

NDSU OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

RCA UPDATE

December 21, 2020



Dear NDSU Research Community,

As we find ourselves near the end of what has been a year with many conflicts and crises, I want to take a moment to tell you simply that the entire RCA team and I appreciate each of you. Your work is the foundation of NDSU and it is a foundation that is needed now more than perhaps ever before. Every day you and your teams provide the spark of discovery that guides decisions with evidence, seeks truth, creates beauty, and makes the world a better place. That's quite a legacy, and I am proud to be associated with you.

As I look back on my past 30+ years at NDSU, I see how I've benefited from being part of an institution that participates on a global scale and how, in many ways, it opened the world to me as an 18-year-old. NDSU was pretty small at the time, but it was the first place where this small-town kid met people from other countries, other cultures, and other ways of life. That exposure helped me form an appreciation of the diversity of perspectives as I continue to grow my own understanding of the world and my place in it.

My son Jacob is filling out his NDSU application and I wonder what growth will come from his time here. What philosophies of culture and art will he discover? What ideas will he explore as part of the NDSU community? How will he contribute to the discussion about who we are and what we value? How will others' stories affect him? As a current member of that community, I look forward to continuing to

contribute and build NDSU – by actively seeking new perspectives, valuing inclusion, and nurturing new ideas – into an institution that will deliver even more positive change to the world. We are helping prepare tomorrow's society by creating educated, motivated visionaries with the tools to think beyond themselves. That's what I hope for my son and for all of our students.

We began a new part of that journey in 2020 and while there is a lot left to do, the needle on our compass is pointed toward good. Our team at the Office of Research and Creative Activity will continue to be a partner with you as we collectively use our power for good.

I wish you all the best this holiday season. Health and peace to you and yours as we (finally) move into the new year.

With kind regards,

Jane Schuh

Vice President

Research and Creative Activity

Ying Huang Named as New RCA Faculty Fellow

NDSU civil and environmental engineering associate professor Ying Huang has been selected to serve in a new RCA faculty fellow position. Huang will provide leadership for the development of a multi-year undergraduate research program with a focus on biotechnology research. The new position is supported by NIH grant funding through North Dakota INBRE (Idea Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence).



Huang puts a high value on undergraduate research and has many students involved in it in her program within engineering. "For undergraduates, research experiences are of great importance," she says. "I've noticed that undergrads with research experiences have higher interests for graduate school and career paths related to becoming future educators."

Huang has developed plans for various programs to facilitate undergraduate research. The major effort during this fellow position is the development of a campus-wide summer undergraduate research program. In addition, she will also work with the faculty to encourage campus-wide undergraduate research activities.

Huang joins other faculty fellows Sam Markell and Rajani Ganesh Pillai in working within the RCA office. She will work primarily with the Research Development team.



SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 19-23, 2021

The 2021 NDSU Explore **VIRTUAL** Showcase of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity will take place online during Undergraduate Research Week: April 19-23, 2021.

Undergraduate students in all disciplines are invited to showcase their research and creative projects at this event.

Registration and schedule of events will be available spring semester.

Research Opportunities for Students

There are many opportunities for summer research experiences for students. Most programs offer both a stipend and housing and travel support. Programs range

across disciplines and are located in all areas of the country. **Deadlines are approaching for many programs.**

Resources for finding a summer research opportunity:

- The **Council on Undergraduate Research** shared a list of National Science Foundation (NSF)-Funded Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs) and Research Internships with upcoming deadlines [updated 12/18/2020]. [Download PDF >>](#)
- The **Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP)** [database](#) includes [550+ programs for undergraduates](#) and [50+ programs for graduate students](#). For help with this resource, reach out to IBP directly: ldetrick@ibparticipation.org.
- The **Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education** maintains an [Opportunity Catalog](#) with many student opportunities; filter the results by Graduate or Undergraduate students to find relevant programs.

Transition to InfoEd SPIN Funding Opportunity Database



NDSU will transition to a new funding opportunity database on January 1, 2021. At that time, SPIN by InfoEd Global will replace Pivot by Proquest. This change is in response to campus feedback and budget considerations. Search functionality in SPIN

is very similar to Pivot, so we hope this change will be seamless. However, the faculty expertise profiles that were part of the Pivot system are not included in the SPIN product.

Training opportunities and information about how to log in to SPIN will be announced soon.

Things to do before the transition:

1. If you have saved searches in Pivot that you would like to replicate in SPIN, review and record the search criteria now. [Learn how >>](#)
2. If you have tracked programs in Pivot that are of particular interest to you, you can export the list of those programs to help you replicate the list in SPIN. [Learn how >>](#)

If you have questions, please contact ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

NSF Solicits Feedback On Long-Term Strategy

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) as the agency develops its strategic plan for 2022-2026. Specifically, NSF is looking for input on relevant emerging science and policy topics, how the agency can undergird the nation's global leadership in research and education, and how it can better articulate the impact of fundamental research on society. Comments to the RFI are due by January 22, 2021.



December Issue: Research Development & Grant Writing News

The December issue of [Research Development and Grant Writing News](#) is now available to view. Use your NDSU login information to access this resource. Various topics are covered, including:

- Understanding Competitive Funding Strategies for Integration of Research & Education at NSF
- Virtual NSF Grants Conference Overview
- When your NSF Program Officer Comes Back with Questions
- Funding Success Requires Adding Evidence-Based Educational Components to Many Research Grants

COVID-19 Guidance for researchers is available on the [RCA Website](#), including NDSU guidance for PIs, Federal Agency guidance, and Funding Opportunities. Please refer to the [NDSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response page](#) for additional information.

CONTENTS

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [CDC: Reducing Inequities in Cancer Outcomes through Community-Based Interventions on Social Determinants of Health](#)
- [Department of Energy](#)
- [National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Access to Historical Records](#)
- [NEA: Grants for Arts Projects](#)
- [NIH: Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation – Cohort](#)
- [NIJ: Juvenile Justice Topics](#)
- [NIJ: Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives](#)
- [North Central Regional Sun Grant Center: Biobased Economy](#)
- [NSF / NIH: Enabling Discovery through GEnomics](#)
- [NSF: EPSCoR Track 4 Research Fellows](#)
- [NSF: Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure-2](#)
- [Retirement Research Foundation](#)
- [USAID: Remote Monitoring of the Humanitarian Supply Chain](#)
- [USDA-NIFA: Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants](#)

EVENTS

- [Webinars: NSF Mid-Scale RI-2 Program](#)
- [SBIR / STTR Informational Webinars](#)

Looking for
Collaborators?
Search
Researcher
Profiles

In Search of
Equipment?
Check the
Core Research
Facilities

Upcoming Limited Submission Program Deadlines

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. Email notifications of interest to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

- DOE: Materials and Chemical Sciences Research for Quantum Information Science
First to Notify
- USDA-NIFA: Biotechnology Risk Assessment
First to Notify
- CDC: Reducing Inequities in Cancer Outcomes through Community-Based Interventions on Social Determinants of Health
Notification Deadline: 12/22/2020
- NEA: Grants for Arts Projects
Notification Deadline: 12/22/2020
- NIH: Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation - Cohort
Notification Deadline: 12/22/2020
- NSF: EPSCoR Track 4 Research Fellows
Notification Deadline: 01/13/2021

- [Retirement Research Foundation](#)
Notification Deadline: 01/20/2021

There are a number of limited submission grant programs with upcoming agency deadlines for which we did not receive any notifications of interest. For those interested in applying to the programs listed below, approval to move forward with a full proposal submission to the funder will be given on a first come, first served basis. Email notifications of interest to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

- [DOE: Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing - Partnerships in Basic Energy Sciences](#)
Agency deadline: January 19, 2021
- [NSF: Ethical and Responsible Research](#)
Agency deadline: February 22, 2021
- [NSF: Scholarships in STEM](#)
Agency deadline: March 31, 2021

CDC: Reducing Inequities in Cancer Outcomes through Community-Based Interventions on Social Determinants of Health – Limited Submission Program

[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.

CDC Reducing Inequities : [Notify RCA](#) by 12/22/2020, 4:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The purpose of this funding opportunity [[RFA-DP-21-003](#)] is to conduct evaluation research to build an evidence base of innovative, community-based interventions across multiple domains of social determinants of health to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in cancer outcomes. Evaluation research is defined as the systematic application of public health research procedures for assessing the conceptualization,

design, implementation, effectiveness and utility of public health interventions. This research would advance our understanding of what works, for whom and why.

Component A: Primary Cancer Prevention – to conduct evaluation research on an innovative, multi-sector intervention to reduce cancer risk in one or more socially or economically disadvantaged populations. This research will examine the implementation, impact, and causal mechanisms of the intervention’s effect to reduce cancer risk at the population level.

Component B: Cancer Screening – to conduct evaluation research on an innovative, multi-sector intervention to reduce inequities in the receipt of appropriate screening services (on-time initial screening, routine re-screening at recommended intervals, appropriate follow-up after inconclusive/incomplete screening) among one or more socially or economically disadvantaged populations. This research will generate knowledge about the implementation, impact, and causal mechanisms of the intervention’s effect on cancer screening outcomes.

Component C: Health and Wellbeing of Cancer Survivors – to conduct evaluation research on an innovative, multi-sector intervention to address barriers to health and well-being among cancer survivors from one or more socially or economically disadvantaged populations. This research will generate knowledge about the implementation, impact, and causal mechanisms of the intervention’s effect on the health and wellbeing of cancer survivors.

Applicants may apply for one Component (Component A, Component B or Component C).

LIMITED SUBMISSION: Only one application per institution is allowed.

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Department of Energy

The Department of Energy (DOE) has released a number of new solicitations with short timeframes.

DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy:

- SETO Systems Integration and Hardware Incubator Funding Program [[DE-FOA-0002437](#)]
Letter of Intent deadline: January 11, 2021
- Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office [[DE-FOA-0002446](#)]
Concept paper deadline: January 15, 2021
- BETO Feedstock Technologies and Algae FOA [[DE-FOA-0002423](#)]
Concept paper deadline: February 1, 2021
- Vehicle Technologies Office [[DE-FOA-0002420](#)]
Concept paper deadline: February 5, 2021

DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory:

- Water Management for Thermal Power Generation [[DE-FOA-0002399](#)]
Deadline: January 29, 2021
- Design, R&D, Validation, and Fabrication of a Prototype Carbon-Based Building [[DE-FOA-0002438](#)]
Deadline: January 29, 2021

Limited Submission Programs from DOE

Due to the short timelines, Pls interested in applying to these programs will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis. Email notifications of interest to ndsuh.researchdev@ndsuh.edu.

- Materials and Chemical Sciences Research for Quantum Information Science [[DE-FOA-0002449](#)]
Pre-application Deadline: January 27, 2021
- Scientific Discovery Through Advanced Computing: Partnerships in Basic Energy Sciences [[DE-FOA-0002441](#)]
Pre-application deadline: January 19, 2021

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National Historical Publications and Records Commission: Access to Historical Records

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) supports projects that promote access to America's historical records to encourage understanding of our democracy, history, and culture. For the [Access to Historical Records: Major Initiatives](#)

[Program](#), the Commission is especially interested in collections of America's early legal records, such as the records of colonial, territorial, county, and early statehood and tribal proceedings that document the evolution of the nation's legal history.

All types of historical records are eligible, including documents, photographs, born-digital records, and analog audio and moving images. Projects may:

- Digitize historical records collections, or related collections, held by a single institution and make them freely available online;
- Create new freely-available virtual collections drawn from historical records held by multiple institutions;
- Provide access to born-digital records; and / or
- Create new tools and methods for users to access records.

The NHPRC welcomes collaborative projects, particularly for bringing together related records from multiple institutions. Projects that address significant needs in the field and result in replicable and scalable approaches will be more competitive. Organizations are encouraged to actively engage the public in the work of the project. **Cost share is required for this program.**

Applicants should also consult [Access to Historical Records: Archival Projects](#) program, which has different requirements and award amounts.

Pre-proposal deadline: February 25, 2021

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NEA: Grants for Arts Projects – Limited Submission Program

[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.

NEA : [Notify RCA](#) by 12/22/2020, 4:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

[Grants for Arts Projects](#) is the National Endowment for the Arts' principal grants program for organizations based in the United States. Through project-based funding, the program supports public engagement with, and access to, various forms of art across the nation, the creation of excellent art, learning in the arts at all stages of life, and the integration of the arts into the fabric of community life.

The Arts Endowment encourages projects that use the arts to unite and heal in response to current events, as well as address any of the following:

- Celebrate America's creativity and / or cultural heritage.
- Invite a dialogue that fosters a mutual respect for the diverse beliefs and values of all persons and groups.
- Enrich our humanity by broadening our understanding of ourselves as individuals and as a society.

LIMITED SUBMISSION: An organization may submit only one application for each separately identifiable and independent component.

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NIH: Faculty Institutional Recruitment for Sustainable Transformation (FIRST) Program – FIRST Cohort (U54 Clinical Trial Optional) – Limited Submission Program

[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 FIRST : [Notify RCA](#) by 12/22/2020, 4:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The FIRST Cohort program [[RFA-RM-20-022](#)] aims to transform culture at NIH-funded extramural institutions by building a self-reinforcing community of scientists committed to inclusive excellence, through recruitment of a diverse group of early-

career faculty who are competitive for an advertised research tenure-track or equivalent faculty position and who have demonstrated strong commitment to promoting diversity and inclusive excellence. Any individual who is competitive for a research tenure-track or equivalent faculty position and who has demonstrated a strong commitment to promoting diversity and inclusive excellence is eligible for FIRST faculty positions.

The overall goals and specific measurable objectives that the program expects FIRST Cohort awardee institutions to accomplish are:

Goal 1: FIRST Cohort awardees must demonstrate institutional support and develop or modify a strategic plan with specific goals and strategies, interventions, and organizational policies that will be implemented to achieve significant systemic and sustainable institutional culture change over baseline toward inclusive excellence (at the faculty, department, and institution level). FIRST Cohort awardees are also expected to develop an evaluation plan to assess the impact on their institution of action taken toward FIRST program goals.

Goal 2: FIRST Cohort awardees must conduct recruitment activities for new faculty, outline institutional commitments, and develop recruitment committees based on past interests and commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion. FIRST Cohort awardees are also expected to establish a retention plan to secure institutional commitment and supportive environment for new faculty hires.

Goal 3: FIRST Cohort awardees must develop strategies for the institution to establish individual research and career development plans and mentorship plans for all new faculty hired under this award. The applicants must describe how the program will reduce isolation, increase community building, and foster career development for the new faculty.

LIMITED SUBMISSION: Only one application per institution is allowed.

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NIJ: Juvenile Justice Topics

With this solicitation [[O-NIJ-2021-40003](#)], the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), seeks proposals for rigorous research projects that inform policy and practice in the field of juvenile justice. Specifically, this solicitation seeks proposals for studies that advance knowledge and understanding in one of the following two priority topic areas: (1) juvenile justice responses to the COVID-19 pandemic or (2) deinstitutionalization of status offenders. Applications proposing research outside of these two research areas will not be considered.

Deadline: February 25, 2021

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NIJ: Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives

With this solicitation [[O-NIJ-2021-40002](#)], the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) requests proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects to examine reentry initiatives that incorporate promising practices, strategies, or programs. NIJ is interested in supporting multi-site, randomized controlled trial (RCT) evaluations of innovative reentry initiatives that:

- Are specifically designed to address violent, habitual recidivism.
- Are initiated during an individual's incarceration and continue in the community.
- Address multiple criminogenic needs that can be assessed incrementally.

Deadline: February 25, 2021

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North Central Regional Sun Grant Center: Biobased Economy

The Sun Grant Program (SGP) is a national network of land-grant universities working in collaboration with national laboratories and government agencies, partnering to build a viable biobased economy. Sun Grant institutions are charged with making significant advances in biobased industries for the benefit of America's independent farmers, rural communities, and the public-at-large. The Sun Grant Program – North Central Region ([SGP-NCR](#)), located at South Dakota State University (SDSU), is the administrative unit for the region composed of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA), the SGP-NCR will be awarding approximately \$1.65 million for projects in 2021. The SGP-NCR is emphasizing the importance of the need for forming multidisciplinary, multi-institutional teams for addressing critical challenges in the bioeconomy. The intent of this [solicitation](#) is to foster the formation and operation of research teams to pursue BOLD, TRANSFORMATIVE, and HIGH-IMPACT activities and outcomes that will become a road map leading to long-term success. In other words, this program is seeking to have the successful project teams use this to leverage for larger competitive opportunities, both while the project is active and after completion.

Funded grants will support:

- multi-institutional and multistate research, Extension and education programs on technology development, and
- integrated research, Extension, and education programs on technology implementation.

Projects must seek to accomplish the following and clearly articulate this in the proposal:

1. Enhance *national security* through the development, distribution, and implementation of biobased energy and value-added product technologies;
2. Promote *economic diversification and stability* in rural areas of the United States through biobased energy and product technologies;
3. Promote *environmental sustainability* of agricultural production in the United States through biobased energy and product technologies;
4. Enhance the *effectiveness and impact* of biomass, biotransformation, bioenergy and bioproducts research and development programs through effective coordination and collaboration among -
 - a. The U.S. Department of Agriculture,
 - b. Additional appropriate Federal agencies,
 - c. Land-grant and non-land grant colleges and universities, and
 - d. Industry; and
5. *Leverage the activities and outcomes* of the proposed project for future and larger funding opportunities via NIFA-funded programs, additional Federal agencies, public-private partnerships, and others.

Pre-proposal deadline: February 1, 2021

NSF / NIH: Enabling Discovery through GENomics

Through the Enabling Discovery through GENomics (EDGE) program [[NSF 21-546](#)], the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes for Health (NIH) support research to advance understanding of comparative and functional genomics. The EDGE program supports the development of innovative tools, technologies, resources, and infrastructure that advance biological research focused on the identification of the causal mechanisms connecting genes and phenotypes. The EDGE program also supports functional genomic research that addresses the mechanistic basis of complex traits in diverse organisms within the context (environmental, developmental, social, and / or genomic) in which they function. These goals are essential to uncovering the rules that underlie genomes-to-phenomes relationships and predict phenotype, an area relevant to [Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype](#), one of the [10 Big Ideas](#) for NSF investment. The goals also support the NHGRI priority to establish the roles and relationships of all genes and regulatory elements in pathways, networks, and phenotypes.

Deadline: March 16, 2021

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NSF: EPSCoR Track 4 Research Fellows – Limited Submission Program

[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.

NSF RII Track-4: [Notify RCA](#) by 01/13/2021, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is designed to fulfill the mandate of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to promote scientific progress nationwide. EPSCoR jurisdictions that are eligible for RII competitions are

listed in the RII Eligibility table, which can be found [here](#). Through this program, NSF establishes partnerships with government, higher education, and industry that are designed to effect sustainable improvements in a jurisdiction's research infrastructure, Research and Development (R&D) capacity, and hence, its R&D competitiveness. One of the strategic goals of the EPSCoR program is to establish sustainable Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) professional development pathways that advance STEM workforce development.

The EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track 4: EPSCoR Research Fellows (RII Track-4) Program [[NSF 20-543](#)] provides awards to build research capacity in institutions and transform the career trajectories of non-tenured investigators and to further develop their individual research potential through extended collaborative visits to the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers. Through collaborative research visits at the host site, fellowship awardees will be able to learn new techniques, develop new collaborations or advance existing partnerships, benefit from access to unique equipment and facilities, and / or shift their research toward potentially transformative new directions. The experiences gained through the fellowships are intended to have lasting impacts that will enhance the Fellows' research trajectories well beyond the award period. These benefits to the Fellows are also expected to in turn improve the research capacity of their institutions and jurisdictions more broadly. Those submitting proposals must either hold a non-tenured faculty appointment at an institution of higher education or an early-career career-track appointment at an eligible non-degree-granting institution.

LIMITED SUBMISSION: Only three RII Track-4 proposals may be submitted in response to this solicitation by any single organization in a RII-eligible jurisdiction.

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NSF: Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure-2

The National Science Foundation (NSF) defines Research Infrastructure (RI) as any combination of facilities, equipment, instrumentation, or computational hardware or software, and the necessary human capital in support of the same. Major facilities and mid-scale projects are subsets of research infrastructure. The NSF Mid-scale Research

Infrastructure-2 Program (Mid-scale RI-2) [[NSF 21-537](#)] supports the implementation of unique and compelling RI projects. Mid-scale RI-2 projects may include any combination of equipment, instrumentation, cyberinfrastructure, broadly used large-scale data sets, and the commissioning and / or personnel needed to successfully complete the project. Mid-scale RI-2 projects should fill a research community-defined scientific need, or address an identified national research priority, that enables current and next-generation U.S. researchers and a diverse STEM workforce to remain competitive in a global research environment. The total cost for Mid-scale RI-2 projects ranges from \$20 million to below the threshold for a Major Facilities Project, currently \$100 million. Mid-scale RI-2 projects will directly enable advances in any of the research domains supported by NSF, including STEM education research. Projects may also include upgrades to existing research infrastructure.

Informational Webinars are scheduled for Wednesday, January 6, and Thursday, January 7. [Learn more >>](#)

Letter of Intent deadline: February 3, 2021

Note: Research infrastructure and instrumentation in the range just above the current Major Research Instrumentation Program threshold and below the Mid-scale RI-2 threshold is the subject of the Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-1 solicitation [[NSF 21-505](#)].

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Retirement Research Foundation: Research Grants – Limited Submission Program

[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.

RRF : [Notify RCA](#) by 01/20/2021, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.

The [Retirement Research Foundation \(RRF\)](#) funds research that seeks to identify interventions, policies and practices to improve the well-being of older adults and / or their caregivers. Preference is given to projects aimed at generating practical knowledge and guidance that can be used by advocates, policy-makers, providers, and the aging network. Of particular interest are:

- Interventional trials; translational studies; and health services and policy research;
- Projects that build on the investigator's past studies;
- Proposals that include robust dissemination plans, if appropriate, to assure that findings reach audiences positioned to act on them.

LIMITED SUBMISSION: Only one proposal / letter of inquiry is allowed per department per grant cycle.

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USAID: Remote Monitoring of the Humanitarian Supply Chain

The United States Agency for International Development's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID / BHA) is exploring innovative solutions that allow for the tagging, tracking, locating, and monitoring of food and non-food items (NFIs) through the international humanitarian supply chain. This [Broad Agency Announcement \(BAA\)](#) seeks opportunities to co-create, co-design, co-invest, and collaborate in the research, development, piloting, testing, and scaling of innovative, scalable, and cost-effective remote sensing solutions for our global supply chain. The application(s) to be implemented will enable our organization to:

1. Capture data and establish baseline parameters such as temperature, humidity, moisture, tilt, and shock on humanitarian commodities as they are shipped around the world. Monitoring of other elements that have the potential to impact the quality and safety of commodities are also of interest;
2. Improve visibility into the location, condition, and quality of humanitarian commodities as they are shipped around the world;
3. Reduce waste, loss, damage, risk, and inefficiencies through access to timely, valuable, and quantifiable data, analytical insights, dashboards, and reporting; and

4. Improve the operational oversight and the ability to make information available to stakeholders, including receivers of commodities, U.S. Government (USG) and private sector partners, and donor governments.

Deadline: February 1, 2021

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USDA-NIFA: Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants – Limited Submission Program

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.

Letters of Intent for this program are due to USDA-NIFA January 21, 2021. Due to the short timeline, PIs interested in applying to this program will be approved on a first-come, first-served basis. Email notifications of interest to ndsu.researchdev@ndsu.edu.

The purpose of the Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants (BRAG) program is to support the generation of new information that will assist Federal regulatory agencies in making science-based decisions about the effects of introducing into the environment genetically engineered organisms (GE), including plants, microorganisms — such as fungi, bacteria, and viruses — arthropods, fish, birds, mammals and other animals excluding humans. Investigations of effects on both managed and natural environments are relevant.

LIMITED SUBMISSION: Only one submission is allowed.

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Webinars: NSF Mid-scale Research Infrastructure 2

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Mid-scale Research Infrastructure (Mid-scale RI) Big Idea is intended to provide an agile, *Foundation-wide* process to fund experimental research capabilities in the mid-scale range (\$6 million to \$100 million), between the Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) and Major Facilities thresholds.

Recently, Solicitation [NSF 21-537](#) for the **Mid-scale RI-2 program** (total project cost of \$20 million to under \$100 million) was released. This is one of two NSF-wide funding opportunities that support NSF Mid-scale RI, the other being Solicitation [NSF 21-505](#) for the Mid-scale RI-1 program.

NSF will host **outreach webinars** with information about the Mid-scale RI-2 funding opportunity on **Wednesday, January 6 and Thursday, January 7, 2021**. Each session will begin at 12:00 p.m. A general Mid-scale RI-2 information session (12:00 p.m. -12:40 p.m. Central) with Q&A will be followed by Directorate-specific breakouts (12:45 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Central) where more technical questions will be addressed. Information on Day 1 will be repeated on Day 2, using the same Zoom meeting information.

To access the main webinars and follow-on directorate-specific breakouts:

WEBINAR 1&2: MAIN MEETING

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. Eastern Time and repeated Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. Eastern Time

Join ZoomGov

Meeting: <https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1612976668?pwd=eG9mWjZUeVdCS2ZzWTFYZmt3OUlrQT09>

Webinar ID: 161 297 6668

Passcode: 2M3cLw

Join via phone: (669)254-5252 US (San Jose) or (646)828-7666 US (New York)

DIRECTORATE BREAKOUTS:

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 from 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time and Thursday, January 7, 2021 from 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 pm Eastern Time.

Mid-scale RI-2 BIO Breakout

Join ZoomGov

Meeting: <https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1613376982?pwd=YXZCT2o1Z0lBQmRNY2dMVUxFM2RCUT09>

Meeting ID: 160 185 6173

Passcode: 6.myEg

Join via phone: (669)254-5252 US (San Jose) or (646)828-7666 US (New York)

Mid-scale RI-2: CISE Breakout

Join ZoomGov

Meeting: <https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1608265562?pwd=MDN5c3liMm55U3FBZlBSRnJodXBWdz09>

Meeting ID: 161 206 5490

Passcode: 6.myEg

Join via phone: (669)254-5252 US (San Jose) or (646)828-7666 US (New York)

Mid-scale RI-2: EHR & SBE Breakout

Join ZoomGov

Meeting: <https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1612065490?pwd=LzlwSHMwd0twT1RTZkZ1SXNPcS8wQT09>

Meeting ID: 160 826 5562

Passcode: 6.myEg

Join via phone: (669)254-5252 US (San Jose) or (646)828-7666 US (New York)

Mid-scale RI-2 ENG Breakout

Join ZoomGov

Meeting: <https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1601856173?pwd=RXZnaHlDMDRoc0w1UXBuSEE2Zk9XUT09>

Meeting ID: 161 337 6982

Passcode: 6.myEg

Join via phone: (669)254-5252 US (San Jose) or (646)828-7666 US (New York)

Mid-scale RI-2 GEO Breakout

Join ZoomGov

Meeting: <https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1618581638?pwd=dkNUd1k4eWszSWpkTTlrMXFHVG9sdz09>

Meeting ID: 161 901 7154

Passcode: 6.myEg

Join via phone: (669)254-5252 US (San Jose) or (646)828-7666 US (New York)

Mid-scale RI-2 MPS Breakout

Join ZoomGov

Meeting: <https://nsf.zoomgov.com/j/1619017154?pwd=RG9LQ3dybFVPSzM5M1R0U2dPdM9Xdz09>

Meeting ID: 161 858 1638

Passcode: 6.myEg

Join via phone: (669)254-5252 US (San Jose) or (646)828-7666 US (New York)

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SBIR / STTR Webinars from SHARPhub

[SHARPhub](#), an NIH-funded program to assist in translating bioscience discoveries into startup companies, is offering multiple free webinars on SBIR / STTR programs.

ABC of SBIR / STTR - Thursday, January 14 from 8:30 am to 10:00 am CST

Learn about whether your research is a candidate for SBIR / STTR federal R&D funding, learn about SBIR / STTR program basics, including program purpose, eligibility, and sources of funding. The goal of this presentation is to provide ample information for attendees to determine if they would like to seriously pursue proposal development and tools to help begin the process.

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/39bu9Yt>

SBIR/STTR Proposal Prep for NIH - Monday, January 25 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm CST

Learn about differences between SBIR and STTR, review how to navigate the NIH's SBIR website to research awarded projects, how to prepare an SBIR proposal, and how to avoid common pitfalls.

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3fG7h4E>

Commercializing your research through SBIR / STTR Proposals - Wednesday, February 10 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm CST

Learn about essential components of an effective plan, how to find and use cost-effective market research to direct your efforts, supporting documents you will need, and other

tips for writing a winning plan.

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/2JfNCvZ>

Q&A session for NIH workshop attendees – Thursday, Feb 4 from 8:30 to 9:30 am CST
SBIR / STTR virtual training attendees would have the opportunity to ask questions to
BBCetc consultants regarding their specific proposal. *Please note that you must have
attended training on January 14th and Jan 25th to be able to take advantage of this
session.*

Cuss and Discuss - March 12 from 9 –10:30 A.M. CST

Meet others planning to submit SBIR / STTR proposals to NIH, sharing challenges and
learning from others.

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/371phUf>

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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.

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