September will be one of the busiest months that Congress has had this year, as House Committees continue mark ups of their portions of the reconciliation package while the Senate races against the clock to finalize its remaining appropriations bills. Congress is also working on passing the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which includes $550 billion in new spending, that has now grown to be increasingly controversial as it awaits a floor vote by September 27. At this point, a continuing resolution (CR) is nearly guaranteed and Congress is preparing CR legislation that will likely extend into December. This legislation is expected to include a debt ceiling increase, as well as emergency aid for recent natural disasters and for Afghanistan.

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; The House Releases Details on $46 Billion for Research and Development and Research Infrastructure for Major Federal Agencies in the Reconciliation Package
On September 2, 2021, the House Science, Space, and Technology (HSST) Committee released a $46 billion spending package to support research and development, research infrastructure, and economic development programs across major federal agencies. The HSST Committee was tasked with drafting a spending bill as part of a broader $3.5 trillion reconciliation package which can be passed with a simple majority vote in both the House and the Senate. Provisions in this larger package, such as research infrastructure, are meant to complement the bipartisan infrastructure bill and advance a broader set of priorities in President Biden’s Build Back Better agenda. The $46 billion is also seen as a down payment on major science and technology
provisions in various innovation bills advanced by Congress, such as the Senate-passed *United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021* (USICA) and the House-passed *NSF for the Future Act and DOE Science for the Future Act*.

The HSST Committee will debate and vote on its $46 billion bill on September 9. The bill will then be sent to the House Budget Committee, which is responsible for assembling over a dozen spending bills into a larger $3.5 trillion reconciliation package by September 15. The House is then expected to vote on the whole package at the end of September. The Senate has not yet announced a schedule for advancing individual bills or voting on a final package.

The graphic below shows the proposed funding distribution for research infrastructure and research and development activities for major federal agencies under the jurisdiction of the HSST Committee.

Below is a more detailed analysis of funding for each federal agency.

**Department of Energy (DOE)**

DOE would be a big winner under the proposed 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.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF would $11 billion to remain available through September 30, 2026, for research infrastructure and research and education programs. This would include:

$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).

$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.

Department of Commerce (DOC)

DOC would receive $5 billion to remain available through September 30, 2026, for the planning and establishment of regional innovation initiatives. This would support the creation of Regional Technology Hubs or similar localized economic growth programming. The spending bill could not directly and explicitly fund Regional Technology Hubs since they are not yet authorized by Congress. However, guidance for the establishment of Regional Technology Hubs were included in the Senate passed United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021 (USICA) and the House’s Regional Innovation Act. The hubs would provide major investments in workforce training, growth strategies, business activity related to domestic supply chain, attraction of investments, manufacturing development, commercialization, and entrepreneurship support to stimulate economic growth in key sectors.

UMN Washington Update
Prepared by Lewis-Burke Associates LLC
September 10, 2021
The $5 billion proposed in the reconciliation bill for regional innovation is lower than the amounts provided for Regional Technology Hubs in both of the House and Senate authorization bills. The Senate would provide around $10 billion for a minimum of 18 hubs in USICA and the House would provide around $7 billion for a minimum of 10 hubs in the Regional Innovation Act. Still, there is bipartisan momentum for these hubs, and if it holds at $5 billion, it will be among the largest ever U.S. federal investments in regional innovation.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
While there was no specific allocation for extramural research funding in the reconciliation bill, NIST would receive $4.2 billion to remain available through September 30, 2028. This includes:
- $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.
- $2 billion for manufacturing, including $1 billion for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) and $1 billion for advanced manufacturing research, development, and testbeds.
- $1 billion for NIST infrastructure.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
NOAA would receive $3 billion to remain available through September 30, 2027, including:
- $1.2 billion for weather, ocean, and climate research and forecasting to support activities such as:
  - increasing the understanding and predictive forecasting capabilities related to hurricanes, tornadoes, drought, wildfires;
  - increasing marine research capacity to better understand the impacts of ocean acidification, algal blooms, sea level change, and ocean warming;
  - strengthening observational, data modeling, and data analysis capabilities to monitor weather, ocean, climate and other environmental phenomena; and
  - translate research into practical applications, including the use of social science to drive decision-making.
- $765 million for climate adaptation and resilience activities including:
  - $500 million to recruit, educate and train a climate-ready workforce, such as funding community projects to enhance climate adaptation and resilience and supporting community engagement activities to monitor, track, and prepare for extreme events, and
  - $265 million to help end users, such as state and local governments and Indian tribes, develop adaptation and risk mitigation strategies at the local and regional level.
- $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.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NASA would receive $4.4 billion in the reconciliation bill. This includes:
- $4 billion for the repair, modernization, and upgrade of facilities and laboratory infrastructure at NASA Centers.
- $338 million for climate research within NASA directorates, including:
  - $255 million to accelerate the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate’s (ARMD) work on sustainable aviation.
  - $163 million for climate research within the Science Mission Directorate (SMD) of which
▪ $85 million is for “research and development on subseasonal to seasonal models and observations, climate resilience and sustainability, and airborne instruments, campaigns, and surface networks to understand, observe, and mitigate global climate change and its impacts,”
▪ $50 million for research and development that supports wildfire prevention and response, and
▪ $28 million for data and computing infrastructure that support climate research, observations, and impact mitigation

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Policy Update: White House and Congressional Action on Pandemic Preparedness
The White House released its pandemic preparedness plan, American Pandemic Preparedness: Transforming Our Capabilities, on September 2. The plan, an update to existing national biopreparedness policies through the lens of COVID-19 response, is divided into five categories:

• Improving and expanding the development and access to vaccines and therapeutics
• Investments in early warning systems and real time monitoring
• Strengthening public health infrastructures at home and abroad
• Increase the nation’s stockpiles and invest in more resilient supply chains
• Centralized management at home and overseas

While many aspects of these goals are executed through federal programs currently, the White House seeks to improve interagency coordination and multi-sectoral efforts to strengthen and expand U.S. supply chains. Further, the White House emphasizes the need for additional funding to meet the demand and prepare for future threats. The plan details $65.3 billion over seven to 10 years, including $15 billion requested through the upcoming budget reconciliation package. In March, the Administration requested $30 billion for pandemic preparedness through the American Jobs Plan, but Congress included only $8 billion in the budget resolution reconciliation directives.

On Capitol Hill, Members of Congress have started to debate areas of national need in the fight against biothreats and introduce related bills. Through the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, members of both parties have formed a steering committee on pandemic preparedness and health security. The steering committee has held webinars on themes that track closely to the White House American Pandemic Preparedness Plan. In addition, the committee is asking which countermeasures are necessary for an unknown outbreak (Disease X) and at what cost, assuming the U.S. takes a leadership role.

In terms of legislative action, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senators Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and James Risch (R-ID), introduced the International Pandemic Preparedness and COVID-19 Response Act, a bill that would enhance the nation’s international response to future pandemics and create a new financing mechanism for global health security and preparedness. Additionally, in April, the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairwoman and Ranking Member, Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Richard Burr (R-NC), released a Dear Colleague Letter asking stakeholders for input on the development of bi-partisan legislation to prepare for the next public health emergency. HELP Committee staff have said they anticipate releasing draft text this fall.
As the Administration, federal agencies, and Congress continue to review and pose new policies and programs to respond to and prepare for future pandemics and biothreats, Lewis-Burke can work with you to identify opportunities to engage, develop policy recommendations, and advocate for programs of interest. Lewis-Burke will continue to provide updates on policy and outreach, as well.

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Policy Update: National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Task Force Holds First Meeting
The National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) Task Force held its first meeting on August 30 to discuss NAIRR’s development, goals, and potential future actions. NAIRR is “a shared research infrastructure providing artificial intelligence (AI) researchers and students across all scientific disciplines with access to computational resources, high-quality data, educational tools and user support.” The Task Force, authorized in the fiscal year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and officially launched in June 2021, is co-chaired by the National Science Foundation (NSF)’s Erwin Gianchandani and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)’s Lynne Parker, and includes members from government, academia, and the private sector. The Task Force is charged with focusing on infrastructure to address the state of AI science and implementation, AI in the workforce and AI training and employment for underrepresented communities, leveraging AI in government operations, and the ethical implications of AI. The Task Force will submit two reports to Congress summarizing their strategy and implementation plan for this work: an interim report in May 2022 and a final document in November 2022.

The Task Force’s first meeting included three agenda items for discussion: “(i) the goals, anticipated outcomes, and evaluation metrics of the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource; (ii) ownership, administration, and governance models; and (iii) the range of computer capabilities that will form a key element of the resource.” Specific points raised by invited panelists and members of the Task Force included the importance of diversity and equity in research, due to the lack of minority and female representation in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Participants also stressed the need to consider the ethical implications when addressing the current challenges of AI, such as ensuring the data the task force collects is unbiased and that the outcome of this task force helps in the development of AI that is trusted not only by those in STEM fields, but those who are beginning to utilize it outside of STEM. In the context of how the Task Force can have effects on our country’s education and workforce, participants emphasized the importance of avoiding late exposure to AI and similar technologies during post-secondary education, by instead first introducing students to these areas in elementary school. Developing more opportunities for a younger generation so that they have an earlier introduction to AI could lead to a larger and more diverse AI workforce in the future, but would require additional training for teachers on incorporating AI into curricula. Participants also expressed the importance of making funding and related resources more accessible to Minority-Serving Institutions by eliminating barriers in the application process and ensuring fairness in solicitations.

Other notable points of discussion from this meeting included how the Task Force will retrieve and compile data from federal agencies, what the metrics of success will be used to evaluate the Task Force, and the most supportive and sustainable ways for the Task Force to determine the appropriate amount of NAIRR resources to distribute to the research community. The Task Force also announced its new Paper Process which will enhance the vision of NAIRR and track its goals and successes. The goal of the Paper Process is to track the developing consensus of the Task Force on the topics of value proposition, user base and intended outcome through individual member input.
The NAIRR Task Force will continue to meet in the upcoming months, with meetings in October 2021, December 2021, and February 2022 already planned. The meeting in October will specifically focus on desired capabilities, barriers, and solutions to dissemination of government data. Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor the NAIRR Task Force and its activities and provide updates as appropriate.

Sources and Additional Information:
- The press release regarding the launch of NAIRR by the White House can be found at [https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2021/06/10/the-biden-administration-launches-the-national-artificial-intelligence-research-resource-task-force/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2021/06/10/the-biden-administration-launches-the-national-artificial-intelligence-research-resource-task-force/).

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Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates

**Funding Opportunity: NSF EHR Core Research Resource Coordination Hub**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate announced a solicitation to create an EHR Core Research (ECR) Resource Coordination Hub (ECR Hub). The ECR Hub will work in partnership with those funded through the ECR Core Research and the ECR Building Capacity in STEM Education Research (ECR:BCSER) programs and will be responsible for implementing programs that broaden the impact of NSF’s investments in STEM education. The ECR Hub will ensure a diverse set of researchers, eligible institutions, and disciplines in grants made by the ECR Core Research and ECR:BCSER programs are included within its activities.

Specifically, the ECR Hub will carry out the following activities:
- Promoting communication between past, current, and prospective ECR Core Research and ECR: BCSER awardees, as well as others conducting and using STEM education research;
- Conducting outreach to potential new stakeholders;
- Facilitating information and best practice sharing;
- Aiding in external visibility and diffusion of ECR research;
- Convening stakeholders; and
- Coordinating with other NSF hubs and centers.

In addition to fostering coordination between other NSF hubs and centers, NSF intends for the ECR Hub to facilitate collaboration between federal agencies to inform STEM education research and policy.

**Award Information:** NSF intends to make one $5 million cooperative agreement for a five-year project period. There will be the potential for a competitive renewal.

**Eligibility:** Institutions of higher education and non-profit, non-academic organizations are eligible to apply, as are all other categories of proposers lined out in the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide, Chapter I.E. There are no restrictions or limits on the number of proposals per organization or per PI.
**Due Dates:** Proposals are due **December 1, 2021.** Questions about the program can be directed to [ECR@nsf.gov](mailto:ECR@nsf.gov).

**Sources and Additional Information:**
- Additional details can also be found at the ECR Hub program page, which is available at [https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/ehr-core-research-resource-coordination-hub-ecr-hub](https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/ehr-core-research-resource-coordination-hub-ecr-hub).

**Agency Update: DOE Seeking Input on Future Directions for Manufacturing and Long Duration Energy Storage**

The Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking feedback from stakeholders to help shape research priorities and funding opportunities in advanced manufacturing and long duration energy storage. DOE is also preparing to start accepting applications for the 2022 cohort of lab embedded entrepreneurs. Requests for information are still open for quantum systems and biological and environmental research.

On September 2, the Biden Administration also announced the nomination of the first Assistant Secretary to lead a DOE applied energy office—Brad Crabtree to lead the newly renamed Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management. He currently serves as Vice President for Carbon Management at the Great Plains Institute.

**New Engagement Opportunities**
- **Future of Manufacturing Workshop:** Virtual Event September 8-10, 2021
  - The focus of the workshop is to provide input on future research directions for DOE’s Advanced Manufacturing Office Transformative, Resilient, Adaptive, Nimble, Sustainable, Smart, Flexible, Optimal, Robust, and Model-based (TRANSFORM) initiative.
- **Long Duration Storage Shot Summit:** Virtual Event September 22-23, 2021
  - Registration is open to stakeholders interested in learning about DOE’s Energy Earthshot focused on reducing the cost of grid-scale energy storage by 90 percent within the decade. A long duration energy storage system is any technology that can store energy for more than 10 hours at a time.
- **Long Duration Energy Storage Workshop:** Virtual Event September 22, 2021
  - The purpose of the workshop is to identify opportunity and how to overcome barriers in developing and deploying the next generation of long duration energy storage technologies.
  - Topics will include foundational innovations to accelerate long duration storage, long duration technologies beyond lithium, and demonstration projects that can help with commercial deployment.
- **Lab Embedded Entrepreneurship Program:** 2022 Cohort applications open starting on September 21, 2021
  - Entrepreneurial scientists and engineers are selected to help them commercialize clean energy technologies by embedding them with experts at DOE national laboratories and providing them access to unique tools and capabilities.
  - DOE is holding webinars for each of the three program sites that host entrepreneurial fellows: Chain Reaction Innovations at Argonne National Laboratory: [Register to attend](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg17_1/nsf17_1.pdf) one of four informational webinars. Applications open on September 21, 2021.
Innovation Crossroads at Oak Ridge National Laboratory: [Register to attend](#) one of four informational webinars. Applications open on September 21, 2021.

Cyclotron Road at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory: [Register to attend](#) one of six informational webinars. Applications open on October 15, 2021.

As reported previously, DOE is also seeking feedback from stakeholders to help shape research priorities and funding opportunities in quantum systems and biological and environmental research.

### Ongoing Engagement Opportunities

- **Request for Information on Access to Quantum Systems**: Responses due September 30
  - DOE is seeking information to develop a roadmap and establish a program to provide researchers access to quantum systems at national laboratories, research universities, and the private sector.
  - The FY 2021 Energy and Water bill, which funds DOE, required DOE to “develop a roadmap to provide researchers access to quantum systems so as to enhance the U.S. quantum research enterprise, stimulate the fledgling U.S. quantum computing industry, educate the future quantum computing workforce, and accelerate advancement of quantum computer capabilities.”
  - Responses to this request for information will help DOE develop a roadmap and DOE is most interested in what quantum systems should be included in a user network and access models that meet the needs of quantum researchers.
  - Quantum systems currently being considered include systems for synthesis, characterization, and fabrication; sensors and measurement systems; networking and communication systems; and computers, processors, annealers, and analog simulators.
  - This roadmap is also consistent with the House-passed [DOE Science for the Future Act](#), which includes authorization for a new program called the Quantum User Expansion for Science and Technology (QUEST) and recommended funding of $340 million over the next five years.

- **Request for Information on Assessing the National and International Standing of Biological and Environmental Research**: Responses due October 31
  - DOE’s Office of Science is seeking input on how to maintain U.S. competitiveness in comparison to other international efforts and grow research efforts of the Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program.
  - Specifically, DOE is seeking information on the status of current capabilities, partnerships, funding mechanisms, and workforce development in atmospheric science; earth and environmental system modeling; environmental science; bioenergy and bioproducts; plant and microbial genomics; data analytics and management; and scientific user facilities.
  - Responses will feed into recommendations the BER Advisory Committee (BERAC) is preparing for DOE that was tasked with assessing BER’s standing in related research efforts nationally and internationally and to consider strategies that would increase BER’s ability to conduct world-class science in core BER research areas. BERAC is expected to issue its final report and recommendations in Spring 2022.
  - BER is expected to receive significant funding increases during the Biden Administration since it is aligned with two major Administration priorities: climate science and biotechnology. The FY 2022 President’s budget request proposed a 10 percent increase for BER.
Engagement Opportunity: Department of Commerce Seeks Committee Members for New National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) announced the creation of the National Artificial Intelligence Advisory Committee (NAIAC). NAIAC is being formed in response to the National AI Initiative Act of 2020, which Congress passed in December 2020 as part of the fiscal year (FY) 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. The purpose of this new committee is to advise the President on topics related to artificial intelligence (AI) and implementation of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative. NAIAC meetings will be held bi-annually and will be open to the public.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is looking for volunteer candidates to serve on the advisory committee from academia, non-profits, industry, and federal laboratories. NAIAC will be made up of experts from a range of interdisciplinary fields related to AI who will be expected to give recommendations on future directions and opportunities related to scientific research and development, reliability, education and workforce training as well as the impact of AI on the workforce, ethics, standards, fairness, technology transfer and economic development, and civil rights implications of AI. NAIAC will be organized and operate similarly to the National Quantum Initiative Advisory Committee (NQIAC) which was launched in 2020 and also created in legislation through the National Quantum Initiative Act of 2018. Congress wants a group of outside experts from academia, national laboratories, and the private sector to assess whether the U.S. is winning the global race to develop emerging technologies, such as quantum information science and AI, and whether federal agencies are making the right investments.

NIST is also seeking nominees to serve on the NAIAC Subcommittee on AI and Law Enforcement, which will advise the President on issues such as bias, security of data, legal standards, and the adoptability of AI for government use.

The NAIAC will be made up of nine members appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. Members are expected to be from geographically diverse regions and be qualified to speak to the areas of interest listed above. They will serve three-year terms and will be selected “on the basis of established records of distinguished service and shall be eminent in their fields.” The Secretary of Commerce will consider recommendations from third party organizations and Members of Congress when selecting committee members. Interested applicants should include in a nomination letter what field they are qualified to represent if they would like to serve on the Committee or Subcommittee, a summary of qualifications, and current or past service on federal advisory boards or in federal employment. If the nomination letter is from a third party, it should clearly state that the nominee agrees to the nomination.

Deadline: Nominations to serve on the NAIAC and the Subcommittee on AI and Law Enforcement are due October 25, 2021, at 5:00 PM ET. After this deadline, nominations will be accepted on an on-going basis and considered when there are vacancies.

Sources and Additional Information:

- Additional information on submitting a nomination for the NAIAC and its anticipated activities is available at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/08/2021-19287/call-for-nominations-to-serve-on-the-national-artificial-intelligence-advisory-committee-and-call
Agency Update: Department of Commerce Solicits Applications for Membership on the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

On September 8, the Department of Commerce (DOC) announced that it is seeking nominations for membership on the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE). NACIE is a group of diverse stakeholders charged with making suggestions to the Secretary of Commerce on matters related to innovation, entrepreneurship, and workforce training to accelerate economic growth. Council members work closely with senior agency officials to assess the current innovation and entrepreneurship landscape and suggest future DOC activities to stimulate targeted growth and workforce development. While largely dormant during the Trump Administration, NACIE was very active in policy discussions under the Obama Administration and is poised to resume that role under President Biden. Past members have included university leaders, business executives, and more. NACIE operates as an independent entity of the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE) which is part of DOC’s Economic Development Administration (EDA).

In an effort to strengthen the innovation economy, NACIE seeks to examine efforts to commercialize federally funded research and development; ensure the public and private sectors are sharing relevant data and best practices to stimulate entrepreneurship and regional economic development; and advise the Secretary regarding the following areas:

- “diversifying and growing America’s innovation clusters and technology hubs in regions outside of traditional coastal markets;
- supporting economic growth, resilience, high-growth entrepreneurship and innovation across business sectors and geographies through policy and program vehicles such as the American Jobs Plan and the American Rescue Plan;
- increasing equitable access to and representation in entrepreneurship opportunities for historically excluded populations, communities, and geographies;
- increasing American innovation and competitiveness in industries of the future like artificial intelligence, biotechnology, advanced computing, advanced materials and manufacturing, cybersecurity, and clean technology;
- developing and expanding successful talent and workforce development initiatives that create high quality jobs and that support American innovation and competitiveness; and
- identifying and promoting best practices that accelerate the commercialization of research and intellectual property.”

The areas outlined above differ from the last solicitation in 2016 in that they demonstrate a new commitment to equity and representation for underserved areas and populations, consistent with the Biden Administration’s agenda. This solicitation also calls out specific industries to drive competitiveness that are consistent with those prioritized by the Administration and Congress.

Membership:
Members will be selected with a view toward achieving a balanced and diverse Council of experts in fields relevant to innovation, technology commercialization, and workforce training from throughout industry, government, academia, and non-governmental organizations. Diversity is a new criterion for membership and will be evaluated based on the diversity of geography, size of organization, technology sector, and representation of workers, business, academic institutions, and nonprofits. According to DOC, specific factors that may be considered include a candidate's proven experience in designing, creating, and/or improving
innovation systems; commercialization of research and development, entrepreneurship; and job-driven skills training that leads to a globally competitive workforce. Past appointees from academia have included university presidents, vice presidents for innovation and entrepreneurship, and business school deans.

Members are selected to serve two-year terms and self-nominations are accepted. Meetings will be held regularly and not less than twice annually, usually in Washington, DC.

**Dates:** Applications are due by close of business on **October 25, 2021.**

**Application Materials:** Nominees must submit the following: a resume and short bio, a personal statement of interest, an affirmative statement that the applicant meets all eligibility criteria, and relevant contact information.

**Sources and Additional Information:**
- The Notice of Opportunity to Apply can be found in the Federal Register at: [https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-19169](https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-19169).
- Additional information on NACIE, including reports on innovation practices devised by the Council and detailed minutes from past reports can be found at: [https://eda.gov/oie/nacie/](https://eda.gov/oie/nacie/).

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**Funding Opportunity: NSF Releases 2021 Coastlines and People Hubs Solicitation**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released a new solicitation for Coastlines and People (CoPe) Hubs for Research and Broadening Participation. This is the second iteration of this competition and there are minimal changes from the previous round. The purpose of the CoPe Hubs is to conduct basic research to improve the understanding of interactions among natural, human-built, and social systems in coastal, populated environments at multiple scales. A major priority of the Hubs is broadening participation, engaging stakeholder communities, and addressing the specific needs of underserved and disproportionately impacted populations. Project topics can cover a wide range of issues including disaster resilience and decision-making, interactions with the built vs. natural environment, or natural coastal ecosystem processes, among other areas. Hubs should establish partnerships that can lead to the development of practical planning, mitigation, and adaptation methods for responding to sea level rise, climate change, and natural disasters.

There will be two project funding tracks, Focused and Large-Scale:

- **Focused Hubs** will serve a specific geographic region or scientific question with smaller budgets. These projects will be funded at up to $1 million per year for 3-5 years.
- **Large-Scale Hubs** will have large regional or national coverage and a broader scientific question. These awards will have larger funding amounts, between $2-4 million per year, and may be carried out by either continuing grants or cooperative agreements for up to 5 years.

Applications should also address plans for broadening participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) within the Hub and the surrounding community. Proposers are encouraged to form partnerships and define an organizational structure to engage with stakeholders including other institutions, non-academic organizations, and community groups and demonstrate how such partnerships will contribute
to the Hub’s objectives. In addition to prioritizing broadening participation to foster a more inclusive scientific workforce, the CoPe program also focuses on stakeholder engagement through efforts such as “citizen science, stakeholder partnerships, community engagement,” and more. The solicitation points to the NSF Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering (CEOSE) biennial report to Congress, “Investing in Diverse Community Voices,” for recommendations that could be integrated into proposals.

**Due Date:** Full proposals are due **December 6, 2021 by 5 p.m.** submitter’s local time for both focused and large-scale Hubs. Letters of intent and preliminary proposals are not required.

**Eligibility:** Proposals may be submitted by Institutions of Higher Education; or U.S.-based non-profit, non-academic organizations, including research labs and professional societies. Institutions and organizations are not limited in their number of submissions. An individual may only be a Principal Investigator (PI) or co-PI on one Hub proposal.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** NSF anticipates granting a total of $28,000,000 for 5-8 total Hubs. It is not indicated how many of each kind of Hub will be granted, but the previous competition awarded three focused awards and two large hubs.

**Sources and Additional Information:**