



COVID-19 Update

LEWIS-BURKE ASSOCIATES



Congressional and Federal Agency Responses and Opportunities Regarding the COVID-19 Outbreak

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC

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Introduction

Today’s edition of Lewis-Burke Associates’ COVID-19 update contains new information on congressional passage of a second COVID-19 emergency supplemental, deliberations on a third supplemental package and the Administration’s request for additional appropriations in response to the crisis. Also included is new agency guidance and updated research opportunities. All new items are noted and highlighted in yellow. Lewis-Burke will continue to update this document regularly as long as new guidance and opportunities are being released. Please contact Miriam Quintal at miriam@lewis-burke.com with any questions.

Congressional Updates

(NEW) Senate Passes Second Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Package and Begins Consideration of Third Package

On March 18th, the Senate passed, 90-8, the second coronavirus emergency supplemental package, which had previously cleared the House. The Senate is now preparing a third stimulus package, which will cost between \$750 million and \$1 trillion (or above). This is still in flux and would largely consist of payments to individuals, tax deferments, and bailout of key industries (e.g. airlines) structured as loans. The White House proposal largely consists of: (~\$850 billion including more than \$50 billion for the airline industry, \$250 billion for small-business support, and \$500 billion for aid to individuals through direct payments and/or payroll tax cuts.). The Senate is looking to write the bill through three “Task Forces”, with preliminary foci being: Direct financial assistance to individuals and businesses led by Sen.



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Grassley (R-IA), Airline loans/grants led by Sen. Wicker (R-MS); and small business liquidity led by Sen. Rubio (R-FL).

In addition, the White House submitted a requested supplemental appropriations package on March 17 for \$45.8 billion in annual appropriations. Items of potential relevance include:

- **\$441 m for NIAID research**
 - The Budget amendment would increase funding for NIAID to ensure it has the resources beginning October 1, 2020, to continue critical basic and applied research on coronaviruses and other infectious diseases. “The funding would be used to accelerate and expand evaluation of therapeutics and for multidisciplinary research projects across various Institutes and Centers, in response to coronavirus.”
- **\$50 m for NSF research**
 - This request would provide \$50 million in additional FY 2020 funding to NSF’s Research and Related Activities account “for research related to the COVID-19 pandemic to support near real-time research at molecular, cellular, physiological and ecological levels to better understand coronavirus characteristics such as genetics, modes of action, transmission, virulence and population dynamics. Funding would be distributed through NSF’s Rapid Response Research mechanism to rapidly fund quick-response research related to COVID-19.”
- **\$40 m for Department of ED to support an increase in loan servicing costs due to student loan repayment relief changes**
- **\$3.42 billion for CDC.**
 - The funding would support “priority CDC activities such as Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Global Health, Public Health Preparedness and Response, and the Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund, among other activities. The additional funding is also for the proposed America’s Health Block Grant to allow States and localities to address their most pressing non-infectious disease issues.”

Lewis-Burke is still analyzing the final version of the second supplemental package that passed the Senate on March 18. Below is information based on the House-passed version from yesterday’s update.

The House bill includes at least \$3.5 billion in new funding to cover COVID-19 diagnostic testing and nutritional and unemployment benefits. Beyond this new funding, the House bill would include several provisions related to paid sick leave. The bill includes emergency paid leave for 14 days for those who have been diagnosed (or otherwise quarantined) and enhanced unemployment insurance for furloughed workers. The bill would also require that employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers offer two weeks of paid sick leave, as well as provide up to three months of paid family and medical leave for people forced to quarantine due to the virus or care for children or family members because of the outbreak.



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New funding in this supplemental package would include:

- \$1.2 billion for **coverage of COVID-19 diagnostic testing**, including:
 - \$82 million for the Department of Defense to cover the costs of testing for beneficiaries receiving care through the Defense Health Program.
 - \$64 million for testing through the Indian Health Service or through an Urban Indian Health Organization.
 - \$1 billion for the National Disaster Medical System to reimburse the costs of testing and services provided to individuals without health insurance.
 - \$60 million for the Department of Veterans Affairs to cover the costs of testing for veterans receiving care through Medical Services or through Medical Community Care.
 - The bill also requires all health plans, including Medicare, Medicaid, and private plans, to cover COVID-19 testing at no cost.
- \$1.25 billion for **emergency nutritional assistance**, including:
 - \$500 million for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.
 - \$400 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program.
 - \$100 million for food assistance block grants for Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.
- \$1 billion for **emergency state grants for unemployment benefits**, including:
 - \$500 million for staffing and logistical costs to provide immediate additional funding to all states for staffing, technology, systems, and other administrative costs.
 - \$500 million reserved for emergency grants to states which experience at least a 10 percent increase in unemployment.
- \$15 million for the Internal Revenue Service to implement tax credits for paid sick and paid family and medical leave.

Senate Passes GI Bill Legislation

For veterans using GI Bill benefits moving to online/distance learning because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the Senate passed legislation, [S. 3503](#), creating flexibility for GI Bill benefit use to allow for switching to online/distance education programming. The House may consider the legislation when they return to session. The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs press release on the legislation is available at <https://www.veterans.senate.gov/newsroom/minority-news/-senate-passes-bipartisan-tester-moran-fix-to-protect-gi-bill-benefits-as-universities-close-due-to-coronavirus->.

Administration Updates

(NEW) White House to Hold Conference Call for Small Businesses on March 19

The White House Office of Public Liaison will be holding a conference call on March 19 at 2 PM EDT to discuss disaster assistance resources for small business and COVID-19 related guidelines. Senior



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Administration officials will provide updates on the call. RSVP to obtain call-in information at the [RSVP Link](#).

(NEW) White House Launches Online Learning Resources for K-12 and Higher Education

The White House Office of Science and Technology launched an online learning resource, [TechforLearners.org](#), which will serve as a searchable online database of education technology tools that facilitate online classrooms and teaching. At the time of this writing, there were 82 resources for higher education. Education technology companies and others are encouraged to make resources available via the platform.

White House Calls on Tech Community to Create New Machine Readable COVID-19 Dataset

On March 16, the Allen Institute for AI, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET), Microsoft, and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) at the National Institutes of Health released the *COVID-19 Open Research Dataset (CORD-19)* of scholarly literature about COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, and the Coronavirus group. Requested by The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, the dataset represents the most extensive machine-readable Coronavirus literature collection available for data and text mining to date. The COVID-19 resources is available on the Allen Institute's website: <https://pages.semanticscholar.org/coronavirus-research>.

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy also issued a call to action to artificial intelligence experts to develop new text and data mining techniques that can help the science community answer high-priority scientific questions related to COVID-19. Researchers should submit the text and data mining tools and insights they develop in response to this call to action via the [Kaggle platform](#). Through Kaggle, a machine learning and data science community owned by Google Cloud, these tools will be openly available for researchers. The OSTP call to action is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/call-action-tech-community-new-machine-readable-covid-19-dataset/>.

National Academies Stands up New Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and Public Health Threats

In response to COVID-19, and in order to address future threats to public health, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) [announced](#) the formation of the Standing Committee on Emerging Infectious Diseases and 21st Century Health Threats. The Committee was formed upon request from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The standing committee will inform OSTP on issues related to emerging infectious diseases and other threats.



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The standing committee is expected to discuss the following issues, and may provide brief reports on recommendations to meet OSTP and ASPR's needs:

- Technical assistance and/or assessment of response to emerging infectious diseases;
- Availability of and access to information, samples, and other materials to determine the origin and evolution of emerging infectious diseases;
- International coordination and engagement;
- Technical assessment of ecological and evolutionary drivers of disease emergence;
- Approaches to proactive public messaging and strategies to address misinformation; and
- Other science and policy issues relevant to emerging infectious diseases and 21st century health threats.

The standing committee currently features 15 members with backgrounds in a variety of topics such as emerging infectious diseases, public health, preparedness and response, biological sciences, risk communication, and regulatory issues, among others. NASEM notes that it may make additional appointments and will allow 20 days for formal public comment on these appointments. Organizations and members of the public may provide other feedback at <https://www8.nationalacademies.org/pa/feedback.aspx?type=committee&key=HMD-HSP-20-03>.

Federal Guidance Related to Research and Higher Education

Department of Education (ED)

- **(NEW)** On March 17, ED released additional information for accreditors offering regulatory flexibilities during COVID-19 outbreak, including allowing virtual site visits and extensions on accreditation. The guidance document is at <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/20-007covid19accreditorsfromomb317s.pdf>.
- ED has a COVID-19 website of resources at <https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus>.
- ED's Office of Federal Student Aid's website with information for students, borrowers, and parents is available at <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/coronavirus>.
- On March 5, ED posted guidance for institutions of higher education related to interruptions of study, outlining increased flexibility for Title IV aid programs. This includes offering broad approval to move students into distance learning without regular approval and waiving accreditor review requirements. There are some limitations on clock-hour required licensure programs. Guidance is viewable at <https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>.
- On March 12, ED released a FAQ document to assist schools navigating Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and student data privacy requirements as it relates to COVID-19 and possible disclosure of information. Details are available at



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https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions_0.pdf.

- On March 17, the ED released a webinar and a fact sheet for protecting students' civil rights during COVID-19 response. They are both available at <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-webinar-fact-sheet-protecting-students-civil-rights-during-covid-19-response>.
- The Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) has released a video on ensuring web accessibility for students with disabilities for schools using online learning. It is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCMLk4cES6A&feature=youtu.be>.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- NIH has released a General FAQ on Proposal Submission and Award Management Related to COVID-19 which is available at https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_beta.sam.gov_opp_6d5f514d69c94f60ae277f4ec33ca68d_view&d=DwMFaQ&c=eRAMFD45gAfqt84VtBcfhQ&r=eUlbGuChfGAE0yRHBOl0sdTaLZDa6n7IY5-OO6TtvFQ&m=Q3NSKS_TEKbhpS8cy9Wlz2maePIfvDFV3Oel1g1oGd8&s=Ysep97AZIVboAp2AFA5Lvg8rCupnbaWm9p0bWTyX4Y&e=.
 - This is a resource for anyone concerned about COVID-19 impacts on research, travel, field work, and more. It provides answers to any questions a grant recipient may have regarding travel, conferences, and continuity of research.
- NIH has created a central site for its current guidance – including newly updated guidance on late applications, flexibilities for applicants and recipients, and clinical trials - which can be found at https://grants.nih.gov/grants/natural_disasters/corona-virus.htm. NIH leadership is emphasizing flexibility at this point and has indicated they will be sending regular updates to the research community through the NIH Extramural Nexus newsletter.
- For researchers interested in managing animal care during the COVID-19 crisis, the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare is holding a webinar on March 19 on “Pandemic Contingency Planning and Its Impact on Animal Care.” More information is available at <https://olaw.nih.gov/news/special-olaw-webinar-march-19-pandemic-contingency-planning-and-its-impact-animal-care.html>.

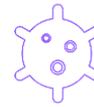
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

- **(NEW)** CMS released more information on the expansion of telehealth benefits during the COVID-19 outbreak. CMS is expanding this on a temporary and emergency basis under the 1135 waiver. A list of FAQs can be viewed here: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/medicare-telehealth-frequently-asked-questions-faqs-31720.pdf> and a list of covered services is linked here: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-General-Information/Telehealth/Telehealth-Codes>.



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- **(NEW)** CMS also released a fact sheet on these new telemedicine changes for providers here: <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-telemedicine-health-care-provider-fact-sheet>. Clinicians can bill for dates of service beginning on March 6, 2020.
- CMS released guidance regarding blanket waivers for hospitals and healthcare facilities and COVID-19. This includes that “CMS will temporarily waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP requirements. CMS will also issue several blanket waivers, listed on the website below, and the CMS Regional Offices will review other provider-specific requests.” More information on the CMS waivers is available at <http://www.cms.gov/emergency>.

(NEW) Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

- The FDA released guidance for industry, investigators, and institutional review boards on the conduct of clinical trials of medical products during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.fda.gov/regulatory-information/search-fda-guidance-documents/fda-guidance-conduct-clinical-trials-medical-products-during-covid-19-pandemic>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CDC has posted interim guidance for administrators of US Institutions of Higher Education at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-ihe-response.html>.
- CDC has posted resources for institutions of higher education at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/index.html>.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for mass gatherings and large community events at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>.
 - The CDC recommends organizers cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next 8 weeks.
- CDC has posted guidance related to international travel and study abroad at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/student-foreign-travel.html>.
- CDC has posted Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease in Healthcare Settings at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/control-recommendations.html>.
- CDC has posted guidance on mental health and coping during COVID-19 at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/coping.html>.
- CDC has posted interim guidance for community-and faith-based organizations at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/guidance-community-faith-organizations.html>.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **NEW:** NSF is regularly updating their coronavirus website with FAQs. It is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/.



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- NSF's interim guidance on travel, panel reviews, meetings related to COVID-19 is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/coronavirus/External_info_w.pdf.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- DOE's guidance for grantees and grant applicants is available at <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2020/03/f72/doe-sc-accommodating-interruptions-to-applicants-awardees-due-to-covid-19.pdf>.
- DOE's COVID-19 website is at <https://www.energy.gov/coronavirus-hub>.
- Regarding DOE grants and deadlines for funding opportunity announcements, DOE has started to extend deadlines for funding opportunities open to research universities. Extensions are still on a case by case basis, and we recommend that researchers contact the lead program manager assigned to the funding opportunity for up to date information on due dates.
 - The DOE Early Career Research Program call, which was due on March 16, has been extended to March 30.
 - The High-Energy-Density Laboratory Plasma Science funding call, which was due on March 16, was extended until April 6.
- A podcast interview with Office of Science Director Chris Fall on the national lab's response to COVID-19 is available at <https://www.energy.gov/podcasts/direct-current-energygov-podcast/national-labs-respond-covid-19#podcast-item-transcript>.
- Information on DOE's resources supporting coronavirus research is available at <https://science.osti.gov/DOE-Resources-Supporting-Coronavirus-Research>.

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

- On March 9, OMB issued guidance to all Executive branch agencies to grant new flexibilities related to such things as notices of funding opportunities, no cost-extensions, expenditure of award funds, etc. The use of new flexibilities will be determined by the awarding agencies. The OMB memo is at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/M-20-11.pdf>.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/ICE/SEVP

- International students on F or M visas technically have restrictions on the number of courses they can take remotely/via distance education. DHS, through Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP), issued flexibility guidance on March 9 for how to handle procedural adaptations for F and M nonimmigrant students. Schools must provide SEVP notice of the operational and procedural changes within 10 business days of the date of the decision. The guidance note is at <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcm2003-01.pdf>.
- Also, in the international arena, on March 11, the President announced a proclamation of suspension of immigration that broadens this policy to the European Schengen Area, comprised of 26 European states. The proclamation is viewable at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-suspension-entry-immigrants-nonimmigrants-certain-additional-persons-pose-risk-transmitting-2019-novel-coronavirus/>.



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- Previously, the White House announced travel restrictions for those traveling from China at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/05/2020-02424/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of-transmitting-2019> and from Iran at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/03/04/2020-04595/suspension-of-entry-as-immigrants-and-nonimmigrants-of-certain-additional-persons-who-pose-a-risk-of->

Department of Defense (DOD)

- **(NEW)** The Office of Naval Research (ONR) has clarified its policy for administrative relief on ONR awards as a result of university or non-profit actions taken in response to COVID-19. At this time, ONR is utilizing OMB M-20-11 guidance for assistance awards (i.e. grants) directly supporting continued research or services necessary to carry out the emergency response related to COVID-19. Additionally, ONR is using a “limited statement” from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Basic Research Office for grantees whose work does not fit the parameters of M-20-11, which is only applicable to awards that support the continued research and services necessary to carry out the emergency response related to COVID-19 during the period formally declared public health emergency. For grants outside those parameters, ONR will continue following current protocols for modifying awards as requested and warranted and will apply the following guidance:
 - “Expenditure of award funds for salaries: DoD may only allow grantees to charge salaries and benefits to currently active awards for any work that is performed to meet the project activities, regardless of location where those duties are performed (i.e. telework eligible). Some approved activities may include data analysis, preparation of articles and papers based on the analysis of the research findings, monitoring sub-recipients, direct charged administrative costs. Applicable indirect costs may be charged to all allowed costs.
 - Travel - Grantees will follow their organization's travel policy regarding any restrictions for approved travel. Further, DOD offices are encouraged to use alternative ways, such as VTC, to allow participation in any mandatory meetings sponsored by the DoD. “
- **(NEW)** The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) contracts office is in the process of developing guidance and Q&A for awardees and proposers, which should be available on its web site this week.
- The DOD coronavirus response website is available at <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/>.

Department of Labor (DOL)

- On March 12, DOL announced flexibility for states to allow unemployment insurance (UI) benefits to be used in cases “where: (1) An employer temporarily ceases operations due to COVID-19, preventing employees from coming to work; (2) An individual is quarantined with the expectation of returning to work after the quarantine is over; and (3) An individual leaves employment due to a risk of exposure or infection or to care for a family member. In addition,



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federal law does not require an employee to quit in order to receive benefits due to the impact of COVID-19.” Details are available at

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200312-0>.

- DOL’s Wage and Hour division has released Q&A documents for employers related to COVID-19 and Fair Labor Standards Act and job-protected leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- The VA is convening stakeholders on COVID-19 education benefit responses and has posted a notice on Facebook in regards to housing allowance questions at https://www.facebook.com/gibillEducation/posts/10156878366516615?_tn_=-R.
- The VA guidance for School Clarifying Officers (SCO) is available at <https://wcet.wiche.edu/sites/default/files/COVID-19-SCO-FAQs-03-12-20.pdf>.
- The WICHE Cooperative for Educational Technologies (WCET), a subgroup of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), released a note today outlining their interpretation of use of GI Bill benefits under COVID at <https://wcetfrontiers.org/2020/03/17/gibill-guidance-provides-some-relief-real-challenges-vet-students/>.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

- NEH’s guidance in response to COVID-19 is at <https://www.neh.gov/news/information-neh-and-covid-19>.

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

- NEA’s FAQ’s in response to COVID-19 is at <https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/FAQs-for-applicants-and-awardees-in-response-to%20COVID19-3.12.20.pdf>.

Department of State

- On March 15, the Department of State issued a “Global Level 3 Health Advisory” and advised U.S. citizens to reconsider travel abroad due to the global impact of COVID-19. More details are available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/travel-advisory-alert-global-level-3-health-advisory-issue.html>.
 - All travelers should visit travel.state.gov for information on the latest travel advisories and should enroll in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) to receive alerts and enable Department personnel to locate U.S. citizens in an emergency.
- The State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announced it will temporarily pause all ECA-funded programs. Details at <https://www.state.gov/temporary-pause-of-international-exchange-programs-due-to-covid-19/>.



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Department of Justice (DOJ)

- The Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has announced a 2-week closing date extension on solicitation applications originally scheduled to close between March 16 and March 31, 2020. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is actively assessing the potential impacts that COVID-19 may have on the FY 2020 grant application process. OJP will continue to monitor the situation to determine if additional adjustments to closing dates are needed. Additional information is available at <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/funding/current> and the OJP Twitter page <https://twitter.com/ojpgov?lang=en>

US Census Bureau

- US Census Bureau guidance on counting college students is available at <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/modifying-2020-operations-for-counting-college-students.html>.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- **(NEW)** USDA has released the following updates on its ongoing operations:
 - “Agricultural Research Service (ARS) continues its mission critical work without interruption. We are continuing to support our stakeholders, including action and regulatory agencies. We will begin planning for new research on the impact of CoVID-19 on food safety and animals.
 - National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is making every effort to produce and deliver official federal agriculture statistics on schedule. We will evaluate data collection and agency operations for the production of each NASS report as COVID-19 conditions change. If we are able to collect enough data and conditions are such that estimates can be established and released, we will publish reports. If there are changes in the publication schedule, notification will be made by a notice distributed to the news media and posted at nass.usda.gov. We ask farmers and ranchers who have received a survey to please respond online. It’s now more important than ever to respond promptly online so that we can deliver the statistics that agriculture counts on, without having to follow up. The URL is on every questionnaire, agcounts.usda.gov. To start, use the survey code on the questionnaire.
 - The Economic Research Service (ERS) is fully prepared to deliver on our regular mission activities and to support Departmental needs for analysis. Nearly 100 percent of staff are telework ready and ERS is operating in a 100 percent cloud computing environment, which facilitates full functionality with remote access.”
- **(NEW)** The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) announced that is extending deadlines for its Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program (<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/agriculture-and-food-research->



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initiative-afri). AFRI issued additional guidance that while other deadlines have not been extended, proposers whose applications would be delayed due to “valid extenuating circumstances” should contact the point of contact listed in the Request for Applications.

- Deadlines are extended as follows and a full list of deadlines can be found at <https://nifa.usda.gov/afri-deadlines>:
 - Proposals due March 19 will be due April 2
 - Proposals due March 26 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 2 will be due April 9
 - Proposals due April 9 will be due April 16
- Programs impacted by this guidance are as follows:

RFA Topic	Previous Deadline	New Deadline
<i>Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products</i>	March 19, 2020	April 2, 2020
<i>Physiology of Agricultural Plants</i>	March 19, 2020	April 2, 2020
<i>Plant Breeding for Agricultural Production</i>	March 19, 2020	April 2, 2020
<i>Food Safety and Defense</i>	March 19, 2020	April 2, 2020
<i>Novel Foods and Innovative Manufacturing Technologies</i>	March 19, 2020	April 2, 2020
<i>Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases</i>	March 19, 2020	April 2, 2020
<i>Nanotechnology for Agricultural and Food Systems</i>	March 19, 2020	April 2, 2020
<i>Pollinator Health: Research and Application</i>	March 26, 2020	April 9, 2020
<i>Food and Human Health</i>	March 26, 2020	April 9, 2020
<i>Mitigating Antimicrobial Resistance Across the Food Chain</i>	March 26, 2020	April 9, 2020
<i>Soil Health</i>	April 2, 2020	April 9, 2020
<i>Water Quantity and Quality</i>	April 2, 2020	April 9, 2020
<i>Sustainable Biomass Feedstock Systems</i>	April 2, 2020	April 9, 2020
<i>Sustainable Agroecosystems: Health, Functions, Processes and Management</i>	April 9, 2020	April 16, 2020
<i>Foundational Knowledge of Agricultural Production Systems</i>	April 9, 2020	April 16, 2020

- NIFA released guidance for individuals who may experience delays in the distribution of funds. The guidance is available at <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants>.



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Research and Funding Opportunities

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

- **(NEW)** The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) issued a Notice of Special Interest (NOSI) “to highlight the urgent need for research on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and on biological effects of its causative agent, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Topics of specific interest to NHLBI include host response, associations with heart, lung, and blood (HLB) diseases, potential impacts on transfusion safety, and clinical outcomes of infected individuals.” Investigators can apply for both Administrative Supplements and Urgent Competitive Revisions through this NOSI. <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-HL-20-757.html>
- The emergency funding package included \$826 million for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), intended to be used primarily for vaccine research and development. NIAID is currently using two mechanisms to award funding to investigators for work within this scope: non-competitive administrative supplements and, for the first time, competitive Urgent Awards. More information about these two opportunities, as well as a list of NIAID’s research priorities related to COVID-19, can be found at [https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.niaid.nih.gov_grants-2Dcontracts_response-2Dcovid-2D2019-2Doutbreak&d=DwMFaQ&c=eRAMFD45gAfqt84VtBcfhQ&r=eUlbGuCHfGAE0yRHB0l0sdTaLZDa6n7IY5-0O6TtvFQ&m=Q3NSKS_TEKbhpS8cy9Wlz2maePfvDFV3Oel1g1oGd8&s=CRL8VdEJ1pV_uBrKopyP1ahd7i_JSDFCjaP0gzuxVrQ&e=.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A_www.niaid.nih.gov_grants-2Dcontracts_response-2Dcovid-2D2019-2Doutbreak&d=DwMFaQ&c=eRAMFD45gAfqt84VtBcfhQ&r=eUlbGuCHfGAE0yRHB0l0sdTaLZDa6n7IY5-0O6TtvFQ&m=Q3NSKS_TEKbhpS8cy9Wlz2maePfvDFV3Oel1g1oGd8&s=CRL8VdEJ1pV_uBrKopyP1ahd7i_JSDFCjaP0gzuxVrQ&e=)
- Elsewhere at NIH, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) received \$10 million in funding in the emergency supplemental package, but no details are available yet on how this funding will be awarded. We also anticipate that, in the coming weeks and months, additional Institutes and Centers will be issuing opportunities for administrative supplements for research on COVID-19 that is related to their underlying programmatic priorities. We will share such information as we get it.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

- **(NEW)** CDC will award approximately \$560 million to states, localities, territories, and tribes using “existing networks to reach out to state and local jurisdictions to access this initial funding.” A breakdown of funds funneled to states and jurisdictions can be viewed here: <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-funding-information.html>.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Fund received \$300 million in the COVID-19 emergency supplemental package. This fund was created in FY 2019 and had roughly \$100 million in reserve funding prior to the emergency supplemental. This funding can be used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to an infectious



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disease emergency, domestic or international. Money from this fund has previously been used to respond to an Ebola outbreak in the Congo.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

- **(NEW)** NSF's Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) on March 5 inviting supplemental funding requests and RAPID proposals for research utilizing data or software approaches to research on COVID-19 related challenges. NSF is also accepting proposals for use of NSF advanced cyberinfrastructure to conduct COVID-19 related research. More information is available <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20055/nsf20055.jsp>.
- NSF released a Dear Colleague Letter on March 4 for proposals "to conduct non-medical, non-clinical-care research that can be used immediately to explore how to model and understand the spread of COVID-19, to inform and educate about the science of virus transmission and prevention, and to encourage the development of processes and actions to address this global challenge." The solicitation invites researchers to submit proposals through the Rapid Response Research (RAPID) funding mechanism. The Dear Colleague Letter is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20052/nsf20052.pdf>

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA)

- **(NEW)** Federal agency partners in the Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasure Enterprise (PHEMCE) are leveraging the existing Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) TechWatch program to engage with industry, academia, and other stakeholders to accelerate technologies related to the novel coronavirus. Traditionally, TechWatch is a virtual meeting with BARDA scientific, technical, and contracting staff, as well as representatives from other interested federal agencies. For CoronaWatch, representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture, among others, will be contacted to participate as relevant and needed. There are specific submission options for therapeutics, vaccines, diagnostics, and other products through CoronaWatch. Additional information on CoronaWatch, as well as submission instructions, are available at: <https://www.medicalcountermeasures.gov/Request-BARDA-TechWatch-Meeting/>
- The Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released an Easy Broad Agency Announcement (EZ-BAA) on February 5 seeking proposals for the development of novel COVID-19 diagnostics. The solicitation notes that "the diagnostics must utilize platforms already cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, with a viable plan to meet requirements for the FDA to consider Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) within 12 weeks of an award." The solicitation is available at <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https->



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[3A_beta.sam.gov_opp_6d5f514d69c94f60ae277f4ec33ca68d_view&d=DwMFaQ&c=eRAMFD45gAfqt84VtBcfhQ&r=eUlbGuCHfGAE0yRHB0l0sdTaLZDa6n7IY5-006TtvFQ&m=Q3NSKS_TEKbhpS8cy9Wlz2maePifvDFV3Oel1g1oGd8&s=Ysep97AZIVboAp2AFA5Lvg8rCupnbaWm9p0bWTyKX4Y&e=](https://beta.sam.gov/opp/6d5f514d69c94f60ae277f4ec33ca68d_view&d=DwMFaQ&c=eRAMFD45gAfqt84VtBcfhQ&r=eUlbGuCHfGAE0yRHB0l0sdTaLZDa6n7IY5-006TtvFQ&m=Q3NSKS_TEKbhpS8cy9Wlz2maePifvDFV3Oel1g1oGd8&s=Ysep97AZIVboAp2AFA5Lvg8rCupnbaWm9p0bWTyKX4Y&e=) and the most recent version of the BAA, updated on March 9, is available at <https://beta.sam.gov/opp/1b46a4169fcb4902b9c4fcb5bf981f7/view>.

Department of Defense (DOD)

- **(NEW)** The U.S. Army's Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC) released a pre-announcement for a potential Request for Project Proposals (RPP) focused on the "development of prototypes aimed to combat the coronavirus (COVID-19)." MTEC seeks technologies that are deployable as soon as possible and no later than December 31, 2020. MTEC's potential areas of interests for the upcoming RPPs include:
 - **"Point-of-care diagnostic** that provides rapid and accurate determination on exposure to COVID-19.
 - **Prophylactic(s)/Therapeutic(s) that can prevent and/or treat in a rapid manner (few hours to 2 days) potentially in a non-hospital environment.** Repurposing FDA-approved drugs/biologics for prevention/treatment of COVID-19 or testing of drugs/biologics that have already demonstrated safety in humans for the prevention/treatment of COVID-19 are preferred.
 - **Disease predictive modeling** that provides early warning through data capture from several different streams of data to include **social media and artificial intelligence (AI)** parameter decision tools that would provide actionable information to medical service providers and command structures.
 - **Patient monitoring, tracking, and management system** for in-home or non-hospital environment patient tele-health services to include interface into the Cerner electronic health record."

There is currently no funding commitment at this time, but "MTEC believes that there may be tens of millions of dollars available for combating COVID-19 programs with a likelihood of follow-on funding." Responses are required no later than **15 days after the official RPP release date**. MTEC's preannouncement can be found [here](#), and Lewis-Burke will continue to monitor for the formal RPP release.

Note: MTEC membership is not required for the submission, but membership will be required for applicants recommended for awards. More information on joining MTEC can be found at <http://mtec-sc.org/how-to-join/>.

- **(NEW)** The North Carolina Military Business Center (NCMBC) recently announced that Project Vulcan released a **COVID-19 Innovation Challenge** call for "innovative capabilities that addresses the challenges presented by COVID-19, as well as its resulting impacts on public safety and national security processes, systems, and resources." Project Vulcan is a collaboration between Special Operations Forces Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics (SOF AT&L), the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, the DOD Information



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Analysis Centers, and the National Defense University” and “incorporates online and offline engagement opportunities to broadly connect SOF operators and acquisition professionals with their counterparts in the high tech community.”

Proposed innovations and solutions for COVID-19 will be shared with a “wide network of government personnel” involved with combatting COVID-19. Responses are due as soon as possible and no later than **March 31, 2020**. NCMBC’s announcement and more information on applying can be found at <http://www.ncmbc.us/announcements/new-vulcan-call-covid-19-innovation-challenge-responses-due-31-march/>.

Note: Applicants must fill out a “scout card” summary describing solutions/capabilities. New members of the Vulcan network can request access at <https://vulcan-sof.com/login/ng2/auth/login?requestedUrl=%2Fhome>.

Department of Energy (DOE)

- DOE is taking steps to address COVID-19 and is soliciting ideas about how the Department and the National Laboratories might contribute resources for science and technology efforts and collaborations. The Department is encouraging the scientific community and others to consider research questions that underpin COVID-19 response and is requesting input on strategic, priority research directions that may be undertaken using DOE user facilities, computational resources, and enabling infrastructure. More information is available in a Dear Colleague Letter on the DOE website at <https://science.osti.gov/-/media/sc-1/pdf/COVID-19-letter.pdf?la=en&hash=2A142317F56F185FC3E2CEF0AEAD6CACB3E70C7F>.