

Trends in Federal Funding for the Biosciences & Physical Sciences

A Perspective from the SUNY Washington, D.C. Office

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How to Get Your Proposal Funded



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SUNY Federal Relations & The Washington, D.C. Office

- Work directly with campus federal relations representatives
- Work directly with SUNY System Administration
- Communicate with members of Congress and their staff
- Collaborate with others in higher education
- Assist, as appropriate, in building relationships with federal agencies



Select Federal Policy Concerns

- Annual Federal Budgets (NIH, NSF, DOD, NASA, DOE, DHS, NOAA, USDA, Dept. of Ed, etc.)
- Federal Student Aid and Higher Education Policy
- ARRA (aka “Stimulus”)
- Indirect Costs
- Patent Reform



Presentation Overview

- Current Status Federal Research Funding
- Update on ARRA-Related Concerns & Opportunities
- Advocacy for Federal Research Funding
- Understanding and Participating in the Competitive Process



The Federal Budget Process

- President typically releases budget request by first Monday in February.
- This year, an overview was released in February, but FY 2010 budget details were not released until May.
- First Obama budget is a \$3.591 trillion proposal.
- More than 60% goes to mandatory programs and interest payments.
- However, the largest single discretionary mission remains national defense and security:
 - \$1.394 trillion for Total Discretionary Spending
 - \$707 billion for Defense & Security Discretionary Spending
 - \$687 billion for Non-Defense Discretionary Spending



\$687 Billion for Non-Defense “Discretionary” Spending

- Except for DOD S&T, funding for research agencies comes out of this \$687 billion discretionary pool...as does funding for education, health, veterans, national parks, etc.
- The FY 2010 Budget sustains the President’s commitment to double the budgets for NSF, NIST, and the DOE Office of Science over ten years (2006-2016).
- During a NAS speech in April, Obama pledged to make the biggest commitment to research in the nation’s history and to commit at least three percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) to R&D.



FY2009 Requests for Select Agencies

Budgets for basic and applied research total \$59 billion, up 0.6% from FY2009 (excluding ARRA funds).

- NIH @ \$30.8 billion, +1.5%
 - Includes +\$6 billion for cancer research
- NSF @ \$7.0 billion, +8.5%
- DOD DARPA @ \$3.2 billion, + 4%
- NASA R&D @ \$11.4 billion, + 10 %



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US Department of Energy FY2010 Proposals

- DOE Office of Science @ \$4.9 billion, + 3.9 percent
- New cross-agency “Energy Innovation Hubs” to receive \$280 million for eight new multi- disciplinary “tablets”
- \$115 million for REgaining our ENERGY Science and Engineering Edge (RE-ENERGYSE) at DOE/EERE
 - Some \$80 million of the total is for higher education programs including fellowships, internships, post-doctoral opportunities and development of interdisciplinary masters programs in areas of clean energy. The remaining \$35 million is for technical training programs, mostly at community colleges, and new energy-related K-12 education efforts.



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American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

- SUNY Website:
- http://www.suny.edu/govtRelations/federal/economic_recovery/
- Major concerns about grants.gov & reporting requirements
- NIH, NSF, DOE all handling ARRA funds differently.



How does Congress learn that these programs are important?

- Colleges & Universities
- Higher Education Associations
- Scientific & Professional Societies
- Ad Hoc Coalitions and Organizations
 - e.g. Energy Sciences Coalition, Coalition for National Science Funding and more
- Letters, briefings, events, campus visits, media, op-eds, constituent visits
- Remember, the President's Budget Proposal is just a "suggestion"



How can I be more competitive for federal funding?

Faculty, Scientists & Investigators

- Do not be afraid to call a program officer
- Attend workshops & symposiums
- Volunteer as a peer reviewer
- Join a national advisory board
- Be involved with your scientific societies
- Share your success stories...with colleagues, and with university/college public relations officials



Comments from Proposal Reviewers...

- Understand the Intellectual Merit Criteria
- Understand the Broader Impact—what are the benefits to society?
- (Original) letters of support*
- Don't assume your past accomplishments are well-known
- Follow instructions (deadlines, page limits, etc.)



...enhancing competitiveness

Administrators, Deans, Department Heads:

- Travel to Washington or other agency offices to learn the “latest and greatest” ...**share information with colleagues.**
- Invite federal agency officials and program officers to campus.
- Host meetings of national advisory groups, workshops, symposiums on your campus
- Encourage or develop mentoring programs
- Promote research/grant accomplishments



Additional Resources

- Grants.gov
- InfoEd/SPIN and other services
- Federal Grants & Contracts Weekly
- AASCU Grants Resource Center



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