

COGR: NSF plans for stimulus spending

Earlier today the National Science Board made this general announcement regarding the funding NSF will receive under the Stimulus Legislation:

"The National Science Board (NSB) will hold its first meeting of the new year related to national science and engineering policy issues and oversight of the National Science Foundation (NSF) on Monday, Feb. 23 through Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2009. High on the meeting's agenda will be deliberations about spending and oversight of the portion of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act directed to NSF, \$3 billion, to enable U.S. investment in America's scientific enterprise."

At the COGR meeting yesterday (February 19) NSF officials provided some general details regarding the stimulus funds. According to the NSF officials they do not intend to provide supplemental funding to existing awards.

As provided in the Act, within Research and Related Activities, NSF's core research account, \$2.0 billion would go to research grants distributed through NSF's regular peer review process, and this will largely be to award grant applications already peer-reviewed and deemed of high quality but that could not be due to lack of funds. The bill would also provide \$300 million to the Major Research Instrumentation program of competitively awarded instrumentation grants for university researchers, and \$200 million to restart the Academic Research Infrastructure program, for competitively awarded laboratory construction grants, primarily for universities. The \$100 million education and human resources appropriation would provide \$60 million to the Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program, \$25 million to the Math and Science Partnerships program, and \$15 million to a new Professional Masters Science Program authorized in the America COMPETES Act. Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction spending of \$400 million would accelerate the construction of major research facilities with unique capabilities at the cutting edge of science.

We will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.

Tony DeCrappeo <TDeCrappo@cogr.edu>  
COGR