In the final days before the August recess period, the House and Senate both made significant strides in passing legislation and teeing up future action. On Wednesday the Senate passed the long-awaited CHIPS+ legislation, which will boost semiconductor production across the country in addition to reauthorizing and supporting many other science programs across the federal government. The House quickly finalized the bill and it is expected to be signed by the President in the coming days. Soon after CHIPS+ was passed in the Senate, Senators Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) announced that they had reached a deal to attach climate and energy provisions into the budget reconciliation package Senate Democrats are hoping to pass next week. The package, which also includes expanding access to the public insurance marketplace and allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices, is still being considered by the Senate parliamentarian, but is expected to be voted on next week. Finally, on Thursday the Senate Appropriations Committee released all twelve of their fiscal year (FY) 2023 spending bills. The bills represent the Senate’s opening position as they will now have to negotiate with the House on a final set of bills that will be sent to the President to be signed into law. This process is expected to go well past the September 30 fiscal year deadline, and a continuing resolution will be needed to fund the government after that date, but lawmakers are hopeful they will be able to come to a compromise before the next 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.

Policy, Congressional Updates and Funding Opportunities
Policy Update: Biden Administration Announces FY 2024 R&D Priorities
The Biden Administration has released its memorandum for multi-agency research and development (R&D) priorities for fiscal year (FY) 2024. This memo provides guidance to federal agencies proposing science and technology (S&T) investments in the next budget request. The memo is developed annually by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and
priorities articulated in the memo are reflected across relevant federal agencies in subsequent budget priorities. The latest memo was issued on July 22, 2022, and as for the previous year, highlights the importance of federally supported R&D to address societal grand challenges affecting the U.S., including climate change, health, prosperity, security, environmental quality, equity, and justice for all Americans. The Biden Administration’s focus on innovation and the translation of basic research into the commercial sector is also emphasized in the memo.

The priorities covered in the memo highlight the need for continued “Federal investments in R&D; actionable and equitable measurement of program outcomes; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, engagement, and workforce development; research infrastructure; public access to Federally funded research; and, technology transfer and commercialization.” Consistent with the Biden Administration’s racial equity priorities, the memo emphasizes the importance of engagement with every region of the U.S. along with investments at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and other Minority Serving Institutions, as well as “rural communities, and other disadvantaged communities that have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.”

Below are the multi-agency R&D priorities identified in the memo (new areas of emphasis in bold):

- **Preparing for and Preventing Pandemics**
- **Reducing the Death Rate from Cancer by Half:**
  - Close the Screening Gap
  - Understand and Address Environmental and Toxic Exposures
  - Decrease the Impact of Preventable Cancers
  - Bring Cutting Edge Research Through the Pipeline to Patients and Communities
  - Support Patients and Caregivers
- **Tackling Climate Change:**
  - Climate Science
  - Innovation in Clean Energy and Climate Technology and Infrastructure
  - Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
  - Nature-Based Climate Solutions
  - Greenhouse Gas Monitoring
- **Advancing National Security and Technological Competitiveness:**
  - Critical and Emerging Technologies
  - Commercialization and Scale-Up
  - International Cooperation
  - Catastrophic Risk Mitigation
- **Innovating for Equity**
- **Cultivating An Equitable STEM Education, Engagement, And Workforce Ecosystem**
- **Promoting Open Science and Community-Engaged R&D**

The memo highlights the importance of investment in fundamental infrastructure to advance science, including knowledge, institutions, places, networks, and people. Agencies are directed to use evidence-based approaches to better address issues such as scientific integrity, disclosure, workforce development and effective mentoring, along with robust anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies. Additional details on the priority areas are presented below:
• The new priority on “Reducing the Death Rate from Cancer by Half” is aligned with the White House Cancer Moonshot, and the goal of reducing the death rate from cancer by at least 50% over the next 25 years. The memo encourages a multi-agency collaborative approach, focused on laboratory, clinical, public health, and environmental health research programs.

• For Tackling Climate Change, agencies are directed to focus on “R&D investments that advance the understanding of climate change, its interactions with nature loss and human systems; the innovations in clean energy and climate technology and infrastructure solutions; the ability to evaluate and track the effects of policies, projects, and programs on climate mitigation, resilience, and ecosystem services; and, workforce capacity to develop and effectively implement mitigation and resilience solutions.”

• Advancing National Security and Technological Competitiveness continues the prioritization of emerging technologies, including trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI), quantum information science (QIS), advanced communications technologies, microelectronics, nanotechnology, high-performance computing, biotechnology and biomanufacturing, robotics, advanced manufacturing, plus financial technologies, undersea technologies, and space technologies. However, new for FY 2024 is the focus on International Cooperation and Catastrophic Risk Mitigation, including cybersecurity.

• Innovating For Equity continues the Administration’s government-wide commitment to advance equity, “including the deployment of scientific research and technological advances to drive equitable outcomes for the American public.”

• Cultivating An Equitable STEM Education, Engagement, And Workforce Ecosystem includes an emphasis on programs to support STEM students, STEM educators and institutions, STEM workforce, entrepreneurship, and international experiences, including an emphasis on emerging technology areas.

• Promoting Open Science and Community-Engaged R&D aims to ensure that federally funded R&D outcomes are available to all Americans “in accessible, interoperable, reusable, equitable, secure, and trustworthy way.” Federally funded R&D should also be reproducible and transparent.

Sources and Additional Information:


Congressional Update: Senate Appropriations Committee Releases FY 2023 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Bill

On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee released the fiscal year (FY) 2023 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill. The bill would provide a total of $216.1 billion in discretionary funding, an increase of $21 billion over FY 2022 levels, to the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies.

The draft bill reflects Democratic priorities and is unlikely to receive formal consideration either in Committee or by the full Senate before current funding for FY 2022 expires on September 30. However, the funding levels and priorities articulated in this draft bill will be important in negotiating a compromise bill.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

• The National Institutes of Health (NIH) would receive $48 billion, a $3 billion increase over the FY 2022 enacted level. Of this $3 billion increase, $2 billion would be directed to the NIH’s base budget and $1 billion would be provided for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-
Unlike the House FY 2023 appropriations bill, the Senate bill would keep ARPA-H within NIH. The ARPA-H funding would be available through the end of FY 2025.

- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) would receive $9.6 billion, an increase of $780 million over FY 2022 levels. This would include a $90 million increase in behavioral health workforce programs, a $38 million increase in nursing workforce development programs, and $30 million for provider resilience programs.
- The Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) would receive $9.1 billion, an increase of $2.6 billion above FY 2022 levels. This would include major increases to the Mental Health Block Grant and Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Block Grant to states, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline program, the Project AWARE program for youth mental health, and the Primary and Behavioral Health Care Integration program, among other priorities.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) would receive $10.5 billion, an increase of $2 billion over FY 2022 levels but $229 million below the President’s budget request. Of the increase, approximately $1 billion would be put towards various public health infrastructure, surveillance, workforce, and preparedness programs. The bill would also provide funding increases for climate and health initiatives, firearm injury and mortality prevention research, social determinants of health programs, and the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) program.
- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) would receive $385 million, a $35 million increase.
- The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) would receive $818.5 million, an increase of $73.5 million.

Department of Education (ED)

- ED would receive $87.4 billion, an increase of $7.2 billion when compared to FY 2022.
- The bill would provide $7,395 for the maximum Pell Grant award for the 2023-2024 school year, a $500 discretionary increase over the current level and in line with the House bill mark.
- The Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) and Federal-Work Study program would receive increases, up to $915 million and $1.24 billion respectively.
- Nearly all higher education grant programs would see increases over FY 2022 levels, including TRIO programs ($1.28 billion), GEAR UP ($400 million), Teacher Quality Partnerships ($75 million), Child Care Access Means Parents in School ($95 million), and Title VI international education programs ($86.7 million).
- The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) programs would see a $219 million increase for total funding of $1.1 billion, including significant increases for the Strengthening Institutions Program and Developing HSIs program. Additionally, the bill would fund a new R&D Infrastructure Investment program for HBCUs, Tribal Colleges, and MSIs at $65 million, which was supported at $225 million in the House bill.
- The bill would provide $831.4 million for the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), a $94.4 million increase compared to the FY 2022 enacted level, but a $12.7 million decrease compared to the proposed FY 2023 House funding level.

Department of Labor (DOL)

- DOL would receive $15.4 billion, an increase of $939 million when compared to FY 2022. Apprenticeships programs would receive $300 million, an increase of $65 million compared to FY 2022. Funding would also be provided for the Strengthening Community College Training Grants
($50 million), the Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities program ($50 million), and $20 million for Career Pathways for Youth Grants.

Sources and additional information:
- The FY 2023 Labor-HHS-Education bill can be found at https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/LHHSFY2023.PDF
- The report accompanying the bill can be found at https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/LHHSFY23REPT.pdf
- The Committee’s press release can be found at https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/news/majority/breaking-chairman-leahy-releases-fiscal-year-2023-senate-appropriations-bills

Congressional Update: Senate Appropriations Committee Releases FY 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill
On July 28, the Senate Appropriations Committee released its draft fiscal year (FY) 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. The bill would provide $85.8 billion in FY 2023, an approximately 13 percent increase over the FY 2022 enacted level. Information on top-level funding for agencies relevant to the higher education and research community is below:

- The National Science Foundation (NSF) would be funded at $10.34 billion, $1.5 billion, or 17 percent, above the FY 2022 enacted level. This is $154.1 million below the budget request but $706.9 million above the House of Representatives FY 2023 proposed funding level.
- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) would be funded at $25.97 billion, a $1.93 million, or 8 percent increase over the FY 2022 enacted level. This would be $520 million above the FY 2023 House level and equal to the budget request. However, it is important to note the allocation of funds would deviate from the request.
  - The Science Mission Directorate would receive $8.045 billion, an increase of $431 million or 5 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level. This is $140 million above the FY 2023 House proposed level, and $57 million above the budget request.
  - The Space Technology Mission Directorate would receive $1.264 billion, an increase of $154 million or 12 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level. This would be $14 million above the FY 2023 House proposed level, but $174 million below the request.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) would be funded at $6.511 billion, an increase of 633.5 million or 10.8 percent over FY 2022, but $275 million less than the House FY 2023 proposal and $352 million below the President’s FY 2023 budget request.
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) would receive $38.5 billion, a $3.3 billion or 9.3 percent increase over the FY 2022 enacted level. This funding would be consistent with the proposed FY 2023 funding level in the House and approximately $715,000 below the president’s budget request.
  - The National Institute of Justice (NIJ), DOJ’s primary external research program would receive $43 million, a $13 million or 43 percent, increase over the FY 2022 enacted level. This funding level is consistent with the president’s budget request and $8 million higher than the proposed funding level in the House.
The bill identified addressing violence against women, supporting crime victims, strengthening police-community relations, responding substance use disorders, and improving juvenile justice as key priorities.

- The **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** would be funded at **$450 million**, $76.5 million or 20.4 percent above the FY 2022 enacted level but $60 million less than the FY 2023 level proposed in the House and $52.5 million below the budget request.
- There would be increases for all core programs including the Public Works, Economic Adjustment Assistance, Regional Innovation Program (formerly Build to Scale), and STEM Apprenticeships.
- The **National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)** would be funded at **$1.7 billion**, an increase of $466.3 million above the FY 2022 enacted level. This would be $228.8 million above the President’s budget request and $222.6 million above the FY 2023 proposed level in the House.
- NIST’s technical and scientific research programs would be funded at $974.9 million, an increase of $124.9 million, or 14.7 percent, above the FY 2022 enacted level. This funding level is consistent with the president’s budget request and $21 million above the FY 2023 level proposed by the House of Representatives.

Lewis-Burke is completing a comprehensive analysis on the FY 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies draft bill that will be released in the coming days. A summary of the bill is available [here](#) and the report accompanying the draft text is available [here](#). While not officially decided, there is a likelihood that the Senate skips mark-ups of their FY 2023 bills and moves straight to conferencing their drafts with the House.

### Congressional Update: Senate Democrats Propose Energy, Climate, Health Care, and Tax Reconciliation Bill

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) have reached a tentative agreement on an energy, climate, health care, and tax package referred to as the **Inflation Reduction Act of 2022**. Overall, the bill would raise approximately $739 billion in revenue and spend $433 billion on energy, climate, health care, and tax policies. The Senators call for using the over $300 billion remaining in savings for deficit reduction, which they argue could help combat inflation. The bill would not need any Republican support to pass but will require support from all 50 Democrats. The Senate plans to vote on the legislation next week and the House is prepared to return to session in the early part of August if the Senate passes the legislation. Below are highlights of major provisions of most relevance to research, higher education, and academic medicine communities.

#### Energy and Climate Change

The bill would provide $370 billion to support the deployment of clean energy technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to help combat climate change and meet the Biden Administration’s target of reducing emissions by 52 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. In addition, through inclusion of a revised methane fee and attention to air pollution, the bill hopes to enable the U.S. to meet its goal of reducing anthropogenic methane emissions at least 30 percent by 2030 from 2020 levels.

Most of the funding would be for new and expanded tax credits to incentivize U.S. manufacturing and deployment of clean energy technologies, as well as energy rebates and other consumer tax credits for home energy-efficiency improvements to lower consumer energy costs. These include breaks for adopting wind and solar energy, support for nuclear energy generators, biofuel tax credits, and an increase in the value of...
subsidies for carbon capture. The bill would also impose the first-ever fee on methane emissions, where companies would face a new fee for excess methane emissions starting at $900 per metric ton in 2024 and rising to $1,500 per metric ton in 2026. To help oil and gas companies meet methane emission targets, the bill would also create a new $850 million Methane Emissions Reduction Program to provide grants, loans, and other incentives over the next five years to monitor, trap and report methane emissions from wells and other production sites. The bill would also provide $5 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support greenhouse gas planning and implementation grants.

The legislation would also establish a national Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, which would function as a Green Bank with an initial capitalization of $27 billion to provide loans and invest in adoption of low-carbon, climate-resilient upgrades and technologies. Although this approach has already been implemented in several states and districts in the U.S., the creation of a federal program is intended to enhance private investment in climate-smart development and reduce risk of such investments nationwide. In line with the Administration’s environmental justice agenda, $8 billion of the initial capitalization would be required to target projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

The bill would also provide funds to support research and development activities at key federal science agencies. The bill would provide $2 billion for Department of Energy (DOE) National Lab research facilities and infrastructure modernization to support innovation in clean energy technologies and other DOE science and technology missions; $700 million for DOE to produce and make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for domestic research, demonstration, and commercial use; and $100 million for interregional and offshore wind electricity transmission planning, modeling and analysis.

The legislation would also boost research and development activities at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Most notably, the agency would receive $150 million for climate and weather research, forecasting, and modeling. An additional $50 million would be dedicated to competitive grants to fund climate research focused on issues including “weather, ocean, coastal, and atmospheric processes and conditions, and impacts to marine species and coastal habitat.” While these funds do not specify an account or purpose, they will likely go toward the Climate Program Office within the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) to support its annual competitive research competition. The bill would also provide $190 million for the procurement of high-performance computing capabilities including processing and data management. NOAA would also receive $150 million for facilities, ports, and fisheries improvements in addition to $50 million to support the National Marine Sanctuaries.

The bill would provide $20 billion for climate-smart agricultural conservation programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). These investments would be distributed through a variety of programs that aim to reduce emissions, improve soil health, and increase carbon sequestration, including:

- $8.4 billion over five years for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program;
- $50 million for the Food Security Act;
- $3.2 billion over five years for the Conservation Stewardship Program;
- $1.4 billion over five years for the Conservation Easement Program; and
- $6.7 billion over five years for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Additionally, USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would receive $1 billion to provide technical assistance and $300 million for quantifying carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions through field-based data collection. The bill would also provide $5 billion to support forest health programs,
including grants to non-federal forest landowners for cooperative forestry and for tree planting in urban and underserved communities.

**Health Care**

*Savings from Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Redesign and Price Negotiation*

The bill calls on the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a drug price negotiation program in Medicare. The program would allow Medicare to negotiate and enter into agreements with manufacturers of select drugs. The bill would also cap beneficiary out-of-pocket costs at $2,000 per year beginning in 2025 and would eliminate the statutory five percent coinsurance for catastrophic coverage.

Implementation of negotiated prices for certain high-cost drugs would begin in 2026 with 10 drugs in Part D. The number of drugs would increase to 15 in Part D in 2027, 15 in Parts B and D in 2028, and 20 in Parts B and D in 2029 and beyond. The bill would also limit Part D premium growth to six percent per year between 2024 and 2029. Regarding inflationary increases, the bill would limit drug price increases in Medicare, and drug manufacturers would be required to issue a rebate if prices increase faster than the rate of inflation, as measured by consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U). Price changes in future years would be compared to prices in 2021 and measured on the average sales price for Part B drugs and the average manufacturers price in Part D.

The legislation would expand access to the low-income subsidy program (LIS) under Part D. All beneficiaries earning between 135 and 150 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) would have full access to the program.

The bill also seeks to improve access to adult vaccines. Beginning January 1, 2023, it would remove co-insurance and cost-sharing for all adult vaccines recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) under Parts B and D. It would also require state Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) to cover all ACIP-recommended vaccinations without cost-sharing. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the prescription drug provisions of the bill would save approximately $287 billion.

*Expenditure on Affordable Care Act Premium Subsidies*

The bill would extend the availability of enhanced premium tax credits for the purchase of health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplaces. The enhanced premium tax credits, established by the American Rescue Plan, temporarily provided premium assistance to individuals with incomes above 400 percent of the FPL. The bill would extend the enhanced premium tax credits through 2025. CBO estimates that this provision would cost approximately $64 billion.

**New Tax Revenue**

*Corporate Minimum Tax*

The bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code and place a minimum tax on 15 percent of the adjusted financial statement income for a given taxable year for corporations that earn a profit of $1 billion or more. The current top corporate income tax rate is at a flat 21 percent set by the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, but many corporations pay less than that amount. The provision would in effect for the taxable years that begin after December 31, 2022. According to the Senators, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this provision would raise approximately $313 billion.

*IRS Improvements and Taxpayer Compliance*

The bill would improve taxpayer compliance by appropriating an additional:
$3.1 billion over ten years for taxpayer services, which would include pre-filing assistance and education;  
$45.6 billion for increased tax enforcement;  
$25.3 billion for Internal Revenue Service (IRS) operations, including IRS-wide administrative activities, and information technology upgrades; and  
$4.7 billion for IRS business systems modernization focused on improving customer service.

**Carried Interest**

The bill would modify taxation on gains from a partnership interest by treating them as short-term gains and subjecting them to a higher taxable rate. This provision of the bill would close the so-called “carried interest loophole.” The Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that this provision would raise approximately $14 billion.

**Congressional Update: Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Holds OSTP Director Nomination Hearing**

On July 20, the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee held a hearing on President Biden’s nomination of Dr. Arati Prabhakar to be the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Prabhakar formerly served as Director of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) from 2012 to 2017 and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from 1993 to 1997. In between her time leading these agencies, she worked for ten years as a partner at U.S. Venture Partners, an early-stage venture capital firm based out of Silicon Valley. If confirmed, Dr. Prabhakar would be the first woman, immigrant, and person of color to lead OSTP.

Committee members from both parties praised Dr. Prabhakar’s career and were optimistic about her leading OSTP. Senators’ prepared remarks and questions mainly focused on her proper implementation of the CHIPS+ legislation, which would require the OSTP Director to create a working group focused on vital emerging technology areas such as AI and quantum computing, and agencies to submit science and technology strategies to the Office for review. Dr. Prabhakar expressed support for the legislation and argued that it would help her better coordinate research and development efforts across federal agencies.

Lawmakers also focused on Dr. Prabhakar facilitating a fair and respectful work environment. Committee Ranking Member Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) spent significant time on the matter in light of former OSTP Director Dr. Eric Lander’s resignation after allegations of bullying and intimidation were made public. Dr. Prabhakar agreed and emphasized that it should be a major priority of hers while also lauding OSTP Acting Director Alondra Nelson’s leadership in her interim role.

The Committee will formally vote on Dr. Prabhakar’s nomination after the August recess, and she is expected to receive enough votes for consideration and likely confirmation by the full Senate in September or after the midterm elections.

**Funding Opportunity: NSF Releases Solicitation for Regional Innovation Engines**

On July 25, the National Science Foundation (NSF) updated the Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) broad agency announcement (BAA) to include deadlines for Type-2 applicants. Like Type I awards, letters of
Intent (LOIs) will be required for Type-2 awards. LOIs are due by December 15, 2022 and full proposals are due by January 31, 2023 by 5pm EST.

NSF expects Engines to progress along five phases from “development to mature;” specifically, Type-2 awards will fund NSF Engines across three phases: Nascent, Emergent, and Growth Phases. Type-2 awards may be granted to regions or promising teams that will be ready to launch a full-scale NSF Engine by the expected award date. Contingent on FY 2023 appropriations, NSF anticipates funding five Type-2 awards at a $160 million each, for up to 10 years. The initial two years of support for Type-2 awards will sustain a “ramp-up” period, in which an engine can be funded at $7.5 million per year over both years. Further funding will depend on the Engine’s performance. Funding can reach up to $15 million per year in years three through five and up to $20 million per year in years six through ten. Any Engine funded beyond the first year will be subject to an annual assessment of performance, which will inform further funding. In addition, NSF will conduct reviews to assess each Engine’s tangible accomplishments and future goals, which will involve program directors and a site visit team. The final evaluation plan will be negotiated with awardees within six months of the award date.

The updated BAA can be found here.

Funding Opportunity: NIST Releases STEM Professional Research Experience Program (PREP) NOFO

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for its Professional Research Experience Program (PREP). PREP aims to support NIST’s mission in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education by providing NIST laboratory experience to academia.

The NOFO is seeking applications from eligible institutions of higher education that offer two- or four- year degrees in STEM disciplines to establish and manage a program to support collaborative research relationships at NIST labs. For the purposes of this NOFO, STEM disciplines include (but may not be limited to) artificial intelligence, biochemistry, biological sciences, chemistry, computer science, engineering, electronics, information technology, materials science, mathematics, nanoscale science, neutron science, physical sciences, physics, scientific/technical writing, science and technology policy, technology management, and statistics.

PREP researchers may include undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, senior research fellows, and academic affiliates. New programs would be established at the relevant NIST campuses in Boulder, Colorado; Gaithersburg, Maryland; and/or Charleston, South Carolina.

Overall, NIST PREP aims to:

- “Establish a five year cooperative agreement to develop a collaborative relationship between NIST and U.S. institutions of higher education to host eligible PREP researchers to work at NIST.
- Develop and train a diverse, world-class pool of scientists and engineers to support NIST’s mission in measurement science and standards research.
- Increase the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of undergraduate and graduate students pursuing STEM degrees.
- Recruit and retain historically marginalized groups (women, minorities, and persons with disabilities) in STEM.
- Assure continued growth and progress of a highly skilled STEM workforce in the United States.”
**Funding:** NIST anticipates $200 million in total funding for up to nine awards. Awards, which will be funded through cooperative agreements, range from $250,000 to $24 million annually, depending on the NIST campus and number of awards. Cost sharing is not required.

**Dates:** Applications are due no later than **September 23, 2022**, at **11:59 PM ET**. NIST expects to complete its selection of successful applicants by November 2022.

**Eligibility and Limitations:** Accredited institutions of higher education that offer two- or four-year degrees in the U.S. and its territories are welcome to apply. U.S. citizenship is not required to participate in the program.

**Sources and Additional Information:**
- The full solicitation can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) under opportunity number 2022-NIST-PREP-01.
- More information on the PREP program, including current participating universities can be found [here](http://www.grants.gov).
- PREP FAQs are available [here](http://www.grants.gov).
- More information on working with NIST can be found [here](http://www.grants.gov).