In response to the leak of a Supreme Court draft opinion that would reverse the precedent established through the Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey decisions protecting a woman’s right to an abortion, Senate Democrats prepared but failed to advance legislation that would codify the right to abortion. Following the news that the bill was blocked, the White House issued a statement urging voters to elect more Senators who would back a woman’s right to choose, signaling that abortion will continue to be a top issue heading into the midterm elections. Additionally, agency budget hearings continued in Congress this week as the House nears its goal of passing the individual appropriations bills in July. However, it still remains unclear when the Senate appropriations committee will complete the process of marking up its bills, signaling that the road to the fiscal year (FY) 2023 deadline of September 30 remains tenuous.

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

Agency Update: Department of Energy Research and Funding Priorities for Materials and Chemistry Research

Funding Issues

The FY 2023 President’s budget request proposes $2.4 billion for BES, an increase of $112 million or 5 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level (see table below). The highest priority and the majority of new investments would be focused on use-inspired materials and chemistry research to advance clean energy technologies. More foundational, exploratory research would remain flat and the budget request proposes cuts to operations of user facilities including light sources and neutron sources (from 97 percent optimal operations in FY 2022 to 90 percent optimal operations in FY 2023 reducing access to these facilities) and delays in the construction of major new research facilities, such as the Spallation Neutron Source-Second Target Station and the National Synchrotron Light Source-II beamline buildout. Congress will likely reject proposed cuts to operations and construction activities, limiting proposed increases to new research programs unless Congress decides to add more funding to the overall Office of Science budget and specifically BES above the $112 million increase requested. Despite increases in funding for research, an analysis of pre-application responses to FY 2022 BES funding opportunity announcements shows an oversubscription of between five to ten times compared to final awards. This shows strong interest in BES programs but a highly competitive environment.
Below is more information on new research initiatives and future funding opportunities.

**FY 2022 Funding Opportunity**

The last remaining FY 2022 funding opportunity, which should be released within the next few weeks, is **$30 million for Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW).**

- The goal of this new initiative is to advance a diverse, equitable, and inclusive (DEI) research community to advance Office of Science missions. This is a cross-cutting initiative with all Office of Science programs participating.
- BES has $5 million allocated to this initiative and the focus will be on expanding the research community interested in BES by providing training for materials and chemical sciences in science topics relevant to clean energy and advanced manufacturing.
- This will include partnerships with, and internships at, DOE national laboratories, including BES user facilities with 20 percent of awarded funds set aside to DOE labs to support these efforts.
- Eligible institutions will be non-R1 institutions, and Minority Serving Institutions are the primary intended recipients of the funds.
- This program will emphasize outcomes and impacts and will track participants over time.
- The awards will be for three years and can be renewed. BES plans to make 10 awards.
- Letters of intent will be required and limited submission of one application per lead institution.

**FY 2023 Funding Opportunities**

The list below highlights funding opportunities that are being planned, but final funding solicitations, funding availability, and number of awards will all be contingent on final FY 2023 congressional appropriations and approval of new programs and initiatives. Congress does not plan to advance FY 2023 spending bills until late June, which then will provide an early indication of funding availability and which new initiatives are the most likely to move forward.

- **$100 million for Energy Earthshot Research Centers (EERCs).** DOE plans to fund new multi-investigator, multi-disciplinary centers that will address the research challenges of the three existing Energy Earthshots in hydrogen, long duration storage, and carbon negative technologies, as well as a few other Earthshots DOE plans to announce soon. These teams will focus on energy-relevant research with a scope and complexity beyond what is possible in standard single investigator or small group awards. These centers will also be larger than Energy Frontier Research Centers, currently funded by the Basic Energy Sciences (BES) program. The EERCs will likely be funded in the $5 million to $10 million range for each center each year over four to five years. Unlike EFRCs, the EERCs will be jointly funded and managed by three Office of Science programs—ASCR, BES, and the Biological and Environmental Research (BER) program, in addition to close coordination with the DOE applied energy offices. The EERCs are intended to address research challenges at the interface of basic and applied research with significant input and direction from the applied energy offices and hence more attention
to translational science. The EERCs will also cover a much broader scope of scientific disciplines and activities than EFRCs, which are primarily focused on materials and chemistry research. BES has $50 million budgeted for EERCs, with $25 million to support materials-focused EERCs and another $25 million for chemistry-focused EERCs. Areas of interest include multiscale computational and modeling tools, new artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies, real-time characterization including in extreme environments, and development of the scientific base to co-design processes and systems rather than individual materials, chemistries, and components.

- **$50 million for Small Group Awards to Advance Energy Earthshots.** In addition to the EERCs, BES also plans to support small group awards in materials and chemistry research that advance the Energy Earthshots topics.

- **$40 million for the Accelerate Innovations in Emerging Technologies initiative.** Through this Office of Science-wide initiative, DOE plans to fund highly integrated research teams to accelerate the discovery, creation, production, and commercialization of new emerging technologies. Funding would be focused on 10 key technologies areas: biotechnology, advanced energy and industrial efficiency, Artificial Intelligence, advanced communication technology, disaster prevention and mitigation, energy and industrial efficiency, advanced manufacturing, quantum information systems, data and cybersecurity, and high performance computing. The goal would be to couple basic science in chemistry, computation, biology, materials, physics, and engineering to form teams of scientists and engineers from universities, national laboratories and industry. These teams would also fully integrated industrial partners to define novel mechanisms to support the science and technology goals and ensure viable pathways along the innovation continuum for commercialization. These teams would also combine key technologies with more than one emerging technology area (e.g., advanced manufacturing with Artificial Intelligence) to accelerate innovation. These teams would also include local, regional-based partnerships to catalyze start-ups. Last, to help train a STEM workforce, the teams should include internships and other opportunities for students to get hands on training and serve as a focal point for entrepreneurship. BES will invest $15 million toward this initiative.

- **$35 million for the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR).** This would be a $10 million increase from prior years. The FY 2023 solicitation will support larger teams of researchers at EPSCoR institutions focused on clean energy research and climate science, including support for the Energy Earthshot initiative. DOE plans to fund both new teams, as well as renewals of FY 2021 awards. These implementation grants are renewable for up to six years and the maximum annual award is $2.5 million. While no state matching funds are required, letters of institutional and jurisdictional commitment are required. Grant applications may include institutions from more than one EPSCoR jurisdiction.

- **$100 million for the Batteries and Energy Storage Innovation Hub.** The current Batteries and Energy Storage Hub led by Argonne National Laboratory, the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research (JCESR), is in its 10th and final year of award. DOE plans to issue a funding solicitation to openly recompete the Hub program and fund one or more new Hubs. The focus has been on early-stage research for next generation electrical energy storage of the grid and vehicles, especially electrochemistry.

- **$24 million for Computational Materials Sciences.** DOE is recompeting computational materials sciences awards made in FY 2019. This program supports integrated theory-computation-experimental teams to perform the basic research required to deliver open-source community codes and the associated experimental and theoretical databases for predictive design of functional materials using current leadership class computers and to be ready for use on future exascale platforms. Awards are $4 million per year over four years.

- **$36 million for the Funding to Accelerate Inclusive Research (FAIR) initiative.** Through this Office of Science-wide initiative, DOE would provide funding to support research and infrastructure on clean
energy, climate, and related topics at Minority Serving Institutions, including underserved and environmental justice regions. DOE would provide support to single Principal Investigators or small groups as well as for equipment and other infrastructure improvements. The majority of funds would directly support Minority Serving Institutions, but a portion would fund partnering institutions, such as research universities and national laboratories. This would complement the workforce development activities of the RENEW initiative. BES will invest $20 million toward this initiative focused on clean energy research.

- **$30 million for Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce (RENEW).** DOE plans to double funding for this new program in FY 2023 (see additional information on the program above).
- **Fall 2021 Early Career Research Program:** The purpose of the program is to support the development of outstanding scientists early in their careers and to stimulate research careers in the areas supported by the Office of Science. Topics in all BES core research areas are included each year. Eligible applicants include untenured university professors on tenure track and DOE lab scientists, both within 10 years of a PhD. Typical funding for an early career university scientists is typically $150,000 a year for 5 years.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Growing STEM Workforce**

In addition to funding for new initiatives such as RENEW and FAIR, DOE has updated direction in its funding opportunity announcements to encourage more applications from Minority Serving Institutions, especially those underrepresented in the DOE Office of Science portfolio, as well as from individuals from groups historically underrepresented in STEM. As an example, all of the BES FY 2022 funding opportunity announcements included the following language and will continue to do so:

“BES is committed to promoting the diversity of investigators and institutions it supports, as indicated by the ongoing use of program policy factors...in making selections of awards. To strengthen this commitment, BES encourages applications led by Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), which include Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), that are underrepresented in the BES portfolio and applications led by individuals from groups historically underrepresented in STEM. In addition, applications are encouraged from multi-PI and multi-institutional teams that include the participation of MSIs that are underrepresented in the BES portfolio as well as researchers from groups historically underrepresented in STEM.”

**Future Research Directions**

BES also sponsored two workshops that will define future research priorities and funding opportunities:

- **Roundtable on Foundational Science for Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) Technologies.** DOE will not release the final report until late July/early August, but provided some preliminary information on future priority research directions. The Roundtable was held in March 2022 and organized by BES, with participation from DOE’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and ARPA-E. The charge involved identifying fundamental science needs and priority research opportunities to accelerate research, development, and deployment of CDR technologies. The focus was on research to advance CDR technologies in three areas: CO2 capture from dilute sources, durable CO2 in minerals and materials, and geological sequestration. The final report identified 5 priorities research directions:
  - master interfacial processes of CO2 transport and reactivity across multiple length and time scales;
➢ design and synthesize materials that simultaneously achieve multiple functions for CO2 capture and conversion;
➢ discover unconventional pathways and materials for energy-efficient CO2 capture, release, and conversion;
➢ control multiphase interactions required for CO2 conversion into molecules, minerals, and materials; and
➢ achieve predictive understanding of complex subsurface processes to enable secure carbon storage.

• **Roundtable to Identify Priority Research Opportunities for Fundamental Science to Accelerate Nuclear Energy Innovation.** BES is organizing a Roundtable for July 2022 to update the research priorities in the 2017 Basic Research Needs for Future Nuclear Energy. The Roundtable is being organized by BES, along with the Advanced Scientific Computing Research and Fusion Energy Sciences programs and the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy. The purpose is to consider the impact of new technological innovations such as the growing use of artificial intelligence and machine learning tools and address challenges that have emerged for nuclear energy including materials, coolant, and fuel challenges for advanced reactor concepts.

[back to the top]

*Federal Advisory Committee Nomination Opportunities May 10, 2022*

**Directorate and Office Advisory Committees**

**AGENCY:** National Science Foundation

**BACKGROUND:** The National Science Foundation (NSF) is seeking membership to 15 existing advisory committees across the following directorates, offices, and committees:

- Biological Sciences;
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering;
- Cyberinfrastructure;
- Education and Human Resources;
- Engineering;
- Geosciences;
- International Science and Engineering;
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences;
- Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences;
- Polar Programs;
- Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering;
- Business and Operations;
- Environment Research and Education;
- Astronomy and Astrophysics; and
- STEM Education.

While the responsibility of each committee varies, each will typically meet twice a year to review and advise on policies and programs of relevance and develop recommendations specific to their area of expertise.

Committee members should demonstrate comprehensive knowledge, expertise, or ability in their respective subject areas. During the selection process, NSF may also consider balance in diverse representation of
institutions, regions, or groups typically underrepresented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). All recommendations must be sent to the appropriate contact, whose information can be found within the notice. Self-recommendations will be accepted.

AUTHORITY: This committee is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2, and the FACA Implementing Regulations (41 CFR 101-6 and 102-3).


APPLICATION DUE: NSF will accept nominations for 12 months from April 28, 2022.

Pediatric Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration

BACKGROUND: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is seeking nominations from industry representatives to serve on the Pediatrics Advisory Committee. The committee is accepting self-nominations or nominations from organizations and industry representatives. In addition, the FDA is requesting written notification from any industry organization interested in participating in the selection process. Industry organizations that are interested in participating in the selection process should send a letter to the FDA stating their interest within 30 days of the publication date (April 22, 2022).

This committee will provide reviews, evaluations, and recommendations to the FDA Commissioner regarding:

- Pediatric research;
- Research priorities related to pediatric therapeutics, medical devices for pediatric populations, and diagnostics or treatments for specific pediatric conditions;
- The design, ethics, and analysis of clinical trials for pediatric therapeutics;
- Pediatric labeling issues or changes involving FDA regulated products; and
- Pediatric ethical issues, among other pediatrics matters in which the FDA is responsible for regulating.

This committee will also advise and makes recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding research that specifically involves children as the subject.

AUTHORITY: This notice is issued under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2) and 21 CFR part 14, relating to advisory committees.


APPLICATION DUE: Nomination materials for prospective candidates should be sent to FDA by May 31, 2022.

Advisory Committee to the Director Data and Surveillance Workgroup

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

BACKGROUND: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is soliciting nominations to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) Data and Surveillance Workgroup (DSW). ACD advises the Secretary
of Health and Human Services (HSS) and the CDC Director on policy and strategies that will further the mission of protecting the public health through promotion, prevention, and preparedness. The purpose of DSW is to advise ACD on CDC’s agency-wide data modernization efforts to promote equity. ACD DSW will consist of 15 non-federal members, including the Chair. DSW will be co-chaired by two current ACD members, who will present DSW’s findings or products at least one ADC, CDC meeting.

Potential nominees should be able to demonstrate knowledge in health policy, public health, global health, preparedness, and preventive medicine. Members are expected to be experts in public health science and practice; policy development, analysis, and implementation; and surveillance and informatics. CDC encourages applications from nominees with “front line and field experience at the local, state, tribal, and territorial levels” including those who work closely with community-based or nonprofit organizations. The term of service is six months to one year, consisting of bimonthly meetings that will be virtual or in person. Members will contribute by providing consultations, discussions, and written assignments.

AUTHORITY: The Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is being re-established under Section 222 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §217a), as amended. The committee is governed by the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. App. 2

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-09538

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations for membership on the DSW workgroup must be received no later than May 16, 2022.

National Vaccine Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Health and Human Services

BACKGROUND: The Office of Infectious Disease and HIV/AIDS Policy (OIDP) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HSS) is seeking nominations for the National Vaccine Advisory Committee (NVAC). NVAC will provide recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for Health in her capacity as the Director of NVAC. This committee will submit studies and recommendations focused on ways to adequately supply and safely administer vaccines. This committee will also support the Director of NVAC by advising on research priorities of relevance and recommendations to measure and enhance vaccine use and deployment.

Those nominated will be expected to have experience in one or more of the following field(s):

- “Vaccine Innovation and/or research and development;
- Vaccine safety;
- Vaccine access and financing;
- Health information technologies and immunization information systems;
- Immunization program implementation and management; and
- Vaccine communication.”

NVAC consists of 17 voting members. 15 members will be public members, and two will be representative members. Public members are expected to utilize their independent best judgement and conduct committee business free of conflicts of interest. Nominees for public membership should be health care providers, engaged in vaccine research or manufacturing, members of organizations concerned with immunizations, state
or local health agency representatives, or public health organizations. Representative members serve to provide insight on the viewpoint of the vaccine manufacturing industry or groups involved in vaccine research. Members may serve up to four-year terms.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 300aa-5, Section 2105 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended. The National Vaccine Advisory Committee is governed by the provisions of Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), which sets forth standards for the formation and use of advisory committees.

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-09550

APPLICATION DUE: Please email all submissions to nvac@hhs.gov. All nominations for membership on the committee must be received no later than 5:00 PM ET on June 24, 2022.

EPA Office of Research and Development’s Human Studies Review Board Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

BACKGROUND: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering nominations from a wide range of experts with backgrounds and qualifications in toxicology, bioethics, and statistics for the Human Studies Review Board (HSRB) advisory committee. This board will provide advice, information, and recommendations to EPA on issues related to scientific and ethical aspects of human subject research. HSRB will review protocols and studies regarding pesticides-related problems, such as worker exposure with agricultural handlers applying pesticides in field conditions; janitorial maintenance personnel applying antimicrobial pesticides in commercial settings; and field efficacy studies for skin applied insect repellent products. The Board will then be tasked with providing recommendations on such research proposals, protocols, and reports that include human subjects.

HSRB members may serve two- to three-year terms and may be reappointed for additional terms with a maximum of six years of service. HSRB meets approximately four times a year and all meetings are virtual. HSRB responsibilities include reviewing background materials prior to board meetings, drafting responses to Agency charge questions, attending Board meetings, and finalizing HSRB reports, among other tasks.

AUTHORITY: The HSRB is a federal advisory committee operating in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) 5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 9 (Pub. L. 92-463).

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-09470

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations should be submitted by May 31, 2022.

Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs

AGENCY: Small Business Administration

BACKGROUND: The Small Business Administration (SBA) is looking for qualified veteran small business owners, operators, and officers to fill vacancies on the Advisory Committee on Veteran Business Affairs (ACVBA). This is an independent committee that is focused on producing recommendations and advice to the Administrator
for the SBA Office of Veteran Business Development. ACVBA will provide an annual report to the SBA Administrator, Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development, Congress, the President, and other relevant policy makers. ACVBA is comprised of 15 members, eight of which will represent veteran-owned small businesses and seven who will represent veteran service or military organizations. ACVBA members may serve up to three-year terms.

AUTHORITY: This notice was prepared in accordance with the Veterans Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Act of 1999, Public Law 106-50, Sec. 203. Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs.

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-08083

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations for membership on the ACVBA will be accepted on a rolling basis.

National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality

AGENCY: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

BACKGROUND: The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is seeking nominees for the National Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality. The Council is a 20-member panel comprised of private-sector experts who provide their unique perspectives on the nation’s health care system and AHRQ’s research abilities to promote improvements in the quality, outcomes, and cost-effectiveness of clinical practice.

The terms of seven current members are set to expire in November 2022. To fill these positions, AHRQ is seeking individuals who:

- Are distinguished in the conduct of research, demonstration projects, and evaluations with respect to health care;
- Are distinguished in the fields of health care quality research or health care improvement;
- Are distinguished in the practice of medicine or in other health professions;
- Represent the private health care sector (including health plans, providers, and purchasers) or are distinguished as administrators of health care delivery systems;
- Are distinguished in the fields of health care economics, information systems, law, ethics, business, or public policy; and
- Represent the interests of patients and consumers of health care.

The Council meets approximately three times a year to provide guidance to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) and AHRQ's Director on the direction of programs undertaken by AHRQ. The seven individuals will be selected by the Secretary to serve on the Council beginning with a meeting in the spring of 2023. Members of the Council generally serve three-year terms.

Interested persons may nominate one or more qualified persons for membership on the Council. Self-nominations are accepted.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. §299c. Advisory Council for Healthcare Research and Quality provides that the Secretary shall appoint to the Council twenty one appropriately qualified individuals.

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-13966

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations should be received by May 6, 2022.