After months of negotiations and significant criticism from Congressional Republicans, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 into law on Tuesday. Passage of the budget reconciliation bill marked the end of a busy and successful period for the Biden Administration and Democrats, which also included the passage of the long-awaited CHIPS and Science Act that provided much needed funding to the U.S. semiconductor industry. With midterm elections looming in November, it remains to be seen whether these legislative victories as well as the motivation from the highly controversial Dobbs v. Jackson Supreme Court decision will help Democrats maintain control over the House and Senate. However, the outcomes of the midterm elections will help to dictate if the Biden Administration will be able to address its remaining legislative priorities after the new Congress begins in January.

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.

**Legislative, Agency Updates and Funding, Engagement Opportunities**

**Legislative Update: Congress Passes Energy, Climate, Health Care, and Tax Reconciliation Bill**

On August 16, President Biden signed an energy, climate, health care, and tax package referred to as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 into law. The legislation passed the House and Senate with a Democrat-only majority. Overall, the bill would raise approximately $790 billion generated through new tax revenue and savings and spend $485 billion on energy, climate, health care, and tax policies. The legislation calls for using the over $300 billion remaining in savings for deficit reduction, which Democrats that supported the bill argue could help combat inflation. A full analysis of the passed legislation can be found [here](#).

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**Agency Update: National Biodefense Science Board Seeks Input from Faculty with Biomedical or Biodefense Expertise**

The National Biodefense Science Board (NBSB) will hold a public meeting on **September 29, 2022, at 11:00 AM EST**. The NBSB provides expert advice and guidance to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding current and future chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, as well as other matters related to disaster preparedness and response. The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), which was recently **elevated** to a federal agency within HHS, manages and convenes the NBSB on behalf of the Secretary of HHS.

The meeting will be focused on the collection, analysis, and sharing of operational health data and/or development and implementation of systems to ensure the availability of virtual healthcare (telehealth, telemedicine, etc.) during a disaster. The NBSB specifically wishes to hear from experts from “relevant biomedical, biodefense, or health industries; faculty or researchers at academic institutions; health professionals, health system experts, or those who work in health care consumer organizations; or experts in state, Tribal, territorial, or local government agencies.”

Remarks must be sent to the NBSB at NBSB@hhs.gov by **September 15, 2022**. Individuals must provide their name, title, position, and organization with a brief description of the topic that they wish to address in the request. Requests to speak will be approved in consultation with the Board Chair and based on time available during the meeting. A detailed agenda and Zoom registration instructions will be posted on the [ASPR website](https://www.aspr.hhs.gov) at least two weeks in advance.

**Source:**

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**Agency Update: Department of Education Requesting Nomination for Appointment to Serve on NACIQI**

The Department of Education (ED) is seeking nominations to fill a one-member vacancy on the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI) with terms of service expiring on September 30, 2025. This vacancy is not a student vacancy, meaning the nominee is not required to be enrolled at an institution of higher education. NACIQI provides recommendations regarding the recognition of accrediting agencies, the eligibility and certification process for institutions of higher education under Title IV, and other advisory functions relating to accreditation and institutional eligibility.

NACIQI is composed of 18 members, who are selected based on the following criteria:
- “On the basis of the individuals' experience, integrity, impartiality, and good judgment;
- from among individuals who are representatives of, or knowledgeable concerning, education and training beyond secondary education, representing all sectors and types of institutions of higher education; and
- based on the individuals’ technical qualifications, professional standing, and demonstrated knowledge in the fields of accreditation and administration of higher education.”
Nominations should include a cover letter addressed to the Secretary as follows:


The nomination letter should state:
- The reason(s) for nominating the individual;
- A copy of the nominee’s current resume or curriculum vitae;
- Contact information for the nominee (name, title, business address, business phone, and business email address); and
- A statement affirming that the nominee has agreed to be nominated and is willing to serve on the NACIQI if selected.

Nominations (including self-nominations) must be submitted in electronic format to cmtemgmtoffice@ed.gov.

Applications are due September 15, 2022.

More information is available at: https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/08/16/2022-17624/national-advisory-committee-on-institutional-quality-and-integrity-naciqi

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**Funding Opportunity: EPA Releases Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ), in partnership with the Department of Energy (DOE), has released a solicitation for the Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program (EJ TCTAC). The program will support the development of several regional centers to provide training, technical assistance, and other forms of support to program participants defined in the request for applications including non-profit organizations, community and grassroots organizations, educational institutions, individuals, disadvantaged businesses, local, tribal, and state governmental units, as well as health care providers and clinics, particularly in underserved communities, rural areas, or with the greatest capacity constraints. This solicitation is a unique opportunity for universities to contribute their expertise to grow communities’ capacity to respond to various funding opportunities from EPA and DOE enabled by funding from the bipartisan *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* to address environment and energy justice issues.

Each EJ TCTAC should inform participants of environmental and energy justice policy and programs to assist them in securing relevant grants to advance equity in the climate space and ensure meaningful involvement from affected communities. Eligible technical assistance services that the EJ TCTAC should provide include identifying and applying for grants and navigating government grant systems; identifying local environmental justice needs and challenges; providing knowledge of grant policies, regulations, and requirements; facilitating community engagements and fostering partnerships to promote environmental and energy justice; and building capacity to meaningfully participate in environmental and energy justice decision-making and policy and program development. Whereas higher education institutions are ineligible for direct funding under EPA OEJ programs, this solicitation was designed with universities in mind, with explicit encouragement for minority-serving institutions (MSIs) and university business schools and business programs to apply.
Applicants must describe their plans to make potential program participants aware of the EJ TCTAC and its services, and in the process should develop strong local relationships to facilitate initial outreach. Applicants should also indicate how they will effectively and efficiently provide participants with the intended services, including translation and interpretation for those with limited English proficiency. A strategy to evaluate the success of the EJ TCTAC, including plans to solicit feedback from program participants, is also a requirement.

**Deadline and Key Dates:** Applications are due **October 4, 2022 by 11:59pm ET**. EPA will host pre-application webinars on **August 16 and August 25, both from 2:00 – 3:30pm ET**.

**Award Information and Cost Sharing:** With potential funding from DOE to constitute total program funding of $50 million, EPA anticipates making five to ten incrementally funded awards of approximately $6 million each with three-year project periods and will be linked to EPA geographic regions. There is no cost sharing or matching requirement.

**Eligibility:** Public and private institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, and Intertribal Consortia are eligible for this program. Each entity may submit up to three awards, with the stipulation that each application must correspond to a different EPA regional geographic area.

**Sources and additional information:**
- The program page, including more information about the pre-application webinars, is available at [https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers](https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-thriving-communities-technical-assistance-centers).

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**Funding Opportunity: Funding Opportunity: NICHD Releases Solicitation for Maternal Health**

The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) recently released a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for “applicants to participate as a Research Center in the Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence initiative.” The goal of the Initiative is to support innovative approaches towards addressing preventable maternal mortality, decreasing severe maternal morbidity, and promoting maternal health equity, particularly among traditionally disadvantaged populations. This FOA is a part of the larger National Institutes of Health (NIH) Implementing a Maternal health and Pregnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone (IMPROVE) initiative, which was launched by NICHD to support research that focuses on improving maternal mortality rates and emphasizes improving maternal care for traditionally underrepresented populations.

This FOA will support trans-disciplinary research teams conducting multi-layered novel research projects that can address maternal health in the pre-pregnancy, pregnancy, or postpartum period. The research must directly address severe maternal morbidity and/or maternal mortality and equitable healthcare. Applicants must also submit a Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives that demonstrates “how diverse perspectives will be obtained throughout the course of the project and will be assessed as part of the scientific and technical peer review evaluation, as well as considered among programmatic matters with respect to funding decisions.”
The Maternal Health Research Centers of Excellence will consist of one Data Innovation and Coordinating Hub/Resource Center, one Implementation Science Hub/Resource Center, and up to seven Research Centers. All components will work together to implement research and design research projects alongside NIH staff. Studies may be “interventional (including testing novel interventions, effectiveness, comparative effectiveness, optimization, or dissemination and implementation studies), or observational (including health services studies, natural experiments, or policy analyses) and assess maternal health outcomes.”

Applications to become a Research Center must include the following components:

- **Research Project(s):** Research projects must include an emphasis on developing new and improved approaches to address the biological, behavioral, environmental, sociocultural, and/or structural factors that affect pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated morbidity and mortality and severe maternal morbidity in populations that experience health disparities. Research Center applications must propose one to three interrelated research projects that may vary in scale and scope.

- **Community Partnership:** Of the community partners for each Research Center, at least one must be a community healthcare partner. A cooperative and equitable partnership between the Research Center and the community partner(s) in each stage of the research process must be clearly demonstrated.

- **Training:** Each Research Center must include a research training program that addresses the biological, behavioral, environmental, sociocultural, and/or structural factors that affect pregnancy-related and pregnancy-associated morbidity and mortality and severe maternal morbidity.

**Application Deadline:** Letters of intent are encouraged, but not required, and should be submitted by November 2, 2022. Full proposals are due December 5, 2022.

**Award Information:** NIH intends to commit an estimated total of $19 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023 to fund 5-7 awards. Future year amounts will depend on annual appropriations. Application budgets are limited to $1.75 million per year in direct costs. The scope of the proposed project should determine the project period and the maximum project period is 7 years.

**Eligibility Information:** Any public or private institution of higher education or non-profit research institution is eligible to apply. Any institution can submit more than one application, as long as each proposal is scientifically distinct.

**Sources and Additional Information:**
- More information about the NIH IMPROVE Initiative can be found at [https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/improve-initiative](https://www.nih.gov/research-training/medical-research-initiatives/improve-initiative).

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**Funding Opportunity: DOD Releases Naval Engineering Education Consortium BAA**

The Department of Defense (DOD) released a broad agency announcement (BAA) for the Naval Engineering Education Consortium (NEEC). The NEEC program, directed by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) Warfare Center, encourages student participation in the naval engineering workforce through project-based research in naval technology. Successful proposals will address how they will provide students with both academic and hands-on experience that will develop their skills and practice of engineering to support the Naval Research Enterprise in the future. Some of the BAA topics of interest include data science, quantum information science, machine learning and artificial intelligence, cyber, hypersonics, and unmanned underwater vehicles.

Topics and research interests included in the BAA are as follows:

**Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock Division**
- Development of Certificate Program(s) to advance education and training opportunities for ship, submarine, unmanned vehicle and/or associated system concepts, technologies, and processes.

**Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division**
- Identifying systems, sub-systems, and components using Natural Language Processing (NLP).

**Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division**
- Adaptive networks for dynamic spectrum and spatial environments.
- Monitoring behavior of algorithms that are used in a complex Autonomous Robot Systems (ARS) to increase transparency and trust in solutions.

**Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division**
- Research on intelligent architectures that combine and exploit some or all the following techniques: AI-ML, reinforcement learning, deep learning, probabilistic, generative adversarial networks, or expert systems capabilities
- Exploring advanced multi-purpose high-temperature materials and thermal protection systems; robust and adaptive flight control systems; navigation systems suitable for GPS-denied environments; sensor systems capable of operating in extreme environments; and modeling and simulation.
- Characterizing the electromagnetic (EM) environment, facilitating the control of that environment (i.e., EM Warfare, Real Time Spectrum Operations), and generating a comprehensive picture of the Navy and Joint Services mission spaces utilizing sensor fusion and data fusion concepts.
- Developing novel approaches, materials, and manufacturing techniques for Directed Energy applications at high peak RF power into the antenna element.

**Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head Division**
- Novel energetic materials and systems that include predictive methods, energy storage, enhanced safety, and reduced sensitivities.
- Developing and characterizing novel materials (i.e., sorbent, hydrophobic, oleophobic, and omniphobic surfaces or coatings) for interacting with contaminants.
- Theoretical/modeling/experimentation of microscopic description inside the detonation zone in gaseous media to predict the current empirical body of knowledge.
• Developing and characterizing fundamental shock waves, shock wave propagation and shock effects at different temperatures.
• Enabling faster, cheaper, or more efficient scale up and production of precursors that are critical in the production of currently utilized energetic ingredients using synthetic methods and/or novel compounds.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City
• Identifying potential barriers to implementation of zero-trust principles in non-zero-trust systems such as open-source wiki frameworks, configuration management, continuous integration platforms, share drives, and other technologies currently used but not zero-trust capable.
• Expanding unmanned system collaborative autonomy using advanced methods of decision making.
• Designing fundamental acoustic, seismic, conductivity/resistivity, magnetic, electromagnetic, electro-optic, and gravimetric sensors.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Philadelphia
• Investigating and analyzing low global warming potential alternatives for refrigerant hydrofluorocarbons that are compatible with the Navy air conditioning plants.

Naval Undersea Warfare Center Keyport Division
• Exploring the capability to create a secure directional communication bubble between transmitter(s) and receiver(s) using magnetic induction.
• Developing a nondestructive evaluation and testing method for polymer and polymer composite printing to enable swift and accurate validation of 3D printed part geometry and enable determination of the final mechanical properties.
• Exploring data taxonomy, statistics, modeling, natural language processing, and machine learning for naval logistic operations supporting mission systems.
• Exploring various data analysis and visualization tools, identifying a preferred solution (Tableau, Power BI, Qlik Sense, etc.), and producing dashboards to explore ways that can display many data sets.
• Exploring and integrating multiple tools to identify a Text Sentiment Analysis tool for the Navy to perform analysis on various narrative fields.
• Developing algorithms to process data (sensor data, imagery, thermal) generated by in-situ monitoring systems during metal powder bed fusion additive manufacturing builds produced by metal 3D printers.
• Understanding and analyzing supply chain risks involved with manufacturers, vendors, and materials to provide additional context to part and material availability that directly impact production and sustainment of DoD systems.
• Testing and verifying autonomous perception capabilities within the context of autonomous underwater systems operating to complete a mission.

Due Dates: Eligible applicants may submit full proposals through www.grants.gov under more than one topic area. Applicants may submit multiple proposals but may not submit the same technical proposal to more than one warfare center or activity. Full proposals are due no later than October 15, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET. The estimated award date is April 1, 2023.

Total Funding and Award Size: DOD anticipates granting multiple awards with an estimated total program funding of $3 million. DOD states that awards for the first year with two option years will total $100,000 to $150,000 and awards funded for three years will receive a total funding amount of $300,000 to $450,000.
Eligibility and Limitations: DOD is accepting proposals from both private and public institutions of higher education. Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Institutions (MIs) are encouraged to apply, but no part of the BAA is specifically set aside for those institutions. Federally Funded Research & Development Centers, DOD and civilian agency laboratories, and University Affiliated Research Centers are not eligible to submit proposals.

Source and Additional Background:

Engagement Opportunity: Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria
The Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB) is soliciting nominations. There are nine openings for voting members and seven for non-voting liaison positions. Membership consists of diverse perspectives from academia, think tanks, departments of public health, industry, and related associations. This is an opportunity for experts across One Health disciplines. Nominations are due on September 19, 2022, and must include a resume or curriculum vitae, a one-page biography, and letter(s) of endorsement. Details on the nomination process are available here.

PACCARB “provides advice, information, and recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (Secretary) regarding programs and policies intended to support and evaluate the implementation of U.S. government activities related to combating antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The membership consists of 15 voting members, including the Chair and Vice Chair, and 20 non-voting members: eight liaison representative members and 12 federal ex-officio members.” Additional information on the Council is available here.

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