

FUNDED

A GRANTS OFFICE PUBLICATION

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**HOW DISASTER
RECOVERY
GRANTS WORK**

**TRENDS IN i3'S
HIGHEST-RATED
APPLICANTS**

**HELP
AFTER
SANDY**

**WHAT THE
FISCAL CLIFF
MIGHT MEAN
FOR GRANTS**



CONTENTS



GRANTS OFFICE

**3 Historically
Black Colleges
and Universities:
Undergraduate
Program**

**4 Funding Response
to Sandy**

**5 Investing in
Innovation High
Scorers**

**6 Disaster Recovery
Grants Overview**

**9 What the Fiscal
Cliff Might Mean for
Grants**

10 Upcoming Events

NEW FUNDED COLUMNS COMING IN OUR DECEMBER 2012 ISSUE!

FUNDED will be rolling out a new format in December. Each month, we'll include columns from our regular contributors, in addition to various featured articles.

New columns include:

Between the Lines with Chris LaPage

An in-depth analysis of the gray areas of funding programs and the policies that impact them

On the Bright Side with Ali Palmieri

Snapshots of how grants are making a positive impact in our communities

Practically Speaking with Susannah Mayhall

A hands-on approach to the ins and outs of proposal development, grant research, and other funding-related topics

As always, we invite you, our readers, to submit feedback, questions, and requests for future content to us at newsletter@grantsoffice.com. If you haven't already, don't forget to subscribe to FUNDED at www.grantsoffice.com/efunded!

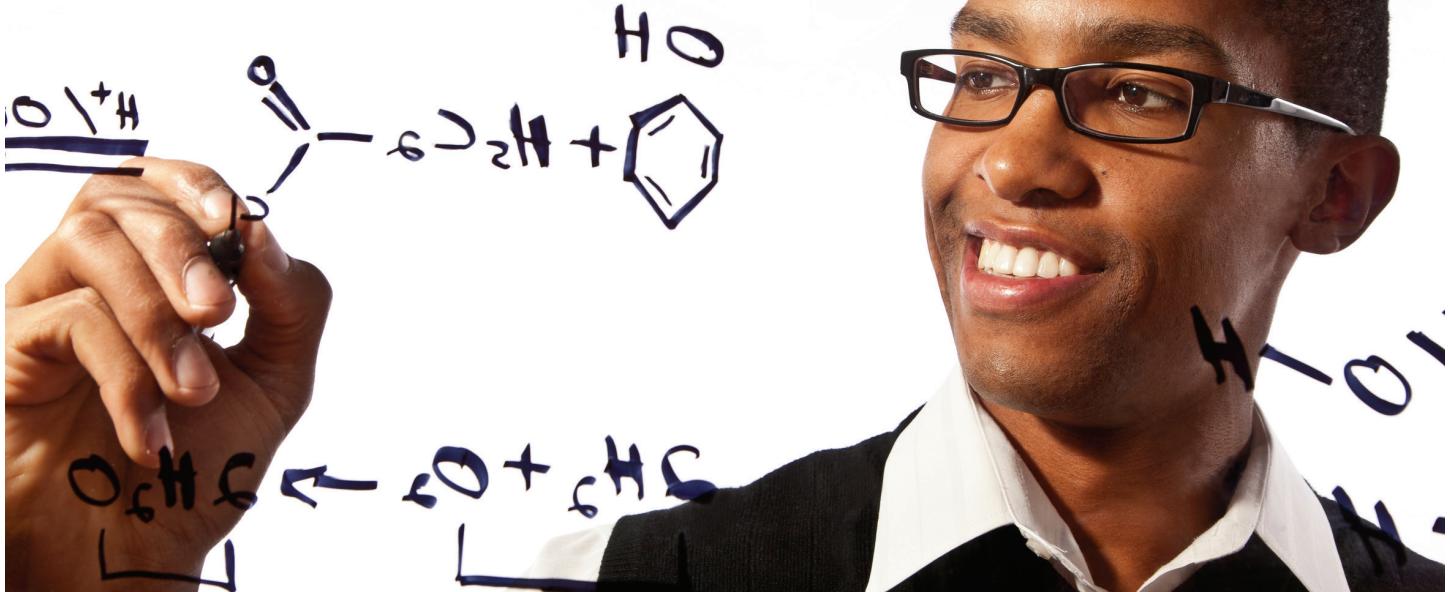
6



8



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT



HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM (HBCU-UP)

SUMMARY Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have awarded a large share of bachelor's degrees to African American students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and HBCUs are the baccalaureate origins of one-quarter to one-third of black science and engineering (S&E) doctorate recipients. To meet the nation's accelerating demands for STEM talent, more rapid gains in STEM for underrepresented minority populations are needed. The HBCU-Undergraduate Program provides awards to develop, implement, and study innovative models and approaches to make dramatic improvements in the preparation and success of underrepresented minority students to participate in the S&E enterprise.

PROJECT PRIORITIES

Support is available for Targeted Infusion Projects, Broadening Participation Research Projects, Research Initiation Awards, Implementation Projects/Achieving Competitive Excellence Implementation Projects, and other funding opportunities.

DEADLINE The deadline to submit a letter of intent is December 10, 2012. The deadline to submit full proposals is February 11, 2013.

ELIGIBILITY Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that are accredited and offer undergraduate educational degree programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

AWARD AMOUNTS Award amounts vary. Approximately \$17.7 million in FY 2013 for new HBCU-UP awards pending the availability of funds. 44 awards are anticipated.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf13516

FUNDING RESPONSE IN THE WAKE OF SUPERSTORM SANDY

By Ali Palmieri

Many people have reached out to help Hurricane Sandy Victims in the wake of the tragedy. One of the biggest helpers is the federal government. The U.S. Department of Labor is continuing support of state and local partners. In the wake of the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy, the U.S. Department of Labor approved a \$1.5 million National Emergency Grant to assist Rhode Island with cleanup and recovery efforts. "Hurricane Sandy unleashed incredible winds and rainfall that affected many lives in Rhode Island," stated Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "As directed by President Obama, the Labor Department has expedited funding in order to offer state and local partners immediate support for their storm recovery efforts." Of the \$1.5 million, \$500,000 will be released initially. Additional funding up to the amount approved will be made available as the state demonstrates a continued need for assistance.

Other organizations are donating significant amounts of money such as the Home Depot Foundation. They are committing \$1 million to immediate relief and long term rebuilding efforts. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) provides emergency funding to qualified animal welfare organizations and government agencies whose communities suffer the impact of natural and other disasters. Eligible nonprofit organizations may apply via the ASPCA's Application for Disaster and Emergency Response and Preparation.

Shopko Foundation, located in Green Bay, Wisconsin, is committed to

assisting the victims of the storm that displaced so many. The retailer has answered the call put out by the American Red Cross by making a \$25,000 donation from the Shopko Foundation to support the Red Cross' critical relief efforts. Shopko has a storied history of supporting relief efforts across the United States and abroad. From donating funds in the aftermath of 9/11 to delivering assistance to Haiti after the devastating earthquake, Shopko seeks to serve as a positive corporate role model.

ABC Television Group collected more than \$17 million in donations from its "Day of Giving," in which programming that aired from morning to night encouraged viewers to make financial donations that would be directed to those Americans that need it the most.

The New Jersey Business Community is pooling a vast amount of funds from organizations such as, JPMorgan Chase, Hess Corporation and

Prudential Foundation. Also, the New Jersey Business & Industry Association provides comprehensive disaster recovery information for businesses at its website, www.NJBIA.org.

Many people are reaching out in any way they can and this includes individuals from all over the country. People are donating money through text messaging, physical donations of money and needed items such as blankets, jackets and other cold weather gear. There are even programs to adopt a family and keep in correspondence with them. They let you know what they need and you send it as you can. There is no doubt that Americans come together during times of tragedy and the amount of money from the federal level to the individual shows the compassion of our country at its finest. ↗



INVESTING IN INNOVATION

HIGHEST-RATED APPLICATIONS ANNOUNCED

By Susannah Mayhall

On November 8, 2012, the Department of Education announced the third round of potential awardees for the Investing in Innovation (i3) competition, a grant program initiated during the Recovery Act of 2009 and awarding nearly \$800 million during its two previous competitions in 2010 and 2011. As in previous competitions, the Department first announced the applicants with the highest scores. In order to receive funding, these applicants must secure the required matching amounts by December 7, 2012. Final awards will be announced by the end of the year and are expected to total more than \$140M.

The 2012 competition marks the first year in which no Scale-Up applicants were listed among the highest-rated applications (HRAs). Among the three categories of i3 grants, Scale-Up grants are the largest (with awards ranging up to \$25M) and carry the strictest evidence requirements. To secure a Scale-Up grant, an applicant must present “strong evidence” that the proposed practice, strategy, or program will have a statistically significant effect on improving student achievement or student growth, closing achievement gaps, decreasing dropout rates, increasing high school graduation rates, or increasing college enrollment and completion rates, and that the effect of implementing the proposed practice, strategy, or program will be substantial and important. In previous competitions, one 2011 Scale-Up grant in the amount of \$24,995,690 and four 2010 Scale-Up grants averaging \$48,179,664 each were made. Although ten Scale-Up applications were submitted in 2012, none were slated to receive an award in 2012.

Notably, only two Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are among the list of HRAs: Central Falls School District in Rhode Island, proposing an ambitious parent and family engagement project, and Clark County School District in Nevada, proposing a STEM coursework model that emphasizes real-world applications. Comparatively, in previous competitions, a total of 21 school districts were named on the highest-scoring lists (7 in 2011 and 14 in 2010). Judging by the purported impact of the Validation HRAs, most school districts would stand little chance of succeeding in this category due to their limited reach. Most of the projects identify student/teacher impact in the tens of thousands, with one project even claiming a projected impact on 164,000 students. With aims set this high, acquiring larger Validation grants seems to be out of reach for local districts.

Given the need to provide high quality evidence demonstrating the impact of their proposed projects and coupled with a broad project impact. For organizations looking to apply to the i3 program in 2013, now is the time to begin collecting data to support their applications and work on developing and strengthening partnerships. In addition, school districts looking to receive i3 funding might want to think in terms of partnerships with a consortium of schools or nonprofit organizations rather than individual LEA-driven applications. The press release listing the highest-scoring applicants for 2012 can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-announces-highest-rated-applications-investing-innovation-2>. Complete data concerning the HRAs, including project summaries, partners, and population served, can be found at <http://www.data.gov/communities/node/38/grants>.

Based on the trends demonstrated in this year's list of HRAs, applicants for future funding rounds should anticip-



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? UNDERSTANDING DISASTER RECOVERY GRANTS

By Dan Casion



In the wake of Hurricane Sandy most folks' attention is drawn to recover and rebuilding. Whether you are a municipality, institution, business, or family, getting things back up running and returning to some sense of normalcy is top of mind. That said, grants that support disaster recovery are not a "one size fits all" circumstance and understanding what is available to assist your recovery efforts and where to go to find them is paramount to maximizing those efforts.

Generally speaking, grants and funding for disaster recovery covers everything from local government to businesses all the way down to individual families.

Let's take a closer look at what is available at the municipal and institutional level first. Obviously, the assistance provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) should be the first stop in your post disaster efforts. Depending on the circumstances and location, the application process can vary. It is strongly suggested that you contact your FEMA representative ASAP to ascertain exactly what assistance is available to your organization and what the application process entitles. By the time this article is published, most local government's and organization's mindset has probably shifted to long term recovery efforts. The Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Disaster Relief Opportunity Program provides a myriad of technical, disaster recovery, economic recovery

planning, and public works assistance. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, however there are certain timing thresholds attached to this program so it is advised that potential applicants contact their branch office to see if/when they can apply. Here's a link to help you track down your local branch office: <http://eda.gov/contacts.htm>.

Businesses small and large (including agriculture and nonprofit organizations) have disaster recovery funding options too. The Small Business Administration (SBA) offers loans via its Business Physical Disaster Loans to replace damaged property to bring back it back to its pre-disaster condition-this includes real property, machinery, equipment, fixtures, inventory, and leasehold agreements. Uninsured and under-insured physical damage is also covered by these SBA loans. The application is a two part process. The first part is fairly easy and can be done on line at the following link: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela/>. After the initial application is completed and is determined to be valid, the SBA will send an inspector for an onsite visit to estimate the value of your damage. Also available from the SBA is the Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL). Simply put, the EIDL provides working capital to small businesses in declared disaster areas so that the business can carry on its operations. The application process is essentially the same as the Business Physical Disaster Loans process described earlier in this paragraph and can be filed at anytime.

For individuals and families, immediate assistance is available from FEMA at www.disasterassistance.gov. This web page provides information on what kinds of assistance may be available to you, a link to an online application, and a link to track the status of your application. Financial assistance is also available for families from the SBA. You don't need to own a business to take advantage of this assistance, whether you're a homeowner, renter, or personal-property owner you can apply to the SBA for a loan to aid in your recovery efforts. Assistance ranges from loans to \$40,000 for personal property like cars, appliances, furniture, and clothing to up to \$200,000 in loans for property repair or replacement. There are a number of considerations and restrictions that do apply specifically to this assistance, so be sure to fully read and understand them before you apply (<http://www.sba.gov/content/home-and-personal-property-loans>).

The opportunities discussed in this article aren't the only disaster recovery funding options out there, so it is strongly advised that you explore what might be available to you from your state or local level as well. A simple search (e.g. "new york state disaster assistance") in your preferred search engine or visiting your state's disaster recover/response web site should lead you to additional options. In the meantime, the entire team at Grants Office wishes a speedy recovery to all those affected by Hurricane Sandy. 

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM THE FUNDED TEAM!

As the holiday season kicks off, we are grateful for YOU, our readers.

We are always looking for ways to make FUNDED more useful, insightful, and relevant to your grant seeking needs. If you'd like to see something in an upcoming issue, drop us a line at newsletter@grantsoffice.com, give us a call at (585) 473-1430, or send us a tweet @GrantsOffice. If you'd like to join the FUNDED conversation by contributing an article, contact Susannah Mayhall for more information at smayhall@grantsoffice.com.

WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT



Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

SUMMARY The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

PROJECT PRIORITIES

For FY2012, CoCs may submit project applications to create one or more Permanent Housing Bonus projects, which are new permanent supportive housing projects that serve chronically homeless individuals and families, with priority on serving those with the longest histories of homelessness.

DEADLINE The deadline to submit an application is January 18, 2013.

ELIGIBILITY States, units of general local government, special purpose units of government (PHAs), private nonprofit organizations, and Community Mental Health Centers that are public nonprofit organizations.

AWARD AMOUNTS Approximately \$1.61 billion is available for funding. The distribution of funds will depend largely on locally determined priorities, overall demand, and renewal eligibility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/FY2012CoCProgramNOFA.pdf>

THE IMPENDING SEQUESTRATION AND TAX RATE DEBATE: IS IT REALLY A CLIFF?

By Chris LaPage

Much has been made about the impending doom associated with the automatic spending cuts (sequestration) and expiration of the tax rates established during the George W. Bush Presidency. All the pundits point to the likelihood of a second recession if politicians in Washington allow the country to go "off the cliff". Sequestration alone will initiate \$1.2 trillion in automatic cuts across the entire budget, which means every sector from education and healthcare to defense spending will be effected. The measure was put in place because it is not palatable to any politician, Democrat or Republican, to see such blanket cuts in discretionary spending. The idea was to give Congress and the President time to come to a long-term agreement on deficit reduction.

Now that we are past the elections, the time to negotiate is quickly approaching. Many fear that the partisan gridlock in Washington will continue and put economic recovery in jeopardy. Furthermore, those tuned into grants worry about the likely negative impact on federal funding programs. Grant programs explicitly funded in the budget would be subject to the automatic spending cut while those at the discretion of federal agencies will likely be curtailed as well since those entities will have less funding overall. While such a scenario is clearly possible, it does not mean that it is probable.

The blanket cuts will likely be enough to get both sides to reach an agreement. For those that don't think it will

happen by the January 1, 2013, the truth is it doesn't really matter. Everyone will point to that date as if it is Armageddon. First and foremost, the \$1.2 trillion in tax cuts that will be initiated are scheduled to take place over nine fiscal years, with the last piece taking effect in 2021. The impact on 2013 federal spending will likely be in the area of \$109 billion. This is still a substantial spending cut that would affect federal grant programs, but probably does not illicit the same eyebrow raising response that is associated with \$1.2 trillion. This is why it is probably more accurate to describe the impending situation as a "staircase" rather than a "cliff".

Say we arrive on January 2, 2013 and no deal has been reached, technically all federally funded agencies and programs will realize a spending cut. However, Congress has the ability to make any legislation it passes retroactive to the start of their session. In other words, the President and Congress can come to a long-term agreement several weeks or months into the 2013 calendar year and rollback the effective date to the January 1, 2013. In such a scenario, the \$109 billion in spending cuts resulting from sequestration will be taken off the books and replaced by the approved deficit reduction package. In this scenario, it is as if the spending cuts never took effect in the first place. While we don't know that that new deficit reduction legislation will include, it is likely to include a much smaller spending cut overall than the sequester. Finally, the final deal will likely be very targeted and will not

result in cuts across every federal program.

No one is advocating that the approaching sequestration should be taken lightly. It is a big deal. However, when it comes to federal grant programs it is important to understand how the spending cuts will roll out and the associated timeline. If a deal is not reached by the end of the calendar year, there is no reason to start panicking. There is plenty of time to negotiate.

Chris LaPage will be following the fiscal staircase situation and its effect on federal grant programs as well as other grey areas associated with grant funding in his new regular column: Between The Lines. ↗





UPCOMING WEBCAST EVENTS

- Funding Educational Innovation—Sponsored by Cisco
December 11, 2012 at 2:00PM EDT
- Getting a Handle on 2013 Funding for Public Safety Initiatives—Sponsored by Cisco
January 15, 2013 at 2:00PM EDT
- 2013 Homeland Security Funding: Bringing IT Home—Sponsored by Cisco
February 12, 2013 at 2:00PM EDT
- Getting the Most out of Your 2013 AFG Application—Sponsored by Cisco
March 12, 2013 at 2:00PM EDT
- Funding for Healthcare Preparedness Initiatives—Sponsored by Cisco
April 9, 2013 at 2:00PM EDT

RECENT WEBCAST RECORDINGS

- Funding to Enhance Technology in Your College Workforce Development Programs—Sponsored by Cisco
Recorded November 13, 2012
- Practice Makes Perfect: Funding Health Professional Education & Training Initiatives—Sponsored by AT&T
Recorded October 23, 2012
- Funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers—Sponsored by Cisco
Recorded October 4, 2012

These and other recordings are available for playback or download at
<http://www.grantsoffice.info/Webcasts.aspx>

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