

NDSU OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

RCA UPDATE

April 6, 2020

Funding Opportunity Edition

Today's issue of the RCA Update is a Funding Opportunity edition. Twice each month the RCA Update will primarily focus on this information.

Dear Colleagues:

I realize your time is very valuable, so I'd like to quickly point out two time-sensitive items that I'd ask you to review today (April 6).

1. [NDSU PPE Donation program](#). NDSU is inventorying our personal protective equipment (PPE) that could be mobilized for use by healthcare personnel and others to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Please add your information to the survey and thanks to all who have already done so.
2. Please read "[Guidance for NDSU Principal Investigators for Researchers paid on federal grants or contracts during COVID-19 pandemic](#)." This guidance should answer questions related to the



impact of the pandemic on research activities and contains important items for you to consider moving forward.

I appreciate your attention to both items. We are truly in this situation together as a team and the people from the Office of Research and Creative Activity are completely committed to helping you continue to be successful in your research efforts. Reach out to us with your questions and issues.

Kind regards,

Jane Schuh

Vice President

Research and Creative Activity

COVID-19 Guidance for researchers is available on the [RCA Website](#). As this situation is rapidly changing, please refer to the [NDSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response page](#) for additional information.

National Science Foundation: COVID-19 Funding

The recently signed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) included \$75M for the National Science Foundation (NSF) in support of the agency's ongoing RAPID grant response. Research can explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19; to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention; and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge.

NSF encourages the research community to respond to this challenge through [existing funding opportunities](#). In addition, researchers are invited to use the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism, which allows NSF to receive and review proposals having a severe urgency with regard to availability of or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment

as well as quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events. Requests for RAPID proposals may be for up to \$200K and up to one year in duration.

All questions should be directed either to a program officer managing an NSF program with which the research would be aligned or to rapid-covid19@nsf.gov.

Complete guidance on submitting a RAPID proposal may be found in [Chapter II.E.1 of the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide](#).

For additional information:

- [NSF Dear Colleague Letter on the Coronavirus Disease \(20-052\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions for NSF DCL 20-052](#)

Other COVID-19 Funding Opportunities

- [HHS Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority \(BARDA\) Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\)](#)
- [NIH AHRQ NOI: Novel, High-Impact Studies Evaluating Health System and Healthcare Professional Responsiveness to COVID-19](#)
- [NIH NIAID NOSI: COVID-19](#)
- [Russell Sage Foundation: Social, Political, Economic, or Psychological Disruptions of COVID-19](#)

NDSU RCA Funding Opportunities

The Office of Research and Creative Activity has two open funding opportunities:

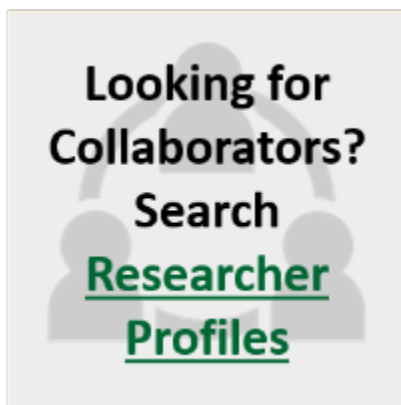
- The **Equipment Repair Fund** is a limited pool of funds available for equipment repair requests. Requests that are for preventive maintenance and calibration, capability upgrades, or new equipment purchases are not eligible.
- **Research Support Services Awards** may be requested to help defray the costs (up to \$1000) of support services required for research, creative, or scholarly activity.

For more information on these programs, including application instructions, visit the [RCA Funding Opportunities page](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [CDC: Comprehensive Suicide Prevention](#)
- [DoD: Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [DOE: FAIR Data and Models for AI and Machine Learning](#)
- [DOE NOI: Energy Storage for Fossil Power Generation](#)
- [ED: Statistical and Research Methodology in Education](#)
- [Facebook: Research in Misinformation and Polarization](#)
- [HHS Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority \(BARDA\) Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\)](#)
- [Moore Foundation: Development of Clinical Quality Measures to Improve Diagnosis](#)
- [NASA: Human Research Program Omnibus Opportunity](#)
- [NIH AHRQ NOI: Novel, High-Impact Studies Evaluating Health System and Healthcare Professional Responsiveness to COVID-19](#)
- [NIH NHLBI Big Data Analysis Challenge – Heart Failure Research](#)
- [NIH NIAID NOSI: COVID-19](#)
- [NIH NIDA NOSI: Sleep and Substance Use Disorders](#)
- [NIH: Science Education Partnership Award](#)

- [NIH: Translational Bioinformatics Approaches to Advance Drug Repositioning and Combination Therapy Development for Alzheimers Disease](#)
- [NSF: Hydrologic Sciences](#)
- [Russell Sage Foundation: Social, Political, Economic, or Psychological Disruptions of COVID-19](#)
- [USDA: NIFA Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program](#)



Need to update your profile?
Click here to learn how!

CDC: Comprehensive Suicide Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Injury Center has announced the availability of fiscal year 2020 funds to implement Comprehensive Suicide Prevention [[CDC-RFA-CE20-2001](#)]. This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) supports implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive public health approach to suicide prevention. Such an approach includes strong leadership as the convener of multi-sectoral partnerships; prioritizes data to identify vulnerable populations and to better characterize risk (e.g., relationship, job/financial, mental

health problems) and protective factors (e.g. connectedness, hope, resilience) impacting suicide; leverages current prevention practices and fills gaps by selecting multiple and complementary strategies with the best available evidence using CDC's Preventing Suicide: A Technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practices; rigorously evaluates the overall approach and individual activities; feeds data back into the system for quality improvement and sustainability; and effectively communicates results. The purpose of this NOFO is to implement and evaluate this approach to suicide prevention, with attention to vulnerable populations (e.g., veterans, tribal populations, rural communities, LGBTQ, homeless, other) that account for a significant proportion of the suicide burden and have suicide rates greater than the general population in a jurisdiction(s) (e.g., state, city/county, tribe). Key outcomes include a 10% reduction in suicide morbidity and mortality in the jurisdiction(s).

Application Deadline: May 26, 2020

^^

DoD: Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic

To help stimulate scientific thought and encourage efforts and advancements in the spirit of Sir Isaac Newton, the Basic Research Office in the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) announces the [Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). This award will be presented to a single investigator or team of up to two investigators that develops a “transformative idea” to resolve challenges, advance frontiers, and set new paradigms in areas of immense potential benefit to DoD and the nation at large. Proposals should aim to produce novel conceptual frameworks or theory-based approaches that present disruptive ways of thinking about fundamental scientific problems that have evaded resolution, propose new, paradigm-shifting scientific directions, and/or address fundamental and important questions that are argued to be undervalued by the scientific community. Approaches can include analytical reasoning, calculations, simulations, and thought experiments. While data collection and production are therefore allowed, all supporting data should be generated without the use of laboratory-based experimentation or instrumentation.

Given the novelty of and circumstances surrounding this one-time Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), the objective of this program is to generate proposals that are equally novel and pioneering. Therefore, this FOA should be

viewed as an opportunity to propose work outside the bounds of traditional proposals. Total costs (direct plus indirect costs) will not exceed \$50,000 per investigator (\$100,000 for a collaborative proposal by two investigators). Anticipated start date is June 30, 2020, and the period of performance will be 6 months from the start date. No-cost extensions will not be allowed.

Application Deadline: May 15, 2020, 3:00 pm

^^

DOE: FAIR Data and Models for AI and Machine Learning - Limited Submission Opportunity

Limited submission grant programs are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

DOE FAIR Data and Models for AI and Machine Learning : Notify RCA by 4/10/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

Scientific data are different from other classes of data more typically used in AI research. Currently, algorithms developed for non-scientific data can perform poorly when applied to scientific data. The principal focus of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) topic is to close this gap by making scientific data publicly available to the AI community so that algorithms, tools, and techniques work for science. Further research and efforts are needed to expand critical capabilities that make unique scientific data open and FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable), provide sufficient metadata, provenance, and annotations to the AI community, and articulate challenge areas to focus the community on unique aspects of science data and open areas of research.

Tools for training AI models on data are readily available and widely used. What is lacking, however, is a theoretical framework for understanding relationships between data and models. For example, given a specific data set and problem, we lack rigorous methods for identifying the best model, hyper-parameters, and training method to use. Given a specific data set and problem, which additional data would be helpful to include in the training set? What information about a dataset can be deduced from a model trained on the data? What attributes of the

data can be reverse engineered from a model? What can we learn about model robustness and transfer learning by looking at relationships between data and models?

The primary focus of this FOA topic is to advance our understanding of the relationship between data and models by exploring relationships among them through the development of FAIR frameworks for relating data and models. Such frameworks should provide capabilities that advance our understanding of AI, provide new insights to help researchers with applications of AI techniques, and provide an environment where novel approaches to AI can be explored. Proposed frameworks may focus on specific disciplines or sub-disciplines currently supported by SC's programs in ASCR, Biological and Environmental Research (BER), Basic Energy Sciences (BES), Fusion Energy Sciences (FES), High Energy Physics (HEP), Nuclear Physics (NP) ; or may focus on particular aspects or sub-areas within AI.

Required Letter of Intent Deadline: April 17, 2020

Full Application Deadline: May 15, 2020

^^

DOE NOI: Energy Storage for Fossil Power Generation

The Department of Energy (DOE) has published a [notice of intent](#) to issue Funding Opportunity Announcement No. DE-FOA-0002332 titled Energy Storage for Fossil Power Generation. The overall objective of the planned Funding Opportunity Announcement is to competitively solicit and award Research and Development projects that will advance energy storage technologies and integrate them with fossil-fueled assets to enhance the flexibility, reliability, efficiency, environmental performance, and resiliency.

^^

ED: Statistical and Research Methodology in Education

Through the National Center for Education Research (NCER), the Institute of Education Sciences (Institute) provides support for programs of research in areas of demonstrated national need. The Institute's research grant programs are

designed to provide interested individuals and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities for all learners. Through the [Statistical and Research Methodology in Education](#) grant program, NCER intends to support the development of a wide range of methodological and statistical tools to better enable applied education scientists to conduct rigorous education research. Through the Using Longitudinal Data to Support State Education Policymaking grant program, NCER intends to expand the research use of State Longitudinal Data Systems to examine long-term learner outcomes and pathways in order to provide evidence for State education policymaking.

Application deadline: July 30, 2020

^^

Facebook: Research in Misinformation and Polarization

[Facebook Research](#) has issued a Request For Proposals (RFP) for its [Foundational Integrity Research: Misinformation and Polarization initiative](#).

Under the RFP, the social media giant is offering awards to researchers interested in exploring the societal issues of misinformation and polarization related to social communication technologies. Priority research areas of interest include:

- Health Misinformation
- Quantifying Harms of Misinformation
- Information Processing of Sensational, Hateful, Divisive, or Provocative Problematic Content
- Affective Polarization
- Dangerous Speech, Conflict, and Violence
- Misinformation, Multimedia, and Formats
- News, Trust, and Information Quality
- Cross-Platform Information Ecosystem Understanding
- Digital Literacy, Demographics, and Misinformation

Grant amounts will range between \$50,000 and \$150,000, with most grants anticipated to be between \$50,000 and \$100,000.

Application deadline: May 6, 2020

HHS Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority Broad Agency Announcement

The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) is investing in an array of medical countermeasures to diagnose, treat, or protect against the 2019 novel coronavirus under the [BARDA Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\)](#). Specifically, BARDA is pursuing the following products or technologies: Diagnostic assays for human pan-coronaviruses; Point-of-Care diagnostic assays for SARS-CoV-2 virus; Diagnostic assay to detect COVID-19 disease; Vaccines for novel coronavirus; Therapeutics for novel coronavirus; Ventilators; Immunomodulators or therapeutics targeting lung repair; Pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis for novel coronavirus exposure; Respiratory protective devices; and Advanced Manufacturing Technologies.

Moore Foundation: Development of Clinical Quality Measures to Improve Diagnosis

The [Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation](#) (Moore Foundation) has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the [Development of Clinical Quality Measures to Improve Diagnosis](#) initiative.

In November 2018, the Moore Foundation announced its [Diagnostic Excellence Initiative](#), which aims to reduce harm from erroneous or delayed diagnoses, reduce costs and redundancy in the diagnostic process, improve health outcomes, and save lives. According to the foundation, twelve million Americans experience a diagnostic error each year, with diagnostic errors playing a role in an estimated 40,000 to 80,000 deaths annually in the U.S. In short, there is an urgent need to improve diagnosis; however, without an awareness of baseline performance and standards against which to compare performance, there is no way to measure improvement or to gauge the results of interventions. Despite a lengthy and growing list of clinical quality measures in health care, few existing measures

address diagnostic performance specifically. The challenge of finding meaningful clinical measures for diagnosis reflects the complexity of the diagnostic process.

To that end, grants of up to \$500,000 over eighteen months will be awarded to support the development of innovative clinical quality measures that promote excellence in diagnosis of three categories of disease, acute vascular events (such as stroke and myocardial infarction), infections (such as sepsis and pneumonia), and cancer (such as lung and colorectal cancer). The expected work requires two interlinked activities: 1) development of the rationale for a measure, and 2) operationalizing the measure into an algorithm that can undergo pilot (or proof-of-concept) testing.

Proposals should include teams and partnerships that include a multidisciplinary group of experts, including clinicians with content expertise, individuals with appropriate analytic expertise (data science, statistics, measure development), and persons with experience using relevant data sources.

Deadline: May 4, 2020



NASA: Human Research Program (HRP) Omnibus Opportunity

NASA is soliciting investigations lasting no more than one year that provide innovative approaches to any of the risks and gaps contained in the [Integrated Research Plan](#) of the Human Research Program. Risks include physiological and performance effects from hazards such as radiation, altered gravity, and hostile environments, as well as unique challenges in medical support, human factors, and behavioral health support. NASA is also soliciting novel research ideas that might not be directly aligned with HRP's identified risks from new investigators who have not received funding from NASA HRP, the National Space Biomedical Research Institute, or the Translational Research Institute for Space Health in the last ten years.

Appendix F of the HERO NRA and associated documentation can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/HERO19-OMNIBUS3>.

The Human Exploration Research Opportunities (HERO) NASA Research

Announcement (NRA) including all open appendices is available through the NASA Research Opportunities homepage at: <https://tinyurl.com/NASA-HERO-2019>.

^^

NIH AHRQ NOI: Novel, High-Impact Studies Evaluating Health System and Healthcare Professional Responsiveness to COVID-19

The NIH Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) intends to publish a new funding opportunity announcement using the R01 mechanism to support novel, high-impact studies evaluating health system and healthcare professional responsiveness to COVID-19. This [Notice of Intent \(NOI\)](#) is being provided to allow potential applicants sufficient time to develop responsive applications.

The health systems research community should prepare to submit applications to AHRQ to fund critical research focused on evaluating topics such as innovations and challenges encountered in the rapid expansion of telemedicine in response to COVID-19, effects on quality, safety, and value of health system response to COVID-19, and the role of primary care practices and professionals during the COVID-19 epidemic. AHRQ is particularly interested in understanding how digital health innovations contributed to health system and healthcare professional innovation and challenges and solutions to meeting the needs of vulnerable populations including older adults, people living with multiple chronic conditions, rural communities, and uninsured and underinsured populations. AHRQ will encourage multimethod, rapid-cycle research with the ability to produce and disseminate findings as early as 6 months. AHRQ expects to invest up to \$5M in FY2020 funds to support this initiative and potentially more pending supplemental funding.

AHRQ is working to publish the announcement in early May 2020 with submissions due in June 2020.

^^

NIH NHLBI: Big Data Analysis Challenge – Heart Failure Research

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), invites novel solutions for the [NHLBI Big Data Analysis Challenge: Creating New Paradigms for Heart Failure Research](#). The goal of the challenge is to foster innovation in computational analysis and machine learning approaches utilizing large-scale NHLBI-funded datasets to identify new paradigms in heart failure research. The challenge aims to address the need for new open source disease models that can define sub-categorizations of adult heart failure to serve as a springboard for new research hypotheses and tool development in areas of heart failure research from basic to clinical settings.

Adult heart failure is a chronic, progressive disorder in which the heart is unable to efficiently pump blood, and more than 6.5 million Americans suffer from this condition. It is currently often categorized by a single metric – left ventricular ejection fraction – but is known to be a multi-organ, systemic syndrome with many related but seemingly disparate phenotypes. Additionally, social, behavioral, environmental, and genetic determinants often captured in study data have a considerable influence on outcome but are not well-understood. The field of heart failure research currently lacks a systematic framework that incorporates these many factors in a comprehensive disease model. An adult heart failure sub-phenotyping scheme incorporating many disease-associated factors would provide a new paradigm that will benefit investigations into the mechanism of disease, diagnosis, and, ultimately, prevention and treatment.

The NHLBI seeks to foster such paradigm shifts in heart failure research by awarding innovative solutions that utilize existing large health datasets. NHLBI has a history of making considerable investments in the creation of deep data resources including: long-standing, deeply-phenotyped [epidemiological cohorts](#), innovative [clinical trials](#), and large-scale [precision medicine efforts](#) that have generated whole genome sequencing and “other omics” data for more than one-hundred thousand individuals. Many of these and other data are publicly accessible via the Database for Genotypes and Phenotypes ([dbGaP](#)) and the Biologic Specimen and Data Repository Information Coordinating Center ([BioLINCC](#)). The [NHLBI Heart Failure Big Data Analysis Challenge webpage](#) provides further details about available open- and controlled-access NHLBI-funded datasets and data access resources.

With these datasets in hand, the NHLBI is seeking to promote the application of

computational analysis and machine learning approaches to create opportunities for hypothesis generation and research tool development for heart failure research. This challenge aims to reward innovative, computational solutions utilizing large health datasets to develop a schema for the sub-phenotyping of adult heart failure that facilitates basic and/or clinical heart failure research objectives. A successful adult heart failure sub-phenotyping solution will be a novel, pragmatic, accessible research tool for a spectrum of heart failure researchers. Successful solutions will also be free and openly available to the research community. Participants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of NHLBI-funded datasets in the development of their solution and are also welcome to bring other relevant data to their analyses.

Competition period: February 28, 2020-August 28, 2020



NIH NIAID NOSI: Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The NIH National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) is issuing this [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\)](#) to highlight the need for research on Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). NIAID is particularly interested in projects focusing on viral natural history, pathogenicity, transmission, as well as projects developing medical countermeasures and suitable animal models for pre-clinical testing of vaccines and therapeutics against SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19.

In order to rapidly improve our understanding and available control measures for SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, NIAID is encouraging the submission of applications to address the following research areas of interest:

- Studies to identify optimal *in vitro* culture requirements and conditions;
- Development of reagents and assays for virus characterization;
- Studies to understand critical aspects of viral infection, replication, pathogenesis, and transmission;
- Studies to identify viral epitopes critical for binding neutralization;
- Studies to examine virus stability and persistence;

- Production of molecular clones of SARS-CoV-2, reporter viruses and recombinant viral proteins;
- Development of animal models of SARS-CoV-2 infection suitable for screening vaccine and therapeutic candidates and/or pathogenesis studies;
- Studies on the evolution and emergence of SARS-CoV-2 viruses including the identification of factors that affect viral host-range and virulence;
- Virologic and serologic surveillance studies of the distribution and natural history of SARS-CoV-2 viruses in animal populations and in humans at the human/animal interface with particular emphasis on host reservoirs and understanding cross-species transmission events;
- Development of sensitive, specific, and rapid clinical diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2;
- Development of SARS-COV-2 therapeutic candidates; broad-spectrum therapeutics against multiple coronavirus strains; examination of SARS-CoV-2 antiviral activity of existing or candidate therapeutics initially developed for other indications;
- Identification and evaluation of the innate, cellular and humoral immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection and/or candidate vaccines, including, but not limited to: cross-reactive antibodies from individuals exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses; viral epitopes critical for antibody binding and neutralization; immune-mediated pathology or host factors that might predispose to severe infection; and
- Development of SARS-CoV-2 vaccine candidates that include emerging antigen design strategies, novel platforms or delivery approaches, adjuvants, or assessing cross-neutralization potential of SARS-CoV vaccine candidates.

Submit applications for this initiative using one of the following funding opportunity announcements (FOAs) or any reissues of these announcements through the expiration date of this notice:

- [PA-19-052](#) NIH Small Research Grant Program (Parent R03 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [PA-19-053](#) - NIH Exploratory/Developmental Research Grant Program (Parent R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [PA-18-591](#): Administrative Supplements to Existing NIH Grants and Cooperative Agreements (Parent Admin Supp - Clinical Trial Optional)
- [PA-19-056](#) NIH Research Project Grant (Parent R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

- [PA-19-272](#) - PHS 2019-02 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH, CDC, and FDA for Small Business Innovation Research Grant Applications (Parent SBIR [R43/R44] Clinical Trial Not Allowed)
- [PA-19-270](#) - PHS 2019-02 Omnibus Solicitation of the NIH for Small Business Technology Transfer Grant Applications (Parent STTR [R41/R42] Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

[^^](#)

NIH NIDA NOSI: Sleep and Substance Use Disorders

The purpose of this [Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\)](#) is to inform potential applicants to the National Institute on Drug Abuse ([NIDA](#)) about a special interest in research project applications focusing on the relationship between processes that regulate sleep / circadian rhythm and the risk, trajectory and treatment of substance use disorders. Identifying sleep / circadian mechanisms and determining the directionality of sleep and substance use disorder interactions addresses a knowledge gap and can present new opportunities for improved therapy and outcomes. Multi-disciplinary, multiple-investigator teams of researchers combining expertise in substance use disorders and mechanisms of sleep / circadian rhythms would be optimal in addressing these questions. This notice encourages studies of processes and mechanisms linking drugs of abuse and sleep/circadian rhythms. The study of other psychoactive drugs or efficacy focused clinical trials will be considered non-responsive. Likewise, descriptive studies or clinical trials solely focused on therapeutic endpoints in the absence of a mechanistic evaluation of the intervention also would be considered non-responsive.

[^^](#)

NIH: Science Education Partnership Award (R25 – Clinical Trial Not Allowed) – Limited Submission Opportunity

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A

selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

NIH SEPA : [Notify RCA](#) by 4/22/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The NIH Research Education Program ([PAR-20-153](#)) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs.

To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this program will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on:

- Courses for Skills Development
- Research Experiences
- Mentoring Activities
- Curriculum or Methods Development
- Outreach

Information on current SEPA projects can be found at:

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/crcb/sepa/Pages/default.aspx> and <https://www.nihsepa.org>.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the SEPA Scientific / Research Contact to be advised on the appropriateness of the intended project for SEPA program objectives and the priorities of the NIGMS.

^^

NIH: Translational Bioinformatics Approaches to Advance Drug Repositioning and Combination Therapy Development for Alzheimers Disease (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

This Funding Opportunity Announcement ([PAR-20-156](#)) enables data-driven drug repositioning and combination therapy for Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's

disease-related dementias (AD/ADRD) by developing computational methods and data resources and/or integrating computational approaches with proof-of-concept efficacy studies in cell-based models, animal models, and/or humans.

Proposal deadline: [Standard dates](#) apply. The first standard due date for this FOA is June 5, 2020.

^^

NSF: Hydrologic Sciences

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Hydrologic Sciences Program ([NSF 20-560](#)) supports basic research on the fluxes of water in the terrestrial environment that constitute the water cycle as well as the mass and energy transport function of the water cycle. The Program supports the study of processes including (but not limited to): rainfall, runoff, infiltration and streamflow; evaporation and transpiration; the flow of water in soils and aquifers; and the transport of suspended, dissolved, and colloidal components. The Program is interested in how water interacts with the landscape and the ecosystem as well as how the water cycle and its coupled processes are altered by land use and climate. Studies may address physical, chemical, and/or biological processes that are coupled directly to water transport. Observational, experimental, theoretical, modeling, synthesis and field approaches are supported. Projects submitted to Hydrologic Sciences commonly involve expertise from physical and ecosystem sciences, engineering and/or mathematics; and proposals may require joint review with related programs.

Proposals accepted anytime.

^^

Russell Sage Foundation: Social, Political, Economic, or Psychological Disruptions of COVID-19

Because of the effects of COVID-19 on all facets of American life, the Russell Sage Foundation is changing its immediate [priorities](#) for letters of inquiry (LOI) for the May 21, 2020, deadline. For this deadline, RSF will only consider LOIs that satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- a. The research is so timely and time-sensitive that the project must start before April 1, 2021; or,
- b. the research analyzes social, political, economic, or psychological disruptions resulting from the coronavirus crisis that affect social and living conditions in the United States.

All LOIs must focus on issues related to the foundation's core program areas and special initiatives: Behavioral Economics; Decision-Making and Human Behavior in Context; Future of Work; Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration; Social, Political, and Economic Inequality.

Any LOIs submitted for the May 21 deadline must include an appendix of one or two pages that explains why the proposed research meets either or both criteria. This appendix does not count against the usual page limits for LOIs.

After the May 21 deadline RSF will return to standard practice, with RSF accepting LOIs in all programs and special initiatives for the August 5, 2020 deadline. Funding decisions for applications submitted in August will be made at the March 2021 board of trustees meeting according to its usual guidelines.

^^

USDA NIFA: Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program

The [Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program](#) is intended to increase the knowledge of agriculture and improve the nutritional health of children and to bring together stakeholders from the distinct parts of the food system to increase the capacity for food, garden, and nutrition education within host organizations or entities, such as school cafeterias and classrooms, while fostering higher levels of community engagement between farms and school systems. The initiative is part of a broader effort to not only increase access to school meals for low-income children, but also to dramatically improve their quality.

Deadline: June 4, 2020

^^

Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

[Contact Us](#)



The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.

You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.

North Dakota State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or status as a U.S. veteran. Direct inquiries to: Equal Opportunity Specialist, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708 or Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 102, 701-231-6409.