

GRC – Stimulus Funds Update

Colleagues,

There is much activity in Washington about funding under the Recovery Act (stimulus funding). Here are summaries of what we learned about NIH and NSF allocations, offered so you can do planning on your campus.

National Institutes of Health. Linda Anthony attended a meeting 2/18 at which NIH acting Director Raynard Kington discussed NIH's plans. The final stimulus bill gives NIH \$10.4 billion in funding as follows: \$8.2 billion to the Office of the Director (with \$7.4 billion of the Director's share transferred to institutes and centers and \$800 million retained by the Director with no priorities set as yet); \$1.3 billion to NIH's National Center for Research Resources (with \$1 billion for construction/renovation of extramural research facilities and \$300 million for the acquisition of shared instrumentation and other research equipment); \$500 million for NIH buildings and facilities; and \$400 million to be transferred from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for 'health care comparative effectiveness research.'

- There will be three main areas in which NIH will spend these dollars: 1. Funding primarily more R01s that have already been reviewed but not funded; 2. Administrative supplements to currently funded projects; and 3. NIH Challenge Grant - expect a new RFA in the near future - in crosscutting areas that NIH has yet to identify.
- NIH has to spend this money quickly, so, therefore, it will be looking to spend it on projects that, for the most part, have already gone through NIH peer review. All projects must be totally completed within two years, and most will be in the area of basic research rather than clinical trials, which take longer than 2 years for results.

Linda will be writing up a more detailed analysis of the meeting information for the 2/23 GrantWeek, and she can be contacted with questions at anthonyl@aascu.org.

National Science Foundation. The following information is not based on a formal announcement and, so, is SUBJECT TO CHANGE. The following NSF information is based on reliable statements made by NSF senior officials, but the formal policy has not yet been approved by the National Science Board or Office of Management and Budget (meeting next Monday and Tuesday).

- Stimulus-funded research grants will primarily be made by funding more FY 09 applications in the pipeline, or, possibly, reaching back to support highly ranked but unfunded FY 09 proposals.
- There will only be a few new solicitations funded with stimulus dollars--most new solicitations and continuing awards will be funded by FY 09 regular appropriations. Exceptions are early/new investigator awards, CAREER awards (funded for full five years), Graduate Research Fellowships and other similar scholarship/fellowship programs (tripled), academic research infrastructure (for outfitting and rehabilitating research space, not for new construction), and Major Research Instrumentation. Awards could be

forward funded, with the possibility of three-, four-, or five-year funding up front. Alternatively, stimulus funds could be reserved for projects to be completed in less than two years.

- No continuing awards will be made with stimulus money; supplemental funding of existing awards is discouraged but possible.
- Stimulus funding will be "sequestered from any other funds," be separately accounted for, and be subject to monthly status reports.
- NSF proposes to bring in more faculty rotators and Intergovernment Personnel Act (IPA) appointees to administer the stimulus funds. The agency may take on the rotator and IPA salaries. This would free up faculty positions at universities to enable them to hire new postdocs in spite of hiring freezes.

If your institution learns of new developments, or if you have specific questions regarding stimulus support for NSF, contact Meg Cantwell at cantwellm@aascu.org.

Both agencies are talking about making decisions on funding in the very near future (weeks). GRC staff members are working to cull through the information available, everything from rumors to briefings, to give you the most reliable information so you can act in the best interests of your campus. Call or write your program advisor with questions about the Recovery Act.

Rich Dunfee, Director, Grants Resource Center
American Association of State Colleges and Universities