This week President Biden released a $2.25 trillion stimulus plan, also known as the American Jobs Plan, that includes $621 billion for transportation infrastructure, $180 billion for research and development, $40 billion for research infrastructure, and $100 billion for workforce development. The likelihood of passing this infrastructure proposal, either in whole or in part, remains uncertain. Democrats have signaled support for major spending on infrastructure, clean energy, and climate programs to spur job growth and maintain U.S. competitiveness. However, coming on the heels of a $1.9 trillion COVID aid package, the Biden Administration has tried to appease moderate Democrats by offsetting most of the cost of this new proposal through significant changes to U.S. tax policy. This proposal is also only the first of several major White House priorities expected to be announced over the coming weeks, including a multi-trillion dollar stimulus proposal, the American Families Plan, that is expected to be come out in mid-April and will focus on education and healthcare.

The University of Minnesota Washington Update provides intelligence and analysis on recent federal activities. Faculty visiting Washington, D.C. are encouraged to contact Sarah Neimeyer, Director of Government Relations, at neimeyer@umn.edu. Contact Christina Laridaen, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, at christina@lewis-burke.com with any questions or comments related to the Update’s content.

Congressional and Administration Updates
Policy Update: Biden Administration Announces $2.25 Trillion Infrastructure and Economic Stimulus Plan
On March 31, President Biden announced a signature legislative proposal focused on accelerating economic growth through an ambitious $2.25 trillion stimulus plan. The American Jobs Plan would modernize America’s infrastructure, spur climate action, strengthen workforce and education, and promote U.S. global competitiveness. If passed by Congress, these goals would be achieved through investments in scientific research, federal incentives and mandates, encouraging private sector participation and public-private
partnerships, and policies that address broad and longstanding inequalities facing underrepresented or underserved populations. This analysis highlights proposed investments and new policies of most interest to the science, technology and education communities.

Some of the key areas of investment in this infrastructure and economic stimulus package would include:

- $621 billion to rebuild and modernize traditional transportation, such as roads and bridges;
- $182 billion to strengthen U.S. manufacturing and supply chains;
- $180 billion for research and development, including $50 billion for the National Science Foundation to create a new technology directorate focused on microelectronics, biotechnology, and other advanced technologies;
- $40 billion to upgrade research infrastructure;
- $137 billion to upgrade and/or build new public schools, child care facilities, and community colleges;
- $100 billion for broadband expansion;
- $100 billion for workforce development programs; and
- $25 billion for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) to expand research and development and research infrastructure as well as create 200 research incubators with graduate fellowships, pre-college programs, and other opportunities.

The likelihood of passing this infrastructure proposal, either in whole or in part, remains uncertain. Democrats have signaled support for major spending on infrastructure, clean energy, and climate programs to spur job growth and maintain U.S. competitiveness. However, coming on the heels of a $1.9 trillion COVID aid package, the Biden Administration has tried to appease moderate Democrats by offsetting most of the cost of this new proposal. The American Jobs Plan would generate $2 trillion in revenue through significant changes to U.S. tax policy and the repeal of several provisions in the *Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017*. The partial offset would come from, among other things, increasing the corporate tax rate from 21 percent to 28 percent and taxing corporate offshore earnings.

Republicans have uniformly rejected the proposal’s scope, scale, and tax increases. However, over the next few weeks, the Biden Administration and Democratic leadership will explore opportunities to advance a bipartisan package. Such a package would likely focus on transportation, manufacturing, and research and development. If a bipartisan deal cannot be struck, the White House and Democratic leadership is ready to use the budget reconciliation process, similar to the last COVID package, which would require only a majority vote in the House and Senate to pass the package. Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) plans to pass an infrastructure package by July 4th. Timing in the Senate is less certain.

Congress will now work to translate the American Jobs Plan into legislation. This will entail input by many House and Senate committees to fill in details for where the Administration’s proposal lacks specifics. It will also be an opportunity for Members of Congress to steer funding to parochial priorities or insert direction on how those funds are spent. The House and Senate will also have to decide whether to allow earmarks in this type of package.

This proposal is also only the first of several major White House priorities expected to be announced over the coming weeks. The White House plans to release a “skinny” fiscal year (FY) 2022 President’s Budget Request with high-level figures on April 1, although it may slip to the week of April 5. This would kick off the FY 2022 congressional appropriations process. The Biden Administration plans to release full details of its FY 2022 budget in May. A second, multi-trillion dollar stimulus proposal – the American Families Plan – is expected to be unveiled in mid-April and will emphasize spending on education and healthcare. Congress will also take up a
surface transportation bill – a separate piece of legislation requiring Congress to periodically re-authorize Department of Transportation programs that fund transportation projects – as well as the Endless Frontier Act and a broader innovation package. The consideration of these bills will likely precede consideration of the American Jobs Plan. With all this legislative activity, there are many opportunities to advance the priorities of research, higher education, and science and technology communities.

The following are highlights of the American Jobs Plan of interest to the science, technology, and education communities.

Infrastructure
$831 billion in the American Jobs Plan would be dedicated to investments in transportation, water, and broadband infrastructure. Most of this funding would support transportation construction. However, the proposal also references spending on infrastructure resilience and expands the definition of “infrastructure” to include several important items of interest:

- $40 billion for research infrastructure at research institutions and national laboratories, including research facilities and computing centers and networks. The proposal does not specify distribution of funding across federal agencies, but it would include agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. Half of the funds would be available to HBCUs and MSIs.
- An unspecified amount for basic research in areas to advance concepts such as “advanced pavements” and technologies that promote a “future proof” transportation system.
- The proposal calls for $5 billion to redevelop former industrial and energy sites. Investments would come from numerous agencies, including additional support for the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works program and lifting the $3 million cap for projects.

Climate and Environment
The proposal calls for several new initiatives and funding increases to support climate and environment R&D across several agencies:

- $35 billion would be invested across the federal government to support climate technology research and development as well as mitigation techniques and practices. The proposal does not provide a detailed breakdown by federal agency but does highlight:
  - The creation of a new Advanced Research Projects Agency for Climate (ARPA-C) to fund high-risk, high-reward projects to reduce emissions, build resilience, and support climate research “across-the-board;”
  - $15 billion for Department of Energy-funded clean energy demonstration projects (see Clean Energy Development section below); and
  - $5 billion expand and grow existing climate research programs.
- $50 billion for climate resilience and resilient infrastructure to modernize the electric grid, urban infrastructure, health resources, water, and food systems. This funding will likely go to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of the Interior (DOI).
- The proposal mentions how technological developments can help mitigate and redress the impacts of environmental disparities including by investing in basic research for advanced carbon dioxide reduction methods like advanced pavements and other “future proof” technologies.
- The proposal would create a new Department of Energy National Lab focused on climate issues that would be affiliated with an HBCU.
- The proposal also calls for supporting rural communities by providing R&D funding to Land Grant Universities and helping push the agriculture industry toward net-zero emissions.
Clean Energy Development
The proposal aims to make new clean energy research, development, and demonstration investments and upgrade energy infrastructure at the Department of Energy (DOE), including:

- **$15 billion** to accelerate or launch new **clean energy demonstration projects**, including utility-scale energy storage, carbon capture and storage, hydrogen, advanced nuclear, rare earth element separations, floating offshore wind, biofuel/bioproducts, quantum computing, and electric vehicles. These investments are consistent with congressionally directed projects in the Energy Act of 2020 Congress passed with bipartisan support in December 2020.
- Part of the **$40 billion** proposal for **research infrastructure** includes investments at DOE national laboratories to accelerate construction and upgrade user facilities, computing capabilities, and general purpose and support infrastructure.
- Part of the **$30 billion** proposal for **Industries of the Future** includes additional funding for DOE for quantum information science, artificial intelligence and machine learning, biotechnology, and advanced communications.
- In addition to research and development investments, the proposal calls on establishing a new **Grid Deployment Authority** at DOE to help build a more resilient electric transmission system by leveraging existing rights-of-way along roads and railways and providing new financing tools to build new transmission lines.
- The proposal also would establish an **Energy Efficiency and Clean Electricity Standard** aimed at cutting electricity bills and pollution with the goal of moving toward 100 percent net zero emissions for electricity generation by 2035. This would help guide future DOE investments to help meet those goals.

Global Competitiveness and Innovation
The proposal includes new funding for research and development, manufacturing, and supply chain programs across federal agencies to maintain U.S. leadership, advance emerging technologies, and create new jobs. Many of the proposed initiatives are consistent with bipartisan legislation Congress has already passed or is currently advancing. Some key funding proposal include:

**Industries of the Future**

- **$50 billion** for the **National Science Foundation**. The proposal calls for establishing a new technology directorate, consistent with proposals from the Endless Frontier Act and the National Science Foundation for the Future Act, to support collaborative, use-inspired and translational research in emerging technology areas. The proposal highlights investments in semiconductors, next-generation computing, advanced communications, clean energy technologies, and biotechnology.
- **$30 billion** for **Industries of the Future** across federal agencies, including quantum science and technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, and next-generation communications, tied to job creation and opportunities for rural areas.

**Regional Innovation**

- **$20 billion** for **regional innovation hubs** and a **Community Revitalization Fund**. The proposal to create 10 hubs to support the growth of emerging industries is similar to the Endless Frontier Act and other recent regional innovation bills. The Community Revitalization Fund component is largely undefined with the proposal noting that it could support a host of community-based economic development activities, including promoting access to the innovation economy for rural and communities of color.
• $25 billion for HBCUs and MSIs including $10 billion in broad R&D investments and $15 billion for up to 200 centers of excellence and research incubators to improve innovation and competitiveness.
• $31 billion for a national network of small business incubators and innovation hubs to support entrepreneurship in underserved communities. Funding would also be provided to expand access to resources for small businesses, such as venture capital and R&D support.
• $5 billion a new Rural Partnership Program to support economic and community development planning and capacity building in rural areas, including Tribal Nations. It is uncertain whether universities will have a role in this broad new initiative.

Manufacturing and Supply Chain

• $14 billion for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to bring together industry, academia, and government to advance technologies and capabilities critical to future competitiveness.
• $50 billion for semiconductor research and manufacturing, as called for in bipartisan legislation.
• $50 billion to create a new supply chain-focused office at the Department of Commerce to support the manufacturing of critical goods and to monitor domestic industrial capacity.
• $30 billion over four years for R&D related to medical countermeasures manufacturing for biopreparedness and biosecurity. This funding would include investments to expand the number of therapeutics in the national stockpile and accelerate vaccine production timelines and clinical trials.

Education and Workforce

The plan also includes new investments to modernize schools, child care facilities, and expand workforce training programs. This would include:

Education Facilities Funding

• $50 billion in direct grants and $50 billion leveraged via bonds for the upgrading of existing K-12 public schools and building new schools. The plan specifically calls out investments in energy-efficient and resilient buildings as well as kitchen upgrades.
• $12 billion for community college infrastructure and technology needs.
• $25 billion to upgrade and expand supply of child care facilities via a Child Care Growth and Innovation Fund open to states. The proposal also calls for expanded tax credit for employer-based child-care facilities.

Workforce Development

• $40 billion for a new Dislocated Workers program for wrap-around services, training programming, as well as specific sector-focused training efforts in areas such as clean energy, manufacturing, and caregiving.
• $12 billion for workforce training programming for underserved communities, which would include $5 billion for evidence-based community violence prevention efforts.
• $48 billion for existing workforce programs in support of registered apprenticeships, pre-apprenticeships, career services, and adult literacy. Additionally, the plan calls for the creation of career pathways programs for middle and high-schoolers in STEM fields and in-demand sectors.

Sources and Additional Information:

• Details of the American Jobs Plan can be found at https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/31/fact-sheet-the-american-jobs-plan/.
Congressional Update: National Science Foundation for the Future Act
On Friday, March 26, the House Science Committee introduced the bipartisan National Science Foundation for the Future Act. This bill would authorize increased funding for National Science Foundation (NSF) research, support STEM Education at all levels, increase opportunities for broadening participation, and would create a new Directorate for Science and Engineering Solutions (SES) to address societal grand challenges to be funded initially at $1 billion in fiscal year (FY) 2022.

The bill would authorize increased funding of $2 billion for NSF in FY 2022 (not including the new SES Directorate) and additional increases up to $13.3 billion by FY 2026. The bill would further direct a 50% increase to the Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure program, which would include development of a roadmap to address the growing need for advanced computing capabilities. Regarding STEM education, the bill would authorize a 50% increase in funding over five years for key STEM education programs, establish a new program to scale up K-12 STEM education, increase mentoring and other efforts to better support graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, increase support for minority serving institutions (MSIs) and other emerging research institutions, and expand data collection on the STEM workforce. The bill includes a number of requirements to increase research accessibility, accountability, and security. There are also several provisions related to specific areas of research, including: climate change; violence; social, behavioral, economics; food-energy-water; sustainable chemistry research and education; risk and resilience; and support for biological research collections. Finally, the proposed new SES Directorate would support collaborative, use-inspired and translational research with authorized funding of $1 billion for the new SES Directorate in FY 2022, increasing to $5 billion in FY 2026.

This bill demonstrates the House Science Committee vision for NSF, which differs in scale from the Endless Frontiers Act expected to be introduced in April by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Sen. Todd Young (R-IN), which would propose an additional $100 billion for NSF over five-years and would also include significant resources for translational research. Both the House and Senate bills only authorize funding levels; appropriated funding would come from different congressional committees.

As a pre-cursor to further efforts to move the legislation through committee, the House Science Committee plans to hold a hearing in mid-April to examine the overall state of U.S. leadership in S&T, the balance of fundamental research and technology development/use-inspired research, best practices for partnerships with non-NSF governmental and private entities, and efforts to broaden the inclusivity of NSF’s research and education enterprises.

While the Senate is working to develop a package of bipartisan bills to address U.S. competitiveness that would include the Endless Frontiers Act and/or a broader NSF reauthorization package, the House has established a slightly differing approach, setting up forthcoming negotiations on policy details for NSF. Finally, this week the White House is expected to release initial details of its budget proposal for FY 2022 and Build Back Better plan, which will include a slightly different approach that NSF is beginning to flesh out around translation, innovation, and partnerships.

Regardless of final details, the House, Senate, and White House are each working toward new initiatives and incorporation of NSF programs in efforts to solidify and grow U.S. leadership in science and education.

Additional Resources:


The Section-by-Section overview is available at https://science.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Section-by-section_NSF%20for%20the%20Future%20Act.pdf.

Summary: DHS Secretary Mayorkas Address to RSA Conference
On March 31, 2021, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas delivered virtual remarks to the annual RSA Conference at Hampton University, a historically Black university (HBCU) and recognized Cyber Center of Excellence, to outline his goals for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) to address critical gaps in cybersecurity. Provided below is a summary of the key points of his address and a subsequent interview by the Girl Scouts of America.

5 principles undergird the Secretary's approach to cyber resilience:
- There exists a broad geopolitical context to today's cyber conflict. Actions taken to defend against cyber-attacks must be comprehensive but not advance adversarial goals to enable usurpation of democratic civil rights.
- Defense and resilience must be prioritized together equally.
- A risk-based approach must be enabled to prioritize limited resources.
- Partnership between the government and the private sector must be strengthened to maintain the best possible speed of response when cyber-attacks occur.
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) must be integrated into every possible aspect of our work.

An Executive Order for Strategic Cybersecurity is currently being coordinated with over a dozen anticipated actions in the areas of detection, information sharing, cybersecurity modernization, procurement, and incident response.

Secretary Mayorkas spoke at length about his goals for CISA:
- CISA is the "quarterback" for national cyber defense. The agency will be strengthened with new authorities to hunt for adversarial cyber actions on domestic networks.
- A CISA cybersecurity grant program is in the works to develop new cyber innovations in resilience and defense.
- CISA state cyber coordinators are being assigned to advance CISA’s goal of providing a nationwide network of cyber support.
- A CISA Cyber Recovery Fund is being set up to provide assistance for state, local, and tribal authorities hit by cyber-attacks.

Secretary Mayorkas said the National Cyber Director position created by Congress will soon be nominated by the White House. The Administration intends this director to work in conjunction with Deputy National Security Adviser for Cyber Anne Neuberger to coordinate the national cyber strategy alongside other federal agencies and departments to ensure alignment with foreign policy, justice, and defense objectives.
Secretary Mayorkas announced a series of 60-day sprints to develop quick solutions to some of the country's most concerning cyber issues. Sprints will be launched under the purview of CISA and include interagency and private sector participants, a new DHS approach to solving problems and iterating quickly.

- Ransomware
- DEI recruitment and cyber workforce development
- Improving industrial control system security
- Transportation systems security
- Election security
- International capacity-building

Secretary Mayorkas then detailed four long-term objectives over which he will maintain personal oversight:

- Cementing the resilience of democratic infrastructure and institutions.
- Building Back Better the U.S. national supply chain for cyber.
- Developing a holistic supply chain risk management framework relying on zero-trust architectures.
- Preparing for future technological evolution and emerging threats.

These remarks were co-sponsored with the Girl Scouts of America. DHS is working with the General Services Administration (GSA) to develop cyber workforce solutions for the entire country in the form of basic cyber hygiene education. The full remarks can be found [here](#).

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**Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates**

**ONR Releases FOA for FY 21 STEM Program**

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) released an open funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program. ONR is seeking proposals that create STEM educational pathways and workforce opportunities related to naval science and technology (S&T) workforce needs. Proposals should aim to increase engagement in STEM and must address one of the following naval S&T thrust areas:

- STEM cybersecurity education and cyber awareness focused on 6th to 12th grade students
- STEM interests supporting warfighter performance
- ONR Global STEM interests
- Naval Accelerator STEM interests

Details and points of contact of each thrust can be found in the full FOA announcement. Applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss STEM proposals with an ONR point of contact. Applicants from academia, non-profit organizations, and industry are eligible to apply, but ONR will not consider any proposals from foreign entities. In addition, applicants are encouraged to consider under-represented and under-served populations, including women and minorities, in project plans.

All white papers and proposals must be submitted through FedConnect by 11:59 PM on March 30, 2022, and selections for awards will be made between March 31, 2021 to March 30, 2022. Funding amount and period of performance will vary depending on the technology area and approach. The full FOA can be found on [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under solicitation number “N00014-21-S-F005” or [here](#).

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Funding Opportunity: DARPA Releases Quantum Benchmarking BAA
The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Defense Sciences Office (DSO) released a Quantum Benchmarking broad agency announcement (BAA) seeking research proposals that quantify the long-term utility of quantum computers. Proposals should focus on either:
1) “the creation of application-specific, hardware-agnostic benchmarks for quantum computer utility” or
2) “hardware resource estimation for quantum computers”

With this research, the program will develop new quantum benchmarks to measure progress in the field and solve a series of problems, such as:
- “Compiling a list of specific utility-driven application instances from a variety of application domains
- Grouping these application instances according to common core enabling computational capabilities
- Developing novel test procedures for quantifying progress towards these core enabling computational capabilities
- Using all of the above to create scalable, robust multi-dimensional benchmarks that can act as guidestars for research and development aimed at long-term, real-world utility for a variety of application domains
- Creating tools for estimating the primary quantum hardware resources and ancillary classical hardware resources needed to achieve a specific level of benchmark performance”

The Quantum Benchmarking program is broken into two phases and two technical areas (TA): 1) Hardware-agnostic benchmark creation, and 2) Hardware-specific resource estimation. Funding depends on the TA being addressed. All Institutions of higher education, non-profits, and state and local governments are eligible to apply.

DARPA DSO plans to hold a Proposers Day on April 20, 2021 to provide additional information on the Quantum Benchmarking program and BAA. Proposers are strongly encouraged to submit an abstract via https://baa.darpa.mil/ by May 11, 2021 at 4:00 PM ET. Full proposals should be submitted here no later than June 22, 2021 at 4:00 PM ET. The full BAA announcement can be found on www.grants.gov under solicitation number “HR001121S0026” or here.

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Funding Opportunities: NIH UNITE Initiative Releases Request for Applications to Address Health Disparities and Health Equity Research
The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has released two solicitations for Transformative Research to Address Health Disparities and Advance Health Equity (U01), with one opportunity targeted specifically towards Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs). The solicitations call for proposals from research teams or individuals with innovative, unconventional research projects aimed at developing and implementing intervention and prevention techniques to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, health disparities.

The funding opportunities are a direct result of the new diversity and inclusion initiative at NIH called UNITE. UNITE was created to end structural racism within the biomedical research community and the initiative is supported by the work of five subcommittees that are organized around themes central to NIH diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. Included in the subcommittees is the “N” subcommittee committed to
developing new research on health disparities, minority health, and health equity. These are the first funding opportunities stemming from the UNITE Initiative.

Projects are expected to reflect ideas considered substantially different from existing research concepts, and that if successful, are likely to succeed in improving the development, implementation, or dissemination of prevention strategies to improve health disparities and promote health equity. No preliminary data are required. The prevention strategies must be centered around NIH-designated populations that experience health disparities including ethnic and racial minority populations, socioeconomically disadvantaged communities, rural populations, and sexual and gender minorities.

**Deadline:** Letters of intent for both opportunities are due on April 28, 2021, and applications are due on May 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

**Award Information:** The NIH Common fund will commit approximately $24 million towards both funding opportunities in fiscal year (FY) 2021. Funding for the first two years of the project will be granted in the first year of the award (FY 2021) and funding for the last 3-5 years will be granted annually, with the maximum funding lasting for 5 years. Approximately ten awards are anticipated for FY 2021, however, this is contingent upon availability of funding.

**Eligibility:** Any public or private institution of higher education or non-profit research institution is eligible to apply to the general solicitation (RFA-RM-21-021). Only public or private institutions of higher education that award undergraduate/graduate degrees, have received no more than $6 million per year in NIH Research Project Grants (RPGs) in the past two fiscal years, and enroll at least 25% of undergraduate students who are supported by Pell grants or are a medical/professional health institution historically founded to educate students from underrepresented backgrounds are eligible for the MSI-specific opportunity (RFA-RM-21-022).

**Sources and Additional Information:**

**Funding Opportunity: Navy Releases FOA for STEM Education and Workforce Program**

The Office of Naval Research (ONR) released a funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the Department of the Navy’s (DoN) Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Education and Workforce Program seeking a broad range of applications that improve STEM pathways for students relevant to the Navy’s current and future workforce needs. ONR is seeking programs that improve the capacity of education systems and communities to create impactful STEM educational experiences, increase engagement in naval relevant STEM, and enhance the corresponding skills, knowledge, and abilities of participants.

The FOA is seeking proposals targeting STEM experiences and outcomes in the following communities:
- Secondary education
- Post-secondary
- Informal science
• Current Naval STEM workforce

Applicants should consider the impact of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their proposals, as outreach and inclusion of underrepresented communities will be used as part of the proposal evaluation criteria. ONR intends to award between 15 to 20 grants with a maximum of $200,000 per year for up to 3 years.

The FOA is a two-part process with mandatory white papers to be submitted through FedConnect. White papers must be submitted before May 28, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET, and full proposals (invitation only) are due by October 8, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET. Academic, non-profit, and industry (for-profit) organizations, as well as University Affiliated Research Centers (UARC) are eligible to submit applications. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), Navy laboratories, military universities, and foreign entities are not eligible to apply but may be allowed to team. The full STEM Workforce Program FOA can be found here or on www.grants.gov under funding opportunity number “N00014-21-S-F004.”

Upcoming Funding Opportunity: NSF Releases Details of Solicitation for International Collaborations on Societal Impacts of COVID-19

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) has announced the upcoming release of a solicitation for a new program titled, Trans-Atlantic Platform Recovery, Renewal, and Resilience in a Post-Pandemic World (T-AP RRR). T-AP RRR aims to support research that “address key gaps in our understanding of the complex societal effects of COVID-19.” Research teams must include at least three T-AP RRR participating countries and include partners from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. This program aligns with emerging NSF interests to further embrace international collaboration and support social science research related to pandemic response and preparedness.

Research proposals must fit within the SBE purview and proposers are encouraged to consult with SBE program officers prior to submitting. Proposers are also encouraged to address one or more of the following challenges:

• “reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities;
• building a more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable society;
• fostering democratic governance and participation;
• advancing responsible and inclusive digital innovation; and/or
• ensuring effective and accurate communication and media.”

Participating countries include Republic of South Africa, Croatia, Finland, France, Germany, Poland, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Brazil, and Colombia. NOTE: Canada will also provide funding for researchers from Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru.

This program is being organized with support from the Trans-Atlantic Platform (T-AP), a group that promotes transnational social science and humanities research collaboration. This is the first time SBE has partnered with T-AP on a solicitation since 2016. Successful proposals will be funded by their own national funding agency for up to three-years.

Key Dates: The full solicitation with additional information on eligibility and submission instructions will be released on the T-AP website on April 12, 2021. Submissions will be due July 12, 2021.
Sources and Additional Information:

- A summary of the program can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505909.
- The T-AP website where the solicitation will be posted can be found at https://transatlanticplatform.com/.
- Information on NSF SBE programs is available at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/programs.jsp?org=SBE.

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