Congressional Updates and Funding Opportunities

Congressional Update: House Appropriations Subcommittees Advance All 12 FY 2023 Spending Bills With Increases for All Major Federal Agencies

On June 23, the House Appropriations Subcommittees advanced all 12 fiscal year (FY) 2023 appropriations bills providing some initial insight into funding for major federal agencies. While detailed information on most federal programs and activities is still not available, the House increased funding for most federal agencies that support programs of interest to the research, higher education, and academic medicine communities. As of this week, the House Appropriations Committee plans to advance and vote on all 12 appropriations bills by June 30 and then the full House plans to start voting on them the week of July 11. However, there may be delays to the process depending on the outcome of other political issues, e.g., funding for new gun legislation. The Senate has not yet started advancing appropriations bills.
Overall, the House FY 2023 appropriations bills would increase funding for research and development, climate and environment, manufacturing, education, and healthcare programs consistent with Biden Administration priorities. Similar to last year, the notable exception is a proposed cut to basic, applied research, and advanced technology development accounts for DOD's Science and Technology programs compared to FY 2022 appropriations levels. This is consistent with a greater emphasis on prototyping, deployment, and commercialization of technologies rather than early-stage research and development. The House would also provide boosts in funding for most education programs, such as a $500 increase to the Pell Grant program, with a $7,395 maximum award; additional funding to expand research and development infrastructure at four-year Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions; and a $107 million increase for the Institute of Education Sciences.

The graphic below highlights funding for select federal agencies in the FY 2023 House appropriations bills.

While the House bills provide initial insight on potential funding for major federal agencies and programs, there are likely to be significant changes in funding levels in final appropriations bills. The House Appropriations Committee advanced its bills on party line votes and the Democratic majority used the Biden Administration budget request top line funding level of $1.6 trillion and defense and non-defense funding levels to make progress on FY 2023 appropriations. However, Republicans remain opposed to appropriations bills because there is still no bipartisan budget agreement in place that sets in law both the overall discretionary funding level and defense and non-defense funding distributions. Republicans have insisted on additional funding for defense; in particular, an eight to 10 percent increase to address inflationary pressures, respond to the war in Ukraine, invest in new military capabilities, and modernize the nuclear weapons stockpile, instead of the proposed four percent increase in the House bills. Like last year, increases in defense spending would result in less funding for non-defense programs.

Funding Opportunity: Department of Navy Releases FY22 BAA for Naval Air Warfare Center
The Department of Navy released a broad agency announcement (BAA) seeking fundamental research and development projects in support of the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division (NAWCAD). NAWCD is interested in projects from various science and engineering disciplines that address the future technology needs and challenges of the Warfighter.
NAWCAD is specifically soliciting proposals for the following research areas of interest:

- AI/ML
- Data Science & Visualization
- Cyber
- Quantum
- Hypersonic Systems
- Test & Evaluation Engineering
- Avionics, Sensors and Electronic Warfare
- Secure Communications & Networks
- Warfare Analysis
- Readiness & Sustainment
- Materials and Aircraft Structures
- Aeromechanics
- Mechanical Systems
- Power and Propulsion Systems
- Human Systems
- Support Equipment
- Systems Engineering

NAWCD anticipates granting multiple awards, with award amounts and periods of performance depending largely on the quality of white papers and availability of funding. Awards may be in the form of contract, grants, cooperative agreements, technology investment agreements, and Other Transaction (OT) agreements. Academia, businesses, foreign and domestic entities, and other organizations may submit proposals under this BAA. Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Institutions are encouraged to submit white papers and join other institutions in submitting white papers. Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), Navy academies, and laboratories are not eligible to apply.

Unclassified white papers may be submitted at any time up until June 1, 2023, at 5:00 PM ET. Each white paper should be three pages or less and only address one research opportunity area of interest. White paper evaluations may be conducted on a quarterly basis. Only selected white papers of interest that meet the Navy’s criteria will be asked to submit a Full Technical/Cost proposal. The full BAA can be found on www.grants.gov under solicitation number “N00421-22-S-0001” or by following the link provided here. More information on NAWCAD can be found at https://www.navair.navy.mil/nawcad/.

Funding Opportunity: DARPA DSO Releases Office Wide BAA
The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency’s Defense Sciences Office (DARPA DSO) released a new annual broad agency announcement (BAA) which includes changes to its interest areas. The new interest areas include:

- Novel Materials & Structures;
- Sensing & Measurement;
- Computation & Processing;
- Enabling Operations;
- Collective Intelligence; and
- Global Change
While DSO retains their interests in AI, quantum, sensing, modeling of complex systems, supply chains, environmental resilience and security, and anticipating surprise, they’ve been realigned to fit within these new thrusts. New topics of interest include atomic-scale systems, space-based operations, raw material availability, and environmental catastrophes. In addition, DSO has added their Countering Foreign Influence Program to the BAA, in line with DARPA’s rollout of the program across its offices. Proposers may be able to participate in DARPA’s Embedded Entrepreneurship Initiative if awarded. Executive summaries, abstracts, and full proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until June 14, 2023, at 4:00 PM ET. Specific topics included in the new interest areas can be found in the full BAA on www.grants.gov under funding opportunity number “HR001122S0041.”

Additional, DSO holds an annual discover day each summer to provide proposers with best practices to engage with DSO. Lewis-Burke is tracking this announcement and will provide an update upon its release.