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PREPARED BY LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES LLC

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Introduction

This edition of the Tufts Washington Update for late March includes administration, policy, and hearing updates as well as agency updates and funding opportunities. Faculty, staff, and researchers are welcome to schedule calls with the Lewis-Burke Tufts team or meet with the team when they visit Washington, DC. Contact Amber Cassady, Lewis-Burke Associates LLC, at amber@lewis-burke.com with any questions or comments related to the Update's content or for more information on updates and opportunities.

Administration and Policy Updates

White House Announces Executive Order on Campus Free Speech and Student Outcomes

On March 21, President Trump announced a new Executive Order (EO), “Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities,” aimed at promoting First Amendment compliance on campuses and expanding transparency in regard to student educational outcomes and student loan debt. The EO directs numerous federal agencies to coordinate with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to ensure that higher education institutions receiving federal research or education grants promote free inquiry and comply with the First Amendment and related federal laws and regulations.

A policy statement in the EO highlights the applicability of “compliance with the First Amendment for public institutions and compliance with stated institutional policies regarding freedom of speech for private institutions.” The directive does not delve into specific free speech compliance mandates nor mentions any associated penalties, such as loss of research funding, as mentioned in previous press reports. The order does not apply to student aid programs that cover tuition, fees, or stipends.

The EO does offer more specific detail on the Administration’s interest in transparency and higher education accountability. The order directs the Department of Education (ED) to develop an online portal for federal loan borrowers. Additionally, it calls on ED to expand the College Scorecard to include program-level data on median earnings of graduates who borrowed; median debt broken down by Stafford loans, Graduate PLUS, and Parent PLUS loans; and loan default and repayment rates.

The White House also calls on the Secretaries of Education and Treasury, along with others, to report “policy options for sharing the risk associated with Federal student loan debt among the Federal Government, institutions, and other entities” by January 1, 2020. The Secretary of Education is also tasked with reporting on how states and institutions successfully facilitate transfer of credit, increase access to dual enrollment, and increase student success among high-need students. The EO, in conjunction with the “Proposals To Reform The Higher Education Act” that accompanied President Trump’s fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget request, are the clearest indicators of the Administration’s ambitions for a *Higher Education Act* (HEA) reauthorization. These proposals will impact HEA negotiations currently underway in Congress.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The “Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability At Colleges and Universities” Executive Order can found at https://www.insidehighered.com/sites/default/server_files/media/White%20House%20Executive%20Order.pdf.
- A White House factsheet on the EO is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-is-improving-transparency-and-promoting-free-speech-in-higher-education/>.

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Department of Labor Publishes Proposed Rule on Overtime Pay

The March 22 Federal Register includes the official Department of Labor (DOL) notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) outlining proposed changes to the existing overtime pay regulations covered under the *Fair Labor Standards Act* (FLSA). The proposed rule would set a new salary threshold for salaried executive, administrative, and professional employees to qualify for overtime pay, increasing the level from \$455 per week (\$23,660 per year) to \$679 per week (\$35,308 per year), the approximate equivalent to the 20th percentile of earnings of full-time salaried workers in the lowest-wage census region. Non-exempt workers earning less than the \$679 per week would be required to be paid time-and-a-half for working any hours over 40 hours per week.

In 2016, the Obama Administration's published a final overtime rule, including a \$47,476 salary threshold and prescribed automatic increases to the threshold. Before being implemented in late 2016, that rule was enjoined by the U.S. District Court, preventing the changes from going into effect. The Trump Administration's NPRM proposes to formally rescind and replace the 2016 rule. In addition to setting a lower salary threshold than the 2016 rule, this current NPRM does not prescribe an automatic adjustment to the salary threshold. However, DOL seeks public feedback on possible "methods that would update the standard salary level to reflect wage growth, are consistent with the salary level's purposes, and are reasonable considering the interests of employers and employees."

Other proposed changes include the allowance of nondiscretionary bonuses or incentive payments to count toward up to ten percent of a salary level. The NPRM also would increase the salary threshold for those exempt due to being "highly compensated employees," increasing from the current \$100,000 annual level to a \$147,414 salary. There are no changes to the current job duties test, which determines whether classes of employees, such as managers or learned professionals, are exempt from the requirement.

DOL seeks public comments to the NPRM on or before **May 21, 2019**.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The Department of Labor website outlining the 2019 proposed overtime rule and related materials are available at <https://www.dol.gov/whd/overtime2019/index.htm>.
- The overtime NPRM in the Federal is available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/03/22/2019-04514/defining-and-delimiting-the-exemptions-for-executive-administrative-professional-outside-sales-and>

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Hearing Updates

House Science Committee Holds Hearing on Engineering Biology R&D

The House Science, Space and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology held a hearing on “Engineering Our Way to a Sustainable Bioeconomy” on March 12. In her opening statement, Subcommittee Chairwoman Haley Stevens (D-MI) lamented the lack of coordination among federal agencies that fund biotechnology research and expressed the importance of a national strategy to steer investment in the topic. In her remarks, Chairwoman Stevens endorsed the *Engineering Biology Research and Development Act* which was first introduced by full committee Chairwoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX) in 2015 and reintroduced by Chairwoman Johnson late last year. The measure would create a national strategy for investment in engineering biology and direct a coordinated, cross-agency effort to advance American leadership in the space. The leadership of the full committee and the subcommittee emphasized the cross-cutting benefits of fundamental research in engineering biology to numerous fields, including agriculture, computer science, advanced manufacturing, and energy.

The witnesses also praised the benefits of engineering biology research but noted that the technology comes with some issues, specifically a lack of data on the bioeconomy and the uncertainty surrounding effective governance of the industry. During his testimony, Dr. Rob Carlson, Managing Director of Bioeconomy Capital, noted that the U.S. does not collect any data on the bioeconomy and currently lacks the ability to fully understand its needs. This lack of data places the U.S. behind 32 countries that have created explicit investment strategies. Congressman Bill Foster (D-IL) noted the need for regulation in the industry and referenced recent efforts by a Chinese researcher to genetically edit human embryos. While Dr. Laurie Zoloth, Professor of Religion and Ethics at the University of Chicago, had a positive view on the ability of the U.S. to regulate the technology, her sentiment was met by some cynicism from the rest of the panel. Dr. Carlson pointed out that while the Chinese government officially condemned research on human embryos, many in the country, even in the Chinese government, were excited about its potential. Congressman Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH) echoed this sentiment and posited that the U.S. cannot trust other countries to abide by American ethical standards.

Overall, the hearing reflected bipartisan support for further investments in engineering biology research and the *Engineering Biology Research and Development Act*. In attendance were full committee Chairwoman Johnson, full committee Ranking Member Frank Lucas (R-OK), Subcommittee Ranking Member Jim Baird (R-IN), Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL), Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (R-OH), Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Rep. Roger Marshall (R-KS).

Sources and Additional Information:

- The Engineering Biology Research and Development Act can be found at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/7171>.
- A recording of the full hearing, along with written testimony and copies of opening statements, can be found at <https://science.house.gov/legislation/hearings/engineering-our-way-sustainable-bioeconomy>.

- Chairwoman Stevens' opening statement can be found at <https://science.house.gov/sites/democrats.science.house.gov/files/documents/03.12.19%20CStevens%20Bioengineering%20Hearing%20OS.pdf>.
- Chairwoman Johnson's opening statement can be found at <https://science.house.gov/sites/democrats.science.house.gov/files/documents/03.12.19%20Johnson%20Bioengineering%20Hearing%20OS.pdf>.
- Ranking Member Baird's opening statement can be found at <https://republicans-science.house.gov/news/opening-statements/opening-statement-ranking-member-jim-baird-research-technology-subcommittee>.
- Ranking Member Lucas' opening statement can be found at <https://republicans-science.house.gov/news/opening-statements/opening-statement-ranking-member-frank-lucas-rt-subcommittee-hearing>.

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Agency Updates and Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation Releases Solicitation for Science and Technology Centers (STC): Integrative Partnerships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released the highly anticipated solicitation for the next round of Science and Technology Centers: Integrative Partnerships. Science and Technology Centers (STCs) support innovative, complex research and education projects that require large-scale and long-term awards. NSF has added a new objective for the 2019 competition to clarify that “STCs focus on creating new scientific paradigms, establishing entirely new scientific disciplines and developing transformative technologies which have the potential for broad scientific or societal impact.” This STC competition is open to all areas of science and engineering supported by NSF and projects should aim to “address deep scientific questions or pressing societal needs.” Unlike the 2014 solicitation, there is no mention for this competition of any focus on NSF priority areas and there is also no mention of the Big Ideas for Future Investment, many of which have launched their own specific institute and center competitions.

STCs should involve a range of partners including institutions of higher education, national laboratories, industry, international partners, and other public or private entities. Similar to the previous STC competition, NSF is encouraging participation of underrepresented groups and non-traditional partners in the STC teams. NSF specifically expects STCs to “demonstrate leadership” in the involvement of these groups at all levels within the Center. Education is a key component of STCs to train future researchers as has been the case in previous competitions. Centers are also required to carry out activities to advance knowledge transfer. New for the 2019 solicitation, NSF explicitly expects STC Directors to have experience leading research teams as well as “excellent verbal and written communication skills.”

According to the solicitation, all STCs must:

- “Be focused on exceptionally innovative, complex research and education projects that require large-scale, long-term awards;
- Be based at an institution of higher education which assumes responsibility for oversight of subawards to partner institution;
- Be directed by a faculty member with experience in leading research teams;
- Demonstrate institutional commitment to achieving strategic goals that are shared by the lead and partnering institutions;
- Establish multi-institutional collaborations or linkages with other universities/colleges, national laboratories, research museums, private sector research laboratories, state and local government organizations, and international collaborations, as appropriate;
- Develop a management plan that integrates the research, education, broadening participation, and knowledge transfer activities across all partners and affiliates;
- Include diverse teams at all organizational levels of the Center, inclusive of women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities;
- Provide research and education opportunities for U.S. students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty that will result in outcomes consonant with the Center's goals;

- Facilitate knowledge transfer through significant intellectual exchange among various types of institutions and organizations (e.g., nonprofit organizations; national laboratories; industry; Federal, state, and local governments); and,
- Establish and convene annually an External Advisory Committee to provide guidance, advice, and oversight.”

Preliminary proposals will be evaluated on the rationale for STC-scale funding, quality of the research plan, partnerships and participants, and integration strategies for areas such as knowledge transfer, education, and broadening participation. Preproposals have been lengthened to 12 pages to accommodate all of this information.

Total Funding, Award Size, and Budget Information: Pending funding availability, NSF intends to award \$25 million in fiscal year (FY) 2021 for up to five new STCs. STCs may propose a budget of up to \$5 million per year for an initial five-year period, with the possibility of an additional five years of funding.

Eligibility: Preliminary and invited full proposals may be submitted by U.S. academic institutions with doctoral degree-granting research and education programs in any area of research supported by NSF. “The PI must be a full-time faculty member at an institution of higher education and have an established record of leading research teams.”

Institution and PI Limitations: An institution may submit up to three preliminary proposals as the lead institution; however, NSF will not support more than one Center from any lead institution in this competition. There is no limit on the number of proposals in which an organization participates as a partner.

A PI or co-PI on one proposal in this competition may not be a participant in another STC proposal in the same competition. Should a proposal be declined at any stage, a PI or co-PI on the declined proposal may then participate in another STC proposal. The solicitation further states that past members of STCs may participate only if the themes “are substantially different from those they pursued with prior NSF Center support.”

Partners: Lead institutions are expected to develop partnerships with other organizations, such as: other universities and colleges, national laboratories, research museums, private sector research laboratories, state and local government laboratories, and international organizations as appropriate. While not every partner must support all Center activities, all of the expected features of the Center must be accomplished through the partners’ activities. NSF further encourages, but does not require, international dimensions, where appropriate. STCs are strongly encouraged to build “substantive and long-term” partnerships with institutions that serve underrepresented students interested in STEM.

Preliminary Proposals: Preliminary proposals are required and are **due June 25, 2019**. Detailed information on what should be included in the preliminary proposal is included in the solicitation.

Full Proposals and Competition Timeline: NSF will accept full proposals *by invitation only*. Those invited for full proposals will be informed in late October 2019. **Invited full proposals are due January**

27, 2020. Notification of site visits will be informed late June 2020, with site visits held in September and October 2020. NSF expects to make the award announcements in February 2021 with awards to start on June 1, 2021.

Information on Previous STC solicitation: The previous STC solicitation was released in August 2014, and four awards totaling NSF investment of \$94 million were announced in September 2016: the Center for Bright Beams (CBB), the Center for Cellular Construction (CCC), the Science and Technology Center for Engineering MechanoBiology (CEMB), and Science and Technology Center on Real-Time Functional Imaging (STROBE)^[1]. Five current STCs are set to expire in 2020, these include: the NSF Center for the Study of Evolution in Action (BEACON); the Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations (C-DEBI); the Center for Energy Efficient Electronics Science (E3S); and the Center for Science of Information (CSol). Additional information on current and graduates STCs is included in Appendix 1 (in the attached document) and information on current STCs is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/stc/index.jsp>. The STC competition is very competitive, previous competitions have attracted around 250 preliminary proposals with 40-50 full proposals invited, around 10 sites visited, and three to five new centers funded.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The complete STC solicitation is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19567/nsf19567.htm>
- Complete details of the STC program, including information on past awards, are available on the NSF website at https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5541&WT.mc_id=USNSF_180&WT.mc_e v=click.

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National Science Foundation Releases Convergence Accelerator Pilot Dear Colleague Letter

On March 15, the National Science Foundation (NSF) released a dear colleague letter (DCL) outlining the new NSF Convergence Accelerator (NSF C-Accel) pilot program. NSF aims to use this opportunity to “accelerate use-inspired convergence research in areas of national importance” and “initiate convergence team-building capacity around exploratory, potentially high-risk proposals.” The C-Accel Pilot will incorporate teams into cohorts that are focused on common research goals but work towards them in different ways. The letter emphasizes that teams must be multidisciplinary and leverage partnerships to develop solutions that are highly likely to benefit society in a relatively short timeframe.

The DCL calls for proposals for Phase 1 of the NSF C-Accel pilot. NSF is calling for already formed teams to submit concepts. NSF anticipates a solicitation later in 2019 for multi-million Phase 2 awards, which will be open only to Phase 1 award winners.

^[1] NSF awards \$94 million to create four new Science and Technology Centers:
https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=189782

The C-Accel Pilot has three tracks of interest that are aligned with two of NSF's Big Ideas, Harnessing the Data Revolution (HDR) and Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier (FW-HTF). The tracks include:

- Open Knowledge Network;
- Artificial Intelligence and Future Jobs; and
- National Talent Ecosystem.

According to the letter, these tracks will “build upon existing convergence research with the intention of accelerating discovery and innovation, leading to deliverable research products.” More details about each track can be found below.

Open Knowledge Network (OKN)

This track, which relates to HDR, aims to create a nonproprietary shared knowledge infrastructure in which research data can be stored and located for the science and engineering community. Current knowledge networks are largely proprietary. Phase 1 of this track will support the development of multidisciplinary and multi-institutional teams that will identify ways to create an Open Knowledge Network. This phase will rely on publicly available datasets, such as those provided by the U.S. government. The network should “build public-private cooperation.” Teams can address challenges across all science disciplines, such as querying services and secured access capabilities, and challenges related to specific science disciplines, such as geosciences, smart health, and manufacturing. NSF notes that it is critical that the design approach align with the needs of the numerous stakeholders.

Artificial Intelligence and Future Jobs

The goal of this track, which relates to FW-HTF, is to develop tools to connect workers with jobs while acknowledging that retraining will be integral to lifetime career success. Phase 1 “will support team building and creating research and development plans addressing multiple components of connecting workers with jobs” such as “predictive artificial intelligence tools, economic and labor market analyses of needed skills for future workplaces, and educational technologies needed for adult learning.” Outputs from this track should prioritize “fair and ethical treatment of workers.” Successful teams will also consider factors such as disabilities, family responsibilities, participation of veterans, and different types of workplace environments.

National Talent Ecosystem

The final C-Accel track, which also relates to FW-HTF, will support research into new tools for employers to help workers train for the jobs of the future, specifically for work related to artificial intelligence, data science, and predictive analytics, among others. Phase 1 will support the creation of a research team to re-envision employers' tools to foster employees' technical growth. Successful teams will incorporate “research on STEM learning, engagement, and its social context, as well as research on organizations and collaboration.” NSF also emphasizes that teams “focus on prototyping innovative approaches such as learning environments, platforms, interfaces, or simulations, tools for analysis, assessment, or prediction, and vehicles for recruitment and engagement” that would be able to scale up to foster “a national talent ecosystem.”

Phase 1 proposals must be submitted according to the guidelines of the by the multidisciplinary Research Advanced Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) mechanism. NSF plans to perform internal reviews first and have external reviewers provide input on the top proposals.

Award Size: NSF plans to fund about 50 Phase 1 proposals worth up to \$1 million each for up to nine months.

Eligibility: Teams must include multiple stakeholders, such as private sector entities, academic institutions, and non-academic organizations.

Due Date: Two-page Research Concept Outlines are due **April 15, 2019** and should be emailed to C-Accel@nsf.gov. Additional details on the RCO requirements are available in the DCL. Those invited to develop full proposals must submit them by **June 3, 2019**.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full letter can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19050/nsf19050.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- Information on RAISE proposals is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg19_1/pappg_2.jsp#IIE3

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Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and National Science Foundation Announce New Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Opportunities

On March 15, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) released separate funding opportunities for the Real-Time Machine Learning (RTML) program, focused on building Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) hardware and computing capabilities. RTML was one of two DARPA opportunities announced that support its broader efforts to accelerate foundational research aimed at advanced AI and ML capabilities for the Department of Defense (DOD). DARPA also released the program solicitation for the Science of Artificial Intelligence and Learning for Open-world Novelty (SAIL-ON) program March 15. Details regarding both programs are below.

Real-Time Machine Learning (RTML)

NSF and DARPA's Microsystems Technologies Office (MTO) released a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for the RTML program to "develop the foundational breakthroughs in hardware and machine learning needed to build systems that respond and adapt in real time." The RTML program is aimed at funding basic (6.1) and applied (6.2) research into machine-learning hardware generators and circuit architectures that address the grand computing challenge of creating a processor that can proactively interpret and learn from data in real-time, solve unfamiliar problems using what it has learned, and operate with the energy efficiency of the human brain. The program jointly addresses the need for future defense systems with AI capabilities to learn from data in real time and future computing

challenges laid out in DARPA's Electronics Resurgence Initiative (ERI), aimed at advanced microelectronics hardware and processing capabilities.

The NSF portion of the RTML program is dedicated to path finding research, while the DARPA portion will create the tools and circuit development infrastructure needed to enable rapid innovation in next wave AI hardware. While DARPA and NSF have distinct efforts within the RTML program there will be opportunities for both DARPA and NSF awardees to collaborate. For example, the outcome of the DARPA Phase 1 hardware compiler will be made available to NSF awardees as an option to evaluate their proposed new RTML approaches. New techniques and results produced by NSF awardees during the first 18 months will be made available to DARPA project teams for them to implement in their Phase 2 efforts to explore novel ML architectures and circuits that will enable RTML. Additionally, four joint NSF-DARPA workshops are anticipated throughout the three-year program.

Proposal Deadline: DARPA will hold a proposers day on April 2, 2019. Questions regarding the BAA or submissions are due by 1:00 PM ET on April 15 and full proposals are due by **1:00 PM ET on May 1, 2019.**

NSF's proposal deadline is June 6, 2019.

Total Funding and Award Size: DARPA is making \$10 million available for this BAA and multiple awards are anticipated.

NSF is also making \$10 million available for the program and anticipates making eight to 12 awards. NSF's award size will range from \$500,000 to \$1.5 million over a three-year period.

Eligibility: DARPA's BAA is open to all entities capable of serving DARPA's needs including universities, non-profit organizations, and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs).

For NSF's solicitation, two-and four-year institutions of higher education are eligible to apply.

Science of Artificial Intelligence and Learning for Open-world Novelty (SAIL-ON)

DARPA's Defense Sciences Office (DSO) also released a BAA for its SAIL-ON program, which seeks proposals that develop scientific principles to quantify and characterize novelty in open world domains; create AI systems that act appropriately and effectively in open world domains; and demonstrate and evaluate these systems in multiple domains, including a selected DoD domain. DARPA seeks to develop the underlying "scientific principles and general engineering techniques and algorithms needed to create AI systems that act appropriately and effectively in novel situations that occur in open worlds, which is a key characteristic needed for potential military applications of AI." SAIL-ON will address the three technical challenges in parallel through two phases.

Proposal Deadline: Abstracts for are due at 4:00 PM ET on April 2, 2019 and full proposals due at **4:00 PM ET on May 10, 2019.**

Total Funding and Award Size: DARPA did not announce the funding available for this program but does anticipate making multiple awards.

Eligibility: The BAA is open to all entities capable of serving DARPA's needs including universities, non-profit organizations, and Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs).

Sources and Additional Information:

- The DARPA Real-Time Machine Learning (RMTL) solicitation can be found at www.grants.gov or www.fbo.gov under solicitation number "HR001119S0037."
- The NSF RTML Program Solicitation No. 19-566 can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19566/nsf19566.htm?org=NSF>.
- The DARPA SAIL-ON BAA can be found at www.grants.gov or www.fbo.gov under solicitation number "HR001119S0038."

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National Endowment for the Humanities Releases Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grant Application

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has released the application for the Infrastructure and Capacity Building Challenge Grants program, which provides matching funds to organizations in order to increase humanities capacity through capital expenditures or endowments. Of note, the program requires *significant* matching funds from nonfederal, third-party donors. While minority-serving institutions and two-year community colleges require a one-to-one match, other institutions require either a three-to-one match on grants up to \$500,000 or a four-to-one match on grants above \$500,000.

Grant activities and expenditures supported include:

- "the design, purchase, construction, restoration, or renovation of facilities and historic landscapes; and
- the purchase of equipment and software for humanities facilities, including but not limited to storage systems, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, and climate control, lighting, security, and fire prevention"
- "investment in a restricted, short-term endowment or other investment fund to support...the preservation and conservation of collections; and the sustaining of existing digital infrastructure for the humanities."

This year's competition includes special encouragement for projects that are "in recognition of and preparation for the 250th anniversary of American independence" and those from minority-serving institutions and community colleges.

Due Date: Proposals are due by midnight EDT on May 15, 2019. Draft proposals submitted for feedback are due six weeks prior to the full due date.

Total Funding and Award Size: Maximum award of \$750,000

Eligibility and Limitations: Eligible applicants include U.S. colleges and universities, museums, libraries, research institutions, historical societies, scholarly associations, state humanities councils, and other public and nonprofit entities. Entities are limited to one application per year.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The solicitation is available at <https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/infrastructure-and-capacity-building-challenge-grants>
- The Frequently Asked Questions document is available at <https://www.neh.gov/sites/default/files/inline-files/challenge-grants-faqs-May-2019.pdf>

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Health Resources and Services Administration Issues Opioid Workforce Expansion Program Solicitation for Behavioral Health Professionals

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) is soliciting applications for the Opioid Workforce Expansion Program (OWEP) Professionals track. The program aims to develop the behavioral health workforce with “a focus on Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and other Substance Use Disorder (SUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery services.” The notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) outlines a special focus on the needs of “children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth in high need and high demand areas.”

Award Size: HRSA intends to issue 29 awards of up to \$1.35 million for a total of \$39.3 million in grants.

Eligibility: Accredited institutions of higher education and graduate degree programs of social work are eligible to apply. HRSA has also issued a NOFO for a paraprofessionals OWEP track.

Due dates: Applications to both programs are due **May 7, 2019**.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full OWEP solicitation can be found at <https://grants.hrsa.gov/2010/Web2External/Interface/FundingCycle/ExternalView.aspx?fCycleID=b46a08de-2bc2-421f-8b5e-71de9cc9b17d>.

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