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Changes to the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (R15) Program

The purpose of this notice is to notify the extramural research community of upcoming changes to the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program. NIH is making these changes to focus AREA support on grants to undergraduate-focused institutions that do not receive substantial funding from NIH, rather than all institutions with less than $6 million of NIH support.

The current AREA Parent Announcement, PA-18-504, will expire after the January 7, 2019, AIDS due date and will not be reissued. Future funding opportunity announcements (FOA) for the AREA program will focus on supporting grants to undergraduate-focused institutions. NIH will continue to provide R15 research enhancement opportunities for health professional and graduate schools under separate announcements.
As of January 24, 2019, NIH will no longer maintain its list of institutions ineligible for R15 grants. Instead, for R15 applications submitted for due dates on or after February 25, 2019, a signed letter will be required from the Provost or similar official with institution-wide responsibility verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution at the time of application submission. Applicants must provide the letter as part of their letters of support.

For the AREA program, the following eligibility criteria apply:

- The applicant institution must be an accredited public or non-profit private school that grants baccalaureate degrees in biomedical sciences.
- At the time of application submission, all the non-health professional components of the institution together have not received support from the NIH totaling more than $6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs; i.e., the Total Federal Award Amount cited on a Notice of Award) in 4 of the last 7 years. A year is defined as a federal fiscal year: from October 1 through September 30. Note that all activity codes are included in this calculation except the following: C06, S10, and all activity codes starting with a G.
- Qualifying academic component (school, college, center, or institute) within an institution (e.g. School of Arts and Sciences) has an undergraduate student enrollment that is greater than graduate student enrollment.

While the AREA program will provide support to undergraduate institutions, there will continue to be R15 opportunities to support health professional schools and graduate schools. These R15 funding opportunity announcements are forthcoming.

For Health professional schools and graduate schools the following eligibility criteria will apply:

- The applicant organization must be an accredited public or non-profit private school that grants baccalaureate or advanced degrees in health professions or advanced degrees in biomedical and behavioral sciences.
- The applicant organization may not receive research support from the NIH totaling more than $6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years. A year is defined as a federal fiscal year: from October 1 through September 30. Note that all activity codes are included in this calculation except the following: C06, S10, and all activity codes starting with a G.
- Health professional schools are accredited institutions that provide education and training leading to a health professional degree, including but not limited to: BSN, MSN, DNP, MD, DDS, DO, PharmD, DVM, OD, DPT, DC, ND, DPM, MOT, OTD, DPT, BME, MSEE, MS-SLP, CScD, SLPD, AuD, MSPO, MSAT, and MPH. Eligible health professional schools/colleges may include schools or colleges of nursing, medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, pharmacy, veterinary medicine, public health, optometry, allied health, chiropractic, naturopathy, podiatry, rehabilitation medicine, physical therapy, orthotics & prosthetics, kinesiology, biomedical engineering, occupational therapy and psychology. Accreditation must be provided by a body approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education.
Deadlines

National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Humanities Project

The Public Humanities Projects program supports projects that bring the ideas and insights of the humanities to life for general audiences through in-person programming. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to analyze significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art history. NEH encourages projects that involve members of the public in collaboration with humanities scholars or that invite contributions from the community in the development and delivery of humanities programming.

Next Deadline: January 9, 2019

National Endowment for the Humanities, Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections

The Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections (SCHC) program helps cultural institutions meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials for future generations by supporting sustainable conservation measures that mitigate deterioration, prolong the useful life of collections, and support institutional resilience: the ability to anticipate and respond to disasters resulting from natural or human activity. Cultural institutions, including libraries, archives, museums, and historical organizations, face an enormous challenge: to preserve humanities collections that facilitate research, strengthen teaching, and provide opportunities for life-long learning. To ensure the preservation of books and manuscripts, photographs, sound recordings and moving images, archaeological and ethnographic artifacts, art, and historical objects, cultural institutions must implement measures that slow deterioration and prevent catastrophic loss from emergencies resulting from natural or human activity. They can accomplish this work most effectively through preventive conservation. Preventive conservation encompasses managing relative humidity, temperature, light, and pollutants in collection spaces; providing protective storage enclosures and systems for collections; and safeguarding collections from theft, fire, floods, and other disasters.

Next Deadline: January 31, 2019

National Institutes of Health, Emotion Regulation, Aging and Mental Disorder (R01, R21)

Notice supporting mechanistic research applications on age-related changes in emotion regulation and how they may contribute to mental disorders in middle-aged and older adults. Funds support research that advances understanding of irregularities in the integrative neural-behavioral mechanisms of emotion regulation in adult mood and anxiety disorders, and that will examine whether the irregularities are associated with typical or atypical maturational trajectories of emotion processing. It is anticipated that such studies may identify novel targets for mental health interventions or prevention efforts, or provide clues as to which available intervention strategies might be optimally applied to normalize emotion dysregulation or to strengthen emotional resilience at particular stages of the adult life cycle.
Next Deadline: February 5, 2018

National Science Foundation, Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure

Mid-scale RI-1 “Implementation” projects may have a total project cost ranging from $6 million up to below $20 million. Projects must directly enable advances in fundamental science, engineering or science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education research in one or more of the research domains supported by NSF. Implementation projects may support new or upgraded research infrastructure. Only Mid-scale RI-1 “Design” projects may request less than $6 million, with a minimum request of $600,000 and a maximum request below $20 million as needed to prepare for a future mid-scale or larger infrastructure implementation project. (Successful award of a Mid-scale RI-1 design project does not imply NSF commitment to future implementation of that project.) Mid-scale RI-1 emphasizes strong scientific merit and response to an identified need of the research community. Demonstrated technical and managerial experience is required for both design and implementation projects, as are well-developed plans for student training and the involvement of a diverse workforce in all aspects of mid-scale activities.

Next Deadline: Required Preliminary Proposals, February 19, 2019

National Science Foundation, National Robotics Initiative 2.0: Ubiquitous Collaborative Robots

The NRI-2.0 program builds upon the original National Robotics Initiative (NRI) program to support fundamental research in the United States that will accelerate the development and use of collaborative robots (co-robots) that work beside or cooperatively with people. The focus of the NRI-2.0 program is on **ubiquity**, which in this context means seamless integration of co-robots to assist humans in every aspect of life.

Next Deadline: February 19, 2019

**Statistical Consultation**

ORDA welcomes back Dr. Grigoris Argeros (Sociology Anthropology Criminology) and Dr. Kathy Chu (Mathematics) as Faculty Associates for research statistics. Consultation is available for faculty, as well as graduate students working with faculty on independent research projects and theses with the goal of publication of results.

Contact Orda_stats@emich.edu for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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