprise, such as needs for supplements, student support, and research facility relief
- “Shovel-Ready” research infrastructure, including agency facility research needs, National Science Foundation (NSF) mid-scale infrastructure projects, other major scientific or research instruments, or national lab modernization
- Long-term economic stimulus/recovery, including funding for new research areas related to economic competitiveness, STEM workforce efforts, and efforts to ensure the long-term health of American manufacturing and supply chains

HSST’s jurisdiction has broad oversight of the research enterprise including NSF, Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Committee also has jurisdiction broadly on STEM education and manufacturing issues. Please note that Committee jurisdiction does not include the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the Department of Defense (DOD) and ideas should not focus on these agencies.

Feedback is requested by Monday, April 13. Note that organizations and institutions should seek to coordinate responses so as not to flood the Committee with ideas. A copy of the email from the Committee with more information and instructions for submitting ideas can be found [here](#).

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 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 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-undercores-need-department-educations-proposed-distance-learning-rules](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>.
- 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>.
- ED has announced that the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits of people who are in default on their federal student loans will be paused. A memo has been sent to federal student loan servicers calling for a pause in collections until further notice and makes the policy retroactive to March 13. This retroactive application will likely result in approximately \$1.8 billion being refunded to borrowers. More information is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-directs-fsa-stop-wage-garnishment-collections-actions-student-loan-borrowers-will-refund-more-18-billion-students-families>
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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](https://www.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.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- NIH leadership is emphasizing flexibility and has indicated they will be sending regular updates to the research community through the NIH Extramural Nexus newsletter.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **OLAW Webinar: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The agency has not yet issued guidance for extramural grantees working on mission-critical research, or for grantees who collaborate with intramural researchers on non-mission-critical operations. The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **NEW:** CMS updated recommendations on delay of adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA issued guidance clarifying approved uses of face masks, N95 respirators, surgical masks, and related products. Additional information available at <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 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>.

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 April 9, the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) will offer virtual office hours “to share information about NSF’s current operations and provide guidance to the earth sciences community. This will also allow the community to ask questions, share concerns, or offer suggestions on how EAR can do more to address the impact of COVID-19 on the research community.” Office hours were held April 8 and will be offered April 9 from 11 AM to Noon (ET). More information is available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300338&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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)

- 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 list has been expanded from a March 19 edition in response to community comments, particularly from large industry associations. The new list adds several industrial areas where CISA believes workers should be deemed essential, including specific occupations within electricity and communications and information technology. Several states including Maryland and California have fully adopted the guidance. The updated list can be found at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has 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. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- 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>.
- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.
- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of>.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- 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 of 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 to sustain 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 proof of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line 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.
- 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 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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has released guidance and resources for employers related to workplace safety and COVID-19 prevention at <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>.
- The DOL Wage and Hour Division (WHD) has announced additional guidance for employers on the implementation of the new COVID-19 paid leave requirements at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200326>.
- The WHD of DOL has published guidance, fact sheets, and a Q&A document for employers and employees on implementation of the new COVID-19 paid leave requirements at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/whd/whd20200324>.
- DOL, along with Department of Treasury, posted an initial notice on the implementation of the payroll tax credit related to new COVID-19 paid leave, as included in the recently passed, *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*. Details at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20200320>.
- On March 12, DOL announced flexibility for states to allow unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to be used in cases “where: (1) An employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work; (2) An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and (3) An individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member. In addition, federal law does not require an employee to quit in order to receive benefits due to the impact of COVID-19.” Details are available at <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200312-0>.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

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

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

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

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 notes, “NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the

coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020.” 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>.

Update: National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- **NEW:** 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, issued by DOS on March 19th, 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 with little advanced notice. More information is available <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>.
 - American overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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) announced it 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)

- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) released an updated FAQ document providing information beyond the OMB guidance for administrative relief. The updated FAQ document is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs-04082020.pdf>
- 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and

regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.

- National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It's now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, accounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
- The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access."
- 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>:
 - Proposals due March 19 will be due April 2
 - Proposals due March 26 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 2 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- 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.

The White House

- 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)

- The following table tracks all COVID-19 research related NOSIs released by NIH Institutes and Centers. This table will be continually updated as additional NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released.

Notice	Institute	Release Date
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): National Institute on Aging Availability of Administrative and Revision Supplements on COVID-19	National Institute on Aging (NIA) and National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/2/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Repurposing Existing Therapeutics to Address the 2019 Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	3/27/2020
Notice of Special Interest: NIEHS Worker Training	National Institute of	3/27/2020

Program Coronavirus and Infectious Disease Response Training (Admin Supp Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Emergency Competitive Revisions for Research on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)	National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	3/25/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Program Applications to Address 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Public Health Need	NCATS	3/24/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus	National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): Availability of Administrative Supplements and Revision Supplements on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) See also these FAQs on Notice HL-20-757; posted April 8	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020
Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) regarding the Availability of Urgent Competitive Revisions for Research on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)	NIAID and NIGMS	2/6/2020 Note: Expires 4/8/2020

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 (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?oppld=325751>.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **NEW:** 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.

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

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

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) established a Commercial Solution Opening (CSO) April 6 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 future 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. The Air Force will announce the initial Area of Interest for solution brief submissions in the next few days but expects to focus first on “Combating the Spread,” according to an Air Force webinar held April 7. 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. 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." 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.

- **NEW:** The Army [xTechSearch](#) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking "low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]" to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to "uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions." According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. "Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application," according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid_vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.
- 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?oppld=326034>.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent Masks

DLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA's Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.

- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "HR001120S0019-02."
- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling

- Technologies to enable telework at scale
- Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
- New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
- “Blue-Sky” solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above

The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “AF20R-DCSO1.”

- 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 U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKlI0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting multiple webinars 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 and will be held Thursday April 9 at 1PM ET.
- 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 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

The White House

- **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/>.

Other Sources

- 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

Update: UN-Water

- **NEW:** 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 10,000 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 launched an 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. More information 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>.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial called the “Solidarity Study,” as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study is testing four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of care. The innovation in the study is its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. To date, 74 countries have either joined the study or are in the process of joining and 200 patients have been randomly assigned to treatment groups.
- To enable international COVID-19 clinical, epidemiological, and virological research and to facilitate systematic data collection, tabulation, aggregation, and analysis, WHO experts developed standard protocols and forms for early COVID-19 investigations that can be used across different global settings. Further, the WHO is encouraging countries and interested research centers to share data collected using these protocols to enable a global effort to further refine clinical recommendations and inform outbreak-related guidance. More information is available <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>.
- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

Update: International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support international efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- **NEW:** WHO, Lady Gaga, and Global Citizen are putting on a concert on Saturday, April 18 titled “One World: Together at home.” This globally televised and streamed special will raise funds for

the COVID-19 response via the [WHO's Solidarity Response Fund](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic). More information is available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic>.

- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](#). The funds raised through this effort will be overseen by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world's poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19. This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.
- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing international support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
 April 10, 2020

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke’s COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak, including several new NIH opportunities, an overview of CARES Emergency Student Funding, a congressional update on stimulus legislation, and other federal agency guidance and opportunities to engage.

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.

Agency Updates

NEW: Department of Education to Release CARES Emergency Student Funding

The U.S. Department of Education (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. Of the amount allocated to an institution, at least 50 percent must be reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. The April 9 announcement of available grant funding focuses only on the grant portion to be distributed directly to students, with ED noting, "Institutions will receive allocations and guidance for the institutional share of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the coming weeks." Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos has stated that student grant funds should support students who need it most and the importance of ensuring that unmet financial needs due to the coronavirus do not derail student learning.

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." During a higher education stakeholder call on April 9, ED provided additional details noting that to receive funds, institutions must download a certification document, review the document, have a campus leader sign, and submit through www.grants.gov. Submission of a certification form will trigger a release of funds in ED's grants management system, G5. Funds will be available for draw down in 24-72 hours, starting Wednesday, April 15. 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). The certification form also states that institutions "should be mindful of each student's particular socioeconomic circumstances in the staging and administration of these grants."

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. ED intends to hold a follow-up call, which will address questions about the institutional portion. Many institutions have noted that the current www.grants.gov system was not appropriately set up for the certification forms to be uploaded. At the time of this writing, ED has provided limited guidance and has noted the technical challenges they are having with www.grants.gov. When completing the certification form institutions should list only the allocation for the emergency student amount. ED has communicated that a "wet signature" is not necessary and the form can be completed by someone who has authority to receive funding on behalf of the institution. 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>.

NEW: HHS Begins Disbursing Provider Relief Payments

The Department of Health and Human Services (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). Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, which will be available starting next week at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html>.

This funding represents the first disbursement of a total \$100 billion for provider relief included in the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act*. HHS has stated that in allocating the remaining \$70 billion, the focus is on targeting distribution towards providers in areas particularly impacted by COVID-19, providers in rural areas, providers with lower shares of Medicare reimbursements (such as children's hospitals), providers who primarily serve the Medicaid population, and providers requesting reimbursement for treatment of uninsured individuals.

While official funding amounts for each provider are not being released, providers can estimate their payments by multiplying their 2019 Medicare FFS reimbursements by 0.062 (the approximate ratio of available funding to total 2019 Medicare FFS reimbursement made).

Congressional Updates

NEW: Interim Support Package Stalls as Members Continue to Set Priorities for Larger Stimulus Legislation

Democratic lawmakers blocked an attempt by Senate Republican leadership on April 9 to quickly pass stopgap legislation to fulfill a White House request for an additional \$251 billion to support Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Negotiations between leadership camps on an interim package to bolster support for programs funded in the CARES Act are expected to continue, as individual Members and committees set priorities for more comprehensive stimulus legislation.

Although House and Senate leadership from both parties concur that there should be more support for SBA loans covered in the CARES Act before moving on to more mid- and long-term stimulus legislation, the proposed interim packaged failed due to disagreements over the urgency and scope of the proposal. Republican leaders have called for an immediate infusion of support to SBA loans they believe are rapidly depleting, while Democrats believe enough funding remains in the loan accounts to allow time for congressional leaders to further negotiate potential fixes to the programs that would complement additional funding and that an interim package should also include support for hospitals, local governments, and food supplements. Additionally, on a conference call held yesterday with several Chiefs of Staff for progressive House members, participants stated that Democrats are pushing for tweaks to the SBA affiliation rules for businesses with over 500 employees to allow for more flexibility to

access loans and to expand provisions to 501(c)6 and 501(c)7 organizations. It is uncertain if these changes could appear as part of upcoming stopgap legislation or a longer-term stimulus bill. Leaders from both parties indicated a willingness to further negotiate an interim measure that could be passed using procedures that do not necessitate members returning to Washington during the ongoing recess period.

While House and Senate leadership work on resolving near-term additions for CARES Act programs, individual Members, caucuses, and committees continue the process of setting priorities for future stimulus legislation to provide funding for other institutions impacted by COVID-19 and potential investments in infrastructure and innovation. On the conference call with Democratic Chiefs of Staff, participants further stated that there are three primary areas of focus: healthcare affordability and availability; SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans; and funding for a national tracking and diagnostic system for COVID-19 management and containment. The staff also forecasted that Democrats plan to unveil their infrastructure package in May.

Separately, leaders from several House Committees sent a [letter](#) to President Trump on April 8 expressing “deep concern” that four weeks after the COVID-19 pandemic was declared a national emergency, “we still lack a coherent strategy and the level of tactical contracting that leverages all federal agencies’ ability to tap into their existing networks to fully assess and utilize” the commercial sector and researchers. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA), House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ), and House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS) urged the President to use every available federal authority, including emergency contracting procedures, to hasten the delivery of medical supplies and testing to communities. They encouraged the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to use contracting expertise and manpower at the Department of Defense (DOD) and other federal agencies to award targeted contracts and provide other incentives to get companies to produce medical supplies.

Similarly, Rep. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI) introduced this week the “Made in America Medical Supply Chain Initiative,” a three-bill package that would leverage the resources of U.S. manufacturers and the DOD to improve domestic manufacturing capacity for critical medical items and reduce reliance on foreign sources; shift management of the Strategic National Stockpile to the Defense Logistics Agency; and create a repository of FDA-approved plans and specs for improvised manufacturing of critical items that could be made by non-traditional companies and universities during a crisis. Rep. Slotkin intends for the bills to be included in the next round of emergency COVID-19 legislation.

Read Lewis-Burke’s [analysis](#) of the CARES Act.

House Science Committee Seeks Research and Infrastructure Ideas

On the afternoon of Monday, April 6, the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee (HSST) emailed stakeholders requesting feedback as it considers input for future COVID-19 stimulus and relief packages.

Congressional committees are preparing priorities in anticipation of additional opportunities to address near-term impacts and emergency relief related to the pandemic as well as longer-term items that may be addressed once the current crisis period has ended and Congress looks more to recovery. Towards that end, HSST outlined the following categories where the staff are seeking ideas:

- Opportunities for additional R&D and related activities specific to COVID-19 response and recovery, including COVID-related research, COVID-related infrastructure, and COVID-related manufacturing efforts
- Near-term response to COVID impacts on the larger research enterprise, such as needs for supplements, student support, and research facility relief
- “Shovel-Ready” research infrastructure, including agency facility research needs, National Science Foundation (NSF) mid-scale infrastructure projects, other major scientific or research instruments, or national lab modernization
- Long-term economic stimulus/recovery, including funding for new research areas related to economic competitiveness, STEM workforce efforts, and efforts to ensure the long-term health of American manufacturing and supply chains

HSST’s jurisdiction has broad oversight of the research enterprise including NSF, Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Committee also has jurisdiction broadly on STEM education and manufacturing issues. Please note that Committee jurisdiction does not include the National Institutes of Health (NIH) or the Department of Defense (DOD) and ideas should not focus on these agencies.

Feedback is requested by Monday, April 13. Note that organizations and institutions should seek to coordinate responses so as not to flood the Committee with ideas. A copy of the email from the Committee with more information and instructions for submitting ideas can be found [here](#).

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Update: Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- **NEW:** 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 April 9, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) announced 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. A letter from ED to institutions, the certification form, institutional allotments, and the methodology for calculating allocations is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/caresact.html>.
- The CARES Act grant funding letter and other information on this announcement 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>.
- 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>.

- ED has announced that the garnishment of wages, tax refunds, and Social Security benefits of people who are in default on their federal student loans will be paused. A memo has been sent to federal student loan servicers calling for a pause in collections until further notice and makes the policy retroactive to March 13. This retroactive application will likely result in approximately \$1.8 billion being refunded to borrowers. More information is available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/secretary-devos-directs-fsa-stop-wage-garnishment-collections-actions-student-loan-borrowers-will-refund-more-18-billion-students-families>
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **OLAW Webinar: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS updated recommendations on delay of adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the

advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

Update: Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- **NEW:** 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 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>.

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 April 9, the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) will offer virtual office hours "to share information about NSF's current operations and provide

guidance to the earth sciences community. This will also allow the community to ask questions, share concerns, or offer suggestions on how EAR can do more to address the impact of COVID-19 on the research community.” Office hours were held April 8 and will be offered April 9 from 11 AM to Noon (ET). More information is available at

https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300338&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.

- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdoba released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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)

- 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 list has been expanded from a March 19 edition in response to community comments, particularly from large industry associations. The new list adds several industrial areas where CISA believes workers should be deemed essential, including specific occupations

within electricity and communications and information technology. Several states including Maryland and California have fully adopted the guidance. The updated list can be found at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf.

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has 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. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- 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>.
- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.
- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** 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.
- **NEW:** 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 of 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 to sustain 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 proof of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line 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.
 - 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 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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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>.
- 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.

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 notes, “NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020.” 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, issued by DOS on March 19th, 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 with little advanced notice. More information is available <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>.

- American overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
- International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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) announced it 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://ojdp.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:** The National Institute of Food and Agriculture 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#>
- **NEW:** The Director of NIFA, Dr. Scott Angle will host a webinar on April 16 from 2-3 PM EST to address COVID-19 efforts. Registration is at: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TfPIX6X9Q2SHTnRQrCO6TA?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=. Any questions can be submitted to Dr. Angle's Chief of Staff, Bill Hoffman at whoffman4@usda.gov.
- NIFA released an updated FAQ document providing information beyond the OMB guidance for administrative relief. The updated FAQ document is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs-04082020.pdf>
- 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - "Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of COVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It's now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access."

- 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>:
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- 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.

Update: Internal Revenue Service (IRS)

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

- 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: 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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/10/2020	Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”	NOT-CA-20-042
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National	4/10/2020	Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address	NOT-AT-20-011

Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)		recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”	
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	4/10/2020	Supplements and 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.”	Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008 New R01, R21, R03 grants: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	4/10/2020	“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”	NOT-GM-20-027
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	4/9/2020	Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; the role that community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	NOT-MD-20-019
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in	NOT-CA-20-043

		cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	NOT-TR-20-016
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-015
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function, the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	NOT-DK-20-018
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD's scientific mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	NOT-DC-20-004
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	Projects on "mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic."	NOT-AG-20-022
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
NCATS	3/27/2020	"Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial."	NOT-TR-20-012

NIEHS	3/27/2020	“Provide support for the conduct of worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties” through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP).	NOT-ES-20-017
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	“Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.”	NOT-AI-20-034
NIGMS	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates “data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents.”	NOT-GM-20-025
NCATS	3/24/2020	“Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.”	NOT-TR-20-011
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	“Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.”	NOT-DA-20-047
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)

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?oppld=325751>.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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.

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

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

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326173>.
- **NEW:** The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

Initial responses are due **April 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT** but DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after this 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) established a Commercial Solution Opening (CSO) April 6 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 future 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. The Air Force will announce the initial Area of Interest for solution brief submissions in the next few days but expects to focus first on “Combating the Spread,” according to an Air Force webinar held April 7. 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. 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.” 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 Army [xTechSearch](#) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking “low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]” to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to “uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions.” According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. “Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application,” according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid_vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.
- 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?oppld=326034>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent MasksDLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA’s Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.

- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "HR001120S0019-02."
- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - "Blue-Sky" solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas aboveThe solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "AF20R-DCSO1."
- 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 U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." The program is focused on

preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at

https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKlI0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held Thursday April 9 at 1PM ET.
- 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, gloves, 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 telehealthLewis-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 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=2A142317F56F185FC3E2CEF0AED6CACB3E70C7F>.

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

The White House

- **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/>.

Other Sources

- 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 10,000 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 launched an 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. More information 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>.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial called the “Solidarity Study,” as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study is testing four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of

care. The innovation in the study is its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. To date, 74 countries have either joined the study or are in the process of joining and 200 patients have been randomly assigned to treatment groups.

- To enable international COVID-19 clinical, epidemiological, and virological research and to facilitate systematic data collection, tabulation, aggregation, and analysis, WHO experts developed standard protocols and forms for early COVID-19 investigations that can be used across different global settings. Further, the WHO is encouraging countries and interested research centers to share data collected using these protocols to enable a global effort to further refine clinical recommendations and inform outbreak-related guidance. More information is available <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance/early-investigations>.
- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support international efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- WHO, Lady Gaga, and Global Citizen are putting on a concert on Saturday, April 18 titled “One World: Together at home.” This globally televised and streamed special will raise funds for the COVID-19 response via the [WHO’s Solidarity Response Fund](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic). More information is available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic>.
- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](https://www.un.org/en/press/docs/2020/04/20200414.un.international-appeal.html). The funds raised through this effort will be overseen by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world’s poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19. This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.

- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing international support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
 April 13, 2020

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke’s COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak, including an update on NSF RAPID Awards, information about access to the Emergency Financial Aid Grants, a USDA Rural Resource Guide, a congressional update on stimulus legislation, and other federal agency guidance and opportunities to engage.

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 Updates

NEW: No Progress Made on Interim Support Package as Members Continue to Set Priorities for Larger Stimulus Legislation

As reported last week, Democratic lawmakers blocked an attempt by Senate Republican leadership on April 9 to quickly pass stopgap legislation to fulfill a White House request for an additional \$251 billion to support Small Business Administration (SBA) loan programs created by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. The Democrats' objection cited the need for fixes to the programs and additional funding for hospitals, local governments, and food supplements (these demands were reiterated in a [statement from Democratic leadership on April 13](#)). Pressure will continue to mount for Congress to act as projections show the popular SBA loan programs could run out of funding as early as this week. Even if there is a midweek deal, there needs to be unanimous support from lawmakers to quickly advance a measure. If an objection is raised, it could trigger members needing to return from recess to Washington, which leadership is seeking to prevent. Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor the ongoing discussion over interim relief legislation.

Negotiations between leadership on an interim package to bolster programs funded in the CARES Act are expected to continue, as individual Members and committees set priorities for more comprehensive stimulus legislation.

Read Lewis-Burke's [analysis](#) of the CARES Act for additional information on the most recent stimulus effort.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 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:** Institutions should now be able to upload the “Certificate of Agreement” needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 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?oppld=326222>.
- The U.S. Department of Education (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. Of the amount allocated to an institution, at least 50 percent must be reserved to provide students with emergency financial aid grants. The April 9 announcement of available grant funding focuses only on the grant portion to be distributed directly to students, with ED noting, “Institutions will receive allocations and guidance for the institutional share of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the coming weeks.” 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. Funds will be available for draw down in 24-72 hours, starting Wednesday, April 15. 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>.
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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](https://www.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.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **OLAW Webinar: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- 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). Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS’ terms and conditions, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html>.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- CMS updated recommendations on delay of adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

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 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>.

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 April 9, the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) will offer virtual office hours “to share information about NSF’s current operations and provide guidance to the earth sciences community. This will also allow the community to ask questions, share concerns, or offer suggestions on how EAR can do more to address the impact of COVID-19 on the research community.” Office hours were held April 8 and will be offered April 9 from 11 AM to Noon (ET). More information is available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300338&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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)

- 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 list has been expanded from a March 19 edition in response to community comments, particularly from large industry associations. The new list adds several industrial areas where CISA believes workers should be deemed essential, including specific occupations within electricity and communications and information technology. Several states including Maryland and California have fully adopted the guidance. The updated list can be found at https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has 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. Please visit uscis.gov/coronavirus for latest facts and other USCIS updates.
- 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/doelib/sevis/pdf/bcm2003-01.pdf>.
- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.
- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** 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.acg.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 of 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 to sustain 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 honestly, of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line 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.
- 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 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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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>.
- 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.

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 notes, "NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020." 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.ims.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.ims.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-ims-library-services-grants>

Department of State (DOS)

- The level 4 travel advisory, issued by DOS on March 19th, 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 with little advanced notice. More information is available <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-4-health-advisory-issue.html>.
 - American overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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) announced it 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://ojdp.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 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.
- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture 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#>
- The Director of NIFA, Dr. Scott Angle will host a webinar on April 16 from 2-3 PM EST to address COVID-19 efforts. Registration is at: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TfPIX6X9Q2SHTnRQrCO6TA?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=. Any questions can be submitted to Dr. Angle's Chief of Staff, Bill Hoffman at whoffman4@usda.gov.
- NIFA released an updated FAQ document providing information beyond the OMB guidance for administrative relief. The updated FAQ document is available at

<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs-04082020.pdf>

- 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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>:
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- 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 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

- 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)

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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/10/2020	Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”	NOT-CA-20-042
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/10/2020	Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”	NOT-AT-20-011
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	4/10/2020	Supplements and 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.”	Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008 New R01, R21, R03 grants: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	4/10/2020	“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive	NOT-GM-20-027

		models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”	
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	4/9/2020	Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; the role that community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	NOT-MD-20-019
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	NOT-CA-20-043
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	NOT-TR-20-016
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020

NIDDK	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function, the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	NOT-DK-20-018
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD’s scientific mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	NOT-DC-20-004
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	Projects on “mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-AG-20-022
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
NCATS	3/27/2020	“Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial.”	NOT-TR-20-012
NIEHS	3/27/2020	“Provide support for the conduct of worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties” through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP).	NOT-ES-20-017
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	“Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.”	NOT-AI-20-034
NIGMS	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates “data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents.”	NOT-GM-20-025

NCATS	3/24/2020	“Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.”	NOT-TR-20-011
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	“Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.”	NOT-DA-20-047
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)

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?oppld=325751>.

Update: National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **NEW:** NSF has started announcing the Coronavirus RAPID Awards: <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.

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)

- 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326173>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

Initial responses are due **April 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT** but DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after this 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) established a Commercial Solution Opening (CSO) April 6 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 future 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. The Air Force will announce the initial Area of Interest for solution brief submissions in the next few days but expects to focus first on “Combating the Spread,”

according to an Air Force webinar held April 7. 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. 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." 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 Army [xTechSearch](#) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking "low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]" to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to "uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions." According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. "Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application," according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at

https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid_vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.

- 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?oppld=326034>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent MasksDLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA’s Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.
- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM**

ET. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “HR001120S0019-02.”

- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - “Blue-Sky” solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above

The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “AF20R-DCSO1.”

- 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 U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-

19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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 multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held Thursday April 9 at 1PM ET.
- 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 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

The White House

- **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/>.

Other Sources

- 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 10,000 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/>.

Update: World Bank Group (WBG)

- **NEW:** The WBG launched an 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. More information 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/>.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world’s poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19. This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.

Update: World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial called the “Solidarity Study,” as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study is testing four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of care. The innovation in the study is its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. To date, 74 countries have either joined the study

or are in the process of joining and 200 patients have been randomly assigned to treatment groups.

- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>;
 - **NEW:** Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 Vaccines. See: https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO_Target_Product_Profiles_for_COVID-19_web.pdf.

International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support International efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- WHO, Lady Gaga, and Global Citizen are putting on a concert on Saturday, April 18 titled “One World: Together at home.” This globally televised and streamed special will raise funds for the COVID-19 response via the [WHO’s Solidarity Response Fund](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic). More information is available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic>.
- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](#). The funds raised through this effort will be overseen by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America.
- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing internationals support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

April 15, 2020

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke’s COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak, including an OMB guidance to departments and agencies on how to distribute and rapidly execute supplemental funding and economic relief mechanisms, availability of the Department of Education’s Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funds, CMS’s announcement to further support high-production COVID-19 lab tests, a congressional update on extending recess and expanding eligibility for the Main Street Lending program, and other federal agency guidance and opportunities to engage.

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 Updates

Congressional Recess Extended as Stalemate Continues Over CARES Act Supplemental

NEW: Congressional leaders have announced that the ongoing recess period will be extended with Members now expected to reconvene on May 4 at the earliest. The extended recess has led to increased calls for the implementation of new capabilities that would allow Members to do their jobs remotely. While leadership from both parties have been resistant to remote voting and other measures, some Members of the House have gotten approval to introduce bills remotely, and the House Rules Committee has been collecting ideas for virtual committee hearings. While leadership remains opposed to remote voting, pressure will likely continue to mount for passage of measures to provide supplemental funding for depleting small business loan programs created by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. Some estimates show the popular loan programs could run out of funds as soon as Friday.

Senate Republican leadership have attempted to introduce relief legislation for the small business loans under unanimous consent, the procedure currently being used during social distancing that allows legislation to pass if there are no formal objections. Republicans have indicated that they could again try to advance a stand-alone bill through unanimous consent during a pro-forma session on Thursday, but Democratic leadership have remained opposed to the bill as introduced without additional fixes to the programs and additional funding for hospitals, local governments, and food supplements. It only takes a single Member to object for a bill to fail under unanimous consent, and without a deal among leadership, Democrats will likely evoke this mechanism as they had during the Senate's pro forma session last week.

Read Lewis-Burke's [analysis](#) of the CARES Act for additional information on the most recent stimulus effort.

Speaker Pelosi Proposes Opening Lending Program to Non-Profits and Universities

NEW: U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is also leading a congressional effort to persuade the Federal Reserve to open up the new Main Street Lending program eligibility to nonprofits and institutions of higher education. The program, which received funding under the CARES Act, will soon be offering four-year loans to small and mid-sized businesses (under 10,000 employees or less than \$2.5 billion in revenue). The Federal Reserve is [accepting](#) public comments on how to implement the program through April 16.

Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor these developments, as well as the congressional debate over remote work.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Update: Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- **NEW:** 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. 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 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 now 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/>.

- **NEW:** 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.
- Institutions should now be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 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?oppld=326222>.
- 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. The April 9 announcement of available grant funding focuses only on the grant portion to be distributed directly to students, with ED noting, "Institutions will receive allocations and guidance for the institutional share of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the coming weeks." 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>.
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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](https://www.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.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **OLAW Webinar: Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/education/educational-resources/webinar-2020-03-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- 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). Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS’ terms and conditions, available at <https://www.hhs.gov/provider-relief/index.html>.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **NEW:** 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 updated recommendations on delay of adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

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 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>.

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 April 9, the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) will offer virtual office hours “to share information about NSF’s current operations and provide guidance to the earth sciences community. This will also allow the community to ask questions, share concerns, or offer suggestions on how EAR can do more to address the impact of COVID-19 on the research community.” Office hours were held April 8 and will be offered April 9 from 11 AM to Noon (ET). More information is available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300338&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.

- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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) 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:
 - **NEW:** USCIS affirms it has flexibility to excuse a nonimmigrant's failure to file an extension of stay (EOS) or change of status (COS) application if the delay was due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on their special situations page, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>. Nonetheless, USCIS encourages all nonimmigrants to file timely EOS and COS applications and petitions to mitigate the immigration consequences of COVID-19, which they continue to accept and process.
 - **NEW:** 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](#).

- 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 list has been expanded from a March 19 edition in response to community comments, particularly from large industry associations. The new list adds several industrial areas where CISA believes workers should be deemed essential, including specific occupations within electricity and communications and information technology. Several states including Maryland and California have fully adopted the guidance. The updated list can be found at [https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical Infrastructure Workforce Version 2.0 Updated.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA_Guidance_on_the_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workforce_Version_2.0_Updated.pdf).
- 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:

- **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 of 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 to sustain 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 honestly, of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of On Line K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
 - Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
 - Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
 - Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12 month increments
 - Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefitsThe full memo can be found on Lewis-Burke's website at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/asn-rda_rd_engagement_24mar20.pdf.
- DOD 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 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 Occupational Safety and Health Administration (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>.
- 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.

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 notes, “NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020.” 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.ims.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.ims.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-ims-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 overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.

- 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 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.

- The National Institute of Food and Agriculture 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#>
- The Director of NIFA, Dr. Scott Angle will host a webinar on April 16 from 2-3 PM EST to address COVID-19 efforts. Registration is at: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TfPIX6X9Q2SHTnRQrCO6TA?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=. Any questions can be submitted to Dr. Angle’s Chief of Staff, Bill Hoffman at whoffman4@usda.gov.
- NIFA released an updated FAQ document providing information beyond the OMB guidance for administrative relief. The updated FAQ document is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs-04082020.pdf>
- 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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>:

- Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- 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 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

- 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)

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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
NEW: Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)	4/13/2020	Seeking “existing longitudinal studies that address key social and behavioral questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including adherence to and transmission mitigation from various containment and mitigation efforts; social, behavioral, and economic impacts from these containment and mitigation efforts; and downstream health impacts resulting from these social, behavioral, and economic impacts, including differences in risk and resiliency based on gender, race and ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and other social determinants of health.”	NOT-OD-20-097
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/10/2020	Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on	NOT-CA-20-042

		treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”	
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/10/2020	Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”	NOT-AT-20-011
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	4/10/2020	Supplements and 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.”	Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008 New R01, R21, R03 grants: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	4/10/2020	“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”	NOT-GM-20-027
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	4/9/2020	Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; the role that community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	NOT-MD-20-019

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	NOT-CA-20-043
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	NOT-TR-20-016
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function, the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	NOT-DK-20-018
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD's scientific mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	NOT-DC-20-004
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	Projects on "mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic."	NOT-AG-20-022

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National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
NCATS	3/27/2020	"Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial."	NOT-TR-20-012
NIEHS	3/27/2020	"Provide support for the conduct of worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties" through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP).	NOT-ES-20-017
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	"Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19."	NOT-AI-20-034
NIGMS	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates "data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents."	NOT-GM-20-025
NCATS	3/24/2020	"Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines."	NOT-TR-20-011
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	"Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders."	NOT-DA-20-047

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)
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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?oppld=325751>.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- NSF has started announcing the Coronavirus RAPID Awards: <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.

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

- Federal agency partners in the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) are leveraging the existing Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) TechWatch program to engage with industry, academia, and other stakeholders to accelerate technologies related to the novel coronavirus. Traditionally, TechWatch is a virtual meeting with BARDA scientific, technical, and contracting staff, as well as

representatives from other interested federal agencies. For CoronaWatch, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture, among others, will be contacted to participate as relevant and needed. There are specific submission options for therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and other products through CoronaWatch. Additional information on CoronaWatch, as well as submission instructions, are available at: <https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/request-barda-techwatch-meeting/>.

- The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an Easy Broad Agency Announcement (EZ-BAA) on February 5 seeking proposals for the development of novel COVID-19 diagnostics. The solicitation notes that “the diagnostics must utilize platforms already cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with a viable plan to meet requirements for the FDA to consider Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) within 12 weeks of an award.” The solicitation is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/05/hhs-seeks-abstract-submissions-for-2019-ncov-diagnostics-development.html> and the most recent version of the BAA, updated on March 9, is available at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcb5bf981f7/view>.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326173>.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

Initial responses are due **April 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT** but DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after this 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 Department of the Air Force Acquisition COVID-19 Task Force (DAF ACT) established a Commercial Solution Opening (CSO) April 6 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 future 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. The Air Force will announce the initial Area of Interest for solution brief submissions in the next few days but expects to focus first on "Combating the Spread," according to an Air Force webinar held April 7. 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. 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." 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 Army [xTechSearch](https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking "low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]" to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to "uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions." According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. "Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application," according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid_vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.
- 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?oppld=326034>.

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent Masks

DLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA’s Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.

- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “HR001120S0019-02.”
- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies

- New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - “Blue-Sky” solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above
- The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “AF20R-DCSO1.”
- 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 U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
 - The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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 multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held Thursday April 9 at 1PM ET.
- 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, gloves, 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 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

Update: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- **NEW:** 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>.

The White House

- **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:** 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.ims.gov/news/ims-announces-new-stimulus-funding-communities-across-america>.

Update: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **NEW:** 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?oppld=326343>.

Other Sources

- 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 10,000 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 launched an 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. More information 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/>.
- The World Bank Group (WBG) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) urged all official bilateral creditors to suspend debt payments of the world's poorest countries in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic in joint statement issued before the G20 virtual summit on COVID-19. This request was made to assist countries utilize existing liquidity to address the COVID-19 crisis – and further efforts to provide financial relief will be considered by finance ministries at the World Bank Fund meetings in April. The joint statement is available at <https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/03/25/pr20103-joint-statement-world-bank-group-and-imf-call-to-action-on-debt-of-ida-countries>.

World Health Organization (WHO)

- The WHO initiated a multi-country randomized clinical trial called the “Solidarity Study,” as part of an aggressive effort to identify therapeutic drugs to treat COVID-19. The study is testing four drugs or drug combinations already licensed and used for other illnesses, relative to standard of care. The innovation in the study is its online enrollment process, which was designed to enable doctors and medical centers to enroll patients with minimal burden under an already over-stretched medical system during a pandemic. To date, 74 countries have either joined the study or are in the process of joining and 200 patients have been randomly assigned to treatment groups.
- The WHO has resources available, several of which may be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - Databases of COVID-19 research findings and peer reviewed publications. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>;
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>;
 - Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 Vaccines. See: https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO_Target_Product_Profiles_for_COVID-19_web.pdf.

International Fundraising

Several international and non-profit organizations have launched appeals to support International efforts to address COVID-19 – or to provide financial relief to enable already strained economies.

- WHO, Lady Gaga, and Global Citizen are putting on a concert on Saturday, April 18 titled “One World: Together at home.” This globally televised and streamed special will raise funds for the COVID-19 response via the [WHO’s Solidarity Response Fund](https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic). More information is available at <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/06-04-2020-who-and-global-citizen-announce-one-world-together-at-home-global-special-to-support-healthcare-workers-in-the-fight-against-the-covid-19-pandemic>.
- The United Nations launched a coordinated \$2 billion appeal, to run from April-December 2020, in support of its interagency [Global Interagency Response Plan](#). The funds raised through this effort will be overseen by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, implemented by UN agencies and private aid organizations including the WHO and UNICEF in 53 nations in Africa, the Middle East, and in South America.
- Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), an international health care organization and humanitarian NGO, has been providing international support and capacity assistance to health care workers internationally through their Global Health Emergency Fund since January. Project HOPE has partnered with several American universities, private companies, and technical experts to deliver aid and supplies internationally. More information is available at https://secure.projecthope.org/site/Donation2?df_id=7429&7429.donation=form1&mfc_pref=T&autologin=true?subsrc=wb1 and at <https://www.projecthope.org/>.
- Save the Children is [raising funds](#) to provide assistance to children impacted by COVID-19 both internationally and domestically. They are currently leading a global consortium to strengthen capacity for response to major infectious disease outbreaks or pandemics, called READY. Through this effort, they are building potential response scenarios, and bringing together an interdisciplinary team. More information is available at <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/about-us/media-and-news/2018-press-releases/save-the-children-receives-global-award>.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

April 17, 2020

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Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and opportunities related to the outbreak, including a congressional update on the SBA loan lapses, the White House's plan for "re-opening" states, and multiple new guidelines and funding opportunities from across the federal landscape.

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: Funding Lapses for Small Business Administration Loan Program as Congressional Negotiations Continue into the Weekend

NEW: On April 16, the Small Business Administration (SBA) officially ran out of money for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), a popular initiative that was created by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act to provide forgivable loans to eligible small businesses and non-profits. There is bipartisan consensus that Congress needs to act to replenish PPP funds, but there has been a prolonged impasse over whether the next support measure should narrowly focus on shoring up PPP, a position backed by Republican leadership, or the Democrats' proposal that SBA funding be complemented by additional funds for hospitals, local governments, and other entities. Congressional leaders are expected to continue to negotiate with the White House on a suitable interim package to supplement CARES Act investments before turning to more future comprehensive stimulus legislation.

As previously reported, Congress' recent struggle to pass legislation by unanimous consent has prompted calls for the consideration of remote methods for Members to vote and conduct day-to-day business. Congressional leadership's opposition to remote voting has softened in recent days with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issuing support for a proposal from the House Rules Committee that would allow Members to vote by proxy, giving lawmakers the option to authorize colleagues to vote on their behalf. The House is still in the early stages of mapping out remote activities and there will need to be support from Republican leaders to move forward. Also, unlike the House, the Senate has been slow to consider major changes to voting and if they continue to legislate by unanimous consent, it could be difficult to move large, increasing complex stimulus measures in the weeks ahead.

As Congress remains on recess through May 4 at the earliest, Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor these developments. Read Lewis-Burke's [analysis](#) of the CARES Act for additional information on the most recent stimulus effort.

Update: White House Releases Plan for Restarting U.S. After COVID-19 Shutdowns

NEW: On April 16, President Trump announced the release of [Guidelines for Opening Up America Again](#), the Administration's three-phase plan to reopen the U.S. economy and resume activities. The Trump Administration acknowledged state and local governments will be responsible for implementing

procedures to resume activities, tailored to each jurisdiction's health circumstances. The plan, which assumes reopening activities will not occur until a 14-day downward trajectory of symptoms and COVID-19 cases as well as sufficiently available testing and hospital crisis care, offers a blueprint for phasing in allowable activities and continued health precautions for individuals and employers.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Update: Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- 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.
 - **NEW:** 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)

- House Democrats have been attempting to persuade the Federal Reserve to open up the new Main Street Lending program eligibility to nonprofits and institutions of higher education. The program, which received funding under the CARES Act, will soon be offering four-year loans to small and mid-sized businesses (under 10,000 employees or less than \$2.5 billion in revenue). The Federal Reserve is [accepting](#) public comments on how to implement the program through April 16.
- 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 now 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.
- Institutions should now be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 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?oppld=326222>.
- 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. The April 9 announcement of available grant funding focuses only on the grant portion to be distributed directly to students, with ED noting, "Institutions will receive allocations and guidance for the institutional share of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the coming weeks." 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-undercores-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>.
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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](https://www.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.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH FAQs: COVID-19 Flexibilities for Applicants and Recipients:** <https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm>
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **COVID-19 Pandemic Contingency Planning for Animal Care and Use Programs:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/covid-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research

animals.” The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- 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 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 updated recommendations on delay of adult elective surgeries, non-essential surgeries, and non-essential medical and dental procedures: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/31820-cms-adult-elective-surgery-and-procedures-recommendations.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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months’ Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.

- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

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 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>.

Update: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- **NEW:** 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>.

Update: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- **NEW:** 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 April 9, the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) will offer virtual office hours “to share information about NSF’s current operations and provide guidance to the earth sciences community. This will also allow the community to ask questions, share concerns, or offer suggestions on how EAR can do more to address the impact of COVID-19 on the research community.” Office hours were held April 8 and will be offered April 9 from 11 AM to Noon (ET). More information is available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300338&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdova released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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:** 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>.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) maintains information about their response to COVID-19 on their website at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19>. Notable announcements include:
 - USCIS affirms it has flexibility to excuse a nonimmigrant’s failure to file an extension of stay (EOS) or change of status (COS) application if the delay was due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on their special situations page, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>. Nonetheless, USCIS encourages all nonimmigrants to file timely EOS and COS applications and petitions to mitigate the immigration consequences of COVID-19, which they continue to accept and process.
 - Petitioners should expect a delay in data entry and receipt notice generation for fiscal year (FY) 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions until at least May 1, 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Nonetheless, the specified filing window on registration selection notices will not change. For more information, see <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-electronic-registration-process>.
 - USCIS announced measures to assist applicants and petitioners who are responding to certain Requests for Evidence (RFE), Notices of Intent to Deny (NOID), Notices of Intent to Revoke (NOIR), and Notices of Intent to Terminate (NOIT). For an RFE, NOID, NOIR, or NOIT with an issuance date listed on the request, notice or decision between March 1, 2020 and May 1, 2020, USCIS will consider any response received within 60 calendar days of the response due date before any action is taken.
 - USCIS has suspended in-person appointments due to COVID-19. Appointments at USCIS domestic field offices will automatically be rescheduled once normal operations resume. Individuals with appointments with a Field Office must reschedule through the [USCIS Contact Center](#).
- The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) recently announced efforts to develop a COVID-19 Master Question List (MQL) with information on the status of current news and relevant research related to the COVID-19 outbreak, including critical gaps in knowledge of importance to first

responders. These efforts are being led by S&T's new Probabilistic Analysis of National Threats, Hazards and Risks (PANTHR) Program and Hazard Awareness & Characterization Technology Center. In addition to identifying gaps in knowledge, these teams will also look to develop research solutions in some cases. Although a majority of this research will likely be conducted internally at DHS and through existing partners, there is a good chance MQL topics could be included in future DHS S&T funding opportunities. More information can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/blog/2020/03/18/st-mobilizes-key-data-inform-covid-19-response>

- 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:
 - **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>.
- 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/>.

Update: Department of Labor (DOL)

- **NEW:** 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>.
- 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.

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 notes, "NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020." 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.ims.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.ims.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-ims-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 overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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>.

Update: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **NEW:** 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#>
- The Director of NIFA, Dr. Scott Angle will host a webinar on April 16 from 2-3 PM EST to address COVID-19 efforts. Registration is at: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_TfPIX6X9Q2SHTnRQrCO6TA?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=. Any questions can be submitted to Dr. Angle’s Chief of Staff, Bill Hoffman at whoffman4@usda.gov.
- NIFA released an updated FAQ document providing information beyond the OMB guidance for administrative relief. The updated FAQ document is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/NIFA-20-005-NIFA-Coronavirus-FAQs-04082020.pdf>
- 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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>:
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16

- 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 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

- 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)

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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
NEW: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/16/2020	Research is needed to understand the potentially complex relationships between alcohol consumption and COVID-19 related-outcomes to enhance the nation’s response to the current pandemic. The outcomes include overt pathophysiology and the impact of social and policy measures on COVID-19 outcomes.	NOT-AA-20-011
NEW: National Library of Medicine (NLM)	4/16/2020	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 health surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	NOT-LM-20-010
NEW: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	4/14/2020	Research to understand the “prevalence and symptomatology, of SARS-CoV-2 neurologic involvement.”	NOT-NS-20-046

Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)	4/13/2020	Seeking research with “existing longitudinal studies that address key social and behavioral questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-OD-20-097
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/10/2020	Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”	NOT-CA-20-042
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/10/2020	Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”	NOT-AT-20-011
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	4/10/2020	Supplements and 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.”	Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008 New R01, R21, R03 grants: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	4/10/2020	“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”	NOT-GM-20-027
National Institute on Minority Health and	4/9/2020	Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and	NOT-MD-20-019

Health Disparities (NIMHD)		health outcomes; the role that community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	NOT-CA-20-043
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	NOT-TR-20-016
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function, the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	NOT-DK-20-018

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD’s scientific mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	NOT-DC-20-004
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	Projects on “mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-AG-20-022
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
NCATS	3/27/2020	“Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial.”	NOT-TR-20-012
NIEHS	3/27/2020	“Provide support for the conduct of worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties” through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP).	NOT-ES-20-017
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	“Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.”	NOT-AI-20-034
NIGMS	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates “data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents.”	NOT-GM-20-025
NCATS	3/24/2020	“Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the	NOT-TR-20-011

		translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.”	
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	“Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.”	NOT-DA-20-047
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)

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?oppld=325751>.

Update: Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- **NEW:** 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)

- NSF has started announcing the Coronavirus RAPID Awards: <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.

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

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

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) on April 17 to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP focuses on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional, non-traditional, and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. The following existing technologies should be included in the RPP:
 - “Mobile communications capabilities including synchronous audio/video, asynchronous messaging, and access to continuous monitoring

- Clinician-facing web portal and/or mobile-based application (goal is availability on every device)
- Capability for basic documentation in real-time as well as data collection and reporting
- Cloud-based information storage including ability for later offloading via PDF or HL7”

DOD anticipates making up to six awards. The Department has a total of \$7 million available in fiscal year 2020 funds for the first three tasks outlined in the RPP scope of work. Funding for the other tasks is subject to availability. A Proposers Conference will take place on Monday, April 20 at 3:00pm ET. Registration is available at:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/811606013843567631>. White papers are due on

April 27, 2020 by 12:00pm ET. The RPP can be found at

<https://beta.sam.gov/opp/f3012b9082ca4d109c171ad4349f7306/view#attachments-links>.

MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- **NEW:** 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 opens on **April 27, 2020** and 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.

- **NEW:** The DOD COVID-19 Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF) recently announced its Vulcan Build-a-Vent manufacturing challenge. The Build-a-Vent manufacturing challenge is seeking partners who can “rapidly manufacture specific parts, components, or systems for the scaled production of Ventilator Prototypes.” Submissions will build on five existing prototypes designed by previous teams from the Vulcan Hack-a-Vent Innovation challenge held in March. White paper submissions are due no later than **April 23, 2020 at 11:59pm ET.** The submission portal and request access page can be found at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/submission?collectionUuid=3111b615-7eb6-4b85-a724-64fb63df4a59>.
- 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326173>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

Initial responses are due **April 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT** but DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after this 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 Army [xTechSearch](#) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking "low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]" to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to "uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions." According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. "Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application," according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid Vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.
- 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?oppld=326034>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent MasksDLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well

as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA's Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.

- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "HR001120S0019-02."
- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - "Blue-Sky" solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas aboveThe solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "AF20R-DCS01."
- 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 U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
- The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking "treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection" and "therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment." MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKlI0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held Thursday April 9 at 1PM ET.
- 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, gloves, 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 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affect by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

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>.

The White House

- **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.”

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.ims.gov/news/ims-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?oppld=326343>.

Other Sources

- 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 10,000 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/>.

Update: World Bank Group (WBG)

- NEW:** 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/>.

Update: World Health Organization (WHO)

- **NEW:** The WHO has created several platforms for data sharing of international scientific findings and knowledge of COVID-19. Resources include: a database of COVID-19 related peer reviewed literature; an international registry of COVID-19 clinical trials; data sharing platforms that include data from ongoing COVID-19 clinical investigations; and an application with “landscape analysis” of 133+ experimental therapeutics for COVID-19. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
- **NEW:** The WHO has other additional resources available, several of which may also be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - **NEW:** The updated Strategic Preparedness Response Plan for COVID-19. See: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/covid-19-strategy-update-13-april-2020>.
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>;
 - Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 Vaccines. See: https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO_Target_Product_Profiles_for_COVID-19_web.pdf.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

April 20, 2020

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Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes new federal guidance and funding opportunities related to the outbreak, in addition to a potential compromise on additional economic relief and assistance legislation.

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

NEW: Compromise Near on New Round of COVID-19 Economic Aid

Negotiations continued over the weekend as the White House and Congress sought agreement over legislation needed to replenish the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Talks between the parties on new relief efforts were accelerated last week following news that the popular Small Business Administration (SBA) program established by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act had run out of funding earlier than anticipated. At the time of writing, congressional leaders suggested a compromise that included \$300 billion in added PPP funding in addition to \$75 billion for hospitals and \$25 billion to expand COVID-19 testing would soon be unveiled. The Senate is hoping to pass a compromise early this week although working through last-minute details may ultimately delay its consideration.

A major sticking point in negotiations has been the inclusion of aid to state and local governments who've seen significant revenue shortfalls and may need to start laying off employees. The initial \$150 billion for these recipients provided in the CARES Act has also run dry, however Republicans have rejected efforts to include new assistance in the current relief package. Meanwhile, Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) announced their intent to introduce standalone legislation that would provide \$500 billion to states for inclusion in subsequent COVID-19 relief measures. The proposed bill would establish a "State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund" that allocates money in three tranches using formulas approximating a state's impact due to COVID-19. More details can be found [in a statement on Senator Menendez's website](#).

As Congress remains on recess through May 4 at the earliest, Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor these developments. Read Lewis-Burke's [analysis](#) of the CARES Act for additional information on the most recent stimulus effort.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Update: Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- **NEW:** 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)

- House Democrats have been attempting to persuade the Federal Reserve to open up the new Main Street Lending program eligibility to nonprofits and institutions of higher education. The program, which received funding under the CARES Act, will soon be offering four-year loans to small and mid-sized businesses (under 10,000 employees or less than \$2.5 billion in revenue). The Federal Reserve is [accepting](#) public comments on how to implement the program through April 16.
- 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 now 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.
- Institutions should now be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 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?oppld=326222>.
- 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. The April 9 announcement of available grant funding focuses only on the grant portion to be distributed directly to students, with ED noting, "Institutions will receive allocations and guidance for the institutional share of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the coming weeks." 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>.
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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](https://www.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.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH FAQs: COVID-19 Flexibilities for Applicants and Recipients:** <https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm>
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
 - **COVID-19 Pandemic Contingency Planning for Animal Care and Use Programs:** <https://olaw.nih.gov/covid-19.htm>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are

non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- 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/>.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **NEW:** 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 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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping->

[regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19](#), and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.

- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

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 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 April 9, the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) will offer virtual office hours “to share information about NSF’s current operations and provide guidance to the earth sciences community. This will also allow the community to ask questions, share concerns, or offer suggestions on how EAR can do more to address the impact of COVID-19 on the research community.” Office hours were held April 8 and will be offered April 9 from 11 AM to Noon (ET). More information is available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300338&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdoba released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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)

- 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>.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) maintains information about their response to COVID-19 on their website at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19>. Notable announcements include:
 - USCIS affirms it has flexibility to excuse a nonimmigrant's failure to file an extension of stay (EOS) or change of status (COS) application if the delay was due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on their special situations page, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>. Nonetheless, USCIS encourages all nonimmigrants to file timely EOS and COS applications and petitions to mitigate the immigration consequences of COVID-19, which they continue to accept and process.
 - Petitioners should expect a delay in data entry and receipt notice generation for fiscal year (FY) 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions until at least May 1, 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Nonetheless, the specified filing window on registration selection notices will not change. For more information, see <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-electronic-registration-process>.

- USCIS announced measures to assist applicants and petitioners who are responding to certain Requests for Evidence (RFE), Notices of Intent to Deny (NOID), Notices of Intent to Revoke (NOIR), and Notices of Intent to Terminate (NOIT). For an RFE, NOID, NOIR, or NOIT with an issuance date listed on the request, notice or decision between March 1, 2020 and May 1, 2020, USCIS will consider any response received within 60 calendar days of the response due date before any action is taken.
- USCIS has suspended in-person appointments due to COVID-19. Appointments at USCIS domestic field offices will automatically be rescheduled once normal operations resume. Individuals with appointments with a Field Office must reschedule through the [USCIS Contact Center](#).
- The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) recently announced efforts to develop a COVID-19 Master Question List (MQL) with information on the status of current news and relevant research related to the COVID-19 outbreak, including critical gaps in knowledge of importance to first responders. These efforts are being led by S&T's new Probabilistic Analysis of National Threats, Hazards and Risks (PANTHR) Program and Hazard Awareness & Characterization Technology Center. In addition to identifying gaps in knowledge, these teams will also look to develop research solutions in some cases. Although a majority of this research will likely be conducted internally at DHS and through existing partners, there is a good chance MQL topics could be included in future DHS S&T funding opportunities. More information can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/blog/2020/03/18/st-mobilizes-key-data-inform-covid-19-response>
- 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:
 - **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
 - **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?

- **Recovery:** What actions does the Air Force need to take after the crisis, to ensure programs keep on track and that the Air Force continues critical operations?
- **Being Rapid for Small Businesses:** Led by AFVentures, this effort will ensure that the Air Force spends all its funds allocated to support small business contractors.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Army Acquisition Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) Bruce Jette released a memo on March 24 to the defense industrial base stating that the Army will continue to work with DOD and other stakeholders to ensure clear guidance and that contractors have been encouraged to assess and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the defense industrial base. The full memo can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/d4b8fa584e65444cb9b6d43c6e65c09e/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition (ASN RDA) James (Hondo) Geurts released a memo on March 24 on engaging the research and development industrial base during COVID-19, urging Navy commands to leverage academia, small innovative research companies, large and small businesses, public-private venture companies, and startup companies engaged in research and development (R&D) and science and technology (S&T) to provide “immediate support” for COVID-19. The memo also includes additional actions for the Navy to consider sustaining national R&D during COVID-19 response, including:
 - Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
 - Initiating a Special Notice under the existing long-range Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) seeking submission of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
 - Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
 - Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
 - Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
 - Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefitsThe full memo can be found on Lewis-Burke’s website at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/asn-rda_rd_engagement_24mar20.pdf.
- DOD 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>.
- 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.

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 notes, “NEH plans to announce funding opportunities for eligible organizations seeking support for at-risk humanities positions and projects at cultural nonprofits that have been impacted by the coronavirus. More information will be announced on our website and through social media by April 30, 2020.” 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.ims.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.ims.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-ims-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 overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.

- 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 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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 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

- 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)

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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/16/2020	Research is needed to understand the potentially complex relationships between alcohol consumption and COVID-19 related-outcomes to enhance the nation’s response to the current pandemic. The outcomes include overt pathophysiology and the impact of social and policy measures on COVID-19 outcomes.	NOT-AA-20-011
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	4/16/2020	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 health surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	NOT-LM-20-010
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	4/14/2020	Research to understand the “prevalence and symptomatology, of SARS-CoV-2 neurologic involvement.”	NOT-NS-20-046
Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)	4/13/2020	Seeking research with “existing longitudinal studies that address key social and behavioral questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-OD-20-097

<p>National Cancer Institute (NCI)</p>	<p>4/10/2020</p>	<p>Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”</p>	<p>NOT-CA-20-042</p>
<p>National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)</p>	<p>4/10/2020</p>	<p>Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”</p>	<p>NOT-AT-20-011</p>
<p>National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)</p>	<p>4/10/2020</p>	<p>Supplements and 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.”</p>	<p>Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008</p> <p>New R01, R21, R03 grants: NOT-EB-20-007</p> <p>New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006</p>
<p>National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)</p>	<p>4/10/2020</p>	<p>“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”</p>	<p>NOT-GM-20-027</p>
<p>National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)</p>	<p>4/9/2020</p>	<p>Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; the role that community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector</p>	<p>NOT-MD-20-019</p>

		disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	NOT-CA-20-043
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	NOT-TR-20-016
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function, the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	NOT-DK-20-018
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD’s scientific mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	NOT-DC-20-004

NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	Projects on “mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-AG-20-022
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
NCATS	3/27/2020	“Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial.”	NOT-TR-20-012
NIEHS	3/27/2020	“Provide support for the conduct of worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties” through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP).	NOT-ES-20-017
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	“Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.”	NOT-AI-20-034
NIGMS	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates “data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents.”	NOT-GM-20-025
NCATS	3/24/2020	“Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.”	NOT-TR-20-011
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	“Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19	NOT-DA-20-047

		infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.”	
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)

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?oppld=325751>.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI announced three funding opportunities related to COVID-19 research, engagement, and dissemination and implementation. Under these solicitations, current PCORI grantees can apply for funding enhancements to existing awards for work addressing both the original topic and a current important issue related to COVID-19. Applications 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)

- NSF has started announcing the Coronavirus RAPID Awards: <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.

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

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

Department of Defense (DOD)

- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) on April 17 to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP focuses on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional, non-traditional, and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. The following existing technologies should be included in the RPP:
 - “Mobile communications capabilities including synchronous audio/video, asynchronous messaging, and access to continuous monitoring
 - Clinician-facing web portal and/or mobile-based application (goal is availability on every device)
 - Capability for basic documentation in real-time as well as data collection and reporting
 - Cloud-based information storage including ability for later offloading via PDF or HL7”

DOD anticipates making up to six awards. The Department has a total of \$7 million available in fiscal year 2020 funds for the first three tasks outlined in the RPP scope of work. Funding for the other tasks is subject to availability. A Proposers Conference will take place on Monday, April 20 at 3:00pm ET. Registration is available at:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/811606013843567631>. White papers are due on **April 27, 2020 by 12:00pm ET**. The RPP can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/f3012b9082ca4d109c171ad4349f7306/view#attachments-links>. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- 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 opens on **April 27, 2020** and 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 DOD COVID-19 Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF) recently announced its Vulcan Build-a-Vent manufacturing challenge. The Build-a-Vent manufacturing challenge is seeking partners who can "rapidly manufacture specific parts, components, or systems for the scaled production of Ventilator Prototypes." Submissions will build on five existing prototypes designed by previous teams from the Vulcan Hack-a-Vent Innovation challenge held in March. White paper submissions are due no later than **April 23, 2020 at 11:59pm ET**. The submission portal and request access page can be found at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/submission?collectionUuid=3111b615-7eb6-4b85-a724-64fb63df4a59>.
- 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326173>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

Initial responses are due **April 15, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT** but DLA urges companies that can provide the above items to respond even after this 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 Army [xTechSearch](#) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking "low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]" to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to "uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions." According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. "Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application," according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid_vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.
- 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?oppld=326034>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent MasksDLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA's Technology Accelerator OTA Program

Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at

<https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.

- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM ET**. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "HR001120S0019-02."
- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - "Blue-Sky" solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas aboveThe solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "AF20R-DCS01."
- 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 U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based,

low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at

https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKlI0R1FGgwCG-aY/viewform?edit_requested=true. Additionally, the Air Force is hosting multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held Thursday April 9 at 1PM ET.
- 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, gloves, 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 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

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>.

The White House

- **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.”

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

Update: United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **NEW:** 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?oppld=326343>.

Other Sources

- 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 has created several platforms for data sharing of international scientific findings and knowledge of COVID-19. Resources include: a database of COVID-19 related peer reviewed literature; an international registry of COVID-19 clinical trials; data sharing platforms that include data from ongoing COVID-19 clinical investigations; and an application with “landscape analysis” of 133+ experimental therapeutics for COVID-19. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
- The WHO has other additional resources available, several of which may also be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - The updated Strategic Preparedness Response Plan for COVID-19. See: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/covid-19-strategy-update-13-april-2020>.
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>;
 - Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 Vaccines. See: [https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 web.pdf](https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO%20Target%20Product%20Profiles%20for%20COVID-19%20web.pdf).

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

April 21, 2020

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Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes details of a congressional agreement on legislation that would provide additional economic and financial assistance to respond to the pandemic, information on the Department of Education's release of institutional aid provided in the CARES act, and new federal guidance and funding opportunities related to the outbreak.

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

NEW: Congress, White House Reach Deal on New Round of COVID-19 Assistance

On Tuesday, April 21 congressional negotiators unveiled the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act* to replenish funding for economic assistance and provide aid to hospitals on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The agreement comes after protracted discussions between the House, Senate, and White House over the scale and scope of additional federal assistance following last month's passage of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act. The Senate passed the bill this afternoon and the House will take it up Thursday to allow time for Members to return to Washington, D.C. President Trump noted his intent to sign the legislation immediately upon passage.

As previously reported, negotiations over an additional CARES Act supplemental bill were launched two weeks ago when the White House requested an additional \$250 billion for the popular Small Business Administration (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which was established by the CARES Act and exhausted its funding earlier than expected. Negotiators have worked to include other urgent needs while keeping this package more focused than the original CARES bill. The final package would replenish PPP and provide additional funding for hospitals and COVID-19 focused research.

Notable for academic medical centers and other health systems, the bill includes an additional \$75 billion to reimburse care providers for costs and lost revenue due to COVID-19. This would bring the total funding allocated for this purpose to \$175 billion. While the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has already allocated \$30 billion of this funding to care providers based on their share of last year's Medicare fee-for-service reimbursements, they have not yet announced how they intend to allocate or disburse the remaining CARES funding.

The bill would provide \$25 billion to increase COVID-19 testing and treatment capacity. Of this amount:

- \$11 billion would be provided to states and municipalities to purchase and administer testing materials and to create testing plans;
- \$1 billion would be provided to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support testing improvement;
- \$1.81 billion would be provided to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including:
 - \$306 million to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop serological testing and associated technologies,

- \$500 million to the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to develop point of care technologies and other rapid testing, and
- \$1 billion to the Office of the Director (OD) to accelerate research, development, and implementation of rapid testing and for public-private partnerships and other activities related to test development;
- \$1 billion would be provided to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA);
- \$22 million would be provided to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA);
- \$600 million would be provided to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for community health centers and federally qualified health centers;
- \$225 million would be provided to rural health clinics; and
- Up to \$1 billion would be made available for providing testing to uninsured patients.

The bill also directs the Secretary of HHS to develop and provide Congress with a national strategic plan for increasing COVID-19 testing capacity.

In addition to replenishing funds for PPP, the bill would make minor adjustments to how the program's assistance is distributed. Lawmakers voiced bipartisan concern over how the last tranche of PPP funds were disbursed in light of reports that assistance prioritized large corporations at the expense of small businesses. Additional changes to the programs, including expanding eligibility to a wider array of non-profits, are still being discussed and could be a part of future legislation. PPP-related provisions in the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act* include:

- \$310 billion in added PPP funding to support small businesses and certain non-profits, including 501(c)3 organizations;
- \$60 billion within the total PPP amount set aside for small lenders, a key request of congressional Democrats;
- \$60 billion for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), another popular loan program for small businesses and certain non-profits that has run low on funds over the past several weeks; within this \$60 billion for EIDL, \$10 billion will be available for emergency grants of up to \$10,000 each to ensure rapid relief.

As anticipated, the deal does not include the funding for state and local governments sought by congressional Democrats and a bipartisan group of governors. Republicans and the White House prefer to include additional aid to state and local governments in subsequent assistance legislation. As previously reported, Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Bob Menendez (D-NJ) unveiled standalone legislation that would provide \$500 billion for a "State and Municipal Aid for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Fund." Funding in the Senators' proposal would be allocated in three tranches using formulas approximating a state's impact due to COVID-19. More details can be found [in a statement on Senator Menendez's website](#). Discussions continue among congressional leadership and key committees around future stimulus that may address these and other COVID-19 rescue and recovery needs.

As Congress remains on recess through May 4 at the earliest, Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor these developments. Read Lewis-Burke's [analysis](#) of the CARES Act for additional information and context on the most recent large stimulus effort.

NEW: ED Releases Funding for Institutions and Updates Student Funding Guidelines

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos announced emergency funding for institutions of higher education today as provided by the CARES Act. This follows funding for emergency financial aid grants to students, which was announced April 9. In a letter announcing the funding for institutions, or funds for “Recipient’s Institutional Costs,” the Secretary notes that funds can be used, “to cover any costs associated with significant changes to the delivery of instruction due to the coronavirus.”

To access these institutional funds, institutions must complete a “Certification and Agreement” form and submit via www.grants.gov (Opportunity Number: ED-GRANTS-042120-004). This form is similar to the form needed to access the emergency student aid funding and can only be submitted after the form for emergency financial aid grants to students has been submitted. The letter from the Secretary encourages institutions to use the funds to “expand your remote learning programs, build your IT capacity to support such programs, and train faculty and staff to operate effectively in a remote learning environment.” 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>.

ED also released today 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. Institutions may also use CARES 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, “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.” The new FAQ is available at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/heerfstudentfaqs.pdf>.

NEW: House Releases Framework for Remote Voting

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) [announced his endorsement of plans to allow remote voting](#) in the House in a letter to Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), chairman of the House Rules Committee, and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), chairperson of the House Administration Committee. Rep. McGovern unveiled [his proposal](#) last week to grant Members the ability to cast floor votes through proxies for the duration of the pandemic. The historic shift would require a change to the House’s governing rules and is anticipated to be considered when the House reconvenes this Thursday to vote on the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*.

Leader Hoyer also advocated for Congress’s ability to conduct business beyond proxy floor votes. In his letter to Reps. McGovern and Lofgren, Hoyer indicated his preference for restoring normal functions of the chamber through the use video conference technology to hold committee hearings and broadcast floor statements by Members. Further changes to the House Rules to allow formal and widespread adoption of such technology has yet to be unveiled and will not be considered by Members when they convene this Thursday.

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)

- House Democrats have been attempting to persuade the Federal Reserve to open up the new Main Street Lending program eligibility to nonprofits and institutions of higher education. The program, which received funding under the CARES Act, will soon be offering four-year loans to small and mid-sized businesses (under 10,000 employees or less than \$2.5 billion in revenue). The Federal Reserve is [accepting](#) public comments on how to implement the program through April 16.
- 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 now 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.
- Institutions should now be able to upload the "Certificate of Agreement" needed to access the Emergency Financial Aid Grants to 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?oppld=326222>.
- 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. The April 9 announcement of available grant funding focuses only on the grant portion to be distributed directly to students, with ED noting, "Institutions will receive allocations and guidance for the institutional share of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund in the coming weeks." 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>.
- 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, the 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 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.
- 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](https://www.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>.

Update: National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **NEW:** The Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) will host a videocast on Tuesday, April 28 from 1:00pm-2:00pm ET to discuss [OHRP COVID-19 guidance](https://www.ohrp.ed.gov/covid-19-guidance). The videocast can be viewed at <https://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?live=37426&bhcp=1>.
- NIH has created a central site for its current guidance at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters/corona-virus.htm.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH FAQs: COVID-19 Flexibilities for Applicants and Recipients:** <https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm>

- **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
- **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>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- 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 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 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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

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 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 April 9, the Division of Earth Sciences (EAR) within the Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) will offer virtual office hours “to share information about NSF’s current operations and provide guidance to the earth sciences community. This will also allow the community to ask questions, share concerns, or offer suggestions on how EAR can do more to address the impact of COVID-19 on the research community.” Office hours were held April 8 and will be offered April 9 from 11 AM to Noon (ET). More information is available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300338&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.
- On March 27, NSF released an updated list of programs with extended deadlines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The list can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_deadlines.pdf.
- On March 25, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) announced a series of virtual office hours to discuss “how BIO and NSF can mitigate the longer-term harm of COVID-19 on U.S. research and training.” The office hours will enable the BIO community the opportunity to share concerns, ask questions, or suggest additional things NSF can do to address the coronavirus emergency. Details on the BIO-wide office hours are available at https://www.nsf.gov/events/event_summ.jsp?cntn_id=300246&WT.mc_id=USNSF_13&WT.mc_ev=click.

- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdoba released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.

- Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
- 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 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)

- 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>.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) maintains information about their response to COVID-19 on their website at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19>. Notable announcements include:
 - USCIS affirms it has flexibility to excuse a nonimmigrant's failure to file an extension of stay (EOS) or change of status (COS) application if the delay was due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on their special situations page, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>. Nonetheless, USCIS encourages all nonimmigrants to file timely EOS and COS

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

- **Relief:** The task force will explore what contracting actions can be taken to move funding and support small businesses that need assistance.
 - **Resilience:** How can the Air Force support small businesses and contractors under duress to ensure the health of the defense industrial base?
 - **Recovery:** What actions does the Air Force need to take after the crisis, to ensure programs keep on track and that the Air Force continues critical operations?
 - **Being Rapid for Small Businesses:** Led by AFVentures, this effort will ensure that the Air Force spends all its funds allocated to support small business contractors.
- The Assistant Secretary of the Army Acquisition Logistics and Technology (ASA(ALT)) Bruce Jette released a memo on March 24 to the defense industrial base stating that the Army will continue to work with DOD and other stakeholders to ensure clear guidance and that contractors have been encouraged to assess and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 on the defense industrial base. The full memo can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/d4b8fa584e65444cb9b6d43c6e65c09e/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000.
 - The Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition (ASN RDA) James (Hondo) Geurts released a memo on March 24 on engaging the research and development industrial base during COVID-19, urging Navy commands to leverage academia, small innovative research companies, large and small businesses, public-private venture companies, and startup companies engaged in research and development (R&D) and science and technology (S&T) to provide “immediate support” for COVID-19. The memo also includes additional actions for the Navy to consider sustaining national R&D during COVID-19 response, including:
 - Seeking approval for advance payments for Navy projects to ensure sufficient funding to continue research activities
 - Initiating a Special Notice under the existing long-range Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) seeking submission of concept and proof of prototype proposals up to \$294,000
 - Considering a Special Funding Opportunity Announcement for development of Online K-12 STEM products aimed at small/medium and for/non-profit entities
 - Issuing an out-of-cycle solicitation for the SBIR/STTR programs for critical Navy needs including COVID-19 response activities
 - Issuing flexibilities for University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) and Federally-Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDC)
 - Funding of Navy basic research grants in 12-month increments
 - Approving and expanding advance payments on research grants for salaries and benefitsThe full memo can be found on Lewis-Burke's website at https://www.lewis-burke.com/sites/default/files/asn-rda_rd_engagement_24mar20.pdf.
 - DOD 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>.
- 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.

Update: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- **NEW:** 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 overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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 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 has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without

having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.

- The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- 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 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

- 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)

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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.

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/>.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
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National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/16/2020	Research is needed to understand the potentially complex relationships between alcohol consumption and COVID-19 related-outcomes to enhance the nation’s response to the current pandemic. The outcomes include overt pathophysiology and the impact of social and policy measures on COVID-19 outcomes.	NOT-AA-20-011
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	4/16/2020	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 health surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	NOT-LM-20-010
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	4/14/2020	Research to understand the “prevalence and symptomatology, of SARS-CoV-2 neurologic involvement.”	NOT-NS-20-046
Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)	4/13/2020	Seeking research with “existing longitudinal studies that address key social and behavioral questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-OD-20-097
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/10/2020	Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”	NOT-CA-20-042
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/10/2020	Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”	NOT-AT-20-011
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging	4/10/2020	Supplements and new Research Project Grants and Small Business grants addressing the “urgent need for	Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008

and Bioengineering (NIBIB)		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 grants: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	4/10/2020	“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”	NOT-GM-20-027
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	4/9/2020	Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; the role that community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	NOT-MD-20-019
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	NOT-CA-20-043
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance	NOT-TR-20-016

		the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020
NIDDK	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function, the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	NOT-DK-20-018
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD's scientific mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	NOT-DC-20-004
NIA, NIMH	4/2/2020	Projects on "mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic."	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
NCATS	3/27/2020	"Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial."	NOT-TR-20-012
NIEHS	3/27/2020	"Provide support for the conduct of worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties"	NOT-ES-20-017

		through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP).	
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	“Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.”	NOT-AI-20-034
NIGMS	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates “data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents.”	NOT-GM-20-025
NCATS	3/24/2020	“Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.”	NOT-TR-20-011
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	“Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.”	NOT-DA-20-047
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)

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?oppld=325751>.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI announced three funding opportunities related to COVID-19 research, engagement, and dissemination and implementation. Under these solicitations, current PCORI grantees can apply for funding enhancements to existing awards for work addressing both the original topic and a current important issue related to COVID-19. Applications 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)

- NSF has started announcing the Coronavirus RAPID Awards: <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.

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

- Federal agency partners in the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) are leveraging the existing Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) TechWatch program to engage with industry, academia, and other stakeholders to accelerate technologies related to the novel coronavirus. Traditionally, TechWatch is a virtual meeting with BARDA scientific, technical, and contracting staff, as well as representatives from other interested federal agencies. For CoronaWatch, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture, among others, will be contacted to participate as relevant and needed. There are specific submission options for therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and other products through CoronaWatch. Additional information on CoronaWatch, as well as submission instructions, are available at: <https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/request-barda-techwatch-meeting/>.
- The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an Easy Broad Agency Announcement (EZ-BAA) on February 5 seeking proposals for the development of novel COVID-19 diagnostics. The

solicitation notes that “the diagnostics must utilize platforms already cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with a viable plan to meet requirements for the FDA to consider Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) within 12 weeks of an award.” The solicitation is available at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/02/05/hhs-seeks-abstract-submissions-for-2019-ncov-diagnostics-development.html> and the most recent version of the BAA, updated on March 9, is available at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcb5bf981f7/view>.

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Troop Support Medical Directorate issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

NEW: This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **May 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**. The original due date was April 15. 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 U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) on April 17 to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP focuses on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional, non-traditional, and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. The following existing technologies should be included in the RPP:
 - “Mobile communications capabilities including synchronous audio/video, asynchronous messaging, and access to continuous monitoring

- Clinician-facing web portal and/or mobile-based application (goal is availability on every device)
- Capability for basic documentation in real-time as well as data collection and reporting
- Cloud-based information storage including ability for later offloading via PDF or HL7”

DOD anticipates making up to six awards. The Department has a total of \$7 million available in fiscal year 2020 funds for the first three tasks outlined in the RPP scope of work. Funding for the other tasks is subject to availability. A Proposers Conference will take place on Monday, April 20 at 3:00pm ET. Registration is available at:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/811606013843567631>. White papers are due on

April 27, 2020 by 12:00pm ET. The RPP can be found at

<https://beta.sam.gov/opp/f3012b9082ca4d109c171ad4349f7306/view#attachments-links>.

MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- 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 opens on **April 27, 2020** and 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 DOD COVID-19 Joint Acquisition Task Force (JATF) recently announced its Vulcan Build-a-Vent manufacturing challenge. The Build-a-Vent manufacturing challenge is seeking partners who can “rapidly manufacture specific parts, components, or systems for the scaled production of Ventilator Prototypes.” Submissions will build on five existing prototypes designed by previous teams from the Vulcan Hack-a-Vent Innovation challenge held in March. White paper submissions are due no later than **April 23, 2020 at 11:59pm ET.** The submission portal and request access page can be found at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/submission?collectionUuid=3111b615-7eb6-4b85-a724-64fb63df4a59>.
- 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326173>.
- The Army [xTechSearch](#) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking “low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]” to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to “uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions.” According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. “Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application,” according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at

https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid_vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.

- 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?oppld=326034>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent MasksDLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA’s Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.
- 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 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is soliciting proposals for a rapid and cost-effective synthetic DNA manufacturing capability, for synthetic biology and biomedical applications, under its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. DARPA notes that this capability is relevant to a number of programs being run by its Biological Technologies Office (BTO). DARPA anticipates awarding up to \$1.75 million, including \$1 million for a two-year base period, with additional options to extend the project. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **April 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM**

ET. The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “HR001120S0019-02.”

- The Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - “Blue-Sky” solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above

The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “AF20R-DCSO1.”

- 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 U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.
- The U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-

19. Specifically, MTEC is seeking “treatments with potential application to the prevention of COVID-19 infection” and “therapeutics that can be administered in a non-hospital environment.” MTEC anticipates eight-month projects starting at the proof-of-concept or laboratory validation stage (Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 3 or 4) and ending with prototype demonstration (TRL 6). DOD anticipates a total of \$20 million for 5 awards, with potential for follow-on funding for the manufacturing and clinical testing of therapeutics. White papers are due by **April 8, 2020 at 12:00 pm ET**. The therapeutics RPP can be found at https://beta.sam.gov/opp/b21210aa68fe488f920f4ef3871b4826/view?keywords=covid&sort=modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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 additional 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 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 multiple webinars to provide more information. Webinars can be accessed at <https://zoom.us/j/462017807> or US: +1 669 900 6833 Webinar ID: 462 017 807 and will be held Thursday April 9 at 1PM ET.
- 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 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

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>.

The White House

- **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](https://www.kaggle.com/). 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.”

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.ims.gov/news/ims-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?oppld=326343>.

Other Sources

- 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 has created several platforms for data sharing of international scientific findings and knowledge of COVID-19. Resources include: a database of COVID-19 related peer reviewed literature; an international registry of COVID-19 clinical trials; data sharing platforms that include data from ongoing COVID-19 clinical investigations; and an application with “landscape analysis” of 133+ experimental therapeutics for COVID-19. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>
- The WHO has other additional resources available, several of which may also be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - The updated Strategic Preparedness Response Plan for COVID-19. See: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/covid-19-strategy-update-13-april-2020>.
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>;
 - Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 Vaccines. See: [https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 web.pdf](https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO%20Target%20Product%20Profiles%20for%20COVID-19%20web.pdf).

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

April 23, 2020

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Introduction

Today's edition of Lewis-Burke's COVID-19 update includes an update on HHS guidance on the allocation of additional financial relief for healthcare providers, legislative action on the latest tranche of COVID-19 relief funding, details on President Trump's recent immigration proclamation, and new federal guidance and funding opportunities related to the outbreak.

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

NEW: HHS Announces Allocation of Additional Provider Relief

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced how it intends 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 million will be allocated for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
- 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>.

Update: New Round of COVID-19 Assistance Nears Passage

The House of Representatives is poised to pass the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act* (H.R. 266) following the bill's passage in the Senate on Tuesday. Voting on the package was underway at the time of writing and is anticipated to take several hours in order to reduce the number of Members on the floor at one time. President Trump has already signaled his intent to sign the legislation upon House passage.

Details of the bill emerged Tuesday afternoon and followed weeks of negotiations over supplemental funding needed for programs established by the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security* (CARES) Act.

Increased Economic Assistance – The bill would provide significant additional economic assistance, including:

- \$321 billion in additional funding for the Small Business Administration's (SBA) Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) to continue assistance for small businesses and certain non-profits, including 501(c)3 organizations. Of that amount, \$60 billion would be set aside for small lenders.
- \$60 billion for SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL), another popular loan program for small businesses and certain non-profits. \$10 billion of that amount would be available for emergency grants of up to \$10,000 each to ensure rapid relief.

Other types of non-profits (i.e. 501(c)6 organizations) would remain ineligible to receive these funds. Future assistance packages may tweak these rules to allow expanded access to these and other types of nonprofits.

Support for Hospitals – The bill would provide \$75 billion in new funding to reimburse health care providers, including academic medical centers at universities, for costs and lost revenue due to COVID-19. This would bring the total funding allocated for this purpose to \$175 billion.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has already allocated \$30 billion of this funding to care providers based on their share of last year's Medicare fee-for-service reimbursements. Additionally, HHS announced on April 22 how a second wave of CARES funding would be allocated across providers (see immediately above for more details).

Funding for COVID-19 Testing and Research – The bill would provide \$25 billion to increase COVID-19 testing and treatment capacity. Of this amount:

- \$11 billion would be provided to states and municipalities to purchase and administer testing materials and to create testing plans.
- \$1.81 billion would be provided to the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Of that amount, \$306 million would be provided to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to develop serological testing and associated technologies; \$500 million to the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) to develop point of care technologies and other rapid testing; and \$1 billion to the Office of the Director (OD) to accelerate research, development, and implementation of rapid testing and for public-private partnerships and other activities related to test development.
- \$1 billion would be provided to the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).
- \$1 billion would be provided to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support testing improvement.
- \$22 million would be provided to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- \$600 million would be provided to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for community health centers and federally qualified health centers.
- \$225 million would be provided to rural health clinics.
- Up to \$1 billion would be made available for providing testing to uninsured patients.

The bill also directs the Secretary of HHS to develop and provide Congress with a national strategic plan for increasing COVID-19 testing capacity.

As Congress remains on recess through May 4 at the earliest, Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor these developments. Read Lewis-Burke's [analysis](#) of the CARES Act for additional information and context on programs funded by the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act*.

NEW: President Trump Announces Immigration Proclamation

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/.](#)

Update: Speaker Pelosi Hits Pause on Remote Voting

In a surprise about-face, House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) scrapped plans for the House to adopt new rules allowing proxy voting by Members. The historic shift would have required consideration by the full House and was widely anticipated to clear the chamber following passage of the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act* (H.R. 266). The last minute turn of events coincided with House Republicans charging the move as a hasty and unprecedented change that lacked bipartisan input despite major implications for the way the House conducts business. Any change to allow proxy voting will need to be considered once the House reconvenes on May 4.

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 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?oppld=326222.](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=326222)
- House Democrats have been attempting to persuade the Federal Reserve to open up the new Main Street Lending program eligibility to nonprofits and institutions of higher education. The program, which received funding under the CARES Act, will soon be offering four-year loans to small and mid-sized businesses (under 10,000 employees or less than \$2.5 billion in revenue).
- 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](https://www.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)

- The Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) will host a videocast on Tuesday, April 28 from 1:00pm-2:00pm ET to discuss [OHRP COVID-19 guidance](https://www.ohrp.ed.gov/covid-19-guidance). The videocast can be viewed at <https://videocast.nih.gov/summary.asp?live=37426&bhcp=1>.
- NIH has created a central site for its current guidance at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters/corona-virus.htm.
 - NIH has provided a central site to review the update history of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 website listed above at <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/natural-disasters/corona-virus/history-update.htm>.
- Highlighted guidance from NIH:
 - **NIH FAQs: COVID-19 Flexibilities for Applicants and Recipients:** <https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/covid-19.htm>
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>
 - **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>
- NIH announced on March 20 that all non-mission-critical operations in its intramural research laboratories would be shifted to a maintenance phase. Mission-critical functions that will continue to be supported include “care of research participants in NIH clinical protocols that are non-elective, research directly on COVID-19, urgent public health research recommended by NIH scientific leadership, work involving significant research investments that could be lost if not continued, and protection of life, property and resources, including the care of research animals.” The announcement from NIH is available at <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-shifts-non-mission-critical-laboratory-operations-minimal-maintenance-phase>.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

- 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/>.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **UPDATED:** 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>.
- **NEW:** 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 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.
- CMS released updated regulations and guidance based on additional authority granted by the CURES Act. Announcement of the new regulations and guidance is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-makes-sweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19>, and additional information and background is available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/additional-backgroundsweeping-regulatory-changes-help-us-healthcare-system-address-covid-19-patient>.
- CMS has expanded its Accelerated and Advance Payments Program for reimbursing Medicare payments, in order to increase the cash flow to providers impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Most providers can request up to 100 percent of the Medicare payment amount for a three-month period. The majority of hospitals will have one year to repay any surplus balance from the advance payment after subtracting the following three months' Medicare claims. Additional information is available at <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/Accelerated-and-Advanced-Payments-Fact-Sheet.pdf>.
- 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 announced it will grant exceptions from reporting requirements and extensions for providers participating in the Medicare Quality Payment Program who are impacted by COVID-19. Additional details are available at <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-relief-clinicians-providers-hospitals-and-facilities-participating-quality-reporting>.

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.

Update: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

- **NEW:** HRSA has announced new guidance for healthcare providers and facilities on filing reimbursement claims for COVID-19 care provided to uninsured patients. The Department of

Health and Human Services (HHS) will reimburse healthcare providers at Medicare rates for testing uninsured patients for COVID-19 and treating uninsured patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis. Healthcare providers who have conducted COVID-19 testing or treated uninsured COVID-19 patients on or after February 4 can request claims reimbursement. The sign-up period begins on April 27 and HRSA will begin accepting claims on May 6. Additional information and updates can be found at <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim>.

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

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- SAMHSA released an FAQ for current grantees on award management flexibilities during the COVID-19 epidemic, including reporting flexibilities, no cost extensions, budget modifications, and more: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/covid-19-fags-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-fags-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 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.
- On March 23, NSF Director France Córdoba released a letter to the NSF community regarding COVID-19 stating that NSF is “committed to providing the greatest available flexibilities to support your health and safety as well as your work.” The letter is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in146.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_80.
- On March 23, NSF announced additional guidance responding to the March 19 OMB memo for researchers, available at https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/covid19/covid19_nsfombimplementation.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. 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:
 - Seeding Critical Advances for Leading Energy technologies with Untapped Potential (SCALEUP): the preliminary application deadline for Replies to Reviewer Comments is now **March 30**.
 - RFI for Next Generation Ammonia System Integration Project: the response deadline is now **April 6**.
 - Galvanizing Advances in Market-aligned Fusion for an Overabundance of Watts (GAMOW): the concept paper deadline is now **April 10**.
 - Flexible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS): the full application deadline is now **April 14**.
 - 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 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)

- 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>.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) maintains information about their response to COVID-19 on their website at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19>. Notable announcements include:
 - USCIS affirms it has flexibility to excuse a nonimmigrant's failure to file an extension of stay (EOS) or change of status (COS) application if the delay was due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on their special situations page, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>. Nonetheless, USCIS encourages all nonimmigrants to file timely EOS and COS applications and petitions to mitigate the immigration consequences of COVID-19, which they continue to accept and process.
 - Petitioners should expect a delay in data entry and receipt notice generation for fiscal year (FY) 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions until at least May 1, 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Nonetheless, the specified filing window on registration selection notices will not change. For more information, see <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-electronic-registration-process>.
 - USCIS announced measures to assist applicants and petitioners who are responding to certain Requests for Evidence (RFE), Notices of Intent to Deny (NOID), Notices of Intent to Revoke (NOIR), and Notices of Intent to Terminate (NOIT). For an RFE, NOID, NOIR, or NOIT with an issuance date listed on the request, notice or decision between March 1, 2020 and May 1, 2020, USCIS will consider any response received within 60 calendar days of the response due date before any action is taken.
 - USCIS has suspended in-person appointments due to COVID-19. Appointments at USCIS domestic field offices will automatically be rescheduled once normal operations resume. Individuals with appointments with a Field Office must reschedule through the [USCIS Contact Center](#).
 - The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) recently announced efforts to develop a COVID-19 Master Question List (MQL) with information on the status of current news and relevant research related to the COVID-19 outbreak, including critical gaps in knowledge of importance to first responders. These efforts are being led by S&T's new Probabilistic Analysis of National Threats, Hazards and Risks (PANTHR) Program and Hazard Awareness & Characterization Technology Center. In addition to identifying gaps in knowledge, these teams will also look to develop research solutions in some cases. Although a majority of this research will likely be conducted internally at DHS and through existing partners, there is a good chance MQL topics could be included in future DHS S&T funding opportunities. More information can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/blog/2020/03/18/st-mobilizes-key-data-inform-covid-19-response>
 - 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:
 - **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>.
- 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>.
- 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.

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.ims.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.ims.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-ims-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 overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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://ojidp.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 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 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

- 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 April 23 the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) released a strategic plan outlining the Institute’s priorities for COVID-19 related research in fiscal years (FY) 2020-2024. The plan describes NIAID’s research mission as it relates to COVID-19 and the causative agent of the disease, severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2): “Conduct and support research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 to accelerate the development of safe and effective medical countermeasures that decrease disease incidence, mitigate morbidity and prevent mortality.” NIAID’s strategic plan articulates four strategic research priority pillars:
 - **Improve knowledge and understanding of** SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19
 - Develop diagnostics and assays to identify and isolate COVID-19 cases
 - Characterize and test potential therapeutics and treatments for COVID-19
 - Develop effective vaccines to combat SARS-CoV-2Complete details on the NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released.

Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.

- **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/>.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
NEW: National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/23/2020	Research is needed for projects that address the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency through existing CTSA Programs. The linked Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) lists the responsive research activity for each funding mechanism associated with this emergency and administrative supplement.	NOT-TR-20-028
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/16/2020	Research is needed to understand the potentially complex relationships between alcohol consumption and COVID-19 related-outcomes to enhance the nation’s response to the current pandemic. The outcomes include overt pathophysiology and the impact of social and policy measures on COVID-19 outcomes.	NOT-AA-20-011
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	4/16/2020	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 health surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	NOT-LM-20-010
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	4/14/2020	Research to understand the “prevalence and symptomatology, of SARS-CoV-2 neurologic involvement.”	NOT-NS-20-046
Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)	4/13/2020	Seeking research with “existing longitudinal studies that address key	NOT-OD-20-097

		social and behavioral questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/10/2020	Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”	NOT-CA-20-042
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/10/2020	Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”	NOT-AT-20-011
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	4/10/2020	Supplements and 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.”	Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008 New R01, R21, R03 grants: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	4/10/2020	“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”	NOT-GM-20-027
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	4/9/2020	Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; the role that community-level protective and resilience	NOT-MD-20-019

		factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	NOT-CA-20-043
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	NOT-TR-20-016
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function, the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	NOT-DK-20-018
National Institute on Deafness and Other	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD’s scientific mission	NOT-DC-20-004

Communication Disorders (NIDCD)		areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	
National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH)	4/2/2020	Projects on “mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	3/27/2020	"Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial."	NOT-TR-20-012
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	3/27/2020	"Provide support for the conduct of worker-based training to prevent and reduce exposure of hospital employees, emergency first responders, and other workers who are at risk of exposure to Coronavirus through their work duties" through the NIEHS Superfund Worker Training Program (WTP).	NOT-ES-20-017
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	"Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19."	NOT-AI-20-034
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates “data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents.”	NOT-GM-20-025
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	3/24/2020	"Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines."	NOT-TR-20-011

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	“Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.”	NOT-DA-20-047
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)

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?oppld=325751>.

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

- PCORI announced three funding opportunities related to COVID-19 research, engagement, and dissemination and implementation. Under these solicitations, current PCORI grantees can apply for funding enhancements to existing awards for work addressing both the original topic and a current important issue related to COVID-19. Applications 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)

- NSF has started announcing the Coronavirus RAPID Awards: <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.

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

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

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The 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.

- **NEW:** 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.
- **UPDATED:** The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) anticipates potential upcoming solicitations in the following areas:
 - Point-of-care diagnostics to rapidly identify infected individuals
 - Predictive analytics that can forecast potential hot spots and empower decision makers' response actions

MTEC previously released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19, which closed April 8, 2020. 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 issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **May 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**. The original due date was April 15. 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 U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) on April 17 to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based, low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable "virtual critical care wards." The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP focuses on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional, non-traditional, and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. The following existing technologies should be included in the RPP:
 - "Mobile communications capabilities including synchronous audio/video, asynchronous messaging, and access to continuous monitoring
 - Clinician-facing web portal and/or mobile-based application (goal is availability on every device)
 - Capability for basic documentation in real-time as well as data collection and reporting
 - Cloud-based information storage including ability for later offloading via PDF or HL7"

DOD anticipates making up to six awards. The Department has a total of \$7 million available in fiscal year 2020 funds for the first three tasks outlined in the RPP scope of work. Funding for the other tasks is subject to availability. A Proposers Conference will take place on Monday, April 20

at 3:00pm ET. Registration is available at:

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/811606013843567631>. White papers are due on

April 27, 2020 by 12:00pm ET. The RPP can be found at

<https://beta.sam.gov/opp/f3012b9082ca4d109c171ad4349f7306/view#attachments-links>.

MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- 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 opens on **April 27, 2020** and 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326173>.
- The Army [xTechSearch](#) competition announced a new COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge seeking “low-cost, readily manufacturable emergency ventilator[s]” to expand ventilator capacity in support of military readiness and support the FEMA-led COVID-19 response. Sponsored by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (ASA(ALT)), xTechSearch is a nationwide competition for small businesses and startups, including university-based spin-offs, to develop new technologies to “uncover novel dual-use science and technology solutions.” According to the COVID-19 Ventilator Challenge Request for Information (RFI), the Army seeks ventilator technology solutions with a small footprint, designed for mass production, and capable of short-term, rugged field operations. The Ventilator Challenge will be conducted through a two-part application process. Registration started on April 5, 2020, and applications will be reviewed upon receipt. Selected participants will be awarded \$5,000 and invited to deliver a virtual pitch starting **April 13, 2020**. “Applicants should be prepared to deliver a virtual pitch of their concept within one week of submitting the application,” according to the RFI. Technology pitches selected to meet the requirements of this challenge will receive a prize of \$100,000 and will be invited to develop a concept prototype with the potential for follow-on work. The total prize pool for the Ventilator Challenge is \$1 million. The RFI can be found at https://usg.valideval.com/teams/xTech_covid_vent/signup. Registration is available at <https://www.xtechsearch.army.mil/>.
- 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?oppld=326034>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
- Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent Masks

DLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA's Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.

- 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 Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling
 - Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - "Blue-Sky" solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above

The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number "AF20R-DCSO1."

- 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 U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement March 30 for a forthcoming Request for Project Proposals (RPP) to rapidly develop and deploy the National Emergency Telecritical Care Network (NETCCN), a cloud-based,

low-resource, stand-alone health information management system for the creation and coordination of flexible and extendable “virtual critical care wards.” The program is focused on preparation for COVID-19-related critical care capability shortages. The RPP will focus on enhanced development of integrated technologies and clinical workflows to establish and rapidly scale virtual wards and extend intensive care to traditional and non-traditional and temporary healthcare facilities, specifically leveraging existing technologies that can be adapted from other use cases to establish NETCCN. DOD anticipates total funding of \$30 million to \$37 million in FY 2020 and anticipates up to six awards under the program. The pre-announcement can be found at

https://beta.sam.gov/opp/245ccb8f39a4423ab26468225e5e788c/view?keywords=covid&sort=-modifiedDate&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1&organization_id=100000000. MTEC membership is not required for the submission, 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/>.

- 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 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)

- USAID Administrator Mark Green announced that the U.S. Government will commit \$62 million from the Emergency Reserve Fund for Contagious Infectious-Disease Outbreaks (ERF) to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This is additional to the \$37 million announced in February to help developing countries affected by, or at high-risk for, the pandemic. Activities supported by this funding will include 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 are from the ERF, we do not anticipate any direct extramural funding opportunities. The statement is available at <https://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/mar-18-2020-statement-administrator-green-second-funding-tranche-62>.

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>.

The White House

- **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.”

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.ims.gov/news/ims-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: Other Sources

- **NEW:** 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 has created several platforms for data sharing of international scientific findings and knowledge of COVID-19. Resources include: a database of COVID-19 related peer reviewed literature; an international registry of COVID-19 clinical trials; data sharing platforms that include data from ongoing COVID-19 clinical investigations; and an application with “landscape analysis” of 133+ experimental therapeutics for COVID-19. See:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/global-research-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

- The WHO has other additional resources available, several of which may also be useful to the research community:
 - COVID-19 Daily Reports. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>;
 - The updated Strategic Preparedness Response Plan for COVID-19. See: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/covid-19-strategy-update-13-april-2020>.
 - Technical Guidelines, many of which were developed in consultation with U.S. technical experts. See: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>;
 - Target Product Profiles for COVID-19 Vaccines. See: https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/WHO_Target_Product_Profiles_for_COVID-19_web.pdf.

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

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

April 30, 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 Education** – Update on CARES Act funding allocations to institutions of higher education;
- **Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services** – New round of regulatory waivers and rule changes announced;
- **Foundation for Food and Agriculture** – New funding announced for Vet Fellowship;
- **Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health** – New funding opportunities announced at NIAID and NCI;
- **Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health** – New fast-track program for COVID-19 test development and distribution announced;
- **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** – New virtual hackathon announced leveraging space-based data to fight COVID-19;
- **Department of Defense** – New RFI released on COVID-19 modeling and prediction analyses services.

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: House Delays Return to Washington

House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced the House will return to Washington, D.C. and resume legislative business on Monday, May 11. Her statement follows a reversal earlier this week by the Speaker of plans to return this coming Monday, May 4. The Senate is still scheduled to reconvene on May 4.

Some committees will nevertheless return to Washington to conduct work related to COVID-19. For example, the House Labor, Health, and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee will hear testimony from Dr. Anthony Fauci on the Administration's response to COVID-19. Speaker Pelosi mentioned other committees may also hold hearings and other legislative business so long as social distancing guidelines are followed.

Congress has been on recess since passing the *Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act* (P.L. 116-139), which became law on April 24. Read Lewis-Burke's analysis of the [Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act](#) or of the earlier \$2 trillion [CARES Act](#) for additional information on Congressional activity related to COVID-19.

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 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?oppld=326222.](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=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](https://www.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>
 - **NIH Late Application Policy:** <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-20-091.html>

- **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 million will be allocated for Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities based on operating expenses.
 - 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](https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim).

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>.
 - Within 30 days of receiving the payment, providers must sign an attestation agreeing to HHS' terms and conditions, available at <https://covid19.linkhealth.com/>.

Update: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **NEW:** 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 COVID-19 patients on or after February 4 can request claims reimbursement. The sign-up period begins on April 27 and HRSA will begin accepting claims on May 6. Additional information and updates can be found at <https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim>.
- HRSA has announced it will implement all 13 administrative flexibilities for grant recipients outlined in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [memo](#) from March 19. The flexibilities are further explained in an FAQ released by the agency, available at <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/manage-your-grant/COVID-19-frequently-asked-questions>.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

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

Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)

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

Administration for Children and Families

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

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- 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. 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:
 - 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 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)

- 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>.
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) maintains information about their response to COVID-19 on their website at <https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/uscis-response-coronavirus-2019-covid-19>. Notable announcements include:
 - USCIS affirms it has flexibility to excuse a nonimmigrant’s failure to file an extension of stay (EOS) or change of status (COS) application if the delay was due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as noted on their special situations page, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>. Nonetheless, USCIS encourages all nonimmigrants to file timely EOS and COS applications and petitions to mitigate the immigration consequences of COVID-19, which they continue to accept and process.
 - Petitioners should expect a delay in data entry and receipt notice generation for fiscal year (FY) 2021 H-1B cap-subject petitions until at least May 1, 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Nonetheless, the specified filing window on registration selection notices will not change. For more information, see <https://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/h-1b-specialty-occupations-and-fashion-models/h-1b-electronic-registration-process>.
 - USCIS announced measures to assist applicants and petitioners who are responding to certain Requests for Evidence (RFE), Notices of Intent to Deny (NOID), Notices of Intent to Revoke (NOIR), and Notices of Intent to Terminate (NOIT). For an RFE, NOID, NOIR, or NOIT with an issuance date listed on the request, notice or decision between March 1, 2020 and May 1, 2020, USCIS will consider any response received within 60 calendar days of the response due date before any action is taken.
 - USCIS has suspended in-person appointments due to COVID-19. Appointments at USCIS domestic field offices will automatically be rescheduled once normal operations resume. Individuals with appointments with a Field Office must reschedule through the [USCIS Contact Center](#).
- The DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) recently announced efforts to develop a COVID-19 Master Question List (MQL) with information on the status of current news and relevant research related to the COVID-19 outbreak, including critical gaps in knowledge of importance to first

responders. These efforts are being led by S&T's new Probabilistic Analysis of National Threats, Hazards and Risks (PANTHR) Program and Hazard Awareness & Characterization Technology Center. In addition to identifying gaps in knowledge, these teams will also look to develop research solutions in some cases. Although a majority of this research will likely be conducted internally at DHS and through existing partners, there is a good chance MQL topics could be included in future DHS S&T funding opportunities. More information can be found at: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/blog/2020/03/18/st-mobilizes-key-data-inform-covid-19-response>

- 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:
 - **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>.
- 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/NASACOVIFAQ033120.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.ims.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.ims.gov/news/new-application-deadlines-ims-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 overseas with COVID-19 related emergencies may call DOS personnel for assistance. In addition, the DOS has compiled country-specific information regarding travel restrictions and evacuation plans. For details visit: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/covid-19-information.html>.
 - International travelers should register in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) to get up-to-date safety and security information and assist U.S. State Department personnel to contact citizens during emergencies at <https://step.state.gov/>.
- 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 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 April 30, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) released a new funding opportunity to provide expedited funding mechanisms for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19. The “Emergency Awards: Rapid Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19” opportunity is available through two mechanisms, the Research Project Grant (R01) and the Exploratory/Developmental Grant (R21). 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.” Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, beginning on 04/30/2020 and both grant opportunities expire on 04/30/2021. Please see additional details in the full funding opportunity announcements listed below.
 - Emergency Awards: Rapid Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-178.html>
 - Emergency Awards: Rapid Investigation of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed) - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-177.html>
- **NEW:** 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 NOSIs and other funding opportunities are released. Opportunities are for supplemental funding to existing grants (administrative supplements or competitive revisions) unless otherwise noted.
 - **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/>.

Institute or Center	Release Date	Topic	Link to Notice
NEW: National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/30/2020	NCI will consider requests from current grantees to engage in limited research using part of their existing NCI-funded resources to provide novel insights of immediate relevance to SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19.	Notice of Information: NOT-CA-20-054
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	4/27/2020	There is urgent need for early phase clinical trials to evaluate new or existing interventions that may prevent or treat Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Funding for this supplement is provided by the CARES Act.	NOT-HL-20-782
National Library of Medicine (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 health surveillance methods that mine genomic, viromic, health data, environmental data, and other pertinent sources.	New R21: NOT-LM-20-011 Revisions and Supplements: NOT-LM-20-010

NIH Common Fund	4/27/2020	Research is needed to better understand the transmission, pathology, and morbidity of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) and COVID-19. Funding for this supplement is provided by the CARES Act.	NOT-RM-20-015
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/23/2020	Research is needed to address the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency through existing NCATS Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA) Programs. The linked Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) lists the responsive research activity for each funding mechanism associated with this emergency and administrative supplement.	NOT-TR-20-028
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/16/2020	Research is needed to understand the potentially complex relationships between alcohol consumption and COVID-19 related-outcomes to enhance the nation's response to the current pandemic. The outcomes include overt pathophysiology and the impact of social and policy measures on COVID-19 outcomes.	NOT-AA-20-011
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	4/14/2020	Research to understand the “prevalence and symptomatology, of SARS-CoV-2 neurologic involvement.”	NOT-NS-20-046
Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research (OBSSR)	4/13/2020	Seeking research with “existing longitudinal studies that address key social and behavioral questions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-OD-20-097
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/10/2020	Research to understand “the basic mechanisms of interaction between SARS-CoV-2 and cancer cells, co-morbidities of cancer and SARS-CoV-2 infection (especially in disparately affected patient populations), and the impacts on treatment and clinical outcomes of SARS-	NOT-CA-20-042

		CoV-2 infected persons in the context of cancer.”	
National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4/10/2020	Projects on “stress management strategies, including mind and body approaches, that individuals may engage in remotely to address stressors related to social distancing, as well as to address recovery and recurrence of symptoms during and after COVID-19 infections.”	NOT-AT-20-011
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)	4/10/2020	Supplements and 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.”	Revisions and supplements: NOT-EB-20-008 New R01, R21, R03 grants: NOT-EB-20-007 New SBIR/STTR grants: NOT-EB-20-006
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	4/10/2020	“Applications for Competitive Revisions to active U24 awards for eligible organizations to rapidly provide pilot or supplementary funds to researchers studying the development of predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and outcomes of possible COVID-19 public health intervention measures in order to accelerate such research.”	NOT-GM-20-027
National Institute on Minority Health and	4/9/2020	Research on “how state and local policies and initiatives mitigate or exacerbate disparities in health services use and health outcomes; the role that	NOT-MD-20-019

Health Disparities (NIMHD)		community-level protective and resilience factors and interventions have in mitigating the effects of the sector disruptions that the COVID-19 outbreak causes; and how behavioral and/or biological mechanisms may contribute to COVID-19 manifestations.”	
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	4/9/2020	Research that provides evidence for how a disrupted workforce may adequately respond, adapt, and maintain services or provide additional care for new or increasing mental health needs.	NOT-MH-20-047
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	4/9/2020	Applications from small businesses with active SBIR/STTR awards for projects related to adapting and/or repurposing the use of cancer diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics as tools for COVID-19 in cancer patients, cancer survivors, and the general population.	NOT-CA-20-043
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	4/9/2020	Research that uses microphysiological systems or tissue chips for collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes of COVID-19 infection, in order to advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.	NOT-TR-20-017
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	4/9/2020	Research to understand the potential contributions of exposure to environmental agents that might exacerbate COVID-19 susceptibility, severity, and progression, as well as environmental health disparities.	NOT-ES-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	4/9/2020	Projects that examine how coinfection with SARS-CoV-2, the causative agent for COVID-19, might affect HIV-associated comorbidities, coinfections, and complications within its mission, as well as COVID-19 outcomes in people with HIV.	NOT-DK-20-020
National Institute of Diabetes and	4/9/2020	Projects focused on the action of the virus on kidney, gastrointestinal tract function,	NOT-DK-20-018

Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)		the endocrine/metabolic system, and the collection of biosamples that will inform the understanding of viral infection in those listed areas.	
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	4/9/2020	Applications highlight urgent need for research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 in relation to NIDCD’s scientific mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.	NOT-DC-20-004
National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH)	4/2/2020	Projects on “mission critical areas of research for NIA as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.”	NOT-AG-20-022 FAQs on NOT-AG-20-022 (4/21/2020)
National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)	3/31/2020	"Genomic research on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 disease; genomic studies utilizing generalized approaches that take advantage of human research or model systems to study the consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection."	NOT-HG-20-030
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)	3/27/2020	"Projects that repurpose existing drugs or biologics (existing therapeutics) that have already begun or completed a Phase I clinical trial."	NOT-TR-20-012
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	3/25/2020	"Projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19."	NOT-AI-20-034
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	3/25/2020	Research that incorporates “data related to SARS-CoV-2 into ongoing research efforts to develop predictive models for the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and other related infectious agents.”	NOT-GM-20-025
National Center for Advancing	3/24/2020	"Projects focusing on the use of informatics solutions to diagnose cases and the use of CTSA-supported core	NOT-TR-20-011

Translational Sciences (NCATS)		resources (e.g., advanced scientific instruments, highly-specialized facilities, and regulatory expertise) to facilitate research on COVID-19 and advance the translation of research findings into diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.”	
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	3/19/2020	“Research collecting and examining data on the risks and outcomes for COVID-19 infection in individuals suffering from substance use disorders.”	NOT-DA-20-047
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	3/17/2020	Research on “host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.”	NOT-HL-20-757 FAQs on NOT-HL-20-757 (4/8/2020)

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?oppld=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.

Update: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

- **NEW:** NASA announced on April 30 a *Space Apps COVID-19 Challenge* that will address COVID-related issues “using NASA’s open-source data in an all-virtual, global hackathon.” Specifically, the challenge will take place May 30-31 and focus on four key themes: Learning about the virus and its spread using Space-based data; Local response/change and solution; Impacts of COVID-19 on the Earth system/Earth system response, and; Economic opportunity, impact, and recovery during and following COVID-19. The competition will match participants with subject matter experts from NASA or other relevant government agencies. Registration and more information about the event is available at <https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/>.

- NASA's Earth Science Division (ESD) is alerting “Earth Science research, applications, and data systems communities” of the Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences (ROSES) 2020 [Program Element A.28 "Rapid Response and Novel Research in Earth Science" \(RRNES\)](#) as an opportunity for “making innovative use of NASA satellite data to address regional-to-global environmental, economic, and/or societal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.” NASA ESD anticipates reviewing proposals within 10 days of submission.

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

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

Update: Department of Defense (DOD)

- **NEW:** The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) released a Request for Information (RFI) for COVID-19 modeling and prediction analyses services. The goal of the RFI is to “facilitate collaboration between a partnered research laboratory and WRAIR investigators” to provide “immediate support” to perform such analyses services. Potential analyses relevant to military health protection may include “healthcare system predictions, epidemic spread predictions, clinical outcome predictions, resource allocation, and the impact of a range of non-pharmaceutical and pharmaceutical interventions.” Potential performers should have “substantive publication-proven experience in prior epidemic virus forecasting and modeling, a history of publications of substantive modeling analyses specifically for COVID-19, extensive expertise in developing and implementing agent-based models which use notional/synthetic

populations and have experience in applying modeling for advanced vaccine development is also a key capability.” Responses to the RFI are due by **May 4, 2020, at 1:00pm ET**. The RFI can be found at www.beta.sam.gov under Notice ID “0011485192.”

- 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 U.S. Army’s Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) anticipates potential upcoming solicitations in the following areas:
 - Point-of-care diagnostics to rapidly identify infected individuals
 - Predictive analytics that can forecast potential hot spots and empower decision makers’ response actions

MTEC previously released a Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on developing prototypes for therapeutics that can treat COVID-19, which closed April 8, 2020. 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 issued a Request for Information (RFI) 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 welcomes industry 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

This solicitation was amended to extend the due date for responses to **May 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM CDT**. The original due date was April 15. 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 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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=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?oppld=326034>.
- The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced on April 4 that it is seeking white papers for an Other Transaction Authority (OTA) to support COVID-19 prototypes in two areas:
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Re-Use and Decontamination
 - Prototype PPE: N95 Equivalent MasksDLA seeks to address the shortage created by reliance on overseas production and limited domestic production. Respondents should offer prototype solutions that will allow healthcare providers and warfighters to safely decontaminate and re-use N95 masks and other PPE, as well as N95-equivalent mask prototypes that can be rapidly produced using alternate materials or methods. FDA/NIOSH approval is not required to submit a white paper. DLA anticipates funding of \$1 million for multiple prototypes. White papers should be submitted to accelerate@dla.mil by **May 4, 2020 at 1:00 PM ET** and will be reviewed as they are received due to critical need for this equipment. More information about DLA’s Technology Accelerator OTA Program Solicitation and Program Procedures is available at <https://www.dla.mil/HQ/InformationOperations/Accelerate/>.
- 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 Air Force Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program released an out-of-cycle Direct-to-Phase-2 Commercial Solutions Opening (CSO) calling for small businesses with the ability to conduct research and development (R&D) related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Focus areas include:
 - Decision Support to Combat the Virus (including big data and predictive analytics)
 - Technologies to address personnel needs such as tele-health, tele-ministry, and tele-counseling

- Technologies to enable telework at scale
 - Deployment of AI to enable forecasting and situational awareness to address shortfalls and needs for critical medical supplies
 - New Medical technologies including antiviral surface coatings, field deployable COVID-19 tests, and dual-patient ventilators
 - “Blue-Sky” solutions to the COVID-19 outbreak not addressed in the areas above
- The solicitation can be found at <https://beta.sam.gov> under solicitation number “AF20R-DCSO1.”
- 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-QiqOgZgWdCg036hgom7M9PhKlI0R1FGgwCG-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, gloves, 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:
 - 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.ims.gov/news/ims-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?oppld=326343>.

Update: Foundation for Food and Agriculture

- **NEW:** 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>.