News & Updates

NSF proposals sought on Ebola-Rapid Response Research

In light of the recent emergence of the lethal Ebola virus in the US, the National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting proposals to conduct non-medical, non-clinical care research that can be used immediately to better understand how to model and understand the spread of Ebola, educate about prophylactic behaviors, and encourage the development of products, processes, and learning that can address this global challenge.

Investigators are encouraged to use the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism, which allows NSF to receive and review proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of, or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment, as well as quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.

The RAPID funding mechanism is used for proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of, or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment, including quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events. PI(s) must contact the NSF program officer(s) whose expertise is most germane to the proposal topic before submitting a RAPID proposal.

The "RAPID" proposal must be selected in the proposal preparation module in FastLane.

Complete guidance on submitting a RAPID proposal may be found here.
Meet the Experts in NIH Peer Review for R01 (webinar)

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) invites AU researchers to join us and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in a Meet the Experts in NIH Peer Review for R01 (webinar), which will stream live from the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) at NIH. The webinar will provide insights into the application submission and peer review processes. AU faculty researchers will have an opportunity to send questions to NIH presenters, who will address them at the end of the webinar. The featured presentation is: Research Project Grants (R01) for more information Click Here

Webinar Details

Date: November 10th 2014

Time: 2:00 -4:00 pm

Location: Butler Conference Room

*The webinar will run for about 2 hours.

Participants can email questions for the speakers to AskExperts@csr.nih.gov during the presentations. As many questions as possible will be answered during the last 30 minutes of the webinar. Please RSVP by November 5th. All RSVPs should be sent via e-mail to ospevents@american.edu and reference NIH Webinar in the subject line.

New Video Tutorials Can Help You Navigate eRA Commons

New to eRA Commons? Want to know how to locate your Summary Statement? Or look up your Notice of Award? We have just the tools for you.

A new series of video tutorials on navigating the Status screen in eRA Commons is now available on the eRA website and on the NIH Grants playlist on YouTube. The 10-part series walks you through the steps for submitting just-in-time information, a no-cost extension, a relinquishing statement to give up an active grant to another institution and more. The videos also spell out how the Signing Official’s view of the Status screen differs from that of the Principal Investigator. Keeping in mind how busy you are, the videos are short and keep to a duration of 3 to 8 minutes.
NSF Funding Success Rate for FY 2013 Drops to 22%

Did you know that during the fiscal year (FY) 2013, the National Science Foundation (NSF) considered 48,999 proposals and made 10,829 awards, a 22% success rate — a historic low equal to the rate the agency first reported in 2011? In contrast, the rate was 31% in 2001, a year in which NSF received 31,942 proposals and made 9,925 awards. Seventy-five percent of proposals were submitted by males, according to the new data. Academic institutions received 81% of awards in FY 2013, compared with 76% in 2005. These figures are among the information included in a 16-page digest of NSF’s FY 2013 report on the merit review process, which was posted on NSF’s website on Oct. 7.

Although the number of proposals submitted to NSF has generally increased over time, the number of awards made has remained relatively stable. Thus the proposal success rate has declined over time. Over the period 2001 to 2013, the number of proposals increased while the number of awards stayed relatively flat (2009 and 2010 included ARRA funding).
On Campus vs. Off-Campus Indirect Costs (F&A) Rates

The appropriate Indirect Costs [also known as “Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rates] must be included in the budget of every proposal. Per its negotiated agreement with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the University has a separate indirect cost rate for on and off-campus sponsored projects.

**On-Campus rate:** The current on-campus indirect cost rate is 43%

**Off-Campus rate:** The current off-campus indirect cost rate is 19%

*The University’s current (F&A) rate agreement states,

“For all activities performed in facilities not owned by the institution and to which rent is directly allocated to the project(s) the off-campus rate will apply. Grants or contracts will not be subject to more than one F&A cost rate. If more than 50% of a project is performed off-campus, the off-campus rate will apply to the entire project.”

To assist in determining whether the on-campus or off-campus rate is applicable, consider the following questions:

**Question One:** Is the proposed effort of AU personnel on campus (including cost shared effort) greater than the proposed effort of those working off campus?

If yes, then use the on-campus rate.

However, if the answer to Question One is not definitive, consider Question Two below:

**Question Two:** Are the total direct costs incurred off-campus greater than those incurred on-campus?

If yes, then use the off-campus rate.

Final determination and communication to sponsors regarding the applicability of proposed Indirect Costs rate rests with OSP and GCA (in coordination with the PI/PI’s unit).

Unless otherwise restricted ¹, the proposed indirect cost rate is applicable to federal grants and contracts proposals and awards. Pursuant to the University’s agreement with DHHS and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the same or equivalent proposed rate is also applicable to proposals submitted to or funded by non-federal sponsors.

¹Some sponsors, particularly private foundations, restrict or limit indirect costs. The University will generally honor such restrictions provided the sponsor has a specific written or published policy that limits or restricts indirect costs. This information was updated in the PI handbook (Page I-22)
Research Matters

OSP Spotlight

Each month, OSP Monthly highlights a specific American University faculty/staff member for their contributions in providing cutting-edge research or a research related program that serves to create and advance knowledge, and enrich the resources of our educational community while answering and accelerating challenging issues we face today. This month, we are featuring James Goldgeier, Dean of the School of International Service.

Q&A with James Goldgeier

Q: Describe the Bridging the Gap project and the application of its work.
A: Bridging the Gap pursues work on future U.S. and global foreign policy challenges that is theory-driven, policy-relevant, and problem- and solution-oriented. The initiative seeks to understand significant medium- and long-term global challenges, and to influence strategically how such trends affect U.S. interests and those of the rest of the world. Through its professional development programs, networking events, and other activities, Bridging the Gap achieves impact by encouraging, training and advocating for academics to pursue policy-relevant research and theoretically grounded policy work while simultaneously engaging policymakers in the work of political scientists and scholars of international relations. While I serve as principal investigator of the initiative, I have five partners at universities across the country, and we work with many dozens of scholars around the world each year. The applications of this project are limitless and our goal is to better inform policy decisions here in the United States and across the globe.

Q: What or who inspired this focus?
A: The late Stanford University Professor Alexander George, among the foremost international relations scholars of our time, published a book in 1993 titled, Bridging the Gap: Theory and Practice in Foreign Policy. In his book, George highlighted U.S. strategies in Iraq in 1988 - 1991, most of which were ineffective because, George argued, they lacked in-depth knowledge of the relevant issues. George then made the excellent case that closer ties between the policymaking and academic communities would greatly advance U.S. decision-making in foreign policy. Bridging the Gap takes its name from George's seminal work, and, trains, mentors, and advocates for scholars to produce policy-relevant research and theoretically grounded policy work. Bridging the Gap is not an area of research, per se; instead, it is a way of contributing as a scholar beyond the academic setting. Throughout my career, I have worked in the academic and policymaking settings. While at The George Washington University, I acquired fellowships to work at think tanks and other policy settings, and also worked for a period in the State Department and on the National Security Council staff.

Q: Discuss funding sources for this project and any advice that you would impart interested in pursuing policy relevant research.
A: The principal funder of the research is the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The Carnegie Corporation, like other private foundations, has been an important partner throughout this initiative, serving as a resource for ideas as well as funding. My advice for academics who are interested in pursuing policy-relevant research is to develop relationships with the appropriate public policy institutions and civil society organizations here in Washington and beyond, and to disseminate their research through non-academic conferences, news blogs and op-eds, and other policy settings -- making sure to identify the practical policy implications of their academic research.
Funding Search Information Sessions
OSP has created a series of informational sessions for those interested in independently searching for funding opportunities. The sessions will provide training on how to use our current funding search databases, and will assist faculty and staff in developing user profiles to receive directly announcements of funding opportunities related to their research interests.

⇒ Next Sessions:
  - General Overview: November 6, 2014, 10:30-12:00 PM, Butler Conference Room—Open to all AU faculty and staff
  - Unit/School Oriented (School of Communication): November 13, 2014, 10:00-12:00 PM, Butler Conference Room—Open to all SOC faculty and staff

To view more information about the Funding Search Information sessions and how to register here >>

Research Administration Certification (RAC) Program
RAC is a comprehensive training and certification program designed to assist AU departmental and school/college level staff with research administration and management responsibilities. This 8-session program provides pertinent information to enable participants to effectively manage sponsored awards.

⇒ Next Session: Session 3—Grants Management I (Pre-Award)
  - November 18, 2014, 10:00-12:00 PM, MGC Room 247 —Instructor Led

View more information about RAC and how to register for the instructor-led and online courses here >>

Grant Administration Roundtable (GAR) Sessions
OSP and Grants and Contracts Accounting (GCA) would like to invite you to the next GAR session. At this time topics for the December GAR are being solicited from the units.

Please submit your suggestions for topics to OSPEvents@american.edu by November 7, 2014.

⇒ Next Session: December 4, 2014, 10:00-11:30am, MGC Room 330N

View more information about GAR and how to register here >>
**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

**Arts & Humanities**

### National Endowment for the Humanities— Sustaining Cultural Heritage Traditions
Helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting preventive conservation measures that mitigate deterioration and prolong the life of collections.
**Deadline: December 3, 2014**

### Gerda Henkel Foundation – Special Programme: Security, Society, and the State
As security-related issues, the fading role of the state and the gradual elimination of borders are central themes in both political and scholarly debates today. There is good reason for a more fine-grained perspective, however. Current security issues are multi-faceted and dynamic, ranging from military protection to efficient public infrastructure and a viable social negotiation process. As a matter of fact, the state is not irrevocably losing ground in security-sensitive areas. The “Security, Society and the State” research programme reflects these contradictory trends. It targets new security-related issues that are prime examples of the post-Cold-War era but have been largely neglected in mainstream research. Research projects should be closely related to one or more of the five fields of research: (1) cyber security as a governmental task; (2) public administration and human security; (3) patterns of conflict resolution between the state and traditional actors; (4) non-governmental actors as partners and contenders of the state; and (5) security strategies between doctrine formation and implementation.
**Deadline: December 5, 2014**

### Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation— USArtists International Grants
USArtists International is committed to ensuring that the impressive range of expression of the performing arts in the U.S. is represented abroad, and that the creative and professional development of American artists is enhanced through participation at significant international festivals. Through USAI, grants are available to American dance, music and theater ensembles and solo performers that have been invited to perform at significant international festivals anywhere in the world outside of the U.S.
**Deadline: December 5, 2014**

### National Endowment for the Humanities – Scholarly Editions and Translations Grants
Scholarly Editions and Translations grants support the preparation of editions and translations of pre-existing texts and documents of value to the humanities that are currently inaccessible or available in inadequate editions. These grants support full-time or part-time activities for periods of one to three years. Projects must be undertaken by a team of at least one editor or translator and one other staff member. Grants typically support editions and translations of significant literary, philosophical, and historical materials, but other types of work, such as musical notation, are also eligible.
**Deadline: December 9, 2014**
American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation— Joint Grant Awards Program
The Joint Grant Awards Program (JGAP) supports research that poses questions of high relevance to family medicine. The program goals are to: 1) Support research of value to the practicing family physician 2) Encourage proposals by junior investigators 3) Fund pilot studies
**Deadline: December 1, 2014**

The McKnight Foundation— McKnight Technological Innovations in Neuroscience Awards
These awards support scientists working on new and unusual approaches to understanding brain function. The program seeks to advance and enlarge the range of technologies available to the neurosciences. It does not support research based primarily on existing techniques. The Endowment Fund is especially interested in how technology may be used or adapted to monitor, manipulate, analyze, or model brain function at any level, from the molecular to the entire organism. Collaborative and cross-disciplinary applications are invited.
**Deadline: December 1, 2014**

Burroughs Wellcome Fund— Preterm Birth Initiative
The Preterm Birth Initiative was created to increase the understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying parturition and spontaneous preterm birth. The initiative is designed to stimulate both creative individual scientists and multi-investigator teams to approach the problem of preterm birth using creative basic and translation science methods. Molecular and computational approaches such genetics/genomics, immunology, microbiology, evolutionary biology, mathematics, engineering, and other basic sciences hold enormous potential for new insights independently or in conjunction with more traditional areas of parturition research such as maternal fetal medicine, obstetrics, and pediatrics. The formation of new connections between reproductive scientists and investigators who are involved in other areas will give preterm birth research a fresh and unique look, and stimulate a new workforce to tackle this challenge.
**Deadline: December 1, 2014**

American Federation of Aging Research and Rotary International— Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust Fund
The goal of the fund is to encourage exploratory and developmental AD research projects within the United States. This is accomplished by providing financial support for the early and conceptual plans of those projects that may not yet be supported by extensive preliminary data but have the potential to substantially advance biomedical research. These projects should be distinct from those designed to increase knowledge in a well-established area unless they intend to extend previous discoveries toward new directions or applications.
**Deadline: December 3, 2014 (Letter of Intent)**

National Science Foundation— Physics at the Information Frontier
Includes support for data-enabled science, community research networks, and new computational infrastructure, as well as for next-generation computing. It focuses on cyber-infrastructure for the disciplines supported by the Physics Division while encouraging broader impacts on other disciplines. Disciplines within the purview of the Physics Division include: atomic, molecular, optical, plasma, elementary particle, nuclear particle, astrophysics, gravitational and biological physics.
**Deadline: December 4, 2014**
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Institutes of Health
NIH Funding Opportunities—Grants & Funding Page
/Search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities/

Education

National Endowment for Financial Education— General Grants (Financial Literacy Research)
The grants program seeks innovative research that can make a profound contribution to the field of financial literacy. Inquiries are encouraged from disciplines in fields as diverse as: behavior, economies, neuroscience, sociology, psychology, marketing, finance, education, change theory, decision sciences and others. Project outcomes should be actionable in the field of financial literacy, directly relevant to the financial well-being of the public, and able to be applied broadly.
Deadline: December 2, 2014

Department of Education – Personnel Development to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities: Personnel Preparation in Special Education, Early Intervention, and Related Services
The purposes of this program are to (1) help address State-identified needs for personnel preparation in special education, early intervention, related services, and regular education to work with children, including infants and toddlers, with disabilities; and (2) ensure that those personnel have the necessary skills and knowledge, derived from practices that have been determined through scientifically based research and experience, to be successful in serving those children.
Deadline: December 5, 2014

Brady Education Foundation— Research & Program Evaluations in Early Education
The Brady Education Foundation seeks to close the achievement gap for children at risk for poor school outcomes due to environmental factors associated with living in poverty. The Foundation pursues its mission by promoting collaboration between researchers and educators via the funding of research and program evaluations in education.
Deadline: December 15, 2014

American Educational Research Association – AERA-ETS Fellowship Program in Measurement and Education Research
The American Educational Research Association (AERA) and Educational Testing Service (ETS) announce the AERA-ETS Fellowship Program in Measurement and Education Research. This fellowship is designed to provide learning opportunities and practical experience to recent doctoral degree recipients and to early career research scientists in education research areas directed toward explaining student progress and achievement, including: Assessment Design; Large-scale Evaluations; Measurement; Psychometrics; Statistical Analyses. In addition to these areas, we are seeking to advance research in science cognition and teacher evaluation.
Deadline: December 15, 2014

General

Federal Contracts
Federal Business Funding Opportunities
/Search by keywords to narrow down your search to locate funding opportunities/
Encourage those who are not on the newsletter subscription list to join! Subscribe by sending an email with your name and academic/business unit to Newsletter-L@listserv.american.edu

Here is some of what to expect in next month’s OSP Monthly:
- Conducting a Search for Funding Opportunities per Federal Agency
- OSP Spotlight
- Funding Opportunities

Contact Information

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