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PREPARED BY LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES LLC

Contents

Introduction

Administration and Policy Updates

 President Trump Issues Cybersecurity Workforce Executive Order.....

Agency Updates

 National Science Foundation Outlines New Direction for Social Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences Programs.....

 National Science Board Seeks Nominations for Board Members for 2020-2026 Term.....

 National Institute of Standards and Technology Releases Request For Information on AI Standards

Funding Opportunities

 National Science Foundation Releases Dear Colleague Letter Related to Coastlines and People (CoPe) .

 National Science Foundation Releases Request For Information for Future Convergence Accelerator Topics.....

 National Science Foundation Releases Joint Dear Colleague Letter with UKRI on Bioinformatics, Microbiome, Quantum Biology and Synthetic Biology/Synthetic Cell.....

 Department of Defense Releases New Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Minerva Research Initiative.....

 Army Futures Command Releases Broad Agency Announcement for Disruptive Applications.....

 U.S. Agency for International Development Releases New Partnerships Initiative (NPI).....

Introduction

This edition of the Tufts Washington Update for early May includes Administration and policy 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, for more information on updates and opportunities, or to add a new recipient to the distribution list.

Administration and Policy Updates

President Trump Issues Cybersecurity Workforce Executive Order

President Trump publicly released the Executive Order on America's Cybersecurity Workforce on May 2. This order states that the U.S. cyber workforce, both private and public, is a "strategic asset" that must be strengthened through training opportunities such as "work-based learning, apprenticeships, and blended learning approaches" for both young employees and those advanced in their careers.

It asks that the Secretaries of Commerce and Homeland Security partner with the Secretary of Education to develop a process that would include federal, state, academic, and private-sector stakeholders to "assess and make recommendations to address national cybersecurity workforce needs." It also asks the secretaries to execute the report to the President on Supporting the Growth and Sustainment of the Nation's Cybersecurity Workforce, which was publicly released on May 30 last year. The executive order notes that priority will be given to the following actions:

- "Launch a national Call to Action to draw attention to and mobilize public- and private-sector resources to address cybersecurity workforce needs;
- Transform, elevate, and sustain the cybersecurity learning environment to grow a dynamic and diverse cybersecurity workforce;
- Align education and training with employers' cybersecurity workforce needs, improve coordination, and prepare individuals for lifelong careers; and
- Establish and use measures that demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of cybersecurity workforce investments."

The order also directs the Secretaries of Commerce, Education, Labor, Homeland Security, and other relevant agencies to encourage public and private stakeholders to integrate the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education Cybersecurity Workforce Framework (NICE Framework) in current education, training, and workforce development programs.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The executive order can be found at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-americas-cybersecurity-workforce/>.
- The report to the President on Supporting the Growth and Sustainment of the Nation's Cybersecurity Workforce can be found at https://www.nist.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2018/07/24/eo_wf_report_to_potus.pdf.
- The NICE Framework can be found at <https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/specialpublications/nist.sp.800-181.pdf>.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Agency Updates

National Science Foundation Releases Request For Information for Future Convergence Accelerator Topics

The National Science Foundation (NSF) released a request for information (RFI) which seeks input on future Convergence Accelerator (C-Accel) topics. As Lewis-Burke previously reported, the first C-Accel opportunity was announced as a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on March 15, 2019 to “accelerate use-inspired convergence research in areas of national importance.” The new RFI seeks input from industry, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit organizations, among other entities, on new C-Accel topics that fit within the Big Ideas, such as Harnessing the Data Revolution and the Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier, or topics which are not related to the Big Ideas but have a national impact.

NSF encourages responses that are “similar in breadth” to the tracks of the C-Accel Pilot: Open Knowledge Network; AI and Future Jobs; and the National Talent Ecosystem. Responses to the RFI should:

- “Be suitable for a multidisciplinary, convergence research approach;
- Address a grand challenge problem;
- Have the potential to leverage partnerships between industry and academic researchers; and
- Have a high probability of resulting in deliverables that will benefit society within a fixed term.”

NSF also encourages conference proposals to “help refine NSF Convergence Accelerator topic ideas and expand collaboration among stakeholders and partners to transition research outputs to use.”

Researchers interested in forming teams for future C-Accel opportunities are strongly encouraged to provide input to this RFI.

Responses to the RFI should be submitted to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVNQ75C> by **June 24, 2019**.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full RFI can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19065/nsf19065.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- The current C-Accel funding opportunity can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19050/nsf19050.pdf>.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

National Science Foundation Outlines New Direction for Social Behavioral and Economic (SBE) Sciences Programs

Dr. Arthur “Skip” Lupia, Assistant Director for the Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF) presented on May 2 to the SBE Advisory Committee an overview of his plans to reposition the SBE portfolio.

Dr. Lupia joined NSF in September 2018. He is concerned about attacks on SBE funding in recent years, and negative perceptions about the overall importance of some SBE programs. To counteract this, Dr. Lupia is working to increase the public value of basic research in the social and behavioral sciences and make the value of SBE research more apparent to the general public and policy makers.

To address these concerns, SBE is implementing a new strategy, which includes:

1. Communications
2. Realigning the portfolio
3. Creating new partnerships

Communications

The aim of the communications strategy is to develop content that is relevant to the core concerns of the target audience and to better convey the impact and value of SBE funded research in addressing societal problems. SBE is rolling out a new campaign slogan – “Your Life. Our Work. SBE.” – and collecting a series of “Iconic Human-scale Narratives,” or stories that include examples of how SBE research has allowed real people to overcome struggles. NSF encourages feedback and content ideas/stories through sbe-communications@nsf.gov.

Realignment

The realignment of the portfolio aims to make the public value of SBE research more apparent. The realignment process is currently in the “predecisional” phase and has received extensive input and engagement from staff in SBE. Initial plans for the proposed realignment include changing the names of some SBE programs and increased focus on conveying broader impacts. The target date for the changes to SBE programs is September 3, 2019. SBE welcomes constructive feedback about the realignment. Outlined below are the initial set of proposed potential name changes or “rebranding” of SBE programs:

- **Political Science program** would change to:
 1. ***Security and Preparedness***
 2. ***Effective and Efficient Public Policy Provision***
- **Resource Implementations for Data Intensive Research in the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (RIDIR)** would change to: ***Human Networks and Data Science*** (human networks at all scales – neurons to populations)
- **Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM (CCE STEM)** would change to ***Ethical and Reproducible STEM***
- **Law and Social Science** would change to: ***Law and Science***
- **Science of Learning** would change to: ***Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence***

- **Linguistics and Documenting Endangered Languages** would change to ***Linguistics (expanded^[1])***
- **Science of Organizations** would change to: ***Organizations, Effectiveness, and Participation***
- **Science of Science and Innovation Policy** would change to: ***Innovation in Research OR Science of Science***
- **Science, Technology and Society** would change to: ***Science and Technology Studies***
- NSF is still considering if and what to change about the title of the **National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)**, but they do plan to change reporting structures to make findings more thematic and relevant.

In addition to name changes, some programs' descriptions are expected to change as well. As a result of these changes, some social science researchers may fit better in programs they are not used to, but Dr. Lupia emphasized during his presentation that all SBE researchers would continue to have a home within the new organizational structure.

Finally, Dr. Lupia stated the vital importance that SBE proposals include a stronger focus on broader impacts, while maintaining expected scientific rigor. He highlighted that researchers need to do more to explain the potential societal value of work beyond addressing gaps in literature.

Partnerships

Since arriving at NSF, Dr. Lupia has engaged with around 30-40 representatives from public and private philanthropies, industry, and other federal agencies for new research partnerships. While there are no details about new partnership opportunities at this time, new initiatives will likely be aligned with SBE's newfound focus on use-inspired research and partnering aspects of convergence, in which SBE would join with diverse groups to help understand and address key needs for a range of stakeholders.

Theoretical examples discussed among the committee included partnerships with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), non-profits, and technology companies to address persistent questions about risks/benefits of technologies. Unlike similar partnerships, the research would lead to more actionable solutions, which would be of great interest to external partners. Dr. Lupia thinks it will get easier to form these partnerships after the SBE restructuring.

Dr. Lupia stated that, as whole, these changes aim to leverage additional support for SBE and create more opportunities for researchers. Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor these proposed reforms to help universities and research institutes engage and adapt as needed.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

^[1]Program would maintain content agreement with the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

National Science Board Seeks Nominations for Board Members for 2020-2026 Term

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) National Science Board (NSB or the Board) is seeking nominations for candidates to serve on the Board for the 2020 - 2026 term. The Board will be receiving nominations until **May 31, 2019**. NSB helps align NSF policies with those set by the President and Congress as they relate to research and education in science and engineering. In addition, the Board approves major new programs, the construction and operations of NSF facilities, and serves as an advisor to both the President and Congress on issues relating to science and engineering research and education.

Board members are Presidentially-appointed to serve six-year terms and no longer require Senate confirmation, as was previously the case. Board members can be appointed to a second six-year term, but this is not automatic and a number of first-term members were not renewed in the last cycle. Of the eight NSB members with terms ending in 2020, six are in their first term. Nominees will be drawn from industry, academia, or the non-profit sector. As indicated on the NSB website, the Board will consider the following characteristics in evaluating candidates:

- Record of distinguished service and potential for further contribution in the line of service.
- Demonstrated performance in the scientific, technological, engineering, industrial, public sector and educational communities. To be measured by:
 - outstanding scientific, technological, engineering or public service credentials
 - recognized intellectual contributions (i.e., patents, scholarship)
 - breadth, depth, and understanding of scientific knowledge and contributions
 - exceptional scientific, technological, engineering, industrial, educational and administrative accomplishments
- Commitment to performing Board duties.
- Expertise in specific topics expected to be considered by the Board during the 2020-2026 term:
 - Large and Mid-scale Research Infrastructure Full-lifecycle Management
 - STEM Education and the Science of Learning/STEM Workforce Development
 - Computer Science/Big Data Management/AI
 - Integrative Social Sciences
 - Public-Private Partnerships
 - Enterprise Risk Management
 - International Research Collaborations
 - Convergent Research and Grand Challenges
 - Science Policy and its Connection to National Economic Priorities
 - Promotion of Diversity and Minority Serving Institutions
 - High-Level Experience with Community Colleges
 - Undergraduate Research
 - Applied Math and Statistics
 - Environmental Biological Sciences
 - Geosciences
 - Sociology
- Expertise in cross-cutting and long-term topics related to NSF:

- NSF's role in support of basic science, engineering, and education research
- Evolution of academic research
- Diversity, including factors such as gender, ethnicity, discipline, organization type, and geographic location.

Candidates interested in applying or organizations interested in nominating candidates should submit a letter of recommendation addressing a candidate's qualifications on a point by point basis, a biography, and a CV.

Sources and Additional Information:

- More information on the nominations process can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/members/nominations.jsp>.
- Nominations should be submitted via the NSB submissions portal which can be found at <https://www.research.gov/nomination-web/nominations>.
- The Dear Colleague Letter Announcing the solicitation of nominations can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/documents/2019/board-nominations-colleague-letter.pdf>.
- Additional information on the NSB is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/index.jsp>.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

National Institute of Standards and Technology Releases Request For Information on AI Standards

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has released a [request for information](#) (RFI) to aid the development of artificial intelligence (AI) technical standards and tools. The release of this RFI follows President Trump's February [executive order](#) establishing the *American AI Initiative*. NIST will use input from the RFI and a May 30 [public workshop](#) to develop a draft plan for AI standards which will then be released for public comment later this year. While this RFI is unlikely to lead directly to funding solicitations from NIST, the forthcoming AI standards will likely influence such opportunities at agencies like the National Science Foundation and Department of Energy. In addition, responding to the RFI and participating in the public workshop will enable university researchers to establish and strengthen their connections with federal program managers focused on AI.

The topics of interest outlined in the RFI include:

- "Current status and plans regarding the availability, use, and development of AI technical standards and tools in support of reliable, robust, and trustworthy systems that use AI technologies;
- Needs and challenges regarding the existence, availability, use, and development of AI standards and tools; and
- The current and potential future role of federal agencies regarding the existence, availability, use, and development of AI technical standards and tools in order to meet the nation's needs."

Responses should be submitted to ai_standards@nist.gov by **May 31, 2019**.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Funding Opportunities

National Science Foundation Releases Dear Colleague Letter Related to Coastlines and People (CoPe)

National Science Foundation (NSF) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) for the Coastlines and People (CoPe) program to support capacity building activities and investigate the effects of natural hazards and extreme weather events on coastal communities and populations. The DCL solicits applications for Research Coordination Networks (RCN), conference proposals, Early-Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER), and Non-academic Research Internships for Graduate Students (INTERN) supplements. Research under the CoPe program will study the relationship between populations, the built environment, natural hazards, and coastal processes across spatial and temporal scales. This program is inherently interdisciplinary and will include participation from the following NSF Directorates: Geosciences (GEO), Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE), Biological Sciences (BIO), Engineering (ENG), Education and Human Resources (EHR) and the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA).

Application requirements will differ based on each funding mechanism for this program.

- **RCN** proposals should focus on innovative and interdisciplinary CoPe research opportunities across spatial and temporal scales. Applicants should collaborate with relevant stakeholders and identify opportunities to broaden participation through collaboration with INCLUDES and other NSF initiatives. CoPe RCNs should last for two to three years.
- **EAGER** proposals should pursue high-risk, high-reward and potentially transformative research in areas related to CoPe priorities. Examples of projects under this funding mechanism include incubators, mobile hubs, untested instrumentation technologies, and community responsive science teams.
- **Conference proposals**, which must take place in the U.S., are encouraged to convene interdisciplinary groups around CoPe research priorities and efforts to broaden participation. Participants should consider which basic research topics are most appropriate to advance the goals of the program and how academic and industry partnerships can be leveraged toward these objectives. CoPe conference proposals must not exceed \$100,000.
- The **INTERN** mechanism enables PIs to request funding support for up to six months for graduate students already on an active NSF award. Graduate students funded under CoPe are required to intern with a non-academic partner on issues related to CoPe priorities. Eligible partners may include for-profit industry labs or research groups; start-ups including but not limited to those funded through the NSF Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, and national labs.

This highly anticipated opportunity comes after the agency hosted a series of four workshops last fall to gather stakeholder input on potential program structures and research topics. Additional funding opportunities under the CoPe umbrella are anticipated in the future.

Deadlines: The submission deadline for mandatory one-pagers is **May 31, 2019**. Additional information on full proposals will be provided after the submission of a one-pager. The anticipated deadline for full applications is **June 28, 2019**.

Award Information: Individual award amounts and project periods will vary based on the funding mechanism. Additional information is included in the full DCL and at the links below.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full DCL is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19059/nsf19059.jsp>.
- Additional information on the CoPe program is available at <https://coastlinesandpeople.org/>.
- Additional information on the RCN mechanism is available at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf17594.
- Additional information on the EAGER mechanism is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg19_1/pappg_2.jsp#IIE2.
- Additional information on the Conference Proposals is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg19_1/pappg_2.jsp#IIE7.
- Additional information on the INTERN mechanism is available at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf18102.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

National Science Foundation Releases Joint Dear Colleague Letter with UKRI on Bioinformatics, Microbiome, Quantum Biology and Synthetic Biology/Synthetic Cell

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) released a joint Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) with the U.K. Research and Innovation's (UKRI) Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) following a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on research cooperation. The MOU provides for a "lead agency arrangement," which allows collaborative US-UK applicants to submit proposals to the agency that would be most appropriate for the proposed research. The DCL announces new research topics associated with this lead agency opportunity, which include: Biological Informatics; Understanding Biological Microbiome; Quantum Biology; and synthetic approaches to address fundamental biological questions (synthetic biology and synthetic cells).

The objective of this DCL is to encourage international collaboration in science between the United Kingdom and the U.S. while leveraging the strengths of each participating agency to make novel discoveries in the biological sciences. Successful proposals will clearly identify the need for international collaboration as well as the specific expertise of each participating research group. It is important to note, however, that this lead agency opportunity is not a new source of federal funding. Each research area directs applications to an existing program at either NSF or UKRI and links to the respective solicitations are included in the full DCL.

This is the third DCL that NSF has released this year addressing research issues at the intersection of data science and biology and the second interagency opportunity in this space. While synthetic biology has been a consistent thread throughout these opportunities, this is the first call to address quantum biology, a research area concerned with the investigation of "the biological molecules and biomolecular systems that give rise to quantum mechanical effects in living organisms." Given the agency's emphasis on these topics at the start of 2019, it is expected that similar calls will continue to be released in the coming months.

Eligibility: Eligibility requirements and submission limitations may differ based on each solicitation in the DCL. See the link to the full letter below for additional information.

Deadlines: The deadline for the required Intention to Submit (ITS) is **July 2, 2019**. Feedback on ITS submissions will be provided 3 weeks after the deadline. Full proposals submitted to NSF BIO will be accepted any time, while the deadline for UKRI is **October 2, 2019**.

Award Information: Individual award size and project periods will differ based on each solicitation.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The full DCL is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2019/nsf19058/nsf19058.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- Additional information on the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council is available at <https://bbsrc.ukri.org/>.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Department of Defense Releases New Funding Opportunity Announcement for the Minerva Research Initiative

The Department of Defense (DOD) released a new funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for its signature university-led social science research program, the Minerva Research Initiative (Minerva). Minerva seeks to fund top-quality social science research that provides DOD with a better understanding of the factors influencing the geopolitical environment in which it operates. As the FOA highlights, the Minerva program seeks to support “research in specific areas of social science and to promote a candid and constructive relationship between DOD and the social science academic community.”

As with previous years, the newest Minerva FOA solicits projects in topic areas that closely reflect current world events. This year, the Minerva program focuses on the dynamics impacting and stemming from great power competition with potential adversaries. This is a priority interest of DOD that further aligns Minerva with the [National Defense Strategy](#), released in January 2018. For 2019, Minerva will focus on nine topic areas focused on a broad range of priority countries, regions, and disciplines. Complete details of each topic area are in the full FOA. The nine topic areas are:

- ***Peer/Near-peer Statecraft, Influence, and Regional Balance of Power:*** “This topic is especially interested in the role of great powers within the international system; in the interactions of peer and near-peer state actors and how to methodologically and analytically research the sociopolitical context of statecraft and influence.”
- ***Power, Deterrence, and Escalation Management:*** “This topic supports basic research on power, influence, and escalation management methodologies with an emphasis on empirically tested or

theoretically founded decision support tools for selecting the best strategies.” Under this topic, DOD is increasingly interested in the use of deception by nation states through media, cyber, and non-traditional means of power projection and influence.

- **Alliances and Burden Sharing:** “This Minerva topic seeks to support research that will generate and validate new models to better capture the dynamics of burden-sharing in alliances with attention to factors that limit or eliminate freeriding.”
- **Economic Interdependence and Security:** “This Minerva topic seeks to develop new approaches to studying complex economic interdependencies and assess the implications of those interdependencies for national security among the nation states in the networks. Ideally, data and models will capture longitudinal relationships and identify how those relationships change over time, are linked to policy, relationships, and operational outcomes relevant to the states in the networks.”
- **Economic Viability, Resilience, and Sustainability of Logistics Infrastructure:** “This research topic focuses on the role performed by logistics centers as critical infrastructure for societies to be economically viable, resilient, and sustainable in the aftermath of conflict.”
- **Multi-Domain Behavioral Complexity and Computational Social Modeling:** “Warfare is a complex, large-scale enterprise, subject to many uncertainties, difficult to control, and yet which must be predicted as accurately as possible... This research topic addresses the imperative to understand better both the short-term and long-term consequences of all types of actions associated with total warfare in a complex, multi-domain framework.”
- **Autonomy, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Ethics, and Social Interactions:** “This topic invites novel approaches to understanding the implications of social interactions with machines and how such interactions may vary across cultural environments, especially those of peer and near-peer states.”
- **Models and Methods for Understanding Covert Online Influence:** “This effort will provide a regional focus on attempts to use online influence maneuvers to deceive, influence, polarize, and manipulate Indo-Pacific audiences for strategic political advantage by peer states and their proxies.”
- **Automated Cyber Vulnerability Analysis:** “This Minerva topic seeks innovative multidisciplinary research, entailing the contributions of artificial intelligence (AI) as well as behavioral, social, and statistical sciences, aimed to develop automated techniques for the assessment of network vulnerability to cyber assault.”

The Basic Research Office, within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, coordinates Minerva and will make final funding decisions (with input from the Services). DOD will consider both individual awards as well as team proposals for this iteration of Minerva. However, team proposals must name one Principal Investigator as the primary point of contact and designate one institution as the administrative lead for working with DOD. Team proposals should describe the expertise contributed by each team member and the relationship between participating institutions on a team.

White Paper Deadline: DOD strongly encourages researchers interested in Minerva to submit white papers for evaluation prior to preparing a full proposal. White papers must be submitted via email to osd.minerva@mail.mil no later than **June 20, 2019 at 3:00 PM EDT**. Proposers are also encouraged to

contact the Topic Chief for their topic of interest to discuss their ideas before submitting a white paper. The Topic Chiefs for each area are listed in the full FOA.

Full Proposal Deadline: Following feedback on the white papers, researchers will be required to submit full proposals. While a researcher may submit a full proposal without having first submitted a white paper, it is discouraged by DOD. Full proposals must be submitted no later than **September 26, 2019 at 3:00 PM EDT**.

Total Funding and Award Size: A total of \$15 million is available for this round of Minerva over the next three years. The FOA states that DOD plans to make between 10 to 12 awards averaging between \$150,000 and \$1 million per year for a period of three to five years. Previous Minerva awards have averaged approximately \$400,000 per year.

Eligibility: This Minerva competition is open to all sources from academia, including U.S. universities, DOD institutions of higher education, and foreign universities. DOD encourages submissions from Minority-Serving Institutions but will not specifically set aside funds for these entities.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The complete FOA and other details can be found at www.grants.gov under solicitation number "WHS-AD-FOA-19."
- Complete background on Minerva can be found at <http://minerva.defense.gov/>.
- Additional information regarding the 2019 topics can be found at https://minerva.defense.gov/Portals/47/Minerva_FOA_2019%20topics%20-%20ver%2020190319_1.pdf.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

Army Futures Command Releases Broad Agency Announcement for Disruptive Applications

The U.S. Army Futures Command's (AFC) Army Applications Laboratory (AAL) released a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Disruptive Applications, the first funding opportunity to come out of AAL. The AAL brings together government, academia, industry, and other ecosystems to conduct innovative research and development (R&D) of technologies that will revolutionize Army capabilities. This BAA will be continuously open to enable AAL, at its discretion, to fund researchers who propose innovative research in disruptive technologies in relatively short periods of time. The Army seeks cutting-edge technology to prepare the "Army of 2028" to win on the battlefield and support AFC's six modernization priorities: Long-Range Precision Fires, Next Generation Combat Vehicles, Future Vertical Lift, Army Network, Air and Missile Defense Capabilities, and Soldier Lethality. BAA areas of interest include but are not limited to:

- Autonomous platforms
- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML)
- Data visualization and synthetic environments
- Assured Position, Navigation, and Timing (PNT)

- Power generation and management technologies
- Sensing
- Communications & networks
- Computation
- Space
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Quantum Technologies
- Signature reduction
- Protection
- Human Performance
- Underpinning Methodologies

Due Dates: Proposers are required to submit white papers. AAL will notify applicants if they have been invited to submit a full proposal. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis until **May 1, 2024**.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, foreign organizations, foreign public entities, and for-profit organizations for scientific research are eligible.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The solicitation can be found at www.grants.gov under solicitation number “W911NF-19-S-0004.”
- The AFC’s modernization strategy and priorities can be found at <https://www.army.mil/standto/2018-06-06>.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

U.S. Agency for International Development Releases New Partnerships Initiative (NPI)

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) recently launched its New Partnerships Initiative (NPI) in an effort to diversify the agency’s partner base and focus on local capacity-building and resources. The NPI will specifically focus on engaging new and underutilized partners and incentivizing engagement with the private sector to diversify and expand partnerships. The Initiative supports USAID’s “Journey to Self-Reliance” strategy, which is focused on supporting developing countries in “their ability to solve their own development challenges,” with the ultimate goal of ending the need for foreign assistance. NPI notes that many U.S.-based partners deliver “significant private assistance with little to no financial support from USAID.” To this end, and for universities that have not closely partnered with USAID in the past, NPI has the potential to provide more entry points to engage with the agency and to establish new and diverse partnerships around the world.

As background, the principles for the NPI come from USAID’s Acquisition and Assistance (A&A) Strategy, which was announced in December 2018. The A&A strategy consolidates the evolution of partnering and procurement cultures across USAID and prioritizes “shifting away” from traditional collaboration approaches to allow for more adaptability and flexibility. Within USAID, the Global Development Lab

(GDL) has been at the forefront of developing and implementing the types of policies included in the A&A strategy.

According to USAID, the NPI will “increase USAID’s programmatic impact, based on more collaborative and adaptive partnering, and country progress outcomes, by doing the following:

- Leveraging private development assistance to respond to the Administration’s priorities and strengthen long-term partners for the Journey to *Self-Reliance*;
- Equipping and empowering new and underutilized development partners to maximize the impact of American tax dollars;
- Supporting solutions to near- and long-term Administration priorities that will advance the President’s National Security Strategy and support the Foreign Assistance Realignment;
- Identifying development solutions that will be country- and partner-driven for maximum long-term impact; and
- Creating incentives for expanding and diversifying USAID’s partner base so that we help to equip and fund more partners to support country-level progress.”

USAID has identified three “channels” to attract a broader pool of applicants.

1. The key focus of the NPI is to enable USAID to work with **new and underutilized partners**. USAID defines a new partner as “an individual or organization that has not received any funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as a prime partner over the last five years.” An underutilized partner is defined as “an individual or organization that has received less than \$25 million over the past five years from USAID and delivered more total funding in private development assistance than it has received from USAID in financial awards over the past five years.”
2. For established USAID partner organizations, the agency will provide support for the partner “to **provide mentoring and capacity-building** to new or local organizations,” whereby a majority of the award must be directed to the new partners via sub-awards.
3. “New or existing partners that **demonstrate significant investments of private development assistance**. This approach aims to incentivize private voluntary organizations—including, but not limited to, faith-based organizations—to co-finance shared priorities with USAID.”

Sources and Additional Information:

- More information on NPI can be found at <https://www.usaid.gov/npi>.
- NPI’s fact sheet can be found at https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1868/USAID_NPI_Fact_Sheet_2019.pdf.
- More information on USAID’s Acquisition and Assistance (A&A) Strategy can be found at <https://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/how-to-work-with-usaid/acquisition-and-assistance-strategy>.
- More information on the USAID’s “Journey to Self-Reliance” can be found at <https://www.usaid.gov/selfreliance>.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)