American University’s aspiration is to become a premier global research university, providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment. As part of this vision, AU encourages dialogue and discovery, where the values of integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, respect, collaboration and innovation are fostered.

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) manages sponsored projects that move AU toward becoming a world-leading research university. Reflecting this goal and AU’s own ideals, the following values are built into OSP’s daily operations:

High Performance: Members of the OSP staff perform their duties in an efficient, accurate, and professional manner. Critical to high performance is clear communication, effective follow-up and attention to detail.

Caring Attitude towards Faculty, Staff and Students: Members of the OSP staff treat all faculty, staff and students with respect and consideration.

Sense of Uniqueness and Pride: OSP has a unique and central role in furthering the sponsored projects enterprise, which it accomplishes by adding value and quality to everything it does. OSP provides solutions to the challenges AU researchers face.

Partnership with Faculty, Staff and Students: Members of the OSP staff value open communication, the development of professional relationships, teamwork and furthering collaboration.

Excellent Service: OSP staff realize that the success of AU researchers is their own success. OSP staff strive to provide superior, ever improving levels of support to all faculty, staff and students involved in the sponsored projects enterprise. Commitment to lifelong learning and professional development allows OSP staff to consistently provide excellent service to faculty, staff and students.
University Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) Semi-Annual Meeting

Irina Komives, Senior Grant and Contract Manager, OSP | October 23, 2015

On October 13-15, 2015, I had the opportunity to participate in the University –Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP) semi-annual meeting at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Formally organized by the National Academies of Sciences in 2006, UIDP’s mission is to identify issues impacting relations between America’s universities and companies, known colloquially as “U-I Relations.” UIDP semi-annual meetings bring together leaders from academia and the private sector to explore new opportunities for working together and to develop innovative approaches for increasing ever-better communication, cooperation, and collaboration. With 140 members, about two-thirds of which are universities – AU has been a member since 2012, UIDP is now an independent, self-sustaining organization.

UIDP is significant for American University researchers because, as a member, we are authorized users of UIDP’s member portal (https://www.uidp.org/members-only-area/). After you create an account, you have full access to UIDP webinars and publications, including their well-known Researchers Guidebook, which describes the steps necessary for developing a successful institutional-industrial collaboration.

This fall’s semi-annual meeting focused on the promise of national laboratories such as Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), which is just outside Knoxville. The two-day event was packed with presentations, panel discussions, project working sessions examining ways to accelerate universities and industry partnerships. Every year, university research results in great opportunities for entrepreneurial business startups to disrupt markets, and offer more choices to consumers the world over.

A highlight of the meeting was touring ORNL. With its Spallation Neutron Source, Manufacturing Demonstration Facility, and Carbon Fiber Technology Facility, ORNL is “leading deep research into delivering transformative solutions to compelling problems in energy and security.” I was able to see firsthand how ORNL is transforming the next generation of scientific discovery into solutions for “rebuilding and revitalizing America’s manufacturing industries.” For example, I saw how ORNL researchers are developing awe-inspiring new manufacturing technologies, such as 3D printing, which are lowering production costs (and reducing greenhouse gas emissions).

Of interest to AU researchers are ORNL’s semiannual calls for proposals for time using their facilities, including the world’s fastest super computer. While ORNL does not charge for time using their facilities, they do require that applicants publish the results of their research. Because this seems to cause problems for ORNL’s industry partners, it offers a distinct advantage to universities, such as AU.

The meeting ended with a panel discussion analyzing how today’s universities are at the intersection of collaboration with industry and national labs. As accelerators of innovation, universities have become part of the collaborative ecosystem that encompasses research, entrepreneurial education, and infrastructure to elevate new breakthroughs into solutions to global challenges.
Leadership is a commonly used word, yet leadership means entirely different things to almost every person. For some, leadership is a process, while others view it as a practice or an action, and some think leadership is a position. However you define leadership, the one thing nearly everyone agrees—effective leadership is essential to progress.

ASuccessfulU, through Development Dimension International (DDI), offers an informative class, “Essential of Leadership” to employees who desire to learn more on leadership. The course, designed for introspective self-analysis, explores techniques to improve and develop leadership capabilities. It covers three areas of leadership exploration—leadership imperatives; key principles of leadership; and interaction guidelines of leaders. These three tenants should produce a catalyst, which is the final destination of anyone seeking to transform their leadership capabilities.

A catalyst is an individual who “sparks positive action in others.” Some of the traits of a catalyst is having the ability to capitalize on the talents of others while giving people the respect they deserve. Today’s dynamic and ever changing workforce is filled with a variety of cultural, generational and personality complexities. To garner the best of people, it is imperative to involve them in decision making and implementation while providing an environment and tools to get the job done effectively. After all, leaders get their work done through others.

One extremely valuable key principle of leadership is to share thoughts, feelings, and rationale which fosters and builds trust with the members of a team. People work best with people they trust. Many leaders can build trust simply by offering explanations behind a decision, idea or change. Utilizing leadership imperatives such as coaching and developing, also helps to inspire loyalty and trust of the team members.

A catalyst sufficiently applies the five key principles of leadership in their daily routines. Catalyst are able to maintain or enhance self-esteem. A feeling of self-worth keeps people motivated, confident and committed to their work. Listening and responding with empathy to expressed problems, concerns and frustrations is another hallmark of a catalyst. Dr. Anitha Ramanchander, Director of the Adarsh Institute of Management and Information Technology states, “Most of the time, bosses are unaware that their behavior affects the work environment. Their body language, tone of voice, facial expression could be read by employees” which sabotages progress and lowers morale. Exploring issues and concerns with empathy provides insight into potential barriers to achieving the goals of the team.
Interaction guidelines of leaders provide the process of applying key principles of leadership to independent actions. The interaction guidelines are all about communication strategies. Human resource experts report that the most prevalent problem in a work place is failed, poor communication. DDI suggests that catalyst approach every interaction (communication) being open, honest and clear, ensuring that everyone understands the importance and purpose of the discussion. Successful communication is specific, timely and balanced and addresses both positive performance and improvement performance.

A technique that leaders can immediately employ to become a catalyst is the STAR (STAR/AR) method of offering positive and developmental (improvement) feedback.

**ST – Situation or Task.** What was the problem, business opportunity, challenge or task?

**A – Action.** What was said or done to handle the situation or task? Remember for developmental feedback, what did the person or team say or do that is ineffective? What are areas for improvement?

**R – Result.** What changed, for the better or worse, because of the person’s or team’s actions, and what was the impact of the employee’s efforts, and how did their actions influence the end result?

**A – Alternative.** What action could the person or team could have said or done differently?

**R – Result.** What is the enhanced result that the alternative action may have produced?

*DDI, Inc. MMIII. Revised MMVI.*

Effective or catalytic leadership will consistently behave in ways to energize and mobilize, focus on people’s potential, ask, listen and learn, guide, facilitate, steer, foster independence, encourage creativity and innovation, being careful not to use their position of power to drive performance. Are you a catalyst?
University Policy: Pre-Award Spending on Research Grants
Policy Category: Research Policy
Subject: Pre-Award Spending/Advance Accounts/Risk Accounts
Office Responsible for Review of this Policy: Vice Provost for Research

Procedures: As described below

Related University Policies: Accounts Payable – Policies, Procedures, & Guidelines; Procurement and Contracts – Policies, Procedures, & Guidelines; Procurement and Contracts – Visa Purchasing Card

I. SCOPE

This policy provides a mechanism to allow Principal Investigators (PIs) to incur costs for sponsored research awards that have not yet been awarded to the University, or for incremental awards for which the new budget period has not yet been awarded to the University, all in cases where there is a high likelihood that the awards will be received.

II. DEFINITIONS

Pre-Award Spending

Pre-Award Spending is spending that occurs on an award before the funder’s official award notice is received by the University. Pre-award spending may also include spending that occurs after the official receipt of the award but before the account has been established for the award.

Advance Accounts

Advance Accounts are accounts from which spending occurs on an award (a) before the funder’s official award notice is received by the University or (b) before official notification that the renewal or continuation of an existing award has been approved, obligated and authorized, provided reasonable assurance by the sponsor.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) will approve Advance Accounts and authorize Pre-Award Spending when the following conditions are met:
1. A funder (e.g., federal or state agency, private foundation) has provided sufficient documented written assurance from an appropriate organizational official, as determined by the Director of OSP, that funding is imminent.

2. The PI can demonstrate a need to incur expenses prior to the official start date of the award (i.e., pre-award spending if permitted) or prior to the receipt of the fully executed award document (i.e., advance accounts). Situations in which an account may be requested for a new project include, but are not limited to, the following: the purchase of equipment or supplies to conduct a project or the bulk purchase of materials to secure a time-limited discount. On continuing projects, advance spending may be requested to purchase supplies or to support critical employment commitments. In the case of contracts being negotiated, pre-award spending may be approved where there is a high degree of likelihood that the contract terms and conditions will be resolved and are in accordance with regular university contract parameters.

3. A full copy of the funding proposal for the project is on file within OSP.

4. All required research assurances and compliance approvals have been obtained, e.g., for Conflict of Interest, IRB, IACUC, IBC, Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) and Risk Management.

5. The proposed dates for the advance account are no more than 90 days prior to the anticipated start of the award. Pre-award spending will occur within the 90-day period prior to the start date identified by the sponsor.

The maximum duration of advance accounts is 90 days. The value of advance accounts is capped at 25% of the total value of the award from the sponsor.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Roles and Responsibilities

1. Principal Investigators (PIs) are responsible for the content of pre-award or advance account requests submitted to OSP for review and approval, e.g., that requests are congruent with approved institutional policy and sponsor requirements. Pre-award or advance account requests by PIs may be mailed to osp@american.edu.

2. The Vice Provost for Research is responsible for the policy and will review the policy and procedures annually. The Vice Provost for Research is also responsible for the procedural oversight of this policy and related procedures.

3. The Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) is responsible for responding to inquiries about this policy and requesting grant account set up from the Controller’s Office, specifically, Grants and Contracts Accounting (GCA).

4. GCA will be responsible for the assignment of the grant account number and for on-going review of account status. On a quarterly basis, GCA will provide the Vice Provost for Research and the Director of OSP a report with the current financial standing of all advance ac-
B. Financial Risk

B. If the award to the University does not occur or the project dates are inconsistent with the account set-up dates, the financial risk is assumed by the PI’s academic unit. The academic unit will be required to provide a general account number when the risk account is established to ensure that all unauthorized or unfunded pre-award expenses are subsequently allocated to the academic unit.

C. Scenarios

C. This section presents several scenarios in which requests for pre-award or advance spending may be warranted and prudent. Following the guidelines and restrictions of individual sponsors, these scenarios demonstrate situations in which this policy may be constructively applied.

1. New Awards. Prior to the receipt of a new award, the University may receive an informal notification that an award is forthcoming from a sponsor. There may be a delay between the informal notification of the award and the receipt by OSP of the official notice of award. In cases where the informal notification of award indicates a high probability of award, and there is a compelling need for a “ramp up” period for constructing the infrastructure and resources to support the project before the performance period, it may be beneficial to the success of the project to begin preliminary activities on the project in advance of the start date. It is important to note that advance spending accounts on new awards carry a higher level of risk due to uncertainties that funding will materialize.

2. Competing Continuations. Awards for sponsored projects that have received funding previously and are competing with other institutions for an award for a new funding period, by definition, have an elevated level of risk regarding whether the sponsor will award funds for an additional performance period. Therefore, competing continuations are treated as new awards and risk of non-renewal of funding is balanced against the need for continuity in the project in consideration of the sponsor’s likelihood to award support for an additional performance period. In circumstances where there exists a gap in funding between the end of one funding period and the start of the next one, it may be appropriate and beneficial to establish an advance account or to authorize pre-award spending when the probability of continued funding is high.

3. Non-Competing Continuations. Awards for the second or subsequent funding period in a multi-year award, for which the PI is not in competition with other institutions, do not carry the same degree of risk as competing continuations. The sponsoring agency typically will issue a non-competing continuation award letter following acceptance of a satisfactory progress report from the PI, based on available funding in its agency or foundation appropriation budget. In this scenario, there is typically no interruption in funding, limiting the need for advance spending. An advance spending account may be warranted in situations when a current year’s funding is used before the end of the performance period or if the renewal award is delayed. In the case of a delayed award, the reason for the delay would be an important consideration in the approval of the requested advance spending account.
4. **Subcontracts.** In cases where a sub-recipient requests pre-award or advance spending funds from the prime recipient, the prime institution bears the financial risk if the award or funding for the award is not received. With regard to new awards, it is generally not advisable to provide internal funds for pre-award spending as a sub-contractor. This risk is reduced if the prime institution has received clear indications that funds will be awarded from a credible sponsor, when those funds are not yet received. The University may engage in approved pre-award or advance spending as a sub-recipient, but does not authorize pre-award or advance spending for its sub-recipients.

5. **Transfers.** If a PI transfers from another institution and brings sponsored awards from another institution, it may be appropriate in some cases for the University to allow the transferring PI to incur expenditures in advance of the actual transfer of the award from the previous institution to American University. The decision to allow pre-award expenditure will depend on a number of factors including: the likelihood of the transfer of the balance of the award, any restrictions placed on the transfer by the previous institution or the sponsor, and the impact of an interruption of funding to the success of the sponsored program. Transfers of sponsored awards to the University are treated as new awards.

V. **EFFECTIVE DATE:**  **September 1, 2015**

Signed by Dr. **Scott A. Bass, Provost**
In September of 2015 (FY 2016), the Office of Sponsored Programs recorded the following awards for American University researchers.

**College of Arts and Sciences**

**PI: Demetrios Poulios**

Physics

**Title: Laser, Fiber Optics, and Optical Technology**

**Sponsor:** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**Funds:** $50,000.00

**PI: Shouzhong Zou**

Chemistry

**Title: Electrocatalysis on Structure Controlled Metal Nanocrystals: Unraveling Particle Structure-Catalytic Activity Relationships**

**Sponsor:** National Science Foundation

**Funds:** $117,375.00

**School of International Service**

**PI: Sharon Weiner**

Dean's Office

**Title: The Political Economy of Fissile Materials**

**Sponsor:** The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

**Funds:** $138,200.00

**PI: James Goldgeier**

**Title: School of International Service Research Support for Marine Corps University**

**Sponsor:** U.S. Marine Corps

**Funds:** $70,000.00

**PI: Sarah Irvine Belson**

School of Education

**Title: Jumpstart for Young Children Partnership Program**

**Sponsor:** Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.

**Funding Source:** AmeriCorps

**Funds:** $81,579.00

**PI: Miles Kahler**

U.S. Foreign Policy

**Title: Emerging Economies and Global Governance**

**Sponsor:** Council on Foreign Relations

**Funds:** $91,080.00
Indirect Costs: An Important Yet Often Times Forgotten Cost of Budget Development

By: Ashley J. Alexander, PhD, Pre-Award Grants and Contracts Manager, OSP

When developing a budget, many researchers think about the direct costs of the research projects. What may be thoroughly considered are supplies, personnel, and funds for travel. Once these cost categories have a figure allocated to them, one may pat himself or herself on the back and mark that off the box on the project development checklist. Not so fast – all of the direct charges have been thought of but what about the costs for copies made, telephone calls placed, lights used, lab space, etc.? What is forgotten but paramount to all research projects is the application of indirect costs. Researchers, whether new or experienced, seem to have a question about indirect costs – What is it? Do we need it? What do I get from it? “Perhaps no other category of funding for the research enterprise is more misunderstood, maligned, and generally resented than indirect costs.”

It is reported that the federal government invests approximately $15 billion annually in science and technology at research academic institutions. Furthermore, about 75 percent of the funds support direct costs, whereas about 25 percent funds indirect costs.

This article will provide depth into an important – but oftentimes forgotten – component of budget development: indirect costs.

**What are indirect costs?**
Indirect costs, also known as facilities and administrative costs, are “incurred for common or joint objectives and, therefore, cannot be identified readily and specifically with a particular sponsored project, an instructional activity, or any other institutional activity.” Indirect costs generally include the central university, college and departmental research administration infrastructure, depreciation on both the space in buildings that is used for sponsored research and on research equipment, maintenance and utility costs for space used for sponsored research, research infrastructure support, and the portion of library costs that can be attributed to the existence of sponsored research on campus.

Think back to when you were getting ready to enter college. You were excited, ready to start your next journey in life! Whether or not you received some type of financial aid or paid out of pocket, you had to either get in line or go online to pay tuition. As time passed, assignments were given to you so you had to burn the midnight oil. Computer labs were open for you to finish up that research paper. Your class held events throughout the year to bring everyone together. You even may have had a live mascot to see whenever you’d like and would be ecstatic to see on game days! Now, what you may not have realized is that maintenance for the computers as well as the lights in the lab costs money. The class officers could not hold events without funding. The mascot has to be proper care as well. All of these costs are included in tuition; in other words, the indirect costs of your education at your prestigious institution of higher learning. See? Indirect costs are already applied in life (not just in research) and you may not even realized it!
How is the indirect cost rate calculated?
Calculating the cost of federally sponsored research can be a convoluted procedure. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) initiated the process of calculating costs while the Cost Principles for Educational Institutions (OMB Circular A-21) enforces the policies and procedures. Please note that OMB Circular A-21 has been relocated to Title 2 in the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), subtitle A, chapter II, part 220 and provides a good foundation for streamlining and simplifying the policy framework for grants and agreements.

Although scholarly research has benefits, it is important to note a disadvantage: the ways in which indirect costs are calculated and allocated vary among institutions. Some institutions have a negotiated rate of indirect costs by using salaries and wages, while others use modified total direct costs (MTDC). Furthermore, indirect costs may be allocated in ways that may be critical to departments within institutions. Such allocations may cause principal investigators to be inhibited by policies and procedures, which ultimately hinder the principal investigator from applying for future funding. The resources of university departments may become scarce, and budget shortfalls may evolve. Disparities in indirect cost allocation may make it difficult for all parties involved in scholarly research to achieve their goals in an efficient manner.

Four causes have been identified as reasons for the variations in indirect cost rates at institutions: 1) differences in university structure, including the university’s mix of research and teaching and its institutional incentives to recognize and recover indirect cost; 2) differences in the price of elements supporting research activities, such as space and power; 3) differences in university policy—primarily accounting policies that determine the treatment of particular costs as direct or indirect; and 4) differences in treatment by the various cognizant agencies due to the negotiation process.

To calculate the indirect cost rate, the indirect costs are divided by an institution’s modified total direct costs. Modified total direct costs, as stated in Circular A-21, consists of all salaries and wages, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subgrants and subcontracts up to the first $25,000 of each subgrant or subcontract (regardless of the period covered by the subgrant or subcontract). Equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care and tuition remission, rental costs, scholarships, and fellowships as well as the portion of each subgrant and subcontract in excess of $25,000 shall be excluded from modified total direct costs.

How are indirect cost rates determined?
To determine an institution’s indirect cost rate, a proposal must be submitted and audited by a cognizant agency and then negotiated between the cognizant agency and institution. Typical indirect cost rates range from 29.8% to 69% of the direct cost of research.

What is American University’s indirect cost rate?
American University’s indirect cost rate is 43% on-campus and 18% off-campus. For those who may feel that 43% is too high, thank goodness the rate isn’t higher! This amount is multiplied by the modified total direct costs to get the monetary amount that will be applied to the research project.

Can the indirect cost rate be applied at a different rate?
If a funder has a different rate in which indirect costs can be applied, then the university applies the rate set by the funder. If the funder has an indirect cost policy, then the Office of Sponsored Programs must be able to access this policy on the funder’s website or have a letter from the funder on its letterhead.

How are indirect costs allocated at American University?
It is important to note that the institution bears costs of doing research. In addition, there are some institutions that do not have an indirect cost allocation plan – which is viewed as a barrier of researchers to engage in sponsored research activity. American University, in accordance with the Overhead Recovery and Revenue Distribution Policy, distributes indirect costs recovered from all externally grants and contracts on an annual basis. The funds are allocated in the following ways:
50% to the Office of the Provost for research support including distribution to the academic units whose faculty conducted the sponsored program

50% to central university funds to support the university’s operating budget

This means that an added benefit of indirect costs is that it is a reinvestment tool! This is how there is a strong support staff as it relates to sponsored research endeavors – why our doors are opened to serve!

Simply put, the more researchers engage in sponsored research activity, the more the probability of awards will increase. The more revenue generated from indirect cost portion of external sponsored research activity, the greater the reward for those involved in the process! Therefore, the next time a novel idea is thought and you would like to submit your proposal application, do not forget those indirect costs.

Where can one find more information on indirect costs?
For more information about indirect costs, here are some helpful resources:

FAQs Budget Development: http://www.american.edu/provost/osp/FAQ-Budget-Development.cfm#indirect

University Policy: Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs on Sponsored Projects: http://www.american.edu/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=4116869


Departmental Research Administrators: Some units have research administrators who are willing and able to assist in budget development. If unsure of who to contact, be sure to check with your Dean or department chair, or contact your OSP representative for further guidance.

References


Ashley J. Alexander, PhD, is a Pre-Award Grants and Contracts Manager in the Office of Sponsored Programs at American University. Ashley can be reached at ashleya@american.edu. A link to the abstract of Ashley’s dissertation, Faculty Member Perceptions of Sponsored Research at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, can be found on ProQuest: http://search.proquest.com/docview/1679279166/abstract?accountid=8285
James Casey, director of AU’s Office of Sponsored Programs, has been elected a Fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation (WLF). The class of 2015 is the sixteenth class inducted into the Fellows program. Membership in the Fellows is capped at 2.5% of Wisconsin attorneys, and Casey was inducted during the WLF reception on September 30, 2015, in Madison, WI.

The Fellows of the Wisconsin Law Foundation is an honorary program, which recognizes members of the Wisconsin Bar who are known by their peers for high achievements in their profession and outstanding contributions for the advancement and improvement of the administration of justice in the State of Wisconsin. Membership to be a Fellow is by invitation-only.

Fellows must be lawyers, judges, or teachers of law who are members of the State Bar of Wisconsin in good standing, and are recognized in the legal profession for outstanding attainment in professional, public, or private careers, for devotion to the welfare of their community, state, and nation, and the advancement of the legal profession.

Casey is a 1988 graduate of the University of Dayton School of Law, where he served as a staff member on the Dayton Law Review. He is president of the State Bar of Wisconsin Nonresident Lawyers Division, a member of the State Bar Board of Governors Executive Committee, and is co-Chair of the global State Bar of Wisconsin Biotech and the Law Conference being held in Madison, WI, May 5 through 7, 2016.

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**Abbreviation Key**
- CAS: College of Arts & Sciences
- WAMU: Radio Station
- SOC: School of Communication

*Effective October 27, 2015*
Preeminent attendees from around the world converge to facilitate strategic alliances between major actors in the biotech arena through topical presentations, networking opportunities, and unique site visits to technology innovators and influencers. Speakers from the U.S. government, leading research universities, trailblazing businesses, and national law schools will share their expertise on biotech trends in healthcare, environmental science, and agriculture.

The collaborative, experiential model of the conference makes it truly unique. According to James Casey, Director, Office of Sponsored Programs, American University, Washington, D.C., "This conference addresses the critical dimensions of the biotech ecosystem - science, law, policy, and economics - and brings the sectors together that make it all happen. This is not your normal presentation-focused conference; the Biotech & the Law Conference provides for experiential opportunities, discussion, and networking. Most of all, the conference focuses on enhancing collaboration between lawyers and other players in the biotech space."

Highlights:

- Federal, domestic, and international perspectives of the current issues in biotech
- Moderated corporate discussions in the healthcare, environment, and agriculture sectors, focusing on the challenges and opportunities of doing business globally.
- Hands-on experience in three science labs, including a half-day intensive workshop
- Excursions and Biotech Showcase opportunities to network with preeminent scientists, innovators, and investors
- Expo to connect businesses, law firms, and innovators with new opportunities
- 14 multi-jurisdictional continuing legal education credits, including one Ethics/Professional Responsibility credit

The Monona Terrace Conference Center, originally designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and located conveniently near the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Wisconsin State Capitol, offers a welcoming setting on the shores of Lake Monona with a variety of conference spaces, an expansive exposition hall, restaurants, and convenient nearby hotel accommodations. Explore the city’s exciting dining scene and the annual Madison Craft Beer Week … you’ll find that Madison is a must for any foodophile.

“Today the biotech industry is experiencing many difficult challenges, brought on by tough economics and unfriendly legal developments,” notes Carl Gulbrandsen, Managing Director of the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. “Navigating these challenges will not be easy. This conference will address the challenges, and the people attending the conference will share solutions that work for them.”

Funding Opportunities Organized by School/Department

Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a “search funding tool” training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afelder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

College of Arts and Sciences

National Science Foundation (NSF) - Elementary Particle Physics - Experiment (EPP)

At the NSF, particle physics is supported by four programs within the Division of Physics: (1) the Theory program, which includes fundamental research on the forces of nature and the early history of the universe as well as support for the experimental program by providing guidance and analysis for high energy experiments; (2) the Elementary Particle Physics (EPP) program, which supports particle physics at accelerators; (3) the Particle Astrophysics (PA) program, which supports non-accelerator experiments; and (4) the new Accelerator Science program which supports research at universities into the educational and discovery potential of basic accelerator physics.

Deadline: October 28, 2015

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards Program

These awards promote the environmental and economic benefits of novel green chemistry. These prestigious annual awards recognize chemical technologies that incorporate green chemistry into chemical design, manufacture, and use. Green chemistry technologies fit into at least one of the three focus areas below. Technologies that do not fit within at least one focus area may not fall within the scope of the program. Focus Area 1: Greener Synthetic Pathways; Focus Area 2: Greener Reaction Conditions; Focus Area 3: The Design of Greener Chemicals

Deadline: December 31, 2105

Gerda Henkel Stiftung / Henkel Foundation, Gerda - Forschungsförderung / Research Projects

Support is primarily provided for the historical humanities, in particular to support research projects in the fields of Archaeology, Art History, Historical Islamic Studies, History of Law, History of Science, Prehistory and Early History. Applications for research projects can be made in connection with the research grant programme. Funding for smaller amount is also available. Publishing aid is currently only awarded to especially successful projects already being supported by the Foundation.

Deadline: December 1, 2015
Funding Opportunities Organized by School/Department

Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a “search funding tool” training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afelder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

Kogod School of Business

University of Oklahoma - Glen McLaughlin (Endowed) Prize for Research in Accounting and Ethics

The John T. Steed School of Accounting at the University of Oklahoma is soliciting submissions for the annual Glen McLaughlin Prize for research in accounting ethics. The prize includes a cash award for the best unpublished paper (at the time of submission) on ethics in any area of accounting. The development of the ethical concepts in the paper may be rooted in ethical philosophy, but authors should feel free to draw upon ethical insights from other disciplines such as sociology, psychology, biology, economics or humanities. The paper is best viewed as an interdisciplinary work, contributing to the understanding of ethical concepts and then applying this understanding to accounting issues in an effective way.

Deadline: December 1, 2015

Indian Land Tenure Foundation - Strategic Land Planning Training for Individual Landowners of an Allotment

Through a grant from ILTF, educational resource materials have been developed for use by trained individuals to work with individual Indian landowners that will help them make knowledgeable decisions about their land and to understand the benefits and consequences of their decisions. The landowners learn about their land and title, will understand the options available to use their land and the tools available to help them do it, and will create and implement a strategic plan to accomplish what they want to do with their land. These training materials are provided to grant applicants upon request.

Deadline: December 15, 2015

Jm Foundation - The JM Grant Foundation

Jeremiah Milbank created The JM Foundation in 1924. He was an ardent believer in individual liberty, limited government, and free markets. The Foundation’s current priorities include: supporting education and research that fosters market-based policy solutions, especially at state think tanks developing state and national organizations that promote free enterprise, entrepreneurship, and private initiative identifying and educating young leaders.

Deadline: Continuous
Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a “search funding tool” training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afelder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

School of Communication

United States Department of Commerce (DOC) - Communications Technology Laboratory (CTL) Grant Program

The CTL Grant Program provides financial assistance to support the conduct of research or a recipient's portion of collaborative research consistent with the CTL mission in broad areas that support the accelerated development, testing, and deployment of advanced communications technologies in support of both commercial and government applications including: high-speed electronics, wireless systems metrology, antenna and RF capabilities, high-speed and high frequency measurement capabilities, advanced optics, quantum communications, network design and optimization, network modeling, and public safety network communications. Within CTL there are three divisions: the Public Safety Communications Research Division, the Radio-Frequency (RF) Technology Division, and the Wireless Networks Division.

Deadline: Continuous

A. J. Fletcher Foundation - Media and Journalism Innovation

Promoting sustainable models for producing engaging content for a new generation of citizens to be informed citizens, North Carolinians need and deserve high-quality news coverage, shedding light on the most important stories. Nonprofit news organizations help fill information gaps by using innovative approaches to deliver content. Investment Strategy: In a new era of journalism, nonprofit news organizations require fresh, creative ways of conveying news and training reporters. Fletcher Foundation works to create and sustain innovative models of delivering news and information, fostering engaged communities across the state.

Deadline: Continuous

American Council of Learned Societies - Postdoctoral Digital Innovation Fellowships

The ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowship program supports digitally based research projects in all disciplines of the humanities and related social sciences. These projects should help advance digital humanistic scholarship by broadening understanding of its nature and exemplifying the robust infrastructure necessary for creating such works. Fellowships are for a term of one year. Projects may: Address a consequential scholarly question through new research methods, new ways of representing the knowledge produced by research, or both. Create new digital research resources. Increase the scholarly utility of existing digital resources by developing new means of aggregating, navigating, searching, or analyzing those resources. Propose to analyze and reflect upon the new forms of knowledge creation and representation made possible by the digital transformation of scholarship.

Deadline: Continuous
Funding Opportunities Organized by School/Department

Note: Please note that these offerings are a sampling of what is available via our search funding tools and serve as examples for you to consider. If you have not attended a “search funding tool” training session, we encourage you to do so. Performing an individualized search, tailored to your unit or specific research interests will provide the most exhaustive means of locating resources. Please contact Afielder@american.edu with any questions related to our search funding tools.

School of International Service

Carnegie Corporation of New York - States in Transition

Related to the Dynamics of Global Power, this program area incorporates elements from earlier work on States at Risk and the Islam Initiative. It addresses states that are striving to consolidate peace after emerging... more » from conflict, particularly in Africa, as well as those that are part of the Arab Awakening, where the transition from authoritarian rule to more democratic governance remains precarious. This program area seeks to increase the quantity, quality and accessibility of locally produced knowledge about these states and regions and to promote reform through international engagement and partnerships. The program's work also includes Pakistan--a state of particular importance for regional and global security.

Deadline: Continuous

Clark Foundation, Inc., Robert Sterling - Promoting International Arts Engagement

The objective of the program is to help promote global understanding through the arts. The Foundation has initial plans to support international engagement between U.S. visual and performing arts organizations and their... more » counterparts in Africa, Latin America and parts of the Middle East. While the Foundation will consider support for projects that bring international artists to the United States, they will give preference to projects that send representatives of U.S. arts organizations abroad. Grant-making strategies to promote international arts engagement include support for: public-private partnerships involving federal agencies such as the State Department and the National Endowment for the Arts working in conjunction with U.S. cultural organizations and foundations to develop arts engagement projects here and abroad; etc.

Deadline: Continuous

Smith Richardson Foundation - International Security and Foreign Policy Program

The objective of the International Security and Foreign Policy Program is to assist the U.S. policy community in developing effective national security strategies and foreign policies. The Foundation is committed to supporting projects that help the policy community face the fundamental challenge of ensuring the security of the United States, protecting and promoting American interests and values abroad, and enhancing international order. The United States, as well as some of its key allies around the world, are grappling with how to emerge from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. The downturn has placed significant pressure on public budgets, which is limiting the capacity of these states to promote international security and cooperate on common global concerns, including terrorism, the emerging threat of cyber-attacks, and promoting reconstruction and state building in areas of instability.

Deadline: Continuous
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School of Public Affairs

Charles Koch Institute - Requests for Proposals: Criminal justice

The criminal justice system affects everything from individual opportunity and family cohesion to public safety and the ability for communities to thrive. A better understanding of the criminal justice system and its effects on society will help identify opportunities to create better long-term outcomes for all involved. The Charles Koch Foundation is interested in supporting research that furthers an understanding of the effects of the criminal justice system on individual and societal well-being.

Deadline: Continuous

Tel Aviv University (TAU) - Dan David Prize

This prize is a joint international enterprise, endowed by the Dan David Foundation and headquartered at Tel Aviv University. The prize recognizes and encourages innovative and interdisciplinary research that cuts across traditional boundaries and paradigms. It aims to foster universal values of excellence, creativity, justice, democracy and progress and to promote the scientific, technological and humanistic achievements that advance and improve the world. The prize covers three time dimensions - Past, Present and Future - that represent realms of human achievement. Each year the International Board chooses one field within each time dimension. The Past refers to fields that expand knowledge of former times. The Present recognizes achievements that shape and enrich society today. The Future focuses on breakthroughs that hold great promise for improvement of our world.

Deadline: November 30, 2015

Ibm Center for The Business Of Government - IBM Center Research Report Stipends

The aim of the IBM Center for The Business of Government is to tap into the best minds in academe and the nonprofit sector that can use rigorous public management research and analytic techniques to help public sector executives and managers improve the effectiveness of government. We are looking for very practical findings and actionable recommendations - not just theory or concepts - in order to assist executives and managers to more effectively respond to mission and management challenges. Read our research announcement. Description of Stipends Individuals receiving a stipend should produce a 10,000- to 12,000-word report. The manuscript should be submitted no later than six months after the start of the project. Recipients will select the start and end dates.

Deadline: Continuous
Funding Opportunities Organized by School/Department

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Washington College of Law

Employment and Training Administration - Notice of Intent-Philippines Labor Law Project

This Notice of Intent (NOI) is not a request for funding applications. Subject to the availability of funds, the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Bureau of International Labor Affairs will award one or more cooperative agreement(s) for technical assistance project(s) to improve monitoring and enforcement of labor laws in the Philippines by the government and by worker organizations.

Deadline: Continuous

Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice - Lantos Foundation Front Line Fund Grant Program

The Lantos Foundation has established the Lantos Foundation Front Line Fund Grant Program to award small grants to assist brave individuals and organizations in their fight against injustices around the world. The project must fit the mission of the Lantos Foundation in that it will advance the cause of human rights, democracy and justice, and must fit the objective of the Front Line Fund, which is to provide grants to individuals and organization in their fight against human rights violations in the context of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Deadline: Continuous

State Justice Institute (SJI) - Project Grants

Project Grants are the centerpiece of SJI’s efforts to improve the administration of justice in state courts nationwide. Project Grants are intended to support innovative education and training, demonstration, and technical assistance projects that can improve the administration of justice in State courts locally or nationwide. SJI is interested in funding both innovative programs and programs of proven merit that can be replicated in other jurisdictions. SJI is especially interested in funding projects that: formulate new procedures and techniques, or creatively enhance existing procedures and techniques; address aspects of the state judicial systems that are in special need of serious attention; have national significance by developing products, services, and techniques that may be used in other states; and create and disseminate products that effectively transfer the information and ideas developed to relevant audiences in state and local judicial systems, or provide technical assistance to facilitate the adaptation of effective programs and procedures in other state and local jurisdictions.

Deadline: November 1, 2015
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Do you have an “OSP Spotlight on Research” interview suggestion?
Do you need to schedule a “One on One” refresher session for one of our search funding tool databases? Grant Forward, Pivot COS or The Foundation Directory Online (Professional version)?

If you need assistance with any of the above items, please contact OSP’s Communications Manager, Ms. Akidah Felder via e-mail Afelder@american.edu

What to expect in next month’s OSP Monthly:
- Funding Opportunities
- Export Control Day– November 11th
- Upcoming GAR Dates: December 2nd
  February 19th & April 15th

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