

## NIH and the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Stimulus Act)

### **Stimulus Summary**

Passed Feb. 17, 2009. NIH budget influx of **\$10.4 billion** to help stimulate the US economy through the support and advancement of scientific research. While NIH Institutes and Centers have flexibility to invest in many types of grant programs, they will follow the spirit of the Act by funding projects that will stimulate the economy, create or retain jobs, and have the potential for making scientific progress in 2 years (through September 2010). Expectation is to spend as much as possible in FY 2009. Federal Year is Oct. – Sept.

Breakdown is: **\$8.2 billion** in support of scientific research priorities. Of that, **\$7.4 billion** for Institutes and Centers and Common Fund (CF), based on a percentage-based formula. The remaining \$800 million of that to the Office of the Director (not including for CF), for example to support Challenge Grants, a program designed to focus on health and science problems where progress can be expected in two years.

NCRR gets addt'l **\$1 billion** to support Extramural Construction, Repairs, and Alterations to support of all NIH funded research institutions and another **\$300 million** allocated to support NIH via spending on shared instrumentation and other capital equipment.

**\$500 million** for NIH buildings and facilities: high priority repair, construction and improvement projects on NIH campuses that also align with the overall purpose of the Act .

**\$400 million** for Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER).

Related to Research Funding, NIH will focus on scientific activities in several areas:

**Selection among recently peer-reviewed, highly meritorious R01 and similar mechanisms** capable of making significant advances with a two-year grant & will also fund new R01 applications that have a reasonable expectation of making progress in a two-year grant.

Accelerate the tempo of ongoing science through targeted supplements to current grants. For example, we may competitively expand the scope of current research awards or supplement an existing award with additional support for infrastructure (e.g., equipment) that will be used in the two-year availability of these funds.

NIH anticipates supporting new types of activities that fit into the structure of the Recovery Act. It will support a reasonable number of awards to jump start the new NIH Challenge Grant program. This program is designed to focus on health and science problems where progress can be expected in two years. The number of awards and amount of funds will be determined, based on the scientific merit and the quality of applications. **NIH will also use other funding mechanisms**, as appropriate.

Contact program officer(s) to inquire about opportunities for 1) funding previously well-reviewed but unfunded proposals and 2) supplements to existing, awarded grants. For the latter, look at what you have "on the shelf" and consider a specific aim or two you can add to a currently funded grant.

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### **Stimulus Solicitations**

#### **I Challenge Grants**

As part of the Recovery Act, NIH has designated at least \$200 million in FYs 2009 - 2010 for a new initiative called the NIH Challenge Grants in Health and Science Research, to fund 200 or more grants, contingent upon the submission of a sufficient number of scientifically meritorious applications. In addition, Recovery Act funds allocated to NIH specifically for comparative effectiveness research (CER) may be available to support additional grants. Projects receiving these funds will need to meet this definition of CER: “a rigorous evaluation of the impact of different options that are available for treating a given medical condition for a particular set of patients. Such a study may compare similar treatments, such as competing drugs, or it may analyze very different approaches, such as surgery and drug therapy.” Such research may include the development and use of clinical registries, clinical data networks, and other forms of electronic health data that can be used to generate or obtain outcomes data as they apply to CER.

Website [http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge\\_award](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/challenge_award)

RFA <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-09-003.html>

Opening Date March 27, 2009

Deadline April 27, 2009

Note: See High Priority Challenge Topics following this summary

#### **II Construction Grants (2) - National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)**

1. Recovery Act Limited Competition: Extramural Research Facilities Improvement Program (C06)

RFA <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RR-09-008.html>

Opening Date April 6, 2009

Deadline May 6 for \$2-5M projects, June 17 for \$10-15M projects and July 17 for \$5-10M projects

2. Recovery Act Limited Competition: Core Facility Renovation, Repair, and Improvement (G20)

RFA <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RR-09-007.html>

Opening Date August 17, 2009

Deadline September 17, 2009

#### **III Equipment / Instrumentation Grants (2) NCRR**

1. Shared Instrumentation Grant Program (S10)

RFA <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-028.html>

Opening Date February 23, 2009

Deadline March 23, 2009

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2. Recovery Act Limited Competition: High-End Instrumentation Grant Program (S10)

RFA <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-09-118.html>

Opening Date April 6, 2009

Deadline May 6, 2009