This week, House committees successfully advanced their sections of the $3.5 trillion reconciliation package. The draft text now heads to the Budget Committee where it will be compiled and ultimately sent to the Rules Committee, where it will likely be edited to appease both moderate and progressive Democrats. Throughout the mark up process, moderate Democrats raised concerns about the total price tag of the package, an issue that may become a roadblock in passing the final bill. Overall, Democrats remain optimistic about the package which includes major provisions to expand Medicare, improve childcare and education programs, invest in infrastructure and jobs, and combat climate change.

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

Congressional Update: House and Senate Committees Receive Budget Instructions, House Marking-Up Legislation for $3.5 Trillion Reconciliation Package

Over the past month, the House and Senate passed a $3.5 trillion budget resolution to develop a spending package that would focus on a range of issues to address long-term economic growth, including climate change, innovation and global competitiveness, health care, education, and child-care. The budget resolution provides instructions and funding allocations for authorizing Committees in the House and Senate to write legislation that would advance policies, programs, and projects at federal agencies, including revenue provisions that would pay for the spending package such as tax increases.

Please see below for a breakdown of current allocations for both House and Senate Committees, as well as their agencies of jurisdiction. Currently, only House Committees are advancing legislation and plan to meet the goal of pulling together a $3.5 trillion spending package by September 15 which may get delayed depending on ongoing Committee mark-ups. The Senate has not yet advanced any spending bills and will likely bypass consideration and votes by Committee and vote on a full package on the Senate floor. It is important to note that the funding allocation totals below are over a ten-year window and are subject to change in the coming days and weeks as Committees mark up and vote on their respective legislation and the Senate negotiates with the House. Another complicating factor is that House and Senate Committee
jurisdictions do not always overlap and several Committees may have jurisdiction over a federal agency. Based on currently available information, federal programs and associated federal agencies important to scientific research, workforce development, education, and health care would receive significant funding increases. Furthermore, the House Committee on Ways and Means means the Senate Committee on Finance, which have jurisdiction over matters relating to revenue generation and social safety net programs like Medicare and Medicaid, are tasked with saving $1 billion over the next ten years. Their figures are in a separate table and the House Committee on Ways and Means is currently working on tax provisions to include in the package.

Timing on passage remains unclear as negotiations both within and between the House and Senate as well as the White House over the size and scope of the package may stretch into late September or October. Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor funding totals by Committee as well as specific program funding by agency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House Committee</th>
<th>Allocation ($ in Billions)</th>
<th>Senate Committee</th>
<th>Allocation ($ in Billions)</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Agency Jurisdiction:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>House Committee on Oversight</strong></td>
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<td>$20.5</td>
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### Congressional Update: House Prepares a $3.5 Trillion Reconciliation Package

The House successfully advanced funding bills for a $3.5 trillion reconciliation package to meet a September 15 deadline. The focus of this reconciliation package is to advance proposals central to President Biden’s Build Back Better agenda, including expanding Medicare, improving federal child care and education programs, investing in infrastructure and jobs, and combating climate change. The House plans to vote on a final package by the end of September.

#### Background and Next Steps

In August, House and Senate Democrats passed a budget resolution that tasked 12 Senate Committees and 13 House Committees with drafting a spending package by September 15 that could total up to $3.5 trillion and pass both the House and Senate with a simple majority rather than the 60 votes usually required in the Senate. Over the last few weeks, the 13 House Committees on party-line votes advanced all of their spending bills. The House Budget Committee is now tasked with assembling the spending bills into one larger package for a full House vote by September 27. The Senate instead did not meet the September 15 deadline although there are no consequences for missing the deadline. The Senate has started drafting but has not yet advanced any spending bill. To accelerate the process, the Senate plans to bypass consideration of each bill through the Committees and instead plans to vote on a full package on the Senate floor.

The House bills advance many priorities of the research, education and academic medicine communities, such as major investments in research infrastructure and research and development programs at the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy, funding for Department of Commerce-led Regional Technology Hubs, expanding graduate medical education programs, increasing Pell grant awards, new funding opportunities for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other Minority Serving Institutions, and immigration reform including lawful permanent status for DACA recipients.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House Committee</th>
<th>Allocation ($ in Billions)</th>
<th>Senate Committee</th>
<th>Allocation ($ in Billions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House Committee on Ways and Means</td>
<td>$1 billion in savings over ten years</td>
<td>Senate Committee on Finance</td>
<td>$1 billion in savings over ten years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Jurisdiction:**
- **House Committee on Ways and Means**: All taxation, tariffs, and revenue measures and programs including Medicare, Social Security, among others.
- **Senate Committee on Finance**: All taxation and revenue measures. Health Programs including Medicare, Medicaid, among others.

**Sources and Additional Information:**
- House Budget Instructions and Committee allocations can be found [here](#).
- Senate Budget Instructions and Committee allocations can be found [here](#).

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However, many of the spending levels and categories of funding included in a final package are likely to change. The House and Senate have different priorities and moderate Democrats, such as Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), have called for a smaller spending package. Reductions in funding to the total package would likely reduce funding for most if not all research programs and potentially education and health care programs as well. One of the most contentious issues is taxes and other pay fors in the package. Democrats proposed $3 trillion in new taxes to pay for most of the funding package, primarily by raising the corporate tax rate and income taxes for the highest earners. Further, certain policy provisions, such as immigration proposals, may be removed from the package if the Parliamentarian rules they do not have a direct budgetary impact and are outside the scope of reconciliation.

Funding and Policy Priorities
Below is additional information on funding and policy priorities for federal agencies in the House reconciliation package of most relevance to the research, higher education, and academic medicine community, including:

- Agriculture
- Climate and clean energy
- Education and workforce development
- Health care
- Immigration reform
- Pandemic preparedness
- Regional innovation and economic development
- Research and development
- Research infrastructure
- Tax and revenue issues

Agriculture
- **Department of Agriculture (USDA):** $7.75 billion for agriculture research and infrastructure over 10 years. For each of the research programs, there is a major focus on climate change and conservation efforts. The following programs would see funding in the House bill:
  - $250 million for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in fiscal year (FY) 2022.
  - $500 million for Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI).
  - $600 million for Smith-Lever which funds extension at land-grant universities.
  - $540 million for the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR).
  - $380 million for Agriculture Advanced Research and Development Authority (AGARDA), which was authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill and would fund high-risk, high-reward research at USDA likely with a strong climate focus.
  - $500 million for Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE).
  - $20 million for Agriculture Genome to Phenome Initiative in FY 2022.
  - $50 million for the Multicultural Scholars Program.
  - $65 million for Urban Agriculture in FY 2022.

Climate and Clean Energy
- **Department of Energy (DOE):** $208 billion primarily to assist states and utilities in expanding deployment and transmission of clean energy, building electric vehicle charging stations, and providing energy loans to the private sector for clean energy technologies and expanded manufacturing and supply chain capabilities. Institutions of higher education, working through state, local governments, and utilities are eligible to partner or receive funds under certain programs.
• **National Science Foundation (NSF):** Within the $7.55 billion for research, scholarships, and fellowships across NSF, $400 million would be dedicated to climate change research.

• **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):** $1.24 billion to conduct climate research including forecasting, severe weather, marine sciences, research to operations, instrumentation, and data management and collection. Although program offices are not specified, the funding is likely to go to a combination of intramural and extramural research efforts. An additional $765 million would go to developing and disseminating climate information to build resilience in communities across the country; of this amount, $265 million to better enable end users to make informed planning decisions and $500 million to develop a “climate ready workforce”. The reconciliation package also includes $173 million for space weather efforts for a new independent mission and the development of new space weather crafts and instruments. Another $70 million is allocated for procurement, data management, storage, and supercomputing.

• **Department of Transportation (DOT):** $1 billion for grants under the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) Alternative Fuel and Low-Emission Aviation program. Of that amount, $700 million would be for activities that promote the production, transportation, storage, of sustainable aviation fuels and $300 million for the development and deployment of low-emission aviation technologies. Universities are included in the list of eligible recipients. Separately, an undefined subset of $9.9 billion for affordable housing would be set aside for grants that enhance mobility in underserved or disadvantaged communities, and specifically for research and capital expenses that promote zero-emission public transit. The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) would have broad latitude in how grants would be allocated; however, universities would be eligible recipients under the agency’s existing authorities should FTA compete funding for this activity.

• **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):** $388 million for climate change research activities of which
  o $88 million is for fundamental climate science,
  o $225 million for aeronautics and sustainable aviation research,
  o $50 million for wildfire-related R&D supporting firefighting operations, and
  o $28 million for earth science data management.

• **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):** $264 million to support climate change research activities, such as a new grants-based regional climate science network, increasing support for evidence-based regional and community climate adaptation, social science research to help increase use and adoption of science tools to address climate change, research to understand the cumulative impacts of pollution from existing and future energy sources especially in communities that face disproportionate impacts, and research to understand the impacts of the transition to decarbonized energy, transportation, and building sectors on frontline communities.

• **Climate Corps:** $5.9 billion for a new Civilian Climate Corps, which is a Biden Administration proposal to create job and workforce development opportunities across the country in the environment and climate change mitigation and adaptation field. The following agencies would receive funding:
  o National Forest Service – $2.25 billion
  o National Park Service - $1.7 billion
  o Bureau of Land Management - $900 million
  o Bureau of Indian Affairs - $500 million
  o National Fish and Wildlife Service - $400 million
  o NOAA - $120 million
Education and Workforce Development

- **Department of Education (ED):** $600 billion for a wide range of programs including:
  - A $500 increase to the maximum Pell Grant award in 2022, with the $500 increase to the maximum grant carried forward though fiscal year 2029.
  - Expansion of federal student aid eligibility to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and temporary protected status (TPS) status students for award years beginning in 2022–2023 through 2029–2030.
  - Grants to states or Tribal colleges or universities to support a tuition-free community college program, known as America’s College Promise.
  - $9 billion for Retention and Completion grants for states or Tribal institutions to implement evidence-based reforms to improve student outcomes.
  - Funding would be provided to support tuition assistance grants for students at HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs.
  - Nearly $1.4 billion for investments in HBCUs, TCUs, and MSIs via Title III HEA programs.
  - $197 million for “Partnership Grants for the Establishment Of ‘Grow Your Own’ Programs,” which would support partnerships to address teacher shortages in high need subjects, geographic areas, and to increase the diversity of the teacher and school leader workforce.
  - $198 million for teacher residency programs for teachers in bachelor’s or master’s degree programs under Title II of the Higher Education Act (HEA).
  - $198 million for the development and support of school leadership programs as supported under Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).
  - $198 million for grants under the Augustus F. Hawkins Centers of Excellence Program, which would support teacher preparation programs, including at HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions.

- **Department of Labor (DOL):** $80 billion to support workforce development including:
  - $16 billion for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Dislocated Worker Employment and Training program.
  - $15 billion for the WIOA Adult Worker Employment and Training program.
  - Funding for both programs would be allocated to support career services, supportive services, and training services, including individual training accounts.
  - $9 billion for the WIOA Youth Workforce Investment program. This would include funding to support paid work experiences.
  - $5 billion to support registered apprenticeships, youth apprenticeships, and pre-apprenticeships.
  - $2 billion for Community College and Industry Partnerships grants.
  - $10 billion for Industry or Sector Partnership grants to support partnerships to expand employment in high-skill and in-demand sectors, including IT, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, among other sectors.
  - $2.5 billion to support workforce development programs at DOL to support activities related to environmental resiliency, remediation, or mitigation.

- **NSF:** One of the uses of the $7.55 billion allocation for NSF is to support additional scholarships, fellowships, and other STEM education programs across NSF. How that funding would be divided is not defined in the bill.

- **Department of Homeland Security (DHS):** $100 million to DHS’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) for cybersecurity education and workforce development, including support for training and upskilling veterans; implementing cybersecurity apprenticeships at CISA; and K-12 programming
for underserved communities through CISA’s Cybersecurity Education and Training Program. Collaborations with minority-serving institutions (MSIs) and community colleges are encouraged.

- **Department of Veterans Affairs**: $375 million for expanding health professions residency programs at Department of Veterans Affairs’ medical facilities.

**Health Care**

- **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**: $35 billion to invest in the nation’s public health infrastructure and workforce including:
  - $10 billion to support the construction and modernization of health care facilities, including hospitals, with a preference given to “projects” tied to public health and emergency preparedness needs.
  - $1 billion in funding for construction of medical schools and training support in underserved communities.
  - $1 billion in funding to support nursing schools, including program enhancement and infrastructure modernization initiatives.
  - $6 billion to support payments to teaching health centers that administer graduate medical education (GME) programs and teaching health center development grants.
  - $300 million in funding for the Nurse Corps.
  - $7 billion to further strengthen public health infrastructure, including support for grants to state and local entities to enhance activities that would improve workforce capacity and competency, testing capacity, surveillance systems, and contact tracing.

- $3 billion to establish the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) to be used to “expedite the development, application, and implementation of health breakthroughs to prevent, detect, and treat serious or life-threatening diseases.”
  - The bill includes language clarifying that any funds appropriated for ARPA-H should “supplement not supplant” appropriations for existing Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
  - The bill does not specify that ARPA-H should be housed within NIH, unlike the bill advanced through the House Appropriations Committee earlier in the summer.
  - The bill tasks the Secretary of HHS with appointing a Director of ARPA-H, who will in turn hire program officers for the new initiative.

- $1 billion to support maternal and child health interventions through inclusion of the **Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act** including:
  - $85 million to address the impacts of climate change-related maternal and infant health risks through health professions schools.
  - $50 million to advance maternal health research at Minority Serving Institutions (MSI’s).
  - $175 million for local entities to address social determinants of maternal health.
  - $100 million for maternal mental health equity grant programs.
  - $25 million for bias trainings for health care professionals.

- **Several funding and policy changes under public programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**, including $190 billion to expand Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). The reconciliation package would also allow the Secretary of HHS to negotiate the price of prescription drugs, and provide mandatory rebates for certain drugs in Medicare Parts B and D.

**Immigration Reform**

The legislation would include policy changes related to immigration, including:

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Prepared by Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
September 17, 2021
• **Path to Permanent Residence for DACA and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients:** A path to permanent residency would be created for DACA and TPS recipients, along with other categories of undocumented workers. Applicants would be required to have completed or be in the process of receiving a degree from an U.S.-based institution of higher education, earned a career and technical education credential, be participating in an internship or apprenticeship, have a history of earned income, have honorably served in the U.S. armed forces, or be deemed a part of the essential critical infrastructure workforce (such as hospital workers and social workers) among other requirements.

• **Restoration of Immigrant Visas:** The legislation would increase the number of certain types of immigrant visas by taking the difference of visas authorized to be given in every fiscal year from 1992-2021 and the actual number of visas given and adding that number to the number of visas eligible to be given, beginning in FY 2022. Employment-based visas are one of the visa categories that would be impacted by this change.

• **Investment in United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS):** The legislation would provide $2.8 billion dollars to the USCIS to increase their capacity to process visa applications.

It is important to note bill’s immigration provisions are currently under review by the Parliamentarian as the reconciliation process has restrictive rules on allowable provisions. If the provisions are ruled not germane to the budget, they will likely be struck from the reconciliation package.

**Pandemic Preparedness**

• **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):** $8 billion in pandemic preparedness funding including:
  - $5 billion to support public health laboratory infrastructure, including the renovation, expansion, and modernization of state and local public health labs, modernization of CDC laboratories and increased monitoring and oversight over biosafety and biosecurity of state and local public health laboratories.
  - $1.25 billion to support grants to strengthen vaccine initiatives, such as improving vaccine confidence and vaccination rates.
  - $1.25 billion to support grants to enhance early warning detection systems and surveillance systems in hospitals and healthcare facilities.
  - $500 million to support public health data modernization and analytics infrastructure initiatives.

• **Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR):** $8 billion including:
  - $3 billion to support surge capacity during a public health emergency, through construction and modernization of facilities and procurement of domestically manufactured drugs, vaccines, technologies, and other components for the Strategic National Stockpile.
  - $2 billion to support global and domestic vaccine production and capacity.
  - $2 billion to support activities to mitigate supply chain risks and resilience for critical drugs and supplies.
  - $500 million to support the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA).
  - $500 million to support biosafety and biosecurity research on infectious diseases.

**Regional Innovation and Economic Development**

• **Department of Commerce (DOC):** $9 billion to support planning and establishment of regional innovation initiatives. This is likely for the creation of new Regional Technology Hubs with funding coming from two committees that share jurisdiction over DOC. The House Science Committee set
aside $4 billion under an authorization for “regional innovation initiatives” and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee set aside $5 billion for “regional economic growth clusters” under the Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Adjustment Assistance program. The $9 billion for regional development would be split between two authorities, which can be reconciled by the Senate. The House Science Committee also adopted an amendment to set aside 1/3 of their $5 billion for EPSCoR states and/or rural or other underserved communities.

- **Economic Development Administration (EDA):** In addition to support for Regional Technology Hubs, funding would be provided for several EDA programs, including:
  - $4 billion for a new “Recompete Pilot Program” to improve an area’s prime age employment rate by providing long-term assistance to persistently distressed communities. While universities are not explicitly listed as eligible, public entities or nonprofit organizations acting in cooperation with state economic development officials can apply.
  - $1 billion for EDA’s flexible Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program that supports a variety of construction, non-construction, innovation, and/or workforce development projects. Of the $1 billion, $500 million is set aside to provide assistance to energy and industrial transition communities and $50 million is for technical assistance support with grant-making and planning, primarily for underserved communities.
  - $500 million for the flexible EDA Public Works program that supports physical infrastructure investments.
  - $1 billion to establish the Uplift Accelerator Program that would create a national network of government contracting incubators at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) to promote underrepresented small businesses.
  - $1 billion to establish a national network of small business incubators in underrepresented communities.
  - $725 million for a Business Development Academy program to develop and establish a 12-month mentoring and training program for small business concerns.
  - $400 million for the Growth Accelerator Competition over 10 years to provide minimum awards of $100,000, which is $50,000 over the standard award amounts. The program aims to expand the capabilities of growth accelerators to assist small businesses focused on technology, research, and development.
  - $675 million to build out a national innovation support ecosystem network, of which $525 million would be for universities and other innovation partners to address the needs of eligible businesses to advance the pipeline of innovative startups, and $150 million would be to facilitate STEM fellowships and internships, prioritizing underrepresented individuals from undergraduate to post-doctoral levels.
  - $105 million for entrepreneurial education and support for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals.

- **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):** $2 billion for manufacturing, including $1 billion for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and $1 billion for advanced manufacturing research, development, and testbeds.

- **Small Business Administration (SBA):** $17.5 billion was set aside for the Small Business Committee, including:

  **Research and Development**
  - **NSF:** $7.55 billion for research, scholarships, and fellowships across NSF, including funding to support the new Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate and STEM education. NSF would also be authorized to use this funding to help in the recovery of COVID-19 related disruptions (the only
agency to receive funding from Congress for COVID-19 research recovery). Within the $7.55 billion, $400 million would be dedicated to climate change research and $700 million for MSIs.

- **DOE**: $3.2 billion for research, development, and demonstration activities, including $2 billion for new Office of Science initiatives in quantum computing, inertial and other forms of fusion energy, low-dose radiation research and an expansion of the Computational Science Graduate Fellowship program; $1.1 billion for renewable energy and energy efficiency demonstration projects, including in wind, solar, geothermal, water power, vehicles, bioenergy, and building technologies; $52 million for a nuclear reactor research infrastructure program; and $20 million for DOE’s Office of Economic Impact and Diversity to support diversity, equity, and inclusion programs across the applied energy offices.

- **NIST**: $1.2 billion for research including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum, biotechnology, communications technologies, advanced manufacturing, resilience to natural hazards including wildfires, and greenhouse gas reduction and other climate-related activities. However, most of this funding would likely be to support R&D at NIST facilities.

- **Department of Justice (DOJ)**: $2.5 billion for evidence-based community violence intervention programs at the Department of Justice to support evidence-based strategies to reduce community violence, support training, research, and data collection on such strategies, and support research on the impact of community violence on demographic categories.

- **DOT**: $8 million for a university-led highly automated vehicle and mobility innovation clearinghouse. Separately, $3.95 billion would be allocated for Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants under the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Within that amount, universities would be eligible to partner with state and/or eligible local or tribal government entities to receive grants for planning and capacity building activities in disadvantaged or underserved communities.

- **DHS**: $50 million to DHS’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) for research and development on securing operational technology, including industrial control systems, against cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

### Research Infrastructure

The House reconciliation package would provide funding to build new facilities and major instrumentation to advance U.S. competitiveness in science and technology, including:

- **DOE**: $12.3 billion for DOE laboratory infrastructure to accelerate the construction of world-class user facilities; support new instrumentation and experiments at research universities and national laboratories; advance science lab infrastructure at all 10 DOE national laboratories; and fund other general national lab infrastructure, such as general plant projects, that improve land, buildings and utility systems to meet safe and reliable facility operations. While most of the funding is for the Office of Science, within the $12.3 billion is $1.2 billion to fund research infrastructure at national labs that support renewable, nuclear, and fossil energy activities.

- **NASA**: $4 billion for the repair, modernization, and upgrade of facilities and laboratory infrastructure at NASA Centers.

- **USDA**: $3.75 billion, including $3.65 billion for infrastructure for land grant universities and non land grant colleges of agriculture. Within this amount, 27 percent is set aside for 1890, 1994 Land Grant Universities and other qualifying Minority Serving Institutions. The remaining $100 million is for research equipment grants. There will be no matching requirement for these funds.

- **NSF**: $3.4 billion for research infrastructure, facilities, and equipment, including mid-scale infrastructure and additional major research equipment and facilities construction (MREFC) projects. Of this amount, $1 billion is allocated for Academic Research Infrastructure, of which $300 million is set aside for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).
• **NOAA**: $2 billion for research infrastructure, including new high performance computing capabilities, a phase array radar to improve weather forecasts, and addressing deferred maintenance and needed upgrades to science equipment and instruments related to meteorological, hydrological, climatological, and other oceanic and atmospheric missions.

• **ED**: $2 billion for a new Research and Development Infrastructure competitive grant program to support planning grants and implementation awards to four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and designated MSIs, which are not classified as very high research activity institutions, as well as related consortia.

• **NIST**: $1 billion to support NIST infrastructure.

**Tax and Revenue Issues**

The House Ways and Means bill contains several provisions relevant to higher education, including:

• Beginning in 2022, excludes the full value of Pell Grant awards from gross income.
• Repeals the prohibition excluding students convicted of a state or felony drug offense from claiming the American Opportunity Tax Credit.
• Beginning in 2022, a phase out for an institution’s endowment investment income excise tax liability based on financial aid provided by the institution.
• Reinstates Build America Bonds and advanced refunding bonds.
• Creates a public university research infrastructure credit.
• Expands the energy efficiency construction tax credit to cover private nonprofit institutions.
• Provides institutions of higher education a tax credit to establish an environmental justice program that is designed to address, or improve data about environmental stressors, such as toxic pollutants, for the purpose of improving the health and economic outcomes of individuals residing in low-income areas.

**Sources:**

Below are links to the 13 House bills that make up the current reconciliation package.

• House Agriculture Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Education and Labor Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Energy and Commerce Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Financial Services Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Homeland Security Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Judiciary Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Natural Resources Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Oversight Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Science, Space, and Technology Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Small Business Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Veterans Affairs Committee reconciliation [bill](#).
• House Ways and Means Committee reconciliation bills—[here](#) and [here](#).
Fun

Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates
Federal Advisory Committee Nomination Opportunity - September 15, 2021

National Space Council Users’ Advisory Group

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

BACKGROUND: NASA invites public nominations for the National Space Council Users’ Advisory Group (UAG). NASA is sponsoring UAG on behalf of the National Space Council which is an interagency coordinating committee chaired by the Vice President to advise and assist the President on space policy and strategy. UAG’s role is to ensure that the interests of industries and other non-governmental entities involved in space activities are represented in the National Space Council.

Membership will be divided into “representatives” and “special government employees,” representatives are individuals who are representing industry or notable groups in aeronautical activities and special government employees are subject matter experts. The composition of members will vary to create a diverse group with a wealth of expertise.

AUTHORITY: UAG is authorized by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), Public Law 92-463, 5 U.S.C. app., as amended; 5 U.S.C. 3109; Title V of Public Law 100-685; Public Law 101-611, Section 121; Executive Order 13803 of June 30, 2017, as amended by Executive Order 13906 of February 13, 2020, Section 6; and 44 U.S.C. 3101.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Public nominations must be submitted by September 27, 2021.

Advisory Committee on Veterans’ Employment, Training, and Employer Outreach (ACVETEO)

AGENCY: Department of Labor (DOL)

BACKGROUND: DOL’s Veterans’ Employment and Training Service is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of ACVETEO. ACVETEO is responsible for:

- Assessing employment and training needs of veterans;
- Determining the extent to which the programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Labor meet these needs;
- Assisting to conduct outreach to employers seeking to hire veterans; and
- Making recommendations to the Secretary, through the Assistant Secretary for Veterans’ Employment and Training Service, with respect to outreach activities and employment and training needs of veterans.

The Secretary of Labor will appoint at least 12, but no more than 16, members who serve as Special Government Employees. Members will consist of:
1. Seven individuals, one each from among the representatives nominated by
   a. the Society for Human Resource Management,
   b. the Business Roundtable,
   c. National Association of State Workforce Agencies,
   d. the United States Chamber of Commerce,
   e. the National Federation of Independent Business,
   f. a nationally recognized labor union or organization and (g) the National Governors Association;
2. No more than five representatives nominated by Veterans Service Organizations that have a national employment program; and
3. No more than five individuals who are recognized authorities in the fields of business, employment, training, rehabilitation, or labor and who are not employees of DOL.

AUTHORITY: Congressionally mandated advisory committee authorized under Title 38, U.S. Code, Section 4110 and subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations must be received by October 31, 2021.

Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee (LEPAC)

AGENCY: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

BACKGROUND: CDC is seeking nominations of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment as a member of LEPAC. The Committee advise the HHS Secretary and the CDC Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on a range of activities to include:
   (1) Review of Federal programs and services available to individuals and communities exposed to lead;
   (2) Review of the current research on lead exposure to identify additional research needs;
   (3) Review of and identification of best practices, or the need for best practices regarding lead screening and the prevention of lead exposure;
   (4) Identification of effective services, including services relating to healthcare, education, and nutrition for individuals and communities affected by lead exposure and lead poisoning, including in consultation with, as appropriate, the lead exposure registry; and
   (5) Undertaking of any other review or activities that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

The Committee's currently composed of 15 members with expertise in lead screening, the prevention of lead exposure, and services for individuals exposed to lead. LEPAC is seeking nominations for individuals who are experts in epidemiology, toxicology, mental health, pediatrics, early childhood education, special education, diet and nutrition, and environmental health. At least half of the committee will consist of Federal representatives from a range of agencies that may include the Environmental Protection Agency; the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; the Health Resources and Services Administration; the Food and Drug Administration; the U.S. Department of Agriculture; the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences; the U.S. Geological Survey; and such additional federal, state, tribal, and local public and private officials.
AUTHORITY: The Lead Exposure and Prevention Advisory Committee is required and established by Section 2203 of Public Law 114-322, “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act”; 42 U.S.C. §300j-27, “Registry for Lead Exposure and Advisory Committee.” The committee is governed by the provisions of Public Law 92-463, the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. App.), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations for membership must be received by November 1, 2021.

National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee and the Subcommittee on Artificial Intelligence and Law

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

BACKGROUND: The Committee shall provide advice to the President and the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Office on matters related to the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative (Initiative). The purposes of the Initiative are:

(1) Ensuring continued United States leadership in artificial intelligence research and development;
(2) Leading the world in the development and use of trustworthy artificial intelligence systems in the public and private sectors;
(3) Preparing the present and future United States workforce for the integration of artificial intelligence systems across all sectors of the economy and society; and
(4) Coordinating ongoing artificial intelligence research, development, and demonstration activities among the civilian agencies, the Department of Defense, and the Intelligence Community to ensure that each informs the work of the others.

The Committee shall consist of not less than nine members, who represent broad and interdisciplinary expertise and perspectives, including from academic institutions, companies across diverse sectors, nonprofit and civil society entities, including civil rights and disability rights organizations, and Federal laboratories, who represent geographic diversity, and who are qualified to provide advice and information on science and technology research, development, ethics, standards, education, technology transfer, commercial application, security, and economic competitiveness related to artificial intelligence.

AUTHORITY: The Secretary of Commerce shall establish the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (the NAIAC or the Committee) pursuant to Section 5104 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (Pub. L. 116-283), hereinafter referred to as the Act, and the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App.


APPLICATIONS DUE: Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. EST on October 25, 2021.
Agency Update: Department of Energy Funding in the Reconciliation Package

The House would provide $224 billion to the Department of Energy (DOE) in the reconciliation package. This is part of a larger $3.5 trillion package focused on health care, education, and climate priorities from the Biden Administration’s Build Back Better agenda. The DOE funding provisions would advance a broad range of activities focused on the deployment and demonstration of clean energy technologies, building electric vehicle infrastructure, establishing a new clean electricity performance program to incentive electricity suppliers to adopt clean energy generation, and helping build new electric transmission to improve the reliable delivery of clean energy across the country. While most of the DOE funding is targeted at states, utilities, and private companies, research universities would be eligible for laboratory infrastructure, research and development, and critical facility modernization programs.

House funding for DOE is allocated in two different spending bills because of different Committee jurisdictions, including:

- $16 billion in the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee spending bill primarily for lab research infrastructure and research, development, and innovative clean energy demonstration programs; and
- $208 billion in the House Energy and Commerce spending bill primarily to assist states and utilities in expanding deployment and transmission of clean energy, building electric vehicle charging stations, and providing energy loans to the private sector for clean energy technologies and expanded manufacturing and supply chain capabilities.

Below is additional information on each major program.

Lab Research Infrastructure and Research and Development Activities

As Lewis-Burke reported previously, DOE would be a big winner under the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee spending package with $15.5 billion for DOE national lab research infrastructure, research and development activities, and clean energy demonstration projects. This funding would be divided into two major categories—$12.3 billion for DOE laboratory infrastructure primarily at DOE national laboratories and $3.2 billion for research, development, and demonstration activities. These investments are consistent with the House-passed DOE Science for the Future Act, which reauthorized programs, advanced new research initiatives, and accelerated construction projects for the DOE Office of Science.

The $12.3 billion for DOE laboratory infrastructure accelerates the construction of world-class user facilities, such as the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory and the Long Baseline Neutrino Facility/Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment at Fermilab; supports new instrumentation and experiments, such as the ton-scale neutrinoless double beta decay experiment for nuclear physics and the Cosmic Microwave Background-Stage 4 experiment for high energy physics; science lab infrastructure at all 10 DOE national laboratories; and other general national lab infrastructure, such as general plant projects, that improve land, buildings and utility systems to meet safe and reliable facility operations. While most of the funding is for the Office of Science, within the $12.3 billion is $1.2 billion to fund research infrastructure at national labs that support renewable, nuclear, and fossil energy activities.

These proposed investments not only accelerate construction of major facilities and general laboratory infrastructure but would also address major funding shortfalls for construction projects in the FY 2022 Energy
and Water appropriations bills, which fund DOE. The House and Senate passed bills prioritized funding for DOE Office of Science core research, science and technology investments in emerging technologies, and operations of existing facilities. Both bills underfunded facility construction with the intent of advancing those projects through the reconciliation package.

The $3.2 billion for research, development, and demonstration activities is much more modest because the bipartisan infrastructure package—the Senate-passed Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act—already includes $73 billion for DOE for clean energy demonstration activities and grid modernization. The major focus is on the Office of Science, which was not included in the infrastructure package, and additional applied energy activities not funded in either the infrastructure package or appropriations bills. The $3.2 billion includes:

- $2 billion for the Office of Science to increase funding for existing programs as well as fund new programs, including
  - $340 million for a new Quantum User Expansion for Science and Technology (QUEST) program, which is intended to expand public-private partnerships for quantum resource use by giving U.S. researchers access to quantum computing hardware and quantum computing clouds at national labs, research universities, and private industry. DOE released a Request for Information on Access to Quantum Systems, which responses due by September 30, to shape the future of this program.
  - $140 million for a new inertial fusion research and development program;
  - $116 million for the Computational Science Graduate Fellowship program to train the next-generation workforce on new exascale computing systems, next-generating computing architectures, and Artificial Intelligence and machine learning applications;
  - $180 million for a low-dose radiation research program; and

- $1.1 billion for various fusion energy programs, including $250 million fusion materials research and development; $275 million for alternative and enabling fusion energy concepts; $250 million for fusion reactor systems design; and $325 million for milestone-based fusion energy development to support private companies advancing fusion concepts.

- $1.1 billion for renewable energy and energy efficiency demonstration projects authorized in the Energy Act of 2020 that passed Congress in December 2020, including projects in wind, solar, geothermal, water power, vehicles, bioenergy, and building technologies. This also includes $70 million for a new Clean Energy Manufacturing Institute on Industrial Decarbonization.

- $52 million for a nuclear reactor research infrastructure program that would support operations of existing test reactors as well as construction of new advanced reactors at research universities.

- $20 million for DOE’s Office of Economic Impact and Diversity to support diversity, equity, and inclusion programs across the applied energy offices.

**Clean Electricity Performance Program**

The reconciliation package would provide $150 billion to establish a new Clean Electricity Performance Program (CEPP) managed by DOE. DOE would receive $250 million to administer the program. Using a dual approach, the CEPP would reward electricity suppliers who sufficiently expand their clean electricity production, while collecting payments from electricity suppliers who fail to do so. To qualify for the grant funding an electricity supplier would be required to increase their use of clean electricity by a minimum of 4 percent per year. The CEPP would provide electricity suppliers who meet this threshold $150 for each megawatt-hour of new clean electricity supplied. Instead, if an electricity supplier fails to increase its clean electricity by more than 4 percent, it would be subject to a penalty of $40 per megawatt hour. To qualify as clean electricity, the source of energy must not emit more than 0.1 tons carbon dioxide equivalent per
megawatt hour. This standard would accommodate the use of renewable energy sources, nuclear power, and coal or gas generated electricity with carbon capture and sequestration.

**Federal Procurement to Decarbonize Federal Buildings and Fleets**
The reconciliation package would provide $17.5 billion for DOE to assist other federal agencies in meeting their clean energy, energy efficiency, and decarbonization goals. Administered through the **Federal Energy Efficiency Fund**, DOE would provide competitive grants to federal agencies to purchase zero emission vehicles or adopt energy conservation, cogenerations facilities, renewable energy source, low carbon materials, improvements in operations and maintenance, retrofit activities, electrification, and energy storage devices for federal buildings.

**Critical Facility Modernization**
To improve the energy resiliency of public buildings and other state and local community facilities, the reconciliation package would provide DOE $3.2 billion for a new **Critical Facility Modernization Program**. Grants would be awarded to states to increase a building’s resiliency, including by making the building more energy efficient, integrating renewable energy or grid infrastructure, hardening the building against natural disasters, making improvements to public health and safety, improving indoor air quality, or modifications needed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible projects “may include a combined heat and power, microgrid, or energy storage component.” Institutions of higher education, medical facilities, and other state and local government buildings would be eligible to receive funding and would require no cost share.

**Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**
The reconciliation package would provide $14 billion for DOE to build out electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and other equipment to help decarbonize the transportation sector. Key elements include:

- **$6 billion for the Near-term Transportation Sector Electrification program** to provide grants for the instillation of electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) for recharging plug-in electric drive vehicles; multi-use charging hubs used for multiple forms of transportation; medium- and heavy-duty vehicle smart charging management and refueling; battery recycling and secondary use; shipside electrification for ground support equipment at ports; electric airport ground support vehicles; and for the sharing of best practices and technical assistance provided by DOE to public utilities for medium-and heavy-duty vehicle electrification.
- **$4 billion for the Plug-in electric drive vehicle program.** This is a competitive program to provide grants on a cost-shared basis to State governments, local governments, metropolitan transportation authorities, air pollution control districts, or private or nonprofit entities, to carry out projects to encourage the use of plug-in electric drive vehicles or other emerging electric vehicle technologies.
- **$2 billion for DOE to carry out a rebate program to cover expenses associated with electric vehicle supply equipment** (EVSE) located in publicly accessible locations. Eligible EVSE projects would enhance safety, cybersecurity, performance, accessibility, and alignment with relevant codes and standards of conductors, EV connectors, attachments plugs and fitting devices, power outlets, electrical equipment, off-grid charging instillation or apparatuses installed specifically for delivering energy to EVs. The rebate program would be open to individuals; State, local, and Tribal governments; private, not-for-profit and non-profit entities; and metropolitan planning organizations.
- **$1 billion for the EV Charging Equity Program**, which would provide technical assistance, grants, and education and outreach to eligible entities, including institutions of higher education, for projects that increase deployment and accessibility of EVSE in underserved or disadvantaged communities. The grants for a project would require a minimum of a 20 percent cost share and priority would be given to
projects that provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people within an underserved or disadvantaged community; incorporate renewable energy resources; maximize local job creation; or utilize locally owned small and disadvantaged businesses.

- $500 million for financial assistance to State energy offices to develop **state energy transportation plans** that would focus on deploying a network of ESVE and to promote modernization of the electric grid through the use of renewable energy sources to accommodate the increased demand from electric vehicles. The state is permitted to partner with other state and local authorities and transportation agencies, electric utilities, regional transmission organizations, private entities that provide electric vehicle charging services, electric vehicle manufacturers, entities that manage vehicle fleets, and entities that manage port, airports or other transportation hubs.

**Electric Transmission**

The reconciliation package would provide DOE $9 billion to build new or upgrade existing transmission lines to increase the penetration of clean energy resources. Key elements include:

- $8 billion for grants and direct loans to **non-Federal entities to construct new, or make upgrades to existing, eligible transmission lines**. The construction or upgrade must support a more robust and resilient electric grid and the integration of a clean energy facility into the electric grid.
- $800 million for grants to a siting authority to advance **transmission projects**, such as studies and analyses of the impact of a transmission project; examination of up to 3 alternate siting corridors for a transmission project; hosting and facilitating negotiations in settlement meetings; and participation by the siting authority in regulatory proceedings or negotiations. DOE may also make a grant to a siting authority, or other State, local, or Tribal governmental entity, for economic development activities for communities that may be affected by the construction and operation of a transmission project. The federal cost share of regulatory proceedings cannot exceed 50 percent.
- $100 million in grants for states to pay for **technical assistance for forming, expanding or improving an organized wholesale electricity market**, including organizing the policies, and evaluating the economic, operational, reliability, environmental, and other benefits of organized wholesale electricity markets.
- $100 million to pay expenses associated with **convening stakeholders to address the development of interregional electricity transmission and transmission of electricity generated by offshore wind**, and to conduct planning, modeling, and analysis regarding interregional electricity transmission and transmission of electricity that is generated by offshore wind.

**Block Grants**

The reconciliation package would provide $5 billion in grants for the **Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program**. This program is designed to assist eligible entities in implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions and total energy use as well as improving energy efficiency in the transportation sector, building sector, and other appropriate sectors. The bill requires $2.5 billion to be allocated in the following proportions: 68 percent to eligible units of local government; 28 percent to States (not less than 1.25 percent to each State; and the remainder among States, based on a formula established by the Secretary of Energy); 2 percent to Indian tribes; and 2 percent for competitive grants for units of local government (including Indian tribes) that are not eligible entities, and a consortia of units of local government.

**DOE Loans and Manufacturing Grants**

The reconciliation package significantly expands DOE’s budget authority to make low interest loans to clean energy companies and provide grants to expand domestic production of zero-emission vehicles.
DOE Energy Loan Programs Office

The reconciliation package would provide DOE up to $30 billion in new budget authority to finance projects that avoid, reduce or sequester air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases, and employ new or significantly improved technologies as compared to existing commercial technologies. Eligible projects include:

- Renewable energy systems,
- Advanced fossil energy technologies (including coal gasification),
- Hydrogen fuel cell technology for residential, industrial, or transportation applications,
- Advanced nuclear energy facilities,
- Carbon capture and sequestration practices and technologies, including agricultural and forestry practices that store and sequester carbon,
- Efficient electrical generation, transmission, and distribution technologies,
- Efficient end-use energy technologies,
- Production facilities for fuel efficient vehicles, including hybrid and advanced diesel vehicles,
- Pollution control equipment,
- Refineries, meaning facilities at which crude oil is refined into gasoline, and
- Gasification projects.

Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing

The reconciliation bill would provide $3 billion to assist automobile manufacturers and component suppliers with manufacturing zero-emission vehicles or reequipping, expanding, or establishing manufacturing facilities in the United States to manufacture advanced technology vehicles or associated components, including medium- or heavy-duty vehicles, trains, maritime vessels, aircraft, and hyperloop technologies.

Domestic Manufacturing Conversion Grants

The reconciliation package would provide $1 billion for grants relating to domestic production of zero-emission vehicles associated with the efficient hybrid and advanced diesel vehicles program.

Energy Community Reinvestment Financing

The reconciliation package would provide $2 billion to establish a new program for low-carbon reinvestments in energy communities that are or have been affected by the manufacturing and deployment of energy-intensive goods or services. These investments may include: supporting workers in finding employment opportunities; redeveloping a community; accelerating remediation of environmental damage; and mitigating the effects on customers of any significant reduction in the carbon intensity of goods or services. Examples of financial support include a direct loan, line of credit, or a guarantee.

Low Income Solar Planning and Installation

The reconciliation package would provide $2.5 billion for DOE to administer a low income solar program to provide assistance to states, local or tribal governments, non-profits, and solar energy developers to plan and build community solar projects that serve low income households. Within the $2.5 billion, $375 million is allocated to support planning activities. Congress would direct DOE to prioritize grants for projects in
underserved areas with no access to electricity or solar energy, or in geographical areas with high energy burdens. DOE is also tasked with prioritizing projects that provide job training and community partnerships and are distributed across different geographical regions. Assistance would come in the form of a grant, rebate, or low-interest loan, and could be used for a variety of community solar activities including planning and building community solar facilities, energy storage or grid interconnections at community solar facilities, or for reducing the cost of a subscription to a community solar facility. Community solar facilities may be standalone projects or can be located at low income residences or multi-family affordable housing complexes.

[Funding Opportunity: NAVSEA Announces FY 2022 Naval Engineering Education Consortium (NEEC)]

On behalf of the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA), the Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division (NSWC IHD) released a broad agency announcement (BAA) for the fiscal year (FY) 2022 Naval Engineering Education Consortium (NEEC). The BAA is seeking basic, applied, and advanced research proposals of interest to specific warfare centers. The research topics of interest vary, seeking proposals in areas of emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence/machine learning (AI/ML), photonics, vehicle autonomy, quantum, hypersonics, as well as unique research like the development of materials for arctic conditions. The warfare centers soliciting research topics in the BAA include:

1. NSWC Carderock
2. NSWC Corona
3. NSWC Crane
4. NSWC Dahlgren
5. NSWC Indian Head
6. NSWC Panama City
7. NSWC Philadelphia
8. NSWC Port Hueneme
9. NUWC Keyport
10. NUWC Newport

Details regarding the topics of interest for each warfare center can be found in the full BAA announcement. NAVSEA will grant multiple awards with funding amount varying from $100,000 to $150,000 for one year of performance and $300,000 to $450,000 if funded for three years of performance, depending on the research topic and warfare center.

This BAA is only open to colleges and universities, specifically encouraging the submission of proposals from Minority Serving Institutes (MSIs) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Applicants may submit multiple proposals under one topic of interest or across warfare centers but may not submit the same proposal for more than one warfare center. Proposals are due no later than November 1, 2021 at 11:59 PM ET, and awards are anticipated to be announced by April 1, 2022. The full BAA announcement can be found on www.grants.gov under funding opportunity number “N00174-21-0001” or here.