

MESSAGE SENT ON BEHALF OF
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Dear Colleagues:

Over the past week, we have received numerous messages regarding the impact of the Obama stimulus bill on research.

It is evident that a series of clarifications will appear and I will try to forward those. However, to avoid cluttering your E-mail accounts I will be very selective. Also, I recommend that you use the enclosed links to personally keep updated on developments.

The following is a message from AADR of 2/20/2009. Please see link in the AADR message to a message from Acting NIH Director, Raynard Kinston. AADR also has a site with updates - the link is given:

AADR Message and two links:

2/20/2009

Deans and Research Deans,

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the inclusion of \$10.4 billion for NIH provide a tremendous opportunity to progress medical research immensely. For dental research, the opportunities are just as vast. While NIDCR's proportional share will be about \$100 million, which in and of itself is extraordinary given NIDCR's annual appropriation is less than \$400 million, that's just the beginning. There is also \$800 million for the NIH Office of the Director which will fund a Challenge Grants Program, 1.3 billion for the National Center for Research Resources which will support infrastructure and shared instrumentation, and 1.1 billion for comparative effectiveness research. The comparative effectiveness research will be split between the NIH, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Department of Health and Human Services. The dental and craniofacial research community includes the country's brightest scientists conquering complex diseases and they will be very competitive in obtaining these funds beyond our traditional NIDCR "home".

AADR and President Brian Clarkson are committed to providing the most up to date information to our research community so that we may be competitive for all sources of funding.

As such, please see a message

<<http://www.mmsend2.com/lis.cfm?r=193796789&sid=5937821&m=669926&u=IAADR&s=http://www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3849>>

(<http://www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3849>) from Acting NIH Director Raynard Kington describing the NIH opportunities in more detail.

Also, check back on the AADR Web site

<<http://www.mmsend2.com/lis.cfm?r=193796789&sid=5937822&m=669926&u=IAADR&s=http://www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3451>>

(<http://www.iadr.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=3451>) Economic Recovery Act for frequent updates.

Steffensen notes from conference call with Dr. Larry Tabak, NIDCR Director on 2/20/2009.

I attended a conference call on behalf of our school. The following are my notes that I feel may be helpful to our researcher as we try to understand the goals and scope of the package and impact on NIDCR funded stimulus support. Please reconcile any potential differences in message between my notes from the call with official announcements that are distributed.

Goal - essential for understanding focus of funding initiatives

Preserve and create jobs, which will lead to economic recovery

Assist those most impacted

Investments that will lead to greater efficiency, long-term benefits, including infrastructure

Stabilize state budgets,

Amounts of funds

Please see Dr. Kington's message in link above

Important funds:

Directors office available to all researchers - 800 mill.

NCCR - shared instrumentation grants >\$100,000

400 mill for comparative effectiveness research and high priority repair/construction

Duration of funding

It is important to recognize that all initiatives are for 2 years

It is not the intent of the stimulus package to provide for long-term permanent funding increases

Recently reviewed highly meritorious applications that have high likelihood to show progress within 2 years may be funded

Supplements to current grants (at least 18 months left) are intended to stimulate and accelerate research

Challenge grants

New awards with high likelihood to show progress within a 2 year period

100-200 Mill

NIDCR specifically

100 mill received for the institute

QUESTION/ANSWER SESSION with participants in the telephone conference

The responses to a series of questions helped greatly understand the underlying goals of the stimulus package and also clarified specific issues. For specific additional questions, please contact the NIH administrators directly.

Q: What about RFA for R21 grants

A: NIH may release additional funds

Q: Reporting and Accountability requirements

A: There are unprecedented reporting/accountability requirements associated with the stimulus funds

Q: Time line for funding

A: Funds must be obligated within the 2-yr period. Funds must be spent as soon as possible

Q: Construction/Refurbishments

A: 1 billion, through NCRR

More than one application will be accepted per campus

Complex award - consult with NCRR administrators for details

Renovation and repairs preferentially, less likely for construction

Funding by peer-reviewed merit

Announcement will appear very soon - details are being clarified

Q: Will there be requirement for matching funds, i.e. 1:1, from institution for construction funds

A: Consult with NCRR - regulations complex

A: Even though the dental research community typically has not received much funding via NCRR, Dr. Tabak recommended highly that we take advantage of funds from this institute

Q: Will R03 and R21 be included

A: Likely

Q: Which existing grants could be supported via supplements

A: Primarily R01 with at least 18 months left, less likely that R21 grants will get supplements

Q: Process for supplements

A: To accelerate the process, there may be a process combining administrative decisions with/without formal peer review

Pending size of requested supplement, the stringency of peer-review may be increased

Examples of supplements:

T32 fellow without a job could be covered by supplement to R01

To accelerate science, supplements could be provided for college students (meets the expectation of providing jobs, accelerating science)

Q: Priority areas with respect to science

A: Priority will be given to areas in strategic plan

Please submit recommendations to strategic plan that is currently being developed (prior to 2/27 - see NIDCR web site)

Q: Could funds be used for bridge funding

A: Use R56 mechanism; 2 year R01s, goal to keep lab together and increase productivity

Q: Can funds be used to make up for reductions in CTSA budgets

A: No, stimulus funds are not intended to make up for reduced grant budgets

However, stimulus funds can be given as supplements also for CTSA grants

Q: Will K and F grants increase in number

A: Because stimulus funds are for 2 years only, it is unlikely that K and F grants will be granted.

Cannot increased overall number of K and F or T32 positions long-term.

Rather to support fellows, apply for supplements to existing grants

Q: Will construction funds be available for U24 process

A: Possibly

Q: How long will the supplemental funding support recently reviewed meritorious grant applications

A: Funds are only available for 2 years. A grant would not be ensured of more than 2 years of funding

No formula currently available

Individual applications will be reviewed to determine if they can make strong progress in 2 years

Number of goals may be reduced compared to initial application to accommodate 2 year cycle

Q: Content of challenge grants

A: Broad, exciting grants,

Must fit 2-year framework

Highly recommends application for these grants

Q: Review mechanism for challenge grants

A: Funds from Directors office (\$800 mill)

Review via CSR

Applications then assigned to institutes

Institutes can fund additional challenge grants from \$s in institutes

Important to apply - potentially two chances (Directors office, institute)

Applications will be processed in parallel

A: Institutes are currently reviewing potential PIs as candidates for support via supplements

A: Highest preference for supplements to R01, secondarily to R21

Q: Funding for new investigators

A: New investigators will be funded to the same relative extent as presently, i.e. same success rate as overall applicant pool

A: It is a great time for new investigators to apply for R01 grants; better success rate than R21.

Q: What about SBIR. STTR

A: No money have been set aside for those mechanisms

End of meeting.