This week Congress returned from its two week recess and kicked off the fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations process with agency budget hearings. However, much like last year, many competing priorities will likely prolong the appropriations process. Senate Democrats and Republicans are negotiating a $10 billion compromise on a COVID-19 relief package which would provide funding for vaccinations and treatments, but the effort has been stalled. Due to the contention regarding provisions in the legislation, these issues may be tied to the Ukraine aid package proposed by the Biden Administration this week. The Senate may vote on the aid package as early as next week, but if House Democrats insist on attaching the long-stalled COVID-19 relief package to Ukrainian aid, action on either could be further delayed. Additionally, the House and Senate still hope to conference their versions of competitiveness legislation in upcoming weeks.

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.

Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates

Funding Opportunity - HRSA Releases Solicitation for Community Health Worker Training Program

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce (BHW) released a new solicitation for the Community Health Worker Training Program (CHWTP), which will support education and registered apprenticeship programs to build the pipeline of public health workers. The solicitation defines a community health worker as “a member of the community that is not licensed to practice as a fully-qualified health care professional, who works in association with the local health care system as a frontline agent of change, helping to reduce health disparities in underserved communities.” Through this program, HRSA plans to train 13,000 community health workers with the aim of increasing access to care, improving public health emergency response, and addressing the public health needs of underserved communities.

In addition to advancing public health, strengthening the public health workforce, reducing health disparities, and helping underserved populations achieve health equity, CHWTP program goals include:

- “Expand the public health workforce by training new and existing CHWs and health support workers with specialized training and financial support to offset expenses that would impede success in
training. The Program’s goal is to provide training so that 75 percent of participants become newly credentialed CHWs and health support workers;

- extend and upskill the public health workforce by developing new or enhancing existing curriculums to increase the skills and competencies of existing CHWs and health support workers;
- increase CHW and health support worker employment readiness through field placements and apprenticeships developed in collaboration with a network of partnerships that will enable trainees to respond to and support essential public health services and provide them with employment opportunities; and
- advance health equity and support for underserved communities by increasing the number of CHWs and health support workers that are employed as integral members of integrated care teams that use their expanded skills to reduce health disparities. “

Applicants must develop and maintain a flexible training-focused emergency preparedness plan to ensure continued programmatic activities, including but not limited to experiential training.

**Deadline:** Applications are due on **June 14, 2022**.

**Award Information:** HRSA plans to make up to 75 awards of up to $3,000,000 per award to use over a performance period of three years (from September 15, 2022 through September 14, 2025).

**Eligibility Information:** Eligible entities include, but are not limited to, health professions schools, including accredited schools or programs of public health, health administration, preventive medicine, or dental public health or schools providing health management programs; academic health centers; and other appropriate public or private non-profit entities.

**Sources and Additional Information:**

Funding Opportunity: Office of Minority Health Releases Solicitation on Demonstrating Policy Effectiveness to Promote Black Youth Mental Health

On April 21, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced that nearly $90 million in The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Minority Health (OMH) released a new solicitation for the Demonstrating Policy Effectiveness to Promote Black Youth Mental Health Initiative. This initiative is aligned with recommendations from the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Emergency Taskforce report titled “Ring the Alarm: The Crisis of Black Suicide in America;” and Healthy People 2030 mental health disorder and adolescent health objectives MHMD-02 and AH-D02 (linked below). OMH expects this program to identify and assess specific policy efforts shown to have meaningful impact on mental health for Black youth and generally relevant for the mental health of all youth, including suicide prevention.

The demonstration projects are expected to:
- “Implement evidence-based policies for addressing Black youth mental and suicide prevention;
• pilot the policy assessment protocols that determine the level of effectiveness of general health and wellness policies in improving Black youth mental health in diverse settings; and
• develop and implement demonstrations of selected innovative and culturally effective policy approaches to improve Black youth mental health.”

OMH encourages applicants to partner with a Minority Serving Institution (MSI) for community engagement and quality improvement.

A technical assistance webinar for potential applicants will be held on May 5, 2022 at 4:00 PM ET. Login details will be posted at https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/.

**Deadline**: Applications are due on **June 22, 2022** by 6:00 PM ET.

**Award Information**: OMH plans to make up to eight awards of up to $350,000 to $400,000 per award to use over a performance period of three years. OMH anticipates total program funding of $3 million.

**Eligibility Information**: Any public or private nonprofit entity located within the United States is eligible to apply for an award under this announcement.

**Sources and Additional Information**:
- More information on OMH is available at https://www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov/.

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**Engagement Opportunity - AHRQ Releases Request for Information on Proposed Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Trust Fund Strategic Framework**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released a request for information (RFI) to seek input on its proposed strategic framework for AHRQ’s Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) Trust Fund investments. PCOR compares the impact of two or more preventive, diagnostic, treatment, or healthcare delivery approaches on health outcomes, including those that are meaningful to patients.

AHRQ is authorized by law to “broadly disseminate PCOR findings, including incorporation of PCOR findings into health information technology focused on clinical decisions support, and to train researchers in the methods used to conduct PCOR.” AHRQ’s PCOR dissemination and training is funded by the Patient-Centered
Outcomes Research Trust Fund (PCORTF), which was established in 2010 and reauthorized in 2019. In response to the reauthorization, AHRQ has developed a proposed strategic framework (graphic linked below), that includes five priorities for improving healthcare delivery, to guide future planning and evaluation of PCORTF investments. The strategic framework priorities include:

- “Health equity;
- Prevention and Improved Care of Patients with Chronic Conditions;
- Patient, Family, and Provider Experience of Care that Enhances Trust in the Healthcare System;
- High-Quality, Safe Care that is Aligned with National Health Priorities; and
- Primary Care Transformation.”

The full list of questions AHRQ posed regarding the strategic framework can be found in the announcement. AHRQ expects that PCORTF funded projects will be connected to components and sub-components of the strategic framework. In addition, the final strategic framework will serve as the basis for the creation of an evaluation framework, measuring the success of individual projects, and identifying the impact of AHRQ’s PCORTF investments. AHRQ will use the input from this RFI to refine and finalize an operational plan with the overall goal of identifying investments that will have the greatest positive impact on health and healthcare.

AHRQ is looking for feedback from a variety of healthcare stakeholders, including but not limited to: patients, healthcare professionals, community groups, employers, health services researchers, dissemination and implementation scientists, communications experts, representatives from health systems, and public and private payers.

Comments in response to this RFI must be received by May 24, 2022. Responses should be submitted via email to PCORTF@ahrq.hhs.gov.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full request for information is available at https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/04/15/2022-08038/request-for-information-ahrqs-proposed-patient-centered-outcomes-research-trust-fund-strategic
- The AHRQ proposed strategic framework is available at https://images.federalregister.gov/EN15AP22.038/original.png?1649789408.
- More information about the PCORTF is available at https://www.ahrq.gov/pcor/potential-of-the-pcortf/index.html

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Funding Opportunity: ONR Releases FY 2023 Young Investigator Program (YIP)
The Office of Naval Research (ONR) released its fiscal year (FY) 2023 funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the Young Investigator Program (YIP). This program provides early career university faculty a path into the Navy’s research enterprise through multi-year research grants. The YIP specifically helps ONR identify promising young tenure-track faculty who demonstrate the ability to deliver innovative research aligned with ONR’s research priorities. This popular program is also offered by other Department of Defense (DOD) agencies, such as the Army Research Office (ARO) and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR).
ONR will accept proposals that address research areas outlined in its broad research portfolio and are of interest to ONR program officers. A complete list of topics of interest to each of ONR’s six departments (listed below) is available on ONR’s S&T webpage located at https://www.onr.navy.mil/en/Science-Technology/Departments:

- Information, Cyber and Spectrum Superiority (Code 31);
- Ocean Battlespace and Expeditionary Access (Code 32);
- Mission Capable, Persistent and Survivable Naval Platforms (Code 33);
- Warfighter Performance (Code 34);
- Aviation, Force Projection and Integrated Defense (Code 35); and
- Naval Accelerator Department (Code 36)

ONR has offered the following best practices to increase the success of YIP candidates:

- Contact the ONR program officer before submitting a proposal to discuss research ideas.
- Try to understand the program officer’s portfolio and interests.
- Review the ONR website; become familiar with Navy terminology/where your technology fits in.
- Demonstrate merit with a record of publishing in peer reviewed journals and a strong letter of support from the university and/or department.
- Submit a complete curriculum vitae with the white paper and/or proposal package.

**Due Date:** Proposals should be submitted via www.grants.gov no later than **July 1, 2022, at 11:59 PM ET.** Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the program officer in their technical area to discuss their research ideas before submitting a proposal. Proposers may optionally send a brief, informal pre-proposal, or white paper to their designated ONR program officer and must copy ONRYIP@navy.mil to initiate a discussion.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** Individual awards will be funded at a maximum of $510,000 for a three-year base period, with a possibility for an additional $250,000 during the base period as supplemental funding for equipment, testing, and other similar expenses. ONR anticipates making 15 to 35 awards with $8 million to $18 million of total funding available.

**Eligibility and Limitations:** This FOA is open to first or second full-time tenure-track or tenure-track equivalent faculty who have received their degree on or after January 1, 2015.

Faculty from U.S. institutions of higher education that award degrees in science, engineering, and/or mathematics are eligible to apply. U.S. nonprofit organizations operating for scientific and educational services may also submit proposals. Proposers must be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. Note that ONR makes awards to institutions, not individuals. Researchers must therefore submit a Letter of Support from an appropriate university or organization official with their proposal. Co-principal investigators (Co-PIs) are not allowed. Additional eligibility and submission instructions can be found in the full FOA.

**Sources and Additional Information:**

- The Full FOA is available at [here](https://www.grants.gov), or at [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) under solicitation number “N00014-22-S-F007.”
- Information on ONR’s technology areas can be found at [https://www.onr.navy.mil/our-research/technology-areas](https://www.onr.navy.mil/our-research/technology-areas).

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