

Please read the memo below from Dr. Eva J. Pell. Thank you.  
03-26-2009

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear URC members,

I am writing to follow up with updates on research funding associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the stimulus bill, also known as ARRA). News about the funding agency's activities has been appearing almost daily, and the following will be only a rough summary of the current status. We strongly encourage faculty with potential for funding under the stimulus programs to research the relevant websites and contact their program officers. As we stated in previous memos on this topic, please do let Peter Schiffer or me know if you have questions or concerns about these opportunities, or if you have advice or insight as to how the agencies are operating these new programs.

### **National Science Foundation**

The NSF has posted a summary of its stimulus activity at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/issuances/in131.jsp> and <http://www.nsf.gov/recovery/>.

Highlights are:

NSF will use the majority of funds “for proposals that are already in house and will be reviewed and/or awarded prior to September 30, 2009.” **NSF will reconsider proposals that reviewed well, but were declined for lack of funds since October 1, 2008.** PI's who are in that situation are encouraged to contact their program officers.

**NSF will be posting a new Major Research Instrumentation solicitation.** Penn State has already begun its downselect for this solicitation, which is likely to be a limited submission. We anticipate that the solicitation will be similar to the regular MRI program.

**NSF will revive the Academic Research Infrastructure program,** which has not seen a competition since 1996. URC members with possible projects should contact OSVPR; Peter Schiffer will be coordinating selection of proposals if it is a limited submission. Possible projects should involve a significant body of NSF-supported research and should be aligned with the strategic goals of the units affected. Projects should be brought to the attention of OSVPR by April 7, since we intend to select the projects soon after the solicitation is issued, working in consultation with the affected units and OPP. Our office has a copy of the previous ARI solicitation available upon request.

**NSF is placing a high priority on funding of new PI's.** Young faculty should be encouraged to send in proposals if they have not previously.

NSF does not plan to supplement existing grants with ARRA funds.

## National Institutes of Health

NIH has a summary of all of their ARRA grant programs posted at <http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/>. Detailed advice for responding to many of these solicitations has been distributed through the College of Medicine, SSRI, and the Huck Institutes, and interested faculty are encouraged to contact any of these units or OSVPR to get this advice if they have not already received the information.

All of the solicitation web links are at <http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/>. Highlights are:

**Competitive Revisions and Administrative Supplements:** All NIH-supported researchers may be eligible for administrative supplements or special competitive revision submissions. The deadlines vary, but the requirements for supplements are relatively simple, and NIH-support PI's are strongly encouraged to explore the possibilities. See <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-058.html> and <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-09-056.html> for details.

**Challenge Grants and Grand Opportunity Grants:** These are two new programs specifically set up for the ARRA funds for two year projects with significant impact. The funding available for these grants is quite generous, and PI's should carefully consider if they have an idea that might be suitable. See [http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/ic\\_go.html](http://grants.nih.gov/recovery/ic_go.html) and [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge\\_award/](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award/) for details.

**Construction/Renovation Programs:** There are two programs for construction and renovation support. OSVPR is working with the Colleges, Institutes, and OPP to select proposals to go forward with the maximum likelihood of funding.

**Instrumentation:** The S10 High End Instrumentation Program has a deadline of May 6th. The Huck Institutes are coordinating proposal efforts for that solicitation, and interested faculty are encouraged to contact Nigel Deighton ([nxd20@psu.edu](mailto:nxd20@psu.edu)) with questions or suggestions.

## Department of Energy

DOE has a recovery site posted at <http://www.energy.gov/recovery/> and just released a memo regarding the breakdown of their ARRA funding at <http://www.energy.gov/news2009/7083.htm>. The majority of funds seem to be directed toward the national labs, but there are significant pockets available to university researchers as well.