Budget & Appropriations Update -- Nearly two years in the making, the first $85 billion of automatic budget cuts known as sequestration are due to hit at midnight tonight, March 1, barring nothing short of divine intervention. In practical terms, defense programs face cuts of 7.9 percent, while non-defense activities are due for cuts of 5.1 percent.

As politicians are wont to do, more time is being devoted to assigning blame than to coming up with an alternative to what all sides agree is a poor way to run a government. However, an initial negotiating meeting is scheduled for today at the White House with Congressional leaders and the President planning to discuss sequestration.

But it is important to remember that the key date is March 27, not March 1, because March 27 is when the continuing resolution -- keeping the government funded -- expires. By then, the president and Congress will have to hash out a plan to fund the government or else the slowdown would turn into a full-blown shutdown.

The choices facing our national leaders are relatively simple. Republicans could agree to more taxes, but insist they won’t. Democrats and the White House could blink on a cuts-only package but say they won’t. All sides could just call the whole thing off and either punt or ditch sequestration altogether. Or one side or the other could relent, provided they extract something else from the other side.

Where do things stand with the continuing resolution? House appropriations chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) will bring to the House floor the week of March 4 a “hybrid” bill that adheres to the 2011 debt ceiling deal that caps discretionary spending at $1.043 trillion, but cuts that back to about $974 billion to achieve the goals of the sequester. The measure would consist of (1) a continuing resolution for most federal agencies for the last six months of the year, and (2) new fiscal 2013 Defense and Military Construction-VA bills. That move would, in effect, allow military and veterans’ programs a chance to soften the effects of sequestration by giving them greater flexibility to manage spending.

While Rogers has support from his Republican colleagues, it is unclear whether House and Senate Democrats will go along. But his Senate counterpart, Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), has announced her intention to add other spending bills to the measure if it passes the House, essentially giving other agencies the same flexibility as Defense and the VA. She also could seek to package it with a measure providing alternatives to sequestration.
In the meantime, both Senate Democrats and Republicans have proffered alternatives to the sequestration, neither of which garnered enough votes to pass the Senate on February 28.

While most attention in Washington is focused on resolving the fiscal 2013 budget dilemma, all but lost in the shouting is the fact that President Obama’s fiscal 2014 budget proposal is running seven weeks late. The White House has declined to say when it will issue its detailed spending plan for the fiscal year that starts October 1, but administration officials have been told to prepare for a March 25 release.

The delay, of course, is the result of last year’s fiscal uncertainties, including the year-end fiscal cliff deliberations.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate budget committees are tentatively planning to mark up their spending plans, or budget resolutions, in the second week of March, with House and Senate consideration of the resolutions in the third week of March, just before an Easter/Pasover recess. The deadline for the House and Senate to agree on a joint budget resolution is April 15.

If the President’s budget is submitted after March 25, it would mark the latest budget release (49 days) since Congress mandated the first Monday of February as the deadline starting in 1991.

**New reports issued on sequestration effects**

As part of a steady stream of warnings against the approaching budget sequestration, several government agencies and private groups have released information on potential effects. On February 24 the White House released details on how the across-the-board cuts to federal agencies would affect each state. To read the Florida information click [here](#). The fact sheet says cuts will result in about 6,250 fewer college students receiving work study aid and 1,700 fewer students receiving work-study jobs.

On February 14, the Senate Appropriations Committee held a hearing to allow testimony by various agency heads about the potential effects. Each is detailed in a link on the committee [site](#).

House Appropriations Committee Democrats released a report February 7 warning of the dangers discretionary programs face as a result of spending cap reductions in the Budget Control Act combined with sequestration. The report states that discretionary spending will fall to 2.5 percent of GDP, a historic low, even if sequestration is avoided.

The report also illustrates the breadth of programs affected and includes examples demonstrating the impact of these cuts. The report shows the National Institutes of Health budget has actually decreased 19 percent when adjusted for inflation. Further, the report says the number of research projects supported is at the lowest level since
2002, and warns that continued cuts will negatively impact success rates, delay cures, and discourage young scientists and physicians from pursuing research careers.

A fact sheet accompanying the report says NIH faces a cut of $1.6 billion as a result of sequestration, “meaning fewer and smaller research projects aimed at finding treatments and cures for diseases like cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer’s,” and jobs lost. To view the report, click here.

**UMR report warns of job loss, lost economic output**

United for Medical Research, a coalition of universities and professional organizations, released an updated sequestration report February 6 demonstrating the potential impact of sequestration’s 5.1 percent cut to the NIH. If sequestration takes full effect, the report says it may result in 20,500 fewer jobs and $3 billion in lost economic output. View the report here.

**NSF outlines grant funding approach under sequestration**

With sequestration taking effect, the National Science Foundation sent a notice to university presidents and other research organizations February 27 outlining the agency’s planned approach to dealing with the budget cuts.

The NSF Director wrote that his organization plans “to make the necessary FY 2013 reductions with as little disruption as possible to established commitments, and are using the following set of core principles to guide our sequestration planning activities:

- Protect commitments to NSF’s core mission and maintain existing awards;
- Protect the NSF workforce; and
- Protect STEM human capital development programs.”

The major impact will be reductions to the number of new research grants and cooperative agreements awarded in FY 2013. The total number of new NSF research grants is expected to be reduced by approximately 1,000. All continuing grant increments in FY 2013 will be awarded as scheduled and there will be no impact on existing NSF standard grants, according to the notice. To read the full notice, click here.

**CBO issues positive estimates on Pell and student loan programs**

The Congressional Budget Office issued two new economic projections February 6 related to higher education issues that contained positive news for the stability and future funding of the Pell Grant and student loan programs.
The analysis shows that in Fiscal Year 2012 the Pell Grant program experienced a surplus of $6.652 billion. In FY 2013, assuming Pell is continued at the rate in the current Continuing Resolution of $22.964 billion there will be a cumulative surplus of $9.374 billion.

That surplus would be carried over to FY 2014. If the FY 2014 discretionary appropriation is maintained by Congress at the current FY 2012 level, there would be another surplus of $4.458 billion. The analysis also shows, however, that beginning in FY 2015 and every year through FY 2023, shortfalls are projected (assuming that discretionary appropriations remain at FY 12 levels). The shortfall starts at $1.366 billion in FY 15 and totals $51.4 billion between FY 15 and FY 23.

For student loans, the CBO estimates that borrowing will be reduced in the future compared to previous CBO estimates. Federal loan volume overall will be roughly $7 billion less than estimated for FY 2013 and about $6 billion less than estimated for FY 2014. Apparently, a demand reduction in the number of subsidized Stafford and parent PLUS loans is responsible for the decrease.

To read the reports, click: Pell Grant Programs—February 2013 Baseline and Student Loan Programs—February 2013 Baseline.

**Bill would provide in-state tuition to vets on the GI Bill**

Senators Bill Nelson of Florida, John Boozeman (R-AR) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) introduced legislation February 7 to guarantee that veterans attending public universities under the GI Bill would receive in-state tuition rates.

*The GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act of 2013 (S 257)* is a companion bill to one recently introduced in the House (*H.R. 357*) by House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman, Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL).

Under the bill states will have the choice of whether or not to enroll non-resident vets under in-state tuition and fee rates. However, schools that don’t offer that rate will not be approved for GI Bill benefits for new applicants. Student vets who were attending the school prior to the effective date of the bill will continue to receive GI Bill benefits through 2018.

The VA would also have waiver authority for the 2018 provision in special circumstances, for instance if a student veteran is called up for service while enrolled and attending school. To read the Senate bill, click the icon:
**Education Department releases “scorecard” for prospective students**

A new College Scorecard was released by the Department of Education February 13 following the President’s mention in the State of the Union message the night before.

The interactive Scorecard gives students information in five areas: costs, graduation rate, loan default rate, average amount borrowed, and employment. Students can choose among a number of options – including location, size, campus setting, and degree and major programs. The Department says these data will be updated periodically, and that it plans to publish information on average earnings in the coming year. To view the scorecard, click [here](#).

**Legislation would provide payroll tax credit for R&D at startups**

New bipartisan Senate legislation has been introduced to give a payroll tax credit for research and development costs at startup companies with less than $5 million in revenue.

Sponsored by Sen. Chris Coons (D-Del.), S.193 would provide the new incentive in addition to existing law which allows a dollar-for-dollar credit for research expenses against income taxes. However, many new companies initially have little profit or income tax liability so sponsors believe the new bill could provide much needed support in the early years for a startup. The new legislation would cap the benefit at $250,000.

A similar bill is also under development in the House. In the Senate, the Coons bill is expected to become part of a larger bill begun in the last Congress called Startup 2.0. The bill is being developed by a group of Senators including Florida Senator Marco Rubio to provide incentives for growing businesses and immigration changes to allow more foreign STEM graduates and investors to remain in the country at startups.

**Could this be the year the Medicare SGR is finally repealed?**

After 16 years of dealing with annual suspensions of the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula which dictates reimbursement levels for healthcare providers, bipartisan momentum may be building in Congress toward a repeal of the flawed legislation and a permanent replacement of the formula which was designed to control Medicare costs.

In January, the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) voted once again to recommend to Congress that it repeal the formula. The formal MEDPAC report will be issued in March.
Then on February 4, the Congressional Budget Office for the first time issued a significantly lower estimate of the cost to the nation to permanently repeal the SGR. The new estimate is $138 billion, much lower than the previous amount of $245 billion.

This development has given new life to efforts on Capitol Hill to settle the issue after so many years of temporary “doc fix” extensions to prevent cuts to Medicare reimbursement rates.

After meetings with many physician groups, House Republicans on the Ways and Means Committee with Medicare jurisdiction recently floated an outline of a three-stage solution to freeze current reimbursement rates and repeal the SGR. Committee Chairman Dave Camp (R-MI) and Health Subcommittee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) are leading the effort. The immediate stage would freeze current rates and block cuts. The next phase would have physicians being paid a base rate with an additional pay component based on quality of care delivered. The last phase would include the base rate and adjustments for both quality and efficiency of treatment measures. To read the proposals, click here.

Also adding to the momentum is a new bipartisan bill by Reps. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA) and Joe Heck (R-NV) that is similar to their bill from the last Congress but without the proposed payment offset that was objectionable to Republicans. The bill also has features that are mirrored in the new Ways and Means proposal.

Under the Schwartz-Heck bill, current reimbursement rates would be maintained through 2014 and then a 5-year phased approach to rates based on new models would begin. The bill envisions various pilots by CMS to test models based on quality, outcomes and cost. A modified fee-for-service plan would still exist by the end of the transition but rates could be lower for physicians being paid on that basis exclusively.

The SGR dilemma was part of the end of year negotiations on the fiscal cliff and a permanent solution would likely be discussed in coming negotiations that will occur on sequestration, the debt ceiling increase and the remained of FY 2013 appropriations.

Physician organizations are hoping the current momentum leads to permanent resolution of the issue. Without some action by Congress, reimbursement rates are set to be cut by about 25 percent January 1, 2014 – a deadline that would probably lead to another temporary “doc fix.”

House approves pediatric research and training legislation

The House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate two bills dealing with pediatric research and training on February 4.

The National Pediatric Research Network Act of 2013 (H.R. 225) would permit the National Institutes of Health to fund pediatric research networks comprised of a consortium of institutions to work together in directing research on conditions and
diseases affecting children. The bill would authorize NIH to “award funding through grants, contracts, or other mechanism, to public or private nonprofit entities” to provide training to researchers to tackle research needs in pediatric medicine.

*The Children’s Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2013 (H.R. 297)* is a five-year reauthorization of the GME program for pediatric training hospitals. The bill amends the Public health Service Act to continue appropriations support to children’s hospitals for pediatric medical residency programs.

**Policy Center issues reports on healthcare workforce planning**

The Bipartisan Policy Center has released two new reports on the supply and demand of America’s healthcare workforce in the coming years.

The first report titled “*The Complexities of National Health Care Workforce Planning: A review of current data and methodologies and recommendations for future studies*” cites the lack of information necessary to make good future assessments of the balance of supply and demand in the health care workforce. The second report, “*Better Health Care Worker Demand Projections: A Twenty-First Century Approach*,” explores the way that demand is traditionally reported and how the process can be improved. Currently, each profession predicts its own demand and those numbers are used to inform policy. The Center finds that these numbers are often inaccurate and believes that the system must be improved.

**House committee examines R & D policies**

In its first hearing of the new Congress, the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology reviewed the role of research and development in America’s competitiveness on February 6. Committee documents referenced the National Academy of Science’s 2005 report “Rising Above the Gathering Storm” as a catalyst for examining the nation’s competitiveness. Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) stated that his top priorities for the committee will be to promote legislation that encourages scientific discoveries, space exploration, and innovative technologies.

The hearing focused on examining the positive effects that research and development has had on the country and what policies should be pursued to secure American leadership in innovation.

Three witnesses testified: Richard Templeton, President and CEO of Texas Instruments; Shirley Ann Jackson, President of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute; and Charles Vest, President of the National Academy of Engineering. They spoke on how public versus private R&D investments can impact innovation. Chairman Smith stated that students need to be empowered to pursue careers in STEM fields and be prepared for advanced degrees to obtain the scientific and mathematical literacy needed to
further innovation. To view the hearing or read the committee background charter, click here.

Medical “sunshine act” rule issued by HHS

A long awaited and highly anticipated HHS regulation stemming from the Affordable Care Act was finally released in February. The so called “sunshine act” final regulation will institute the “National Physician Payment Transparency Program” to increase public awareness of financial relationships between drug and device manufacturers and certain health care providers, including physicians and teaching hospitals.

Data collection under this new system will begin August 1, 2013 and will become publicly accessible by March 31, 2014 in an electronic system being developed now by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. To read the final regulation, click here.

NSF offering veteran’s research supplements

The Veteran’s Research Supplement Program at the National Science Foundation is accepting applications from currently funded grantees. NSF plans to fund up to 200 supplements this fiscal year with a max amount of $10,000 each. Those eligible to be added to grants are:

1. Full or part-time veteran undergraduate or graduate students at U.S. Universities and colleges,
2. Full or part-time veteran community college students,
3. Veteran K-12 STEM teachers,
4. Veteran community college faculty, or
5. Veteran students participating in summer research experiences.

NSF makes the program available recognizing that veterans represent a potential underutilized workforce for the U.S. science and engineering research and industry communities. Many veterans are transitioning from active military service to civilian careers and exploring education options through the post-9/11 GI Bill. At a time when the U.S. is challenged with a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce shortage, NSF is exploring alternate pathways of veterans' engagement into STEM fields. To read more, click here.

State Department offering $1 million grant for university partnership in Pakistan

The State Department is seeking proposals from universities interested in establishing a Public Policy and Public Administration partnership with the University of Karachi in Pakistan. The deadline for applications in April 3.
The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the U.S. Consulate General in Karachi are offering $1 million for the program which would have to be implemented over 36 months.

The program envisions collaborative research, curriculum development, and faculty and student exchange. Faculty exchange programs of one semester and graduate student exchange programs of one month are preferred by the University of Karachi. The State Department says that the means of achieving these objectives is purposefully left broad to encourage the submission of innovative proposals tailored to the international education and research goals of both institutions. Applicants are encouraged to consult the University of Karachi when developing a proposal. To read the announcement, click here.

**Highlights of competitive grant opportunities at federal agencies**

**Agency:** Agency for International Development  
**Program:** Innovative Partnerships for Enhancing End to End Early Warning Systems for Hydrometeorological Hazards in South Asia  
**Description:** The program is expected to bring significant new, non-public resources - whether money, ideas, technologies, experience or expertise - to address current weaknesses in early warning systems. OFDA intends to provide the catalytic resources needed to bring partners together, coordinate their involvement, and develop a better understanding of each partner's role as well as how each partner might benefit or further its own objectives through the proposed partnership. The proposed partnership should be able to continue beyond the duration of this program seeking new and innovative solutions to improving the effectiveness of early warning content and dissemination; and further enhancing community resilience without additional external donor resources.

**Due Date:** 3/27/2013  
**Funding:** Total Funding: $2,000,000; Award Ceiling: $400,000  
**Website:** [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=222296](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=222296)

**Agency:** Agency for International Development  
**Program:** Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon Phase II  
**Description:** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking concept papers and later, applications, from Non-Governmental Organizations, education institutions, partnerships and consortia to implement activities to support the Initiative for Conservation in the Andean Amazon (ICAA) with Landscape-based programs.
Due Date: 4/2/2013
Funding: $8,000,000
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=160873

Agency: Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Program: Woody Biomass Utilization Grant
Description: This grant will support programs that: Promote projects that target and help remove economic and market barriers to using woody biomass for renewable energy. Assist projects that produce renewable energy from woody biomass while protecting the public interest. Reduce the public’s cost for forest restoration by increasing the value of biomass and other forest products generated from hazardous fuels reduction and forest health activities on forested lands. Create incentives and/or encourage business investment that uses woody biomass from our nation’s forestlands for renewable energy projects.

Due Date: 4/8/2013
Funding: Total Funding: $3,000,000; Award Ceiling: $250,000
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=220073

Agency: Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
Program: Organic Transitions Program
Description: The overall goal of the Organic Transitions Program (ORG) is to support the development and implementation of research, extension and higher education programs to improve the competitiveness of organic livestock and crop producers, as well as those who are adopting organic practices. In FY 2013, ORG will continue to prioritize environmental services provided by organic farming systems in the area of soil conservation and climate change mitigation, including greenhouse gases (GHG). Two new priorities have been added to support (1) the development of educational tools for Cooperative Extension personnel and other agricultural professionals who advise producers on organic practices and (2) the development of cultural practices and other allowable alternatives to substances recommended for removal from the National Organic Programs National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances. Practices and systems to be addressed include those associated with organic crops,
organic animal production, and organic systems integrating plant and animal production.

**Due Date:** 4/5/2013  
**Funding:** Total Funding: $3,700,000; Award Ceiling: $750,000  
**Website:** [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=219837](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=219837)

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture  
**Program:** Agriculture and Food Research Initiative: Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change  
**Description:** The Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change Challenge Area program focuses on the societal challenge to adapt agroecosystems and natural resource systems to climate variability and change and implement mitigation strategies in those systems. In the Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change Challenge Area RFA, specific program areas are designed to achieve the long-term outcome of reducing the use of energy, nitrogen, reducing GHG emissions from practices, and water in the production of food, feed, fiber, and fuel; reduce GHG emissions from these agroecosystems; and increase carbon sequestration. Project types supported by AFRI within this RFA include multi-function integrated research, education, and/or extension projects and Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants.

**Due Date:** 4/15/2013  
**Funding:** $5,000,000  
**Website:** [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=207033](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=207033)

**Agency:** Department of Agriculture  
**Program:** 2013 Conservation Innovation Grants  
**Description:** NRCS provides funding opportunities for agriculturalists and others through various programs. Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a voluntary program intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

**Due Date:** 3/22/2013
Funding: Total Funding: $25,000,000; Award Ceiling: $1,000,000
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=222253

Agency: Department of Defense
Department of the Army

Program: DoD Applied Research and Advanced Technology Development
Psychological Health Award

Description: This Program Announcement/Funding Opportunity is focused on specific research topics of psychological health and well-being of military personnel and their families. This award mechanism is focused on applied research, defined as research that refines concepts and ideas into potential solutions to military health and performance problems with a view toward evaluating technical feasibility; includes studies and investigations leading to candidate solutions in preparation for initial human testing. This award mechanism will also support advanced technology development which is defined as research for the development of candidate solutions and components of early prototype systems for test and evaluation. Promising drug and vaccine candidates and medical devices and technologies are selected for initial safety and efficacy testing in small scale human clinical trials. Applications may include phase I or early phase II clinical trials, but not late phase II large-scale effectiveness clinical trials or advanced development of products and capabilities. Preliminary data are required for applied research and advanced technology development applications. Awards may not be used to support fundamental basic research, defined as research directed toward attaining a greater knowledge and understanding of fundamental principles of science and medicine relevant to the improvement of medical care in operationally relevant environments.

Due Date: 4/16/2013
Funding: $5,000,000
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=215793

Agency: Department of Energy
Golden Field Office

Program: Diversity in Science and Technology Advances National Clean Energy in Solar (DISTANCE-Solar)

Description: The Diversity in Science and Technology Advances National Clean Energy in Solar program (DISTANCE-Solar) contributes to a successful U.S. solar industry with SunShot (and beyond SunShot) science and
technology research advances paired with the development of a diverse and innovative workforce. The long term desired outcomes of this program are to increase innovation in solar, with a greater diversity of innovative ideas being driven by greater representation from members of currently underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), spur new job creation in the U.S., and integrate more solar into the U.S. energy supply. The near term goal of the program regarding workforce and underrepresented groups is to create a more diverse professional solar workforce, through students’ direct research participation and the exposure of more students to solar-related content in courses.

**Due Date:** 3/25/2013  
**Funding:** $3,000,000  
**Website:** [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221557](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221557)

**Agency:** Department of Energy  
**Golden Field Office**

**Program:** Grid Engineering for Accelerated Renewable Energy Deployment

**Description:** The Grid Engineering for Accelerated Renewable Energy Deployment (GEARED) program that is being issued by the Department of Energy is seeking applications that help to support the increased power system research, development, and analytical capacity while simultaneously growing the expertise and preparedness of current and incoming electric utility sector professionals for high penetrations of solar and other distributed energy technologies. In order to achieve this joint capability and human capacity development, GEARED will support two activities: training consortia that focus on quickly bringing their findings into training and educational initiatives; and a national coordination network that will link these consortia to one another and other relevant power system R&D and training activities

**Due Date:** 4/12/2013  
**Funding:** Total Funding: $12,000,000; Award Ceiling: $1,000,000  
**Website:** [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221493](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221493)

**Agency:** Department of Health and Human Services  
**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**
Program: HIV Co-infection Surveillance Strategies for Program Planning in the Central America Region under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)

Description: The purpose of this program is to assist the Central America Region in strengthening HIV co-infection surveillance and control activities and in improving the availability, integration, and quality of clinical services to HIV patients with opportunistic infections living in the Central America Region. The data provided will be used for program planning and to design interventions to improve care and treatment of persons living with HIV

Due Date: 4/12/2013

Funding: $3,500,000

Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=222313

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources & Services Administration

Program: MCH Navigator Program

Description: In addition to supporting graduate training of maternal and child health (MCH) professionals, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau is committed to advancing the knowledge and skills of practicing MCH professionals. This program supports HRSA goals to improve access to quality health care and services, strengthen the health workforce and improve health equity. Current barriers to continuing education include ever-tightening travel restrictions, capacity shortages, difficulty in taking time away from work, and the cost of trainings. Distance learning and/or blended learning methods can help address these barriers. In addition, in times of severely limited resources, innovation assists in reaching MCH populations, including busy professionals. Therefore, both KP and MCH Navigator projects should be designed to implement new and emerging technologies. Two types of programs will be funded under this initiative: (1) Knowledge to Practice Program (up to nine grants) and (2) MCH Navigator Program (one cooperative agreement). The Knowledge to Practice grants focus on increasing the skills of MCH professionals by facilitating the timely transfer of new information, research findings and technology related to MCH, and updating and improving the knowledge and skills of health and related professionals in programs serving mothers and children. The MCH Navigator cooperative agreement complements the Knowledge to Practice grants, using a website to link learners to open-access webcasts, presentations, instructional modules, and online courses covering essential MCH skills and knowledge.

Due Date: 3/26/2013

Funding: $180,000
Agency: Department of Health and Human Services  
Health Resources & Services Administration

Program: Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program

Description: This announcement solicits applications for the Rural Health Information Technology (HIT) Workforce Program. The purpose of this program is to support formal rural health networks that focus on activities relating to the recruitment, education, training, and retention of HIT specialists. This program will also provide support to rural health networks that can leverage and enhance existing HIT training materials to develop formal training programs, which will provide instructional opportunities to current health care staff, local displaced workers, rural residents, veterans, and other potential students. These formal training programs will result in the development of a cadre of HIT workers who can help rural hospitals and clinics implement and maintain systems, such as electronic health records (EHR), telehealth, home monitoring and mobile health technology, and meet EHR meaningful use standards.

Due Date: 4/15/2013

Funding: $300,000

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=220976](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=220976)

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health

Program: Centers of Excellence for Translational Research

Description: The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) invites new applications from single institutions and consortia of institutions to participate in the Centers for Excellence in Translational Research (CETR) program. The purpose of this program is to support multidisciplinary translational research centers focused on generating, validating and advancing medical countermeasures to NIAID Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

Due Date: 3/26/2013

Funding: $4,000,000

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=208053](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=208053)
Agency: Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health  

Program: Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers 2013  

Description: The purpose of this announcement is to seek applications for the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Research Centers (IDDRCs). The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development invites applications for research center cooperative agreements designed to advance the diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and amelioration of intellectual and developmental disabilities.  

Due Date: 4/9/2013  

Funding: $3,900,000  

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&opplId=216173](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&opplId=216173)

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Agency: Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health  

Program: Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program  

Description: The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences is announcing the continuation of the Superfund Hazardous Substance Research and Training Program, referred to as Superfund Research Program (SRP) Centers. SRP Center grants will support problem-based, solution-oriented research Centers that consist of multiple, integrated projects representing both the biomedical and environmental science disciplines; as well as cores tasked with administrative, community engagement, research translation, research support, and training functions. The scope of the SRP Centers is taken directly from the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, and includes: (1) advanced techniques for the detection, assessment, and evaluation of the effect on human health of hazardous substances; (2) methods to assess the risks to human health presented by hazardous substances; (3) methods and technologies to detect hazardous substances in the environment; and (4) basic biological, chemical, and physical methods to reduce the amount and toxicity of hazardous substances.  

Due Date: 4/10/2013  

Funding: $10,000,000  

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&opplId=206993](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&opplId=206993)

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Agency: Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health
Program: Limited Competition: Brain Disorders in the Developing World: Research Across the Lifespan Grant

Description: This announcement encourages grant applications proposing the conduct of innovative, collaborative research and research training projects, between high income country and low- to middle-income country scientists, on nervous system function and disorders throughout life, relevant to LMICs. The collaborative research programs are expected to contribute to the long-term goals of building sustainable research capacity in LMICs to address nervous system development, function and impairment throughout life and to lead to diagnostics, treatment and prevention strategies.

Due Date: 4/11/2013

Funding: Not Specified

Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=58744

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

Program: Image-guided Drug Delivery in Cancer (R01) Grant

Description: This announcement, issued by the National Cancer Institute, encourages innovative translational research in the development of quantitative in vivo imaging characterization of image-guided drug delivery in cancer, including characterizations of the target, delivery validation, and therapy response. This announcement will support research in development of integrated imaging-based platforms for multifunctional and multiplexed drug delivery systems in cancer. Validation studies in non-human primates or large animal models and first in human studies directed towards translation of IGDD technology into the clinic will be considered appropriate for this announcement.

Due Date: 5/7/2013

Funding: Not Specified

Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=49066

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

Program: Technology Development for High-Throughput Structural Biology Research Grant
Description: This announcement issued by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences encourages grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to develop novel technologies and methodologies underpinning high-throughput structural biology. Applications for new ideas and approaches for protein production and structure determination for classes of challenging proteins are appropriate. Projects related to high-throughput structure determination by X-ray crystallography and NMR, as well as projects addressing other constituent tasks of structural biology, including structural genomics, are relevant to this announcement. Applications should focus on methods development to solve challenging proteins that are not currently amenable to high-throughput structural biology. These challenging proteins include, but are not limited to, membrane proteins, small protein complexes, and proteins from human and other higher eukaryotes.

Due Date: 5/7/2013
Funding: Not Specified
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=50940

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Technology Development for Protein Modeling Grant

Description: This announcement issued by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences encourages grant applications from institutions/organizations that propose to develop novel technologies that will significantly improve the accuracy of comparative modeling methods for protein structure prediction.

Due Date: 5/7/2013
Funding: Not Specified
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=50952

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Investigator Initiated Multi-Site Clinical Trials Grant
Description: The purpose of this announcement is to provide a vehicle for submitting grant applications for investigator-initiated multi-site Phase II or Phase III randomized, controlled clinical trials. The trials may address any research question related to the mission and goals of NHLBI and may test clinical or behavioral interventions. Investigators should consult the NHLBIs Guidelines for Investigator Initiated Clinical Trials (http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/funding/policies/clinical.htm) for more detailed instructions and information about multi-site clinical trial grant applications. Additional information about the mission, strategic plan and research interests of the NHLBI can be found at NHLBIs website (http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/index.htm). This Funding Opportunity Announcement is not intended for support of single-center studies or multi-center observational studies that are not testing an intervention.

Due Date: 5/7/2013

Funding: Not Specified

Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=51365

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

Program: Grants for Research in Glomerular Diseases

Description: The Division of Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic Diseases of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases invites applications from new or established investigators to pursue exploratory investigations of glomerular disease, which would foster development of new ideas enhancing the understanding of disease detection, pathogenesis, pre-emption and/ or treatment.

Due Date: 5/7/2013

Funding: Not Specified

Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=52030

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health

Program: Collaborative Clinical Trials in Drug Abuse Grant

Description: The National Institute on Drug Abuse seeks to increase the clinical collaboration of investigators between multiple clinical research groups, while simultaneously facilitating the study of outcome measures and/or
patient populations that require larger numbers of subjects than any single site can reasonable enroll.

Due Date: 5/7/2013
Funding: Not Specified
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=52559

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Collaborative Research for Molecular and Genomic Studies of Behavior in Animal Models Grant
Description: The purpose of this announcement, issued by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development is to facilitate collaborative research, involving behavioral scientists and investigators with expertise in molecular biology and/or genomics, which addresses questions about the mechanisms of behavior in animal models. Applications from multiple PIs are encouraged.

Due Date: 5/7/2013
Funding: Not Specified
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=52568

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
National Institutes of Health
Program: Home and Family Based Approaches for the Prevention or Management of Overweight or Obesity in Early Childhood Grant
Description: This announcement issued by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and the Office of Disease Prevention invites exploratory pilot/feasibility study and small clinical trial applications from institutions/organizations that propose to test novel home or family based interventions for the prevention or management of overweight in infancy and early childhood.

Due Date: 5/7/2013
Funding: $200,000 award ceiling
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=52610
Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Program: Grants to Expand the Use of Technology-Assisted Care in Targeted Areas of Need

Description: The purpose of the TCE-TAC Program is to expand and/or enhance the capacity of substance abuse treatment providers to serve persons in treatment who have been underserved because of lack of access to treatment in their immediate community due to transportation concerns, an inadequate number of substance abuse treatment providers in their community, and/or financial constraints. The use of technology, including web-based services, smart phones, and behavioral health electronic applications (e-apps), will expand and/or enhance the ability of providers to effectively communicate with persons in treatment and to track and manage their health to ensure treatment and services are available where and when needed.

Due Date: 4/10/2013

Funding: Total Funding: $3,640,000; Award Ceiling: $280,000

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=219854](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=219854)

Agency: Department of Health and Human Services
Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration

Program: Offender Reentry Program

Description: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment is accepting applications for fiscal year 2013 for the Offender Reentry Program grants. The purpose of this program is to expand and/or enhance substance abuse treatment and related recovery and reentry services to sentenced adult offenders returning to the community from incarceration for criminal offenses. Applicants are expected to form stakeholder partnerships that will plan, develop and provide a transition from incarceration to community-based substance abuse treatment and related reentry services. Because reentry transition must begin in the correctional facility before release, limited funding may be used for certain activities in institutional correctional settings in addition to the expected community-based services.

Due Date: 4/16/2013

Funding: Total Funding: $4,393,000; Award Ceiling: $430,000

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=220813](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=220813)
**Agency:** Department of Justice  
Office on Violence Against Women  

**Program:** OVW FY 2013 Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program  

**Description:** Sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking are serious problems on college and university campuses. Addressing these crimes on campuses raises unique issues and challenges that Congress sought to address by creating the Grants to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking on Campus Program (hereinafter referred to as the Campus Program). The Campus Program was authorized under the Higher Education Amendments of 1998 and reauthorized in the Violence Against Women Act of 2000 and the Reauthorization Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). The first Campus Program grants were awarded in 1999. The Campus Program encourages a coordinated community approach that enhances victim safety and assistance, and supports efforts to hold offenders accountable. The Campus Program provides seed funding to support activities that develop and strengthen victim services in cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on campuses. The Campus Program also aims to strengthen security and investigative strategies to prevent and prosecute these crimes on campuses. Campuses are addressing these crimes by developing campus-based coordinated responses involving campus victim services, law enforcement, health providers, housing officials, administrators, student leaders, faith-based organizations, student organizations, and disciplinary boards. To be effective, campus responses must be linked to local criminal justice agencies and service providers, including local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors’ offices, courts, and nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocacy and victim services agencies. Campuses are encouraged to create or revitalize a large-scale impact by adopting policies and protocols that treat violence against women crimes as serious offenses, and by developing victim services and programs that prioritize victim safety, offender accountability, and prevention.  

**Due Date:** 3/28/2013  

**Funding:** $500,000  

**Website:** [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&opplId=220833](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&opplId=220833)  

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**Agency:** Department of State  
Bureau Of Educational and Cultural Affairs  

**Program:** Youth Ambassadors Program with South America
Description: The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announces an open competition for the Youth Ambassadors Program with South America. Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to recruit and select youth and adult participants, to provide the participants with three-week exchanges focused on civic education, community service, and youth leadership development, and to support follow-on projects in their home communities. Exchange delegations will travel from 10 South American countries to the United States, and U.S. exchange delegations will travel to select countries. ECA anticipates awarding one to five cooperative agreements that cover the program’s administration.

Due Date: 3/29/2013

Funding: Total Funding: $1,500,000; Award Ceiling: $1,500,000

Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=220973

Agency: Department of State
Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation

Program: Seminar on Controlling Brokers and Arms Shipments - Montenegro

Description: Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Office of Export Control Cooperation has identified a need to provide Government of Montenegro officials training on how to establish and implement effective controls over arms brokers and the import, export, re-export, transit, and transshipment of arms. This includes controls that comply with regional (i.e., EU) and international requirements; help prevent destabilizing accumulations of conventional arms; and counter the efforts of gray arms dealers to ship arms to prohibited parties or inappropriate end users.

Due Date: 3/21/2013

Funding: Total Funding: $95,000; Award Ceiling: $95,000

Website: https://www.grantsolutions.gov/gs/preaward/previewPublicAnnouncement.do?id=16213

Agency: Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Program: 2013 State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Program
Description: The Aquatic Invasive Species Program intends to award funding for its 2013 State/Interstate Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Management Plan program in accordance with Section 1204 of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Prevention and Control Act. The Act directs the Service to provide cost-share grants for the implementation of State and Interstate ANS Management Plans (ANS Plans) that have been approved by the ANS Task Force. These ANS Plans identify technical, enforcement, or financial assistance activities needed to eliminate or reduce the environmental, public health and safety risks associated with aquatic nuisance species (also known as aquatic invasive species). The ANS Plans focus on feasible, cost-effective management practices and measures to be undertaken by the States and cooperating entities to prevent and control ANS infestations in an environmentally sound manner.

Due Date: 3/31/2013
Funding: Total Funding: $950,000; Award Ceiling: $40,000
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221374

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency
Program: Removal Emergency Response Program

Description: This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals to provide the necessary framework for the participation of individual state and territorial programs in research activities with the mission of advocating for and supporting state removal action and emergency response programs, to enhance these programs’ capabilities to perform time critical and non-time critical removal actions and emergency response activities that address immediate risks to human health and the environment resulting from the release or potential release of hazardous substances. The goal of this cooperative agreement is to promote research of hazardous substance detection, assessment and evaluation of the effects on and risks to human health and the environment as related to state and territorial removal and environmental emergency response programs.

Due Date: 4/1/2013
Funding: Total Funding: $300,000; Award Ceiling: $300,000
Website: http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221204

Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
Program: Challenge Grants
Description: NEH challenge grants are capacity-building grants, intended to help institutions and organizations secure long-term improvements in and support for their humanities programs and resources. Through these awards, many organizations and institutions have been able to increase their humanities capacity and secure the permanent support of an endowment. Grants may be used to establish or enhance endowments or spend-down funds that generate expendable earnings to support and enhance ongoing program activities. Challenge grants may also provide capital directly supporting the procurement of long-lasting objects, such as acquisitions for archives and collections, the purchase of equipment, and the construction or renovation of facilities needed for humanities activities. Funds spent directly must be shown to bring long-term benefits to the institution and to the humanities more broadly. Grantee institutions may also expend up to 10 percent of total grant funds (federal funds plus matching funds) to defray costs of fundraising to meet the NEH challenge. Because of the matching requirement, these NEH grants also strengthen the humanities by encouraging nonfederal sources of support. Applications are welcome from colleges and universities, museums, public libraries, research institutions, historical societies and historic sites, scholarly associations, state humanities councils, and other nonprofit humanities entities. Programs that involve collaboration among multiple institutions are eligible as well, but one institution must serve as the lead agent and formal applicant of record.

Due Date: 5/1/2013

Funding: $500,000

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221173](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=221173)

Agency: Uganda USAID-Kampala

Program: USAID/Uganda Political Competition and Consensus Building

Description: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Uganda is seeking applications to fund one or more organizations through a Cooperative Agreement for a four-year USAID/Uganda Political Competition and Consensus Building activity. The activity will build the capacity of viable political parties and entities with the aim of accelerating political consolidation by assisting the parties to develop national to local party structures, strengthen their organizational bases, and develop responsive, issue-based platforms.

Due Date: 4/5/2013

Funding: $8,000,000

Website: [http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=222255](http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&oppId=222255)