Funding Opportunities and Agency Updates

Funding Opportunity: Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agriculture Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently released the 2022 Urban, Indoor, and Emerging Agriculture (UIE) solicitation. The UIE program is an annual solicitation that provides funding for proposals that solve crucial agricultural issues locally, regionally, and nationally. Specifically, this grant will look at production, harvesting, transportation, aggregation, packing, distribution, and markets. There is an importance surrounding this issue to assist in facilitating innovation and development in research for agricultural technologies. This year’s solicitation will focus on three priority areas based on the needs demonstrated by public feedback:

- “identifying and promoting the horticultural, social, and economic factors that contribute to successful urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural production systems;
- analyzing the means by which new agricultural sites are determined, including an evaluation of soil quality, condition of a building, or local community needs; and
- developing new crop varieties and agricultural products to connect to new markets”
The UIE program is heavily saturated at the university level, as this award is structured to assist in the development of new innovative agriculture systems.

Proposals must address issues such as workforce and economic development, private industry, and consideration of land and site selection of projects relating to the agriculture sector. Projects that are grounded in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) will be prioritized as NIFA views DEIA as a necessity to achieve the greatest impacts through research, education, extension, and integrated activities. The grant must fall within the standard, collaborative, and conference type of grant. Standard grants will typically have a centralization around one of the areas of scientific, research, education, extension, or integrated projects with a single author versus collaborative grants which prioritize partnerships. Conference grants should prioritize bringing stakeholders together to support the development of urban, indoor, and emerging agriculture and cannot exceed $50,000.

**Due Date:** The letters of intent will be due by **5:00 pm EST** on **July 11, 2022**, and shortly following the application will be due by **5:00 pm ET** on **September 22, 2022**.

**Eligibility:** Eligible applicants include state agricultural experiment stations, universities and university research foundations, other research organizations, federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations, or corporations and individuals. The UIE is encouraging applicants to work and partner with multiple applicants.

**Total Funding and Award Size:** $9.4 million is available for fiscal year 2022 for ten awards ranging between $50,000 - $1,000,000 dollars for a 36–48-month base project period.

**Sources and additional information:**

**Federal Advisory Committee Nomination Opportunities: HHS, USDA Seeking Nominations for 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee**
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are seeking nominations to the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. The Committee is formed every five years and is tasked with evaluating current nutrition science to develop an evidence-based report which the agencies will use to inform the Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030. The review of evidence will adopt a health equity lens and will be focused on “diet and health outcomes across the lifespan, including the relationship between diet and risk of overweight and obesity with a new emphasis on weight loss and weight maintenance for adults.” USDA and HHS are seeking diverse candidates with an advanced degree in a nutrition- or health-related field and at least ten years of experience in a discipline associated with at least one of the scientific topics. The Committee will be comprised of 15 to 20 members and will meet a total of approximately five times, with the first meeting to take place in early 2023. Nominations must be submitted to [dietaryguidelines@hhs.gov](mailto:dietaryguidelines@hhs.gov) by **July 15, 2022 at 11:59 ET**. Further details on the Committee, eligibility criteria, and complete nomination instructions are available in the [Federal Register notice](https://www.federalregister.gov).
Federal Advisory Committee Nomination Opportunities: DOT, EPA, VA, USDA, CDC Seeking Nominations for Federal Advisory Committees

Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity

AGENCY: Department of Transportation

BACKGROUND: The Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking new membership for the Advisory Committee on Transportation Equity (ACTE). The ACTE is accepting self-nominations to a 25-member committee. The committee members will be expected to have experience in one or more of the following areas: civil rights, housing, health care, disability access, and environmental justice. The ACTE will be tasked with providing recommendations and advice on:

- Promising practices to institutionalize equity into Agency programs, policies, regulations, and activities for Secretary Buttigieg;
- Strengthening the Department’s outreach and engagement with historically underserved communities;
- Considerations and exchanges of information on local and regional transportation equity concerns; and
- Increased strength, objectivity, and confidence to management’s decision-making process.

This committee will also advise the Department on its mission for public interest. Members will be considered to serve based on the level of their expertise in their respective fields. Interested applicants will submit a resumé and statement of interest to the selection committee.

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations must be submitted by June 15, 2022.

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-10488

AUTHORITY: This notice is issued under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Experts to Review the New Chemicals Collaborative Research Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency

BACKGROUND: The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has opened applications for technical experts to work on the new Chemical Collaborative Research Program. This impartial committee will provide advice, discussions, peer reviews, and recommendations to the Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC). Committee members will review and provide commentary for the Office of Research and Development to draft the Strategic Research Action Plan for fiscal year of 2023. Representatives on the board will be expected to utilize their independent judgment to evaluate research focused on technological innovation, scientific approaches used in the Strategic Plan, and human health ecological risk assessment.

The EPA is looking for a candidate who has extensive experience in the following disciplines related to human health and the environment:

- "Using data to develop predictive models in data poor environments;
  - Read across and analogue selection;
  - Chemical structures and cheminformatics;
  - Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships (QSAR);"
Development, implementation, and validation of new approach methods (NAMs);
  - Veterinary pathology or comparative physiology for perspective on relevance of laboratory animals for predicting human outcomes;
  - Reference data curation to support validation;
- Computational modeling, bioinformatics, and/or statistics;
- Toxicokinetic, physiologically based pharmacokinetic models (PBPK);
- Systems biology;
  - Human health and ecological risk assessment;
- Knowledge of TSCA; and
- Environmental fate of chemicals”.

Candidates will be evaluated based on their level of scientific, technical, and disciplinary expertise, as well as other relevant experience. All nominees should apply regardless of gender, race, disability, or ethnicity.

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations should be submitted no later than June 30, 2022.

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-11421

AUTHORITY: The BOSC is a chartered Federal Advisory Committee established by the EPA to provide independent scientific and technical peer review, advice, consultation, and recommendations about ORD. As a Federal Advisory Committee, the BOSC conducts business in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. app. 2) and related regulations.

Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Department of Veteran Affairs

BACKGROUND: The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) is soliciting nominees with qualified experience to serve on the Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee. The committee accepts nominations from organizations, self-nominations, and non-veterans to the 12-person committee. The Committee will:

- Provide recommendations to the Secretary and Congress on ways to improve VA’s delivery of services to rural Veterans;
- Meet with VA officials, Veterans Service Organizations, and other stakeholders to assess the Department’s efforts in providing access to health care, as well as outreach and education services to rural Veterans; and
- Visit sites annually to assess support services for the Committee provided by the Office of Rural Health.

Candidates should have previous experience with veteran affairs in the private or public sector, academia, and community health organizations. Candidates may also be representatives of a veteran service organization. The VA is requesting submission to include a typed letter of nomination, contact information, resume or curriculum vitae, letters of recommendation, and a statement confirming the nominee is a registered lobbyist. Appointed members may serve for a total of three years, and terms of service may be extended by the Secretary of Veteran Affairs.

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations must be received by July 1, 2022, no later than 4:00 PM ET.

AUTHORITY: the Committee was established pursuant to 38 U.S.C. 3121 and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA).

Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs

BACKGROUND: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is pursuing nominees for appointment to its Veterans and Community Oversight and Engagement Board for the VA West Los Angeles campus. The Board promotes collaboration and communication between VA and the West Los Angeles community through public forums. The Board aims to address healthcare issues relevant to the Department and identified by the local community, which may include issues regarding healthcare, benefits, memorial services at the VA campus, and implementation of the VA Master Plan and subsequent plans.

The Board is comprised of 15 members and several ex-officio members from various sectors and organizations. No less than 50 percent of Board members must be veterans, and non-veteran members must be:

- “Family members of veterans;
- Veteran advocates;
- Service providers;
- Real estate professionals familiar with housing development projects; and
- Stakeholders.”

The allowance and terms of service for Board members may be determined by the VA Secretary, however the term of service may not exceed two years. Board members may be reappointed for additional terms of service.

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations must be received no later than 5:00 PM ET on July 22, 2022.

NOTICE: https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2022-11967

AUTHORITY: The Board is a statutory committee established as required by Section 2(i) of the West Los Angeles Leasing Act of 2016, Public Law 114-226 (the West LA Leasing Act). The Board operates in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. 2

National Organic Standards Board

AGENCY: Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

BACKGROUND: The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is accepting nominations to fill a single vacancy on the National Organic Standards Board. The Board was created to help develop standards for substances used in organic food production and advise the implementation process of the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

AMS is seeking one expert in environmental protection and resource conservation. Nominees must have knowledge and understanding of:

- “Organic production and certification;
agricultural products produced and handled on certified organic farms;
commitment to the integrity of the organic food and fiber industry;
participation in standards development or involvement in educational outreach activities;
the ability to evaluate technical information and to fully participate in NOSB deliberation and recommendations;
experience in the development of public policy such as participation on public or private advisory boards, boards of directors, or other comparable organizations;
the willingness to commit the time and energy necessary to assume NOSB duties; and
other such factors as may be appropriate for specific positions.”

The board is accepting self-nominations. Terms of service will begin in 2023 and last five years. AMS encourages all to apply, specifically those from traditionally underrepresented groups.

APPLICATION DUE: Written nominations must be received by mail or postmarked on or before August 5, 2022.


AUTHORITY: The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990 (OFPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501-6524), requires the Secretary of Agriculture (Secretary) to establish the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended.

Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STD Prevention and Treatment

AGENCY: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

BACKGROUND: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is requesting nominations for its Advisory Committee on HIV, Viral Hepatitis, and STD Prevention Treatment (CHACHSPT), which is co-lead with the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). CHACHSPT consists of 18 members. Members should be experts in public health fields such as: epidemiology, laboratory practice, immunology, infectious disease, drug abuse, behavioral science, health education, healthcare delivery, state health programs, clinical care, preventative health, medical education, health services and clinical research, and healthcare financing. CHACHSPT meets twice a year, and CDC and HRSA review potential candidates for CHACHSPT membership as vacancies arise.

APPLICATION DUE: Nominations for membership on the Advisory Committee must be received no later than October 1, 2022, and must be emailed to nchstppolicy@cdc.gov with the subject line “CHAC 2023 Nomination.”


AUTHORITY: Through the Public Health Service Act the Secretary of HHS, the CDC Director and Administrator, and HRSA are authorized to assist public and nonprofit private entities in preventing, controlling, and treating sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV); support healthcare services to persons living with or at risk for HIV, viral hepatitis, and other STDs; and support healthcare services to persons living with or at risk for HIV, viral hepatitis, and other STDs.
Agency Update: NIH Advisory Committee to the Director Meets to Discuss Major Programs and the Launch of ARPA-H

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD) met on June 9-10 to discuss ongoing programs and initiatives across the agency. The meeting was the first for the ACD since Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Tabak assumed the role of Acting NIH Director upon the retirement of Dr. Francis Collins in December 2021. Dr. Tabak will continue to lead NIH until a permanent replacement is nominated by President Biden and confirmed by the Senate, a process that is expected to continue through this calendar year.

In his Director's Report, Dr. Tabak highlighted several NIH leaders currently serving in acting or interim capacities, including Dr. Tara Schwetz as Acting NIH Principal Deputy Director, Dr. Doug Lowy as the Acting Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Dr. Joni Rutter as Acting Director of the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), and Dr. Christine Hunter as the Acting Director of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR). Dr. Tabak noted that despite the unusually high number of interim leaders across the agency, NIH is still making significant progress on many of its signature initiatives, including the Helping to End Addiction Long-Term (HEAL) Initiative, the Implementing a Maternal Health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) program, and the All of Us precision medicine research program. At the conclusion of his remarks, Dr. Tabak noted two overarching issues of concern that he is currently focused on—the increasing concentration of NIH resources in fewer and fewer institutions and the increase in misinformation in and about science and the lack of trust in science that this misinformation perpetuates. The role of NIH in responding to these two issues will likely be addressed in a session at the December 2022 ACD meeting.

Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)

Dr. Schwetz presented the latest developments related to the new ARPA-H, including spotlighting Dr. Adam Russell as the agency's Acting Deputy Director. Dr. Russell, a social anthropologist with previous experience at the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA), was officially named to this position on May 25. Dr. Schwetz highlighted that ARPA-H will evaluate proposals using the standard Heilmeier questions developed by DARPA, but with the notable addition of questions on how researchers will ensure equity in project outcomes and whether a project’s proposed solutions will apply to other challenges. Dr. Schwetz noted that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and NIH will be working together to hire operational staff and program managers over next six to twelve months, with the goal of hiring around 100 full-time employees (including 30-40 program managers). With respect to the timeline for when funding opportunities through ARPA-H will be available, Dr. Schwetz stated that ARPA-H plans to release its first Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) in the fall of 2022 with the goal of releasing the first ARPA-H funding by March 2023. ARPA-H received $1 billion in funding in the fiscal year (FY) 2022 omnibus appropriations package, which will be available through September 2024.

COVID-19 Updates

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), discussed key COVID-19 therapeutics for non-hospitalized patients with Omicron, as well as the current status of COVID-19 vaccine approval for children. Additionally, Dr. Fauci addressed the current mortality rate in the U.S. due to COVID-19 emergent variants and the promise of vaccine boosters to decrease mortality. Dr. Fauci emphasized the need to create universal vaccines in preparation for future pandemics as part of the Antiviral Program for Pandemics (APP) and provided examples of current efforts to create a universal coronavirus vaccine.

Dr. Walter Koroshetz, Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), provided an update on NIH’s Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER) initiative, which is focused on
understanding the long-term effects of COVID-19 infection. Dr. Koroshetz discussed the current status of RECOVER participant recruitment and enrollment indicating that NIH plans to recruit 40,000 diverse individuals in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, leveraging 60 million electronic health records (EHR), and performing autopsy and pathobiology studies to obtain a deeper understanding of long COVID effects in patients. A common theme throughout Dr. Koroshetz’s remarks was the inclusion of underrepresented communities, including Native communities, in research studies and the impact of long COVID on these populations.

Lastly, Dr. Diana Bianchi, Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), discussed current efforts to address and understand the Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C). Dr. Bianchi emphasized the need to include pregnant and lactating people in evaluation of treatments and vaccines in future pandemics.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Programs and the UNITE Initiative
Dr. Marie Bernard, NIH Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, gave an update on the development of the NIH’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) Strategic Plan. The DEIA Strategic Plan Framework consists of three objectives: 1) grow and sustain DEIA through structural and cultural change; 2) implement organizational practices to center and prioritize DEIA in the workforce; and 3) advance DEIA through research. Dr. Bernard explained that NIH is in phase four of five in the development process and is seeking to have the strategic plan reviewed and approved by the end of this summer. The implementation of the strategic plan highlights the agency’s commitment to establishing concrete steps that promote a more equitable work environment across the biomedical research enterprise.

The meeting also included an update on NIH’s UNITE initiative, which aims “to establish an equitable and civil culture within the biomedical research enterprise and reduce barriers to racial equity in the biomedical research workforce.” Each of the five committees within UNITE provided an update on their recent activities and upcoming priorities. These reports included a summary of the external listening sessions held in recent months to gather community input on the issues and challenges related to equity, inclusion, and justice within biomedical research; a formal report of these sessions is forthcoming. NIH staff also reported on efforts underway to strengthen research capacity and resources at Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), such as plans to issue an instrumentation funding opportunity exclusively for MSIs, to fund institutional research capacity building needs assessment and action plan development grants for MSIs, and to improve communication between NIH and MSIs including through the potential creation of an Office of Minority Serving Institutions. NIH staff also highlighted the recent release of a Request for Information (RFI) on the development of a prize competition for institutional excellence in DEIA, which will recognize institutions of higher education that have successfully implemented institutional approaches to enhancing faculty and student DEIA and catalyzing transformative culture change. NIH is accepting feedback on the development of this prize competition through July 28, 2022.

The next scheduled meeting of the ACD is planned for December 8-9, 2022.

Sources and Additional Information:
- The webcast of the ACD meeting and all the reports and associated slide presentations from the Working Groups are available at [https://acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html](https://acd.od.nih.gov/meetings.html).