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THE 3 C'S TO THRIVING IN A PANDEMIC ECONOMY

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Security Initiatives*

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ON THE COVER

Our feature article by guest writer, Margit Poirier, summarizes the challenges of our current 'pandemic economy' and how to overcome them. Her poignant advice makes a great introduction to the upcoming grant opportunities showcased in this issue and written by our grant experts!

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

There's been a lot happening in grants over the past year, and in this issue of FUNDED, we simplify things a little bit, by getting back to several of the core grant programs that support some of the most prominent areas of the public sector.

Chris Barnes provides an overview of federal transportation funding and the FAST Act, with highlights of two of the most popular competitive grants for transportation in the federal government: the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) and Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD) – they may have long and bureaucratic-sounding names, but the work they enable across the country is truly moving!

In the area of higher education research, Liz Shay discusses funding for capacity-building initiatives provided by the NSF's Research Infrastructure and Instrumentation Grants. These grants can transform the capability of faculty and research staff across institutions to envision and conduct more advanced and far-reaching research, and the benefits of these investments extend far beyond their campuses.

Moving into the area of security funding, we offer the work of two promising new contributors. Shannon Day takes us through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, and Richard Campo provides some useful tips on accessing cybersecurity funding, across the many sources that support this often overlooked but nevertheless essential technology.

Be sure to check out the other timely and informative grantscasts our team will be presenting on, or review some of the replays of past events on topics you find interesting. As always, if you have comments, feedback, corrections, or topics for future issues, feel free to drop me a line at: mpaddock@grantsoffice.com.

I hope you enjoy this issue of FUNDED as much as we've enjoyed bringing it to you!

Sincerely,
Michael Paddock
Editor and Publisher,
FUNDED



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THE 3 C'S TO THRIVING IN A PANDEMIC ECONOMY

By Margit Brazda Poirier, GPC, M.S., Owner and CEO of Grants4Good LLC*

We know that 2020 was hard on nonprofit organizations, schools, and municipalities, and 2021 will continue to be difficult for much of the year...all the more reason to consider grant funding as a critical and timely source of revenue. In this article I will share with you many years of experience at Grants4Good and give you three ways to THRIVE (not just survive), in 2021.

THE CURRENT SITUATION

The most recent Nonprofit Times News (February 2021) reported the following sobering statistics:

- Three out of five nonprofits cut costs last year;
- Over 50% of nonprofits plan to cut costs in 2021;
- 30% of nonprofits have had program reductions AND hiring freezes in recent months;
- Salary reductions took place at 25% of nonprofits; and,
- More than half of nonprofits made changes to their fundraising as a direct result of COVID-19.

THE GOOD (OR GREAT) NEWS

There is still plenty of grant funding available for schools, municipalities and nonprofit organizations. Consider that:

- More than 450 billion was given in grants and donations to charity last year (Giving USA).
- There are more than 87,000 grant-making foundations in the U.S.
- Each year there are thousands of state and federal grants opportunities, some of which are perfect for your organization.

Even though there IS money "out there", organizations are still struggling with fundraising and a plan for accessing grant funding, especially due to the impacts of COVID-19. Here are my 3 C's to thriving in a pandemic economy.



1) CONTACT (WITH FUNDERS)

The first “C” to remember is the importance of staying in contact with funders – whether they are foundation executive directors, federal grant program officers, or agency contacts at your respective state departments. The main thing to remember is always keep people updated on **how** your organization is doing (don’t be afraid to share your challenges), **what** you are doing (highlight a stellar program/project) and **why** you are still doing it (perhaps the need for your work is greater than ever due to this pandemic).

One of my clients that helps women affected by domestic violence has seen a 40% increase in the need for their services. With this fact at the forefront of every communication with funders, that nonprofit has seen a five-fold increase in grant funding in 2020, compared to the year prior.

Keep in mind one other piece of extremely good news for this year...foundation financial portfolios did extremely well last year due to the strong stock market AND the IRS requires that foundations give at least 5% of their assets annually to charitable causes. You can do that math! See my [blog article](#) on **The 5% Rule** for more details on how this rule can help you determine how much grant funding is available for your organization.

2) CONSISTENCY

With such a difficult year behind us, it’s not surprising some organizations gave up trying to secure grant funding. After all, it does take time, energy and investment – all things that were in short supply. However, one of the most important of the 3 C’s is that you consistently send out grant applications throughout the year.

In my [All About Grant Writing](#) online course, I recommend that organizations send out at least one or two grant proposal each month. Why? Because it can take 3-6 months for foundation applications to be approved (or denied) and even longer to hear back regarding state and federal grants. Keeping a steady pipeline of grants going out each month is critical to receiving a steady inflow of revenue from grant awards.

The easiest thing to do is apply to funders that have awarded you in the past, while at the same time searching for new funders. Just keep going...despite the occasional “denial letter” that you may receive stating that you didn’t get the grant this time. Which leads me to the final “C”...

3) CONGRUENCY

Defined, congruency is “the quality of agreeing; being suitable and appropriate.” Aligning with a funder’s mission has always been essential to the grant writing process. But in the last year there have been two significant changes in foundation giving that can affect your organization in 2021.

First, because of COVID-19 thousands of foundations shifted their giving to address challenges directly related to the pandemic: health (e.g. personal protective equipment), food scarcity, child care, job loss, housing, etc...

This year we are seeing grant opportunities expanding to include arts and culture organizations suffering from venue closure, technology purchases to provide virtual afterschool mentoring programs and more. Consider the ways in which the pandemic has required you to make immediate changes to your service delivery. These programmatic or organizational changes may be congruent with how funders are allocating their resources.

The second major change in giving is in the area of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), with some foundations focusing entirely on eliminating racial injustice. These changes in grant allocation were mainly spurred by events in 2020 that brought to light the significant discrepancy among people of different race, ethnicity, gender, disability, and other differences.

Even if your organization was not formed to specifically address equity, there are likely ways in which you do address the topic. And if not, perhaps now is the best time to more purposefully incorporate DEI into your programs. To do so, consider:

- Rethinking your target audience;
- Rethinking your programs;
- And possibly even rethinking your mission.

To help you get the grant in 2021, [download](#) our FREE guide, **7 Steps to Grant Success!** And if you really want help each step of the way, check out our online self-paced course at www.allaboutgrantwriting.com and contact me for your special FUNDED discount code at info@grants4good.com.



Margit Brazda Poirier, GPC, M.S. is Owner and CEO of [Grants4Good LLC](#), a grant consulting company that specializes in online training and grant strategy.

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NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM (NSGP)

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The NSGP provides funding support for target hardening and other physical security enhancements to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack. The program seeks to integrate the preparedness activities of nonprofit organizations with broader state and local preparedness efforts. The NSGP also serves to promote emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration activities between public and private community representatives as well as state and local government agencies. The FY 2020 NSGP supports investments that improve the ability of organizations nationwide to:

- Prevent a threatened or an actual act of terrorism;
- Protect our citizens, residents, visitors, and assets against the greatest threats and hazards;
- Mitigate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters;
- Respond quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of a catastrophic incident; and/or
- Recover through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening, and revitalization of infrastructure, housing, and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of communities affected by a catastrophic incident.

Emphasis is placed on capabilities that address the greatest risks to the security and resilience of the United States, and the greatest risks along the Nation's borders. To ensure the proper allocation of FY2020 funds, priority will be given to projects that enhance the protection of soft targets/crowded places.

ELIGIBILITY

Awards are made to State Administrative Agencies (SAAs).

DEADLINE

SAA's were to apply to FEMA on behalf of state and local agencies by April 30, 2020. Local deadlines vary based on state administration.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/nonprofit-security>

FITTING CYBERSECURITY INTO GRANT APPLICATIONS

By **Richard Campo**, *Grants Development Associate on Tech & Cybersecurity at Grants Office, LLC*

While there are few grant programs with cybersecurity as a primary goal, many grants are technology-friendly or technology-neutral, meaning that cybersecurity purchases can fit into the project as a piece of the larger whole. To make grant-funded IT purchases, state and local governments need to connect the dots between the technology they want to buy and achieving the goals of the grant funder. Grant funders, whether the federal government, state governments, or foundations, all have “warm and fuzzy” missions, such as providing broadband to rural communities, building up infrastructure to improve the local economy, or upgrading election security. Funders want to fund these kinds of projects rather than specific products. Much of picking the right grant to purchase technology solutions involves matching available grant programs to projects that your state or local government already wants to implement but does not have the funding necessary.

Often, IT departments do not have experience applying for grants and do not know where to begin when seeking funding for their projects. The first step is usually to ask around with contacts at other departments to see if they are already applying for grants that could use technology as a piece of the project. Police, fire, and emergency medical services (EMS) departments often have experience applying for grants and their own grant writers either on staff or contracted. Other common departments that often have grants experience include transportation, emergency management, health, and social services departments. Any of these agencies could make a good partner for an IT department looking to apply for grant funding. For example, a law enforcement agency may need a new cybersecurity solution to protect sensitive information such as victim records or cases involving juveniles to comply with Criminal Justice Information Services, or CJIS. Similarly, a health and human services department may need to protect its case files for victims of abuse or private health records to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Both these cases provide opportunities for an IT department to assist the partner department in an overlapping project.

One advantage of partnering with another agency is that the partner agency can take some of the application burden off your department. However, many IT departments do not have the extra time to coordinate with a partner agency. If so, there are still grants for which IT departments can be the lead applicant, such as the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP), Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), and the 2020 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Election Security Funds. These programs are for anti-terrorism, hazard preparedness, and election cybersecurity projects, respectively. Cybersecurity is essential for preventing ransomware attacks from foreign and domestic actors, protecting sensitive data even in the event of a disaster, and securing elections to ensure their democratic legitimacy.



State and local IT departments often need more funding to adequately protect their end users, and grants are often an overlooked but valuable source of funding for IT projects.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FROM IT DEPARTMENTS

Cybersecurity in Grant Applications

A common question from IT departments is how to position cybersecurity or technology funding more generally in a grant application. As stated previously, most grants are technology-neutral or technology-friendly. The funder will not usually be interested in your technology purchases, but instead will be interested in the project that those technology purchases will augment. It is the applicant's responsibility to explain how each purchase made with grant funds is necessary to achieving the funder's goals for the program. For a homeland security or emergency preparedness grant, the applicant must explain how the cybersecurity purchases are necessary to prevent and prepare for terrorist attacks or natural disasters. In this case, possible justifications include preventing digital domestic or foreign terrorist attacks, creating resilient systems in the event that some systems are taken down due to an attack or natural disaster, or ensuring that systems remain secure in the event of a natural or human-made hazard.

Law enforcement grants are also a good opportunity to fund IT projects since law enforcement departments tend to have more technological needs than the average department and there are many grant opportunities available to them. Law enforcement grants that tend to be the most tech-friendly include the Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services' (COPS) School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP), and the Body-worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program (BWC PIP). JAG explicitly funds technology for law enforcement purposes, SVPP funds communications equipment for schools and local law enforcement to contact each other, and BWC PIP funds the implementation of new or expanding body-worn camera programs. While these grant programs were not created to fund cybersecurity solutions, each of them allows for cybersecurity purchases as a part of the larger project, whether it be securing police data, communications between a school and the police department, or securing the video storage of body-worn camera footage.

After the Grant Period

Another common question is about sustainability, meaning how to pay for grant-funded projects after the grant funds are expended. Grant funders will not continue to pay for operating costs after the grant period is over, so it is up to the recipient agency to be able to cover the grant project's operating costs after the funding period. One common solution we see for cybersecurity expenditures is to purchase a multi-year cybersecurity subscription service upfront. The most common choice after that is simply to cover ongoing costs in the agency's annual budget. However, you must read the application guidance closely to ensure that the grant program allows for this kind of purchase, as it will vary depending on the program. If for one reason or another this is not possible, and depending on the grant, your agency may be able to reapply for the grant you received once the initial funding period ends. Occasionally local foundations may be interested in helping to fund ongoing expenses, but this is rare given that most foundations only fund 501(c)(3) nonprofits and are only interested in funding projects that align with their missions, which are typically areas such as education, social services, and community development.

Broader Project than Grant's Mission

One last common question is how funding works for expenditures that will partially be for the grant-funded project and partially for other projects. Most federal and state funders will fund the portion of the expense that will go toward the grant project. For example, if 40% of the data that will be secured is relevant to the grant project, then the funder will cover 40% of the cost for that technology. To illustrate, if your agency is applying for a body-worn camera grant, and only 40% of the data storage you are planning to purchase will be used to store body-worn camera footage, then the grant will only cover 40% of the expense in most cases. The easiest way to get more of the technology covered by the grant funds is to purchase cybersecurity and other technology directly relevant to the grant project. To use the homeland security and emergency preparedness example from earlier, more of the cybersecurity costs can be covered by the funder if the cybersecurity goes specifically toward protecting public safety or emergency management data.

CONCLUDING ADVICE

A final recommendation is to contact other departments in your organization to see if IT can be included in any of their existing projects. Many IT departments do not attend budget meetings or reach out to other departments, but these can be valuable opportunities to advocate for the IT department's place at the table. Almost all other departments require technology as part of their operations, but many do not think to include the IT department until after they have already bought new technology and need it installed. A proactive approach from IT departments benefits the partnering department too, since they will know the technology they are purchasing is compatible with their current stock, and they can benefit from the expertise provided by the IT department, especially in identifying hidden costs such as installation and maintenance costs.

It can take some creativity to fit cybersecurity into grant applications, but we have seen success from state and local governments time and time again. The most important idea to take away is that grants fund projects, not products, so you must explain how the cybersecurity solution is necessary for the project. As long as the connection is clear to the funder in the application, your application will be just as competitive as all the other applications, if not more so. Funders often prefer comprehensive projects that bring together several organizations to solve a problem from multiple angles. To maximize your chances of winning the grant, you need to explain how your project achieves the goals of the funder, and what would happen if the project does not receive grant funding. With all this in mind, good luck on your grant application!

Identify other departments at your organizations with IT needs that could be partners on a grant application to help fund cybersecurity projects.

Find a seat at the table at budget meetings to advocate for IT expenses. You can't implement your department's cybersecurity project without the necessary funds!

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR REBUILDING AMERICA (INFRA) PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The INFRA program provides Federal financial assistance to highway and freight projects of national or regional significance. To maximize the value of FY 2021 INFRA funds for all Americans, the Department of Transportation (“The Department”) is focusing the competition on transportation infrastructure projects that support four key objectives:

- Supporting economic vitality at the national and regional level;
- Leveraging Federal funding to attract non-Federal sources of infrastructure investment;
- Deploying innovative technology, encouraging innovative approaches to project delivery, and incentivizing the use of innovative financing; and
- Holding grant recipients accountable for their performance.

FY 2021 INFRA also introduces a new initiative of the Department, INFRA Extra, which provides INFRA applicants additional flexibility to apply for credit assistance under the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 1998 (TIFIA) credit program for those projects which are competitive under the INFRA selection criteria. While this initiative will not impact how any project is evaluated for an INFRA award, nor how any application for TIFIA credit assistance is evaluated (other than as further described in the NOFO), it is the Department’s goal that sponsors of those projects that are designated to receive this flexibility will consider using TIFIA as a part of their financial plan.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are states, metropolitan planning organizations, local governments, special purpose districts or public authorities, Federal land management agencies, and tribal governments.

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by March 5, 2021. Future funding is dependent on Congressional renewal of the FAST Act.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants>

2021 FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND THE FAST ACT

By **Chris Barnes**, *Grants Development Consultant on State & Local Government at Grants Office, LLC*

The passage of the new fiscal budget at the end of December 2020 means that we finally have some clarity as to what this year will bring in terms of federal transportation funding. Broadly speaking, the transportation budget saw a marginal increase in funding in comparison to the 2020 fiscal year budget. Within this new budget, funding to airport activities received a nearly 4% boost in its budget (about a \$639 million increase) while highway infrastructure programs remained primarily flat or saw their budgets slightly reduced.

But some of the major activity surrounding federal transportation grants took place a couple months prior, on October 1st, 2020, when President Donald Trump signed a Continuing Appropriations Act. Among other things, this legislation provided a one-year extension of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation, or FAST Act, which was initially set to expire on September 30, 2020. Essentially, this means that programs funded through the FAST Act will remain, in fiscal year 2021, at an equal amount to the previous year's funding levels.

The FAST Act was originally signed into law by President Barack Obama in December 2015 and has been a major source of federal transportation grants over the past four years. Between 2016-2020, the FAST Act has sought to improve surface transportation infrastructure through activities such as expediting environmental permitting, encouraging public-private partnerships, and supporting the deployment of new technologies or improvements to project delivery. The one-year extension signed by President Trump extends crucial formula funding and programs on which state transit departments rely. However, most relevant for readers of FUNDED are the extensions of a couple of competitive grant programs created by the FAST Act that will be returning this year.

FAST ACT GRANTS

The FAST Act contains formula grants such as the Surface Transportation Block Grant, which is allocated to state departments of transportation to fund highway program and financial support to local agencies. It also contains a couple of competitive grant programs, which fund larger, innovative transportation and infrastructure projects:

Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA)

The INFRA grant funds projects that improve highway and freight infrastructure. INFRA also encourages the incorporation of innovative technologies in project proposals, such as broadband deployment and smart city technology that will improve a region's transportation system. Past awardees have used technologies like connected vehicle technology to improve safety and mobility on highways. They've also used INFRA funds to install broadband fiber in rural areas to help lay the foundation for further economic development.

Advanced Transportation and Congestion Management Technologies Deployment (ATCMTD)

The goal of ATCMTD is to improve the safety and efficiency of transit systems and roadways through innovative technology solutions that can be deployed at a large scale. In the past, this program has funded projects that deploy vehicle communication technologies, safety and security technologies, and other intelligent transportation systems. Other states have implemented mobility projects to connect people to multiple forms of shared transportation, in the process helping to reduce automobile congestion on roadways.

For a large project, the FAST Act specifies that an INFRA grant must be at least \$25 million.

For a small project, including both construction awards and project development awards, the grant must be at least \$5 million.

In 2020, up to \$60 million was available, while awards may be up to \$12 million.

As the grant guidance for these programs makes clear, the Department of Transportation is interested in transportation projects that will have broader positive economic impacts on a region. In other words, they want to see how innovative technologies that are part of proposed transportation projects will foster economic development in urban or rural areas. For example, past INFRA projects have installed fiber in rural areas as part of a larger interstate improvement project, which provide a foundation for additional future broadband expansion. Projects under the ATCMTD program have positioned smart city technologies as tools that encourage increased economic development because of the varied benefits they bring to cities: they make them more navigable for residents, they increase both motorist and pedestrian safety, and they create a greater sense of community amongst city residents.



WHAT'S NEXT FOR TRANSPORTATION FUNDING?

With the FAST Act now slated to expire on September 30, 2021, what comes next? There are a couple of answers to this question, based on both the COVID-related stimulus funding (the latest round signed into law on December 27th) and the federal grants landscape.

At the moment, along with the fiscal year 2021 budget, the latest round of stimulus funding, called the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021, provided nearly \$45 billion dollars in funding for the transportation sector. While much of this will go to supporting airline industry payrolls, there was also \$10 billion allocated for Highway Infrastructure Programs and \$14 billion in Transit Infrastructure Grants to help public transportation agencies continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. First and foremost, these funds are being used to pay worker salaries and essentially keep the lights on for struggling transit agencies. But these funds may also be used toward all eligible operating expenses for rural and urban transit agencies, or for other eligible costs related to a COVID response.

In terms non-stimulus funding, we saw some legislative efforts on that front in 2020. On July 1, 2020, the House of Representatives passed a \$1.5 trillion dollar infrastructure bill calling the Moving Forward Act. The Moving Forward Act touches many areas of society, such as transportation, healthcare, and energy sectors. Within this larger bill, the House placed the INVEST Act (Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America), which is a 5-year, \$494 billion program. The INVEST Act is a sweeping proposal that would prioritize repairing existing infrastructure, investing in clean energy, and making sure that all citizens have equitable access to transit that can connect them to jobs and services.

After the passage of the INVEST Act, the Republican-held senate declared the bill "dead on arrival" and did not take it up. However, in a new Biden administration, coupled with a Democratically controlled House and Senate, there is room for renewed optimism that we will eventually see a new infrastructure bill make its way to President Biden's desk. After entering office, Biden teased some initiatives in his "Build Back Better" infrastructure plan that are designed to modernize highways, bridges, tunnels, as well as continue to expand rural broadband access and invest in the clean energy sector. He intends to present this "Build Back Better recovery plan" before a joint session of Congress sometime in February 2021. Given the bipartisan popularity of infrastructure funding, there's reason for optimism around a new infrastructure package in the coming year!

FUNDING YOUR NON-PROFIT SECURITY INITIATIVES

By Shannon Day, *Grants Development Associate on Public Safety at Grants Office, LLC*

We are tragically aware of the recent rise in school violence incidents in our country. 2018 was statistically [the worst year](#) for gun-related incidents in US schools. In response, the [STOP School Violence Act of 2018](#) was passed. It provides federal grant funding through the Department of Justice for security initiatives in public schools through 2028.

But what about daycare centers, community organizations, hospitals, and houses of worship? In recent years, we have seen an increase in violent attacks and threats against nonprofit institutions. The terrorist attacks on the [Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church](#) in 2015, the [First Baptist Church](#) in 2017, the [Tree of Life Synagogue](#) in 2018, the [Chabad of Poway Synagogue](#) in 2019 prompted the passing of the [Securing American Nonprofit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2019](#). It guarantees funding through the Department of Homeland Security Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) through 2024.

Security cameras can
be used to deter and
record incidents



NONPROFIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM


In response to this continuing rise in domestic extremism, the 2021 federal budget increased funding for the [Nonprofit Security Grant Program \(NSGP\)](#) by 125%, from \$40 million to \$90 million. Clearly, they have seen the need for enhancing security for nonprofits at risk of a terrorist attack. The NSGP, administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a [pass-through grant](#), meaning funds are distributed to each state, then each state issues subawards to eligible non-profit organizations. Each state administers this grant differently, so applicants will need to check their state guidelines for application deadlines and specific requirements unique to the state, but there are three main application requirements across all states.

- **Mission Statement** – The organization’s mission statement should be succinct and up-to-date and should include both the organization type (Ideology-based/Spiritual/Religious; Educational; Medical; or Other) and any policies or practices that may elevate the organization’s risk.
- **Vulnerability/Risk Assessment** – This can be done through an outside security consultant or requested through the organization’s local law enforcement agency. The information from this assessment helps the organization determine and prioritize what security enhancements are needed and will be used in the investment justification portion of the application.
- **Investment Justification** – This is the meat of the application, and is evaluated and scored using the following criteria:
 - **Background** - The symbolic value of the site as a highly recognized national or historic institution or significant institution within the community that renders the site as a possible target of terrorism and any previous or existing role in responding to or recovering from terrorist attacks.
 - **Risk** - DHS defines risk as the product of three principal variables: Threat, Vulnerability, and Consequences. This is where findings from the risk assessment will come into play. An organization is encouraged to include any threats or incidents reported to local police or the insurance company, area crime statistics, including hate crimes, any characteristics that put the organization at higher risk, and news stories about incidents that occurred to similar organizations.
 - **Target Hardening** – This is the proposed activity that addresses the identified threat or vulnerability. This can include security-related training, terrorism awareness/employee preparedness, and physical and cyber security including the installation of authorized equipment.
 - **Milestones** – This includes dates when key activities will be accomplished over the life of the grant period.
 - **Project Management** – Who will manage the project and how?
 - **Impact** – The measurable outputs and outcomes that will indicate that the investment was successful. These should address at least one [National Preparedness Goal](#) core capability.

DHS has created a self-assessment tool specifically designed for [houses of worship](#). This can be used in addition to the existing tools in the project development arsenal to create an organization’s comprehensive security enhancement proposal.

Bollards can protect a building and its inhabitants from a vehicular attack.





Target hardening practices, like shatter-proof glass, bulletproof window sheeting, and security bars can help protect against terrorist attacks.

FOUNDATION FUNDING

If your nonprofit organization is not eligible for NSGP funding, foundation funding may be the way to go. The first step in pursuing any kind of grant funding is building relationships, and this is especially true for foundations. Many local foundations do not have a web presence and rely strictly on word of mouth. Keep an ear to the ground, tap your network, and engage with your community to see what kind of opportunities are out there. The key to securing funding is finding a foundation whose mission aligns with your organization's project goals. For example, a foundation focused on providing healthcare to the elderly may not be the best fit for your daycare center security project. If your organization already has an established relationship with a foundation grant maker, use it. All grant makers want their investment to succeed; foundations are no different. If your organization implemented a successful program through foundation funding, don't be afraid to approach that foundation again—if their mission aligns with your goals.

Whether through the Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) or an area foundation, acquiring grant funding for your nonprofit security initiative is possible. The 2021 NSGP funding opportunity will be announced this spring. The more time an organization dedicates to a grant proposal, the stronger that proposal is. Begin preparing now for the upcoming application window to increase chances of a win.



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO LITERACY PROGRAM (IAL)

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The IAL program supports high-quality programs designed to develop and improve literacy skills for children and students from birth through 12th grade in high-need local educational agencies and schools. The U.S. Department of Education intends to support innovative programs that promote early literacy for young children, motivate older children to read, and increase student achievement by using school libraries as partners to improve literacy, distributing free books to children and their families, and offering high-quality literacy activities.

Proposed projects under the IAL program, based on those plans, may include activities that:

- Develop and enhance effective school library programs, which may include providing professional development for school librarians, books, and up-to-date materials to high-need schools;
- Provide early literacy services, including pediatric literacy programs through which, during well-child visits, medical providers trained in research-based methods of early language and literacy promotion provide developmentally appropriate books and recommendations to parents to encourage them to read aloud to their children starting in infancy; and
- Provide high-quality books on a regular basis to children and adolescents from low-income communities to increase reading motivation, performance, and frequency.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants for IAL grants include:

- High-need LEA;
- National not-for-profit organization that serves children and students within the attendance boundaries of a high-need LEA;
- Consortium of one or more national not-for-profit organizations that serve children and students within the attendance boundaries of one or more high-need LEAs; or
- Consortium of high-need LEAs.
- A consortium of one or more high need LEAs and one or more NNPs that serves children and students within the attendance boundaries of one or more high-need LEAs

DEADLINE

This program funds on a triennial cycle. The next competition window is anticipated to open in March or April 2021.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-discretionary-grants-support-services/well-rounded-education-programs/innovative-approaches-to-literacy/>



INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO LITERACY PROGRAM (IAL)

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Stilwell Public Schools

PROJECT TITLE

(S215G180062) Stilwell Public Schools (OK)

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$750,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Stilwell Public Schools proposes to create sustainable solutions to literacy challenges in Stilwell, Oklahoma, improving student achievement on standardized literacy assessments and preparing its educators to continue to support a trend of positive literacy gains. Activities will include tiered, research-based K-12 literacy instruction with embedded professional development; rebirth of the library media center; home literacy promotion; and cross-curricular science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) coordination. The proposed project outcomes are to sustainably increase student literacy rates, increase family involvement in school, enhance the school library, provide take-home books for students, and increase access to STEM learning.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://oese.ed.gov/2018-awards/>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.stilwellk12.org/>

SUPPORTING YOUR INSTITUTION'S RESEARCHERS THROUGH RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND INSTRUMENTATION GRANTS

By **Liz Shay**, *PhD, Grants Development Consultant on Higher Education at Grants Office, LLC*

For many universities, faculty research is a large part of the focus of the institution. In order to actually do this work, researchers need funding. They spend a lot of their time writing applications for research grants to support specific projects they would like to do. These grants support individual projects led by (usually) a single researcher. There are thousands of different grant opportunities from a variety of funders and funder types that support this type of work across many different fields. However, sometimes researchers, especially in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, need technology that can't be justified by a single research project or even the entire research program of a particular faculty member.

These needs could be a particular field or department, such as a magnetic resonance imaging scanner (MRI scanner) for brain researchers or a mass spectrometer for chemistry researchers, or they could be for a broad group of diverse researchers who have similar computing needs, such as a high-performance computing system or a better network infrastructure to support large data transfers. Regardless of the specifics, these research infrastructure and instrumentation needs must be addressed in order to maximize the productivity of the institution's researchers. This in turn will result in faculty researchers contributing productively to their respective fields and the institution meeting its research-related goals. Funding this equipment, however, can be a challenge for many universities.

Luckily, there are several research infrastructure and instrumentation grants available from a variety of funders depending on your institution's particular needs. Although discussing all of them is not possible in this article, there are a few very popular ones worth discussing here. The first of these is the Campus Cyberinfrastructure program (CC*) from the National Science Foundation (NSF). This program has several different project focus areas, but one of the most popular is the Data-Driven Networking Infrastructure for the Campus and

Researcher. This area supports projects that address network infrastructure improvements at the campus level to enable rapid transfer of large scientific data sets and other advanced computing. To meet these needs, usually institutions design and build a Science DMZ to separate the STEM research use cases from general campus networking traffic.

Another popular program from the NSF is the Major Research Instrumentation program (MRI), which supports the acquisition or development of a single shared scientific or engineering instrument for research and research training efforts at an institution. This instrument could be what's called an "integrated instrument", which is a collection of equipment that, when combined, forms a single research that only works when all components are brought together. In general, these instruments need to be too costly or otherwise not appropriate to be funded through single researchers or other research grants from the NSF. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) have a very similar program, called the High End Instrumentation program, which will fund expensive research instruments that can only be justified on a shared-use basis and will support projects in basic, translational, or clinical areas of biomedical and/or behavioral research.

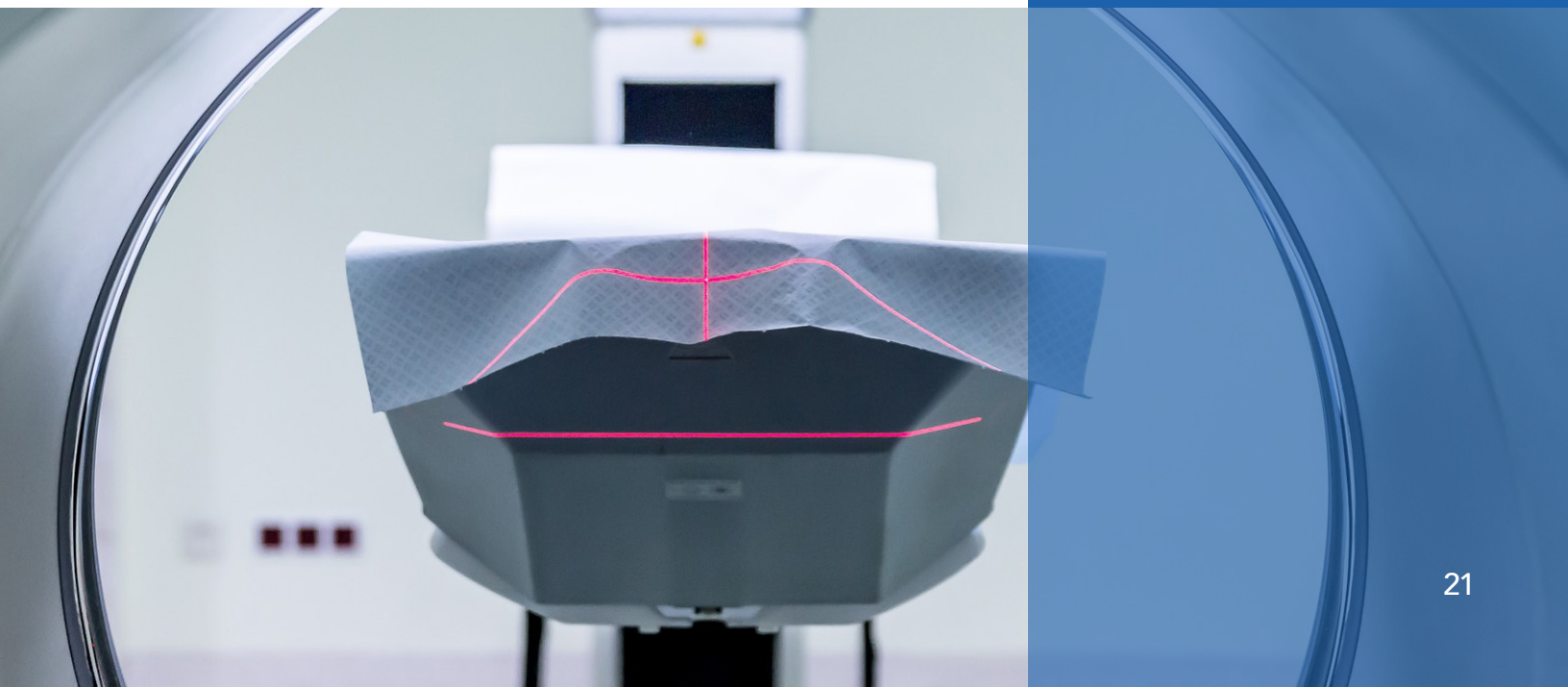
The final program included here is actually a collection of programs from the Department of Defense (DoD) called the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP). These are grants from the United States Army, Navy, and Air Force (and maybe the Space Force starting in the 2021 funding cycle) that support the acquisition of equipment and instrumentation to enhance research-related education in areas of interest and priority to each of these branches of the DoD. These areas represent many different areas in STEM, but reflect the priorities of the Department of the Army Material Command, the Office of Naval Research, and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, depending on the specific version of the DURIP program that an institution chooses to apply to.

If you're interested in applying for funding to support your institution's research infrastructure and instrumentation needs, there are a couple of things to keep in mind.

- Choose the funder and the program carefully: Consider your specific infrastructure and instrumentation needs, as well as the type(s) of research that will be facilitated when selecting a program to apply for. If your instrument or research focus doesn't align well with the funder's interests or has a budget outside the range of the program, then your application won't even be read fully or seriously considered. For example, don't submit an application to the MRI program from the NSF if most of your use cases will focus on medical research as that's not an area that they fund; instead look at the High End Instrumentation program from the NIH.
- Collect your use cases: Who will be benefiting from this new equipment? Funders want to see concrete examples of the research that will be facilitated if they fund you. Generally, you want to include some researchers who are already funded by the organization as well as other researchers that do applicable research. For example, what researchers do you have who are funded by NSF and would utilize a new piece of equipment you will be applying for an MRI grant to purchase? How will their NSF-funded research be better/faster/cheaper if they have this new equipment? Who else at the university do they work with who could also benefit? Are there other departments with researchers who will also utilize the equipment?

Research infrastructure and instrumentation grants can really help an institution support their research needs. In turn, this will support the researchers and help them contribute to their fields. The availability of specific research equipment can also help a university attract new faculty researchers and build their research programs more broadly. Although grants to support individual research projects are the bread and butter of any university's research funding, consider research infrastructure and instrumentation grants to facilitate these projects and grow the scope of research at your institution.

Magnetic resonance imaging scanners are expensive, complex pieces of equipment that can't be funded under individual research grants. However, brain research can be severely limited without access to a research-dedicated scanner as researchers are often limited to using hospital-based scanners only during limited hours to conduct their research. Research instrumentation grants from NSF or NIH can be good options to fund the acquisition of research-dedicated scanner for a university's researchers to use.



CAMPUS CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE (CC*)

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The FY 2020 CC* solicitation invests in coordinated campus-level networking and cyberinfrastructure improvements, innovation, integration, and engineering for science applications and distributed research projects. Learning and workforce development (LWD) in CI is explicitly addressed in the program. Science-driven requirements are the primary motivation for any proposed activity. The CC* program welcomes proposals in five program areas: (1) Data-Driven Networking Infrastructure for the Campus and Researcher; (2) Regional Connectivity for Small Institutions; (3) Network Integration and Applied Innovation; (4) Campus Computing and the Computing Continuum; and (5) Planning Grants and CI-Research Alignment.

Proposals across the program should reflect and demonstrate this partnership on campus. Proposals will be evaluated on the strength of institutional partnerships, as they are expected to play a central role in developing and implementing the eventual network and data infrastructure upgrades.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants are: Universities and colleges (all tracks), which includes:

- Two-and four-year colleges
- Community colleges

Non-profit, non-academic organizations (Only Small Institutions, Cyber Team & CI Planning), which includes:

- Independent museums
- Observatories
- Research labs
- Professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities.

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by March 1, 2021. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504748

CAMPUS CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE (CC*)

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

University of Missouri-Columbia

PROJECT TITLE

CC* Team: Great Plains Regional CyberTeam

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$1,399,479

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project objectives are to: 1) Improve campus awareness and adoption of advanced cyberinfrastructure. 2) Increase the number of campus research computing and data professionals at mentored institutions, especially for institutions with small IT staffs with many job duties. 3) Increase the capabilities of campus cyberinfrastructure resources. 4) Enable development, deployment, and operation of cyberinfrastructure to make science efficient, trusted, and reproducible. The CyberTeam is a cross-institutional team consisting of technical leaders in the region paired with new members of the workforce, graduate and undergraduate students interested in joining the cyberinfrastructure workforce, and the institutional research computing leadership for regional research universities. It provides a model for distributed support teams to support cyberinfrastructure and aid in the development of a cyberinfrastructure engineering and facilitation workforce. Generalized best practices for a regional team of CI mentors including specific mentorship plans, retrospectives, and reference materials are disseminated.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1925681&HistoricalAwards=false

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.umsystem.edu/reach/campus/columbia>



FINALLY! A FY2021 BUDGET FOR ED

By **Elizabeth Evans**, *Senior Grants Development Consultant on K12 Education at Grants Office, LLC*

With just four days left in the calendar year, and almost a quarter of the way through the start of the fiscal year, a federal 2021 budget was finally passed on December 27, 2020. Long time readers may recall previous issues of FUNDED where we have explained the federal budget process and what the typical timeline should look like, but for brevity's sake, let's just say that a tardy passage of the fiscal year budget is nothing new. Regardless, with their funding allocations now in hand, federal agencies now know – with certainty – how much funding they will have available for their basic operations as well as the grant opportunities they host!

The Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) appropriation for the US Department of Education (ED) is approximately \$73.5 billion. Despite the Trump Administration's proposal to slash the Department's coffers by nearly eight percent this year, Congress opted to hold constant or allot additional monies to many well-known programs for a total departmental budget increase of almost ten percent. Following, we'll share some highlights from the FY21 federal budget for ED as well as clarify what this means for some of the most popular re-occurring grant opportunities available to both K-12 and Higher Education providers.

K-12 EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Education Innovation & Research Grants – \$194,000,000 total (a 2.11% increase from FY20).

From the total amount provided for this annual grant program, \$67,000,000 is to be prioritized for funding projects which feature Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) components. Further, \$67,000,000 of the remaining total is also to be used towards funding projects in support of Science, Technology, Education, and Math (STEM) and computer science educational activities. Of the STEM set-aside, projects that prioritize expanding opportunities for populations underrepresented in STEM (e.g. minorities, women, and low-income youth) so the achievement gap may be reduced will be favored. Those interested in applying to this program under either the early or mid-phase tiers should expect to design their proposals around one of these priority areas.

Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grants – \$28,000,000 total (a 3.7% increase from FY20)

This program funds on a triennial basis and so it is likely that the small increase in funding is to account for the fact that the next solicitation for new applicants is expected to be released this spring. Supplemental budget documents from Congress also state that ED continue to distribute awards in geographically diverse areas (including rural and underserved urban communities) where in students from low-income families make up at least 50% of enrollment.

View previous issues of FUNDED where we have explained the federal budget process:

[November 2018](#)

[November 2019](#)

Supporting Effective Educator Development Grants – \$80,000,000 total (held constant from FY20)

With the funding allotted, ED has been directed to continue supporting professional development of educators as well as the preparation of principals and other school leaders. New to 2021, though, is mention of incorporation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) practices so as to provide all benefiting education personnel a strong foundation in child development and learning. While this grant has open to new applicants on a biennial basis in recent years (and FY21 was not an anticipated year for new awardees), it is likely that if the department has the ability to fund “down the slate” from those who applied last year but were not selected that these new awardees will be encouraged to amend their original project ideas include SEL solutions.

Indian Education National Activities – \$7,865,000 total (a 6.79% increase from FY20)

The reason for the increase in support of National Activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title VI Part A Subpart 3 allotment is so that \$500,000 may be reserved to further bolster activities under the Native American Language Immersion Grant Program. Congress has directed ED to ensure these monies are allocated to a broad range of eligible entities (including new and existing language immersion programs and schools) and across multiple geographies to ensure extensive representation of language diversity. The Department has also been reminded that local Tribes and schools know what the best programming structure is for their youth to succeed, so partial-immersion project proposals should be given the same consideration as those proposals featuring full-immersion.

Charter School Programs – \$440,000,000 total (held constant from FY20)

There are several sub-funding buckets available to support charter school education via ESEA Title IV Part C. These opportunities are split among state education agencies, charter management organizations, and independent developers hoping to establish new schools or replicate/expand previous high-quality charter school efforts. For the year ahead, Congress has taken a particular interest how students with disabilities are being supported by Charter School Program grant recipients. Therefore, ED has been direct to also conduct a review of the special education services available at these schools and to provide current awardees technical assistance to ensure compliance. For those planning to apply to any of the grants within this suite of programs in 20201, expect to see proposal questions on how you plan to support students with disabilities.



Safe Schools and Citizenship Education Programs – \$217,000,000 total (a 3.33% increase from FY20)

ESEA Title IV Part F Subparts 2 and 3 are also home to a number of sub-funding buckets which support a broad range of initiatives for school safety, school climate, and wrap-around support services. Funding for the Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) Grants Program and Promise Neighborhoods (PN) Grant Program both received slight bumps, owed to the fact that these biennial and triennial (respectively) grants are funding new projects in 2021. In fact, both grants are open now with proposals due within the first few days of March! FSCS saw a 20% funding increase for a total of \$30,000,000 available, while PN saw a 1% increase for a total of \$81,000,000 funding allocated. Beyond these two popular programs, another reason for the total funding boost as so that the School-Based Mental Health Services Grant Program may have an additional \$1,000,000 available in support of national activities in 2021.

HIGHER EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

Aid for Institutional Development – \$789,054,000 total (a 3.88% increase from FY20)

Under this umbrella of funding are several grant opportunities for colleges and universities made possible through Titles III, V, and VII of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965. These funds aim to provide support to institutions of higher education so that they may increase their self-sufficiency by improving academic programs, institutional management, and overall fiscal stability. Most of the grant programs housed under this umbrella funding received between a one and seven percent funding increase for the year, but three in particular saw a substantial boost to their funding allotment: Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions Program (by 15.21%), Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions Program (by 15.21%), and Strengthening Historically Black Masters Programs (by 10.04%).

Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities – \$13,800,000 total (a 16.95% increase from FY20)

The reason for the substantial funding increase in FY21 is so that ED may establish a technical assistance center for all institutions of higher education, including those not currently participating in the Department's Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities program. With the additional \$2 million, the new technical assistance center will focus on improving inclusive postsecondary education practices for students with intellectual disabilities through translation and dissemination of research and best practices.

Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools – \$55,000,000 total (a 3.77% increase from FY20)

An additional \$2 million has been allotted to the program for the year ahead, which could mean as many as 10 additional awards being granted over the usual expected (based on the previous competition's average award size). For context, over 135 awards were granted to colleges and universities in 2020 so that they may provide on-campus childcare services to low-income parents who are enrolled as students at the institution. Further, ED has been directed by Congress to now provide a 90-day application period for the FY21 competition rather than the usual 30-day window. This directive aimed at addressing previous concerns over insufficient time allotments for proposal submission.

Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education – \$41,000,000 total (a 67.35% increase from FY20)

The Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) is another broad umbrella program from the HEA, specifically Part B of Title VII, under which several funding opportunities are housed. Broadly, FIPSE aims to improve postsecondary education through addressing a variety of rotating concerns. Therefore, FIPSE grant awards are usually centered around implementing innovative educational report ideas, conducting evaluation on those innovations, and dissemination of project results. Of the eight FIPSE grant programs noted in ED's budget for FY21, half are new funding opportunities! New FY21 FIPSE funding buckets include: Basic Need Grants (\$5 million), Modeling and Simulation Programs (\$7 million), establishing a Center of Education Excellence (\$2 million), and Transitioning Gang-Involved Youth to Higher Education (\$1 million). Expected activities for each of these new funding streams is further described in [House Report 116-450](#) (pages 273-276). Three of the four returning FIPSE programs had their funding held constant: Open Textbooks Pilot Grant Program, Centers of Excellence for Veterans Student Success Programs, and Rural Postsecondary and Economic Development Grant Program. Each of these is expected to host a competition for new grantees in 2021. The last of the returning programs, National Center for Information and Technical Support for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities, will have an additional \$1.5 million available this year – likely to bolster efforts under the aforementioned Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities Program.



IN SUMMARY

Overall, the ED will see a budgetary increase in discretionary spending of about \$785 million over the Fiscal Year 2020 level (for a total of \$73.5 billion in FY21 compared to a total of \$72.7 billion in FY20). The above list is by no means exhaustive, however, it does exemplify that funding available for ED programs was either held constant or increased. Hopefully, these highlights also provided you a little insight on what to expect for absolute, competitive, or invitational grant priorities in the year ahead.

Keep in mind that in addition to their annual federal budget allocation, ED has been allotted nearly \$82 billion by Congress to host an additional round of emergency stimulus grant programs for K-12, higher education, and other education providers as well. These COVID-19 emergency response funding opportunities will be made available via the same mechanisms as were established through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. Within CARES, ED was originally provided \$30.75 billion dollars for the establishment of the Education Stabilization Fund – an umbrella program under which various direct and pass-through grant programs (both competitive and entitlement) would be housed. With this additional stimulus funding the total amount of monies flowing through ED in 2021 will be more than doubled.

While this may mean more work for ED's accountants or the State Education Agencies through which many of these funds flow, for those education providers on the local level this rush of funding means that there are ample opportunities on the horizon. Take some time to consider your community's needs (coronavirus-response related or otherwise) and start planning your grants calendar for the year ahead. There is a plethora of ED funding opportunities on the horizon; more than enough to keep any grant professional busy!

Want to see the numbers for yourself or read more about ED's FY21 budget?

See [H.R. 133 Division H](#) pages 417-425

See [Joint Explanatory Statement](#) pages 111-120 and 179-191



FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (FSCS) GRANTS PROGRAM

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

SUMMARY

The Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) program provides support for the planning, implementation, and operation of full-service community schools that improve the coordination, integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families, particularly for children attending high-poverty schools, including high-poverty rural schools. Full-Service Community Schools provide comprehensive academic, social, and health services for students, students' family members, and community members that will result in improved educational outcomes for children. These services may include: high-quality early learning programs and service; remedial education, aligned with academic supports and other enrichment activities, providing students with a comprehensive academic program; family engagement, including parental involvement, parent leadership, family literacy, and parent education programs; mentoring and other youth development programs; community service and service learning opportunities; programs that provide assistance to students who have been chronically absent, truant, suspended, or expelled; job training and career counseling services; nutrition services and physical activities; primary health and dental care; activities that improve access to and use of social service programs and programs that promote family financial stability; mental health services; and adult education, including instruction of adults in English as a second language.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for a grant under the FY2021 Full-Service Community Schools competition, an applicant must be a consortium of—

- one or more Local Education Agencies; or The Bureau of Indian Education; and
- one or more community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, or other public or private entities.

DEADLINE

Applications are to be submitted by March 1, 2021. A similar deadline is anticipated annually.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/communityschools/index.html>



FULL-SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (FSCS) GRANTS PROGRAM

FUNDED PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

FUNDED ORGANIZATION

Austin Voices For Education and Youth

PROJECT TITLE

Lanier FSCS Project

AMOUNT FUNDED

\$2,482,865

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project plan is to foster and sustain robust partnerships in the target area that engage and strengthen families, improving their economic chances, connecting them to resources to meet their needs, and providing them with training and supports to help their children succeed in school and the community, as well as to generally improve the educational climate and raise the educational expectations of the community by providing a continuum of adult education opportunities linked to social services supports for all residents.

Goals are to: Provide children in area with the conditions for learning that lead to college and career success; transform the four schools into hubs of activity that create and support a vibrant, healthy community; and create lasting and sustainable progress that engages all residents and community stakeholders in the long-term success of their schools. Outcomes expected include successful students who complete high school and transition to postsecondary training, engaged and stable families that can meet their members' needs, and a stable community that supports lifelong learning within which all residents are productive and thrive.

FOR MORE AWARD INFORMATION

<https://www2.ed.gov/programs/communityschools/awards.html>

ORGANIZATION WEBSITE

<https://www.austinvoices.org/>



2021 Funding for your Healthcare Projects: **STIMULUS AND ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS**

By **Chris LaPage**, *Senior Grants Development Consultant on Healthcare at Grants Office, LLC*

On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, which provides nearly \$1.4 trillion in regular domestic spending in addition to \$900 billion in stimulus funds to address the Coronavirus pandemic. The budget funds federal agencies through September 30, 2021. Nearly half of the domestic discretionary budget is administered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, resulting in numerous grant programs to fund healthcare projects. Considering the public health nature of the pandemic and role of healthcare providers in responding to the crisis, there is additional funding for healthcare providers in the stimulus portion of the legislation. The following is a brief primer on the healthcare-related appropriations included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

HEALTH RESOURCES & SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) focuses on improving healthcare access and overcoming health professional shortages in underserved urban and rural areas. The 2021 budget includes nearly \$7.5 billion for HRSA, a modest increase from 2020 and nearly \$1 billion more than requested in the President's Budget. HRSA generally prefers to disperse funds through a grant mechanism, which is good news for grantseekers as that means we'll likely this increase translate to either more awards or larger award sizes.

HRSA realized a 2.47% increase in funding for its Bureau of Health Professions compared to 2020, for a total exceeding \$1.2 billion. The additional money for health professional education and training initiatives is largely driven by an increase in funding for the training of the behavioral health workforce. Funding remained consistent for most of HRSA's programs for nursing and physician training in primary care settings with small to modest increases in funding.

Funding for HRSA's other priorities also saw small to modest increases in funding, including budgets for federally qualified health centers, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, maternal and child health, and rural health.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE & MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (SAMHSA)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration aims to reduce the impact of substance misuse and mental illness on communities across the United States. In total, SAMHSA's 2021 allocation exceeding \$6 billion represents a small increase over 2020 funding levels. However, the budget maintains the federal government's recent priority of investing in opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery while significantly increasing spending on mental health services. Just like HRSA, SAMHSA generally favors grants as a distribution mechanism as opposed to contracts or other alternatives.

SAMHSA has been allocated \$1.76 billion in funding to address mental health services, which is a nearly 7% increase over 2020 levels. Several grant programs in this arena are seeing increases in funding between 14% and 28%. These include allocations for the Mental Health Awareness Training Grants, the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Grant, suicide prevention and treatment grants, criminal and juvenile justice programs, and assertive community treatment for individuals with serious mental illness.

SAMHSA allocations for substance abuse prevention and treatment are nearly identical to 2020 funding levels. There is a continued emphasis on tackling the opioid epidemic as the budget included new funding for the State Opioid Response Grants (\$1.5 billion). There were some modest increases for certain programs that address opioid/substance abuse training for first responders, as well as funds targeted towards pregnant or postpartum women and building communities of recovery.

SAMHSA Stimulus Funds

The stimulus component of the legislation includes substantial investments in mental health and substance abuse treatment services. The effect of the pandemic and resulting quarantine measures on the mental health status and sobriety of substance abusers cannot be understated. As such, the bill included \$1.65 billion in mental health block grants and \$1.65 billion in substance abuse prevention and treatment block grants. These grants will be sent to the states and onto healthcare providers through subgrants and contracts to deliver essential mental health and substance abuse services. These allocations are in addition to the block grants that will be funded through the regular annual budget.

The stimulus funding also includes \$600 million for the expansion of certified community behavioral health clinics (CCBHCs) that provide community mental and behavioral health services twenty-four hours per day. When combined with the \$250 million in annual appropriations for CCBHCs, there is \$850 million in total funding for these entities included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)

Despite dramatic cuts proposed (nearly \$3 billion) in the President's Budget to research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Congress increased funding for NIH by nearly \$1.25 billion compared to 2020 levels, or \$4.12 billion more than the administration requested. While all institutes and offices received increases over their 2020 funding levels, the biggest beneficiaries include the National Institute of Mental Health (4.34%), National Institute on Aging (10%) and the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (16.39%).

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) received a small increase with a total budget of nearly \$8 billion. Funding for CDC surveillance activity related to the opioid epidemic remained consistent with more than \$475 million in funding included. The Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Grant Program realized an increase in funding and tops out at nearly \$64 million.

CDC Stimulus Funds

In an important indicator of the toll of the pandemic and amount of financial resources it will take to make progress, the CDC received nearly four times as much stimulus funding than their entire annual agency appropriation of nearly \$8 billion. The CDC was allocated \$8.75 billion in stimulus funds for vaccine planning in distribution. A minimum of \$4.5 billion will be sent to states to carry out the activities, but the rest will remain with the CDC for national initiatives. Another \$22.4 billion is allocated to the CDC for contact tracing, testing and surveillance activities associated with the Coronavirus pandemic. However, the bulk of these funds will be distributed to states.

OTHER STIMULUS FUNDING

The stimulus portion of the legislation included \$3 billion in additional funding for the HHS Provider Relief Fund (PRF). The PRF was established through the CARES Act (2020) to provide funds to healthcare providers that sustained extensive revenue losses as elective surgeries were canceled and demand for non-COVID health care declined. The fund has made a series of general distributions to healthcare providers that bill Medicare and Medicaid as well as targeted allocations to providers with the highest admission rates of COVID patients, rural providers, and skilled nursing facilities. Funds can be used to finance healthcare related expenses attributable to the pandemic and offset lost revenue.

The legislation also included \$250 million in stimulus funding for the FCC COVID-19 Telehealth Program. The program was first funded with \$200 million through the CARES Act, but all funding was exhausted by June 25, 2020. The FCC will administer a second round of funding to assist providers with an increased need to deliver telemedicine-based services. The program is expected to open within the next month.

RESOURCES

HHS Budget Bill:

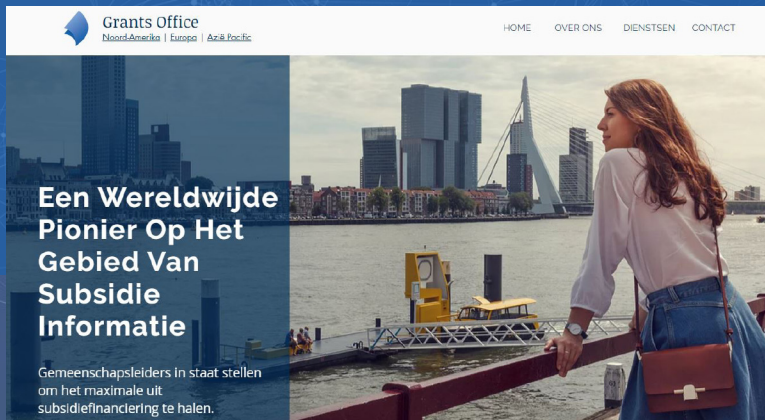
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/133/text>

Appropriations Process:

<https://www.senate.gov/CRSpubs/8013e37d-4a09-46f0-b1e2-c14915d498a6.pdf>

BIG NEWS!

GRANTS OFFICE IS NOW SUPPORTING 12 COUNTRIES IN 3 CONTINENTS!



Get a sneak peak of our Netherlands location at www.grantsoffice.nl and check out the [map](#) of our worldwide coverage!

WE PROUDLY SUPPORT THE 7TH ANNUAL GRANT PROFESSIONALS DAY



INTERNATIONAL
GRANT PROFESSIONALS DAY
FOUNDED BY THE GRANT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
MARCH 12, 2021
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International Grant Professionals Day recognizes and celebrates the work of grant professionals. Grant professionals everywhere rely on the efforts and expertise of our partners. Without these service providers many grant projects would not succeed. Hand-in-hand these professionals serve the common good.

Check out the International Grant Professional Day on March 12, 2021! Register at www.grantprofessionals.org.

UPCOMING WEBCASTS:

Leveraging Higher Education Stimulus Funding to Broaden Access to Technology Resources

Sponsored by Okta
Date: February 24, 2021 - 2pm EST
Register [HERE](#)

Scaling Your IT In A Pandemic: Maximizing Your HHS Provider Relief Fund Payments to Support Your Technology-Rich Projects

Sponsored by Okta
Date: March 23, 2021 - 1pm EST
Register [HERE](#)

Education Stabilization Funding Round 2: Coronavirus Stimulus Funding for K-12 and Higher Education

Sponsored by Lenovo
Date: March 25, 2021 - 2pm EST
Register [HERE](#)

Stimulus Funding to Fund State and Local Government Technology Initiatives

Sponsored by Okta
Date: April 20, 2021 - 1pm EST
Register [HERE](#)

Supporting Your Researchers: Funding for Research Infrastructure/Instrumentation for Higher Education

Sponsored by Okta
Date: May 19, 2021 - 2pm EST
Register [HERE](#)

The K12 Education Funding Landscape: Strategies for Building Identity Management into Your Next Grant Application

Sponsored by Okta
Date: June 15, 2021 - 1pm EST
Register [HERE](#)

RECENT WEBCASTS:

Building Safer Canadian Organizations Through the Cybersecurity Cooperation Program

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Getting Ready for Your Next 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grants Program Proposal

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