



CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL REPORT

**New and Updated Guidance and Funding Opportunities related to COVID-19 for
the week of April 20, 2020, for:**

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Key developments of interest from this week include the following.

U.S. Department of Education

- On Tuesday, April 21st, the U.S. Department of Education held a COVID-19 briefing call for higher education stakeholders to provide further guidance on the [CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund](#), including further clarification on the first portion of funding released for student aid. Additionally, the Department [announced](#) and provided information and guidance on how to [apply](#) for the second half of funding for institutions, and the allowable use of those funds. Immediately following the call, the Department posted frequently asked questions for both the [direct student financial aid grants](#) and [institutional portion](#).

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; National Institutes of Health

- On Wednesday, April 22nd, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) released a new [Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research](#). The plan is structured around four strategic research priorities:
 1. Improve fundamental knowledge of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19, including studies to characterize the virus and how it is transmitted and understand the natural history, epidemiology, host immunity, disease immunopathogenesis, and the genetic, immunologic, and clinical associations with more severe disease outcomes. This includes accelerating the development of small and large animal models that replicate human disease.
 2. Support the development of diagnostics and assays, including point-of-care molecular and antigen-based diagnostics for identifying and isolating COVID-19 cases and serologic assays to better understand disease prevalence in the population. Diagnostics also will be essential for evaluating the effectiveness of candidate countermeasures.
 3. Characterize and test therapeutics, including identifying and evaluating repurposed drugs and novel broad-spectrum antivirals, virus-targeted antibody-based therapies (including plasma-derived intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) and monoclonal antibodies), and host-directed strategies to combat COVID-19.

4. Develop safe and effective vaccines against SARS-CoV-2, including support of clinical trial testing.

National Endowment for the Humanities

- On Monday, April 20th, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) released guidelines designed to rapidly distribute CARES Act funding to cultural nonprofits, including institutions of higher education, affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The new [NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations](#) emergency relief grants will provide up to \$300,000 to cultural nonprofits to support a range of humanities activities across the fields of education, preservation and access, public program, digital humanities, and scholarly research through December 31st. Funding may be used for short-term activities that emphasize retaining or hiring humanities staff to maintain or adapt critical programs. Applications are due **May 11th**.

COVID-19 Research Resources

- On Tuesday, April 21st a consortium of healthcare companies announced the launch of the [COVID-19 Research Database](#) a secure repository of HIPAA-compliant, de-identified and limited patient-level data sets designed to get relevant health data to academic, scientific and medical researchers conducting real-world data studies related to COVID-19 while protecting patient privacy.

Guidance and Opportunities:

- [Office of Management and Budget Administrative Relief for Recipients and Applicants of Federal Financial Assistance Directly Impacted by the Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) due to Loss of Operations](#)
- [U.S. Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program Releases Funding Opportunities for COVID-19 Research](#)
- [U.S. Department of Defense Newton Award for Transformative Ideas during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [U.S. Department of Education](#)
 - [Secretary DeVos Announces \\$3 Billion for Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund](#)
 - [Education Stabilization Fund Website](#)
 - [CARES Act: Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund-UPDATED](#)
 - [UPDATED Guidance for interruptions of study related to Coronavirus](#)
 - [Federal Student Aid Information](#)
 - [FAQs on the use of Department of Education grant funds during COVID-19](#)
 - [FAQs about COVID-19 for Institute of Education Sciences grantees](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; National Institutes of Health](#)
 - [COVID-19 Funding Opportunities-UPDATED](#)
 - [NIAID Strategic Plan for COVID-19 Research-NEW](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response](#) (*Including Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority*)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Health Resources and Services Administration](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [National Endowment for the Arts](#)
- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#)
 - [NEH releases new NEH CARES: Cultural Organizations funding opportunity-NEW](#)
- [National Science Foundation](#)
- [Office of Justice Programs; National Institute of Justice](#)
- [Institute of Museum and Library Services](#)

Additional COVID-19 Related Opportunities/Resources:

- [COVID-19 Research Database-NEW](#)
- [COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium](#)
- [COVID-19 Open Research Dataset](#)

Provisions included in “PHASE ONE” COVID-19 response package, [H.R. 6074](#), the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations bill, relevant to:

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Signed into law on March 6, 2020

Related Legislative and Regulatory Guidance Documents:

[House Appropriations Committee Summary](#)

Key provisions across federal departments and agencies of interest to Institutions of Higher Education as follows:

Health and Human Services

- \$425 million for the National Institutes of Health to support basic research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.
- \$2 billion for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority to support advanced research and development of vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics, prioritizing platform-based technologies with U.S.-based manufacturing capabilities

**Provisions included in “PHASE TWO” COVID-19 response package,
H.R. 6201, Families First Coronavirus Response Act, relevant to:**

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Signed into law on March 18, 2020

Related Legislative and Regulatory Guidance Documents:

[House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committee Summary](#)

No specific provisions relevant to Institutions of Higher Education.

**Provisions included in “Phase Three” COVID-19 response package,
H.R. 748, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, relevant to:**

INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Signed into law on March 27, 2020

Related Legislative and Regulatory Guidance Documents:

[Senate HELP Committee Section-by-Section](#)

[Senate HELP Committee One-Pager](#)

[Senate Appropriations Committee Summary](#)

Key provisions across federal departments and agencies of interest to Institutions of Higher Education as follows:

Education

- \$30.75 billion for an Education Stabilization Fund for states, school districts and institutions of higher education for costs related to coronavirus, including:
 - \$14.25 billion higher education emergency relief for institutions of higher education to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Funds may be used to defray expenses for institutions of higher education, such as lost revenue, technology costs associated with a transition to distance education, and grants to students for food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.
 - 90% to each institution of higher education to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus, by apportioning it as follows:
 - 75% according to the relative share of full-time equivalent enrollment of Federal Pell Grant recipients who are not exclusively enrolled in distance education courses prior to the coronavirus emergency; and
 - 25% according to the relative share of full-time equivalent enrollment of students who were not Federal Pell Grant recipients who are not exclusively enrolled in distance education courses prior to the coronavirus emergency.
 - Note: Once this formula is taken into account, no less than 50% of the aid the institution receives must be to provide emergency financial aid grants to students for expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus, including eligible expenses under a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.
 - \$2.95 billion for the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund for each Governor for to allocate at their discretion for emergency support grants to local educational agencies that the State educational agency deems have been most significantly impacted by coronavirus. These funds will support the ability of such local educational agencies

to continue to provide educational services to their students and to support the on-going operations of the local educational agency; and provide emergency support through grants to institutions of higher education serving students within the State.

- Each state's award depends on a formula of 60% on the basis of relative population of individuals 5-24 and 40% on relative number of children counted under a part of ESEA. Governors will decide how the funding is spent, between K-12 and higher education.
- ED must give notice of applications to states within 30 days of enactment and approve or deny applications within 30 days of receipt.
- Campus-based aid waivers: Waives the institutional matching requirement for campus-based aid programs and allows institutions to transfer unused work-study funds to be used for supplemental grants.
- SEOG for emergency aid: Allows institutions to award additional SEOG funds to students impacted by COVID-19.
- Continuing federal work study: Allows institutions to issue work-study payments to student who are unable to work due to work-place closures as a lump sum or in payments similar to paychecks.
- Adjustments of subsidized loan limits: For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID -19, excludes the term from counting toward lifetime subsidized loan eligibility.
- Exclusion from Federal Pell Grant: For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID -19, excludes the term from counting toward lifetime Pell eligibility.
- Institutional Refund and Federal Student Loan Flexibility: Waives the requirement that institutions calculate the amount of grant or loan assistance that the institution must return to the Secretary in the case of students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID-19.
- Satisfactory Progress: For students who dropped out of school as a result of COVID -19, the student's grades do not affect a student's federal academic requirements to continue to receive Pell Grants or student loans.
- Temporary relief for federal student loan borrowers: Allows the Secretary to defer student loan payments, principal, and interest for 3 months without penalty to the student. The measure also allows the Secretary to defer for an additional 3 months if necessary pursuant to the public health emergency declaration.

Health and Human Services

- Reauthorizes health professions workforce programs and reauthorizes and updates Public Health Services Act programs to support clinician training and faculty development, including the training of practitioners in family medicine, general internal medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, and other medical specialties.
- Reauthorizes and updates Public Health Services Act programs related to nurse workforce training.
- National Institutes of Health - \$945 million to support research to expand on prior research plans, including developing an improved understanding of the prevalence of COVID-19, its transmission

and the natural history of infection, and novel approaches to diagnosing the disease and past infection, and developing countermeasures for the prevention and treatment of its various stages.

- Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority
 - More than \$27 billion to support research and development of vaccine, therapeutics, and diagnostics to prevent or treat the effects of coronavirus, including, but not limited to:
 - Funding to support research related to antibiotic resistant secondary infections associated with coronavirus; and
 - Workforce modernization and increased telehealth access and infrastructure to increase access to digital healthcare delivery.

National Science Foundation

- \$75 million to support research at molecular, cellular, physiological and ecological levels to better understand coronavirus genetics, modes of action, transmission, virulence and population dynamics. NSF supports research activities at more than 2,000 research institutions across the U.S. and is ready to mobilize the full force of the academic community including through Rapid Response Research (RAPID) proposals.

National Institute of Standards and Technology

- \$6 million to provide continuity of operations and to conduct research and measurement science to support testing and treatment of coronavirus.

Defense

- \$415 million for medical research programs to develop promising vaccines and anti-viral pharmaceuticals.

National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment of the Humanities

- \$75 million for each independent agency.

Energy

- \$99.5 million is provided to Office of Science for costs related to equipment, personnel, and operations to support research on the coronavirus.

Treasury

- Allowance of partial above the line deduction for charitable contributions - Encourages people to contribute to charitable organizations in 2020 by permitting them to deduct up to \$300 of cash contributions, whether they itemize their deductions or not.
- Modification of limitations on charitable contributions during 2020 - Increases the limitations on deductions for charitable contributions by individuals who itemize, as well as corporations. For

individuals, the 50-percent of adjusted gross income limitation is suspended for 2020. For corporations, the 10-percent limitation is increased to 25 percent of taxable income.

- Exclusion for certain employer payments of student loans - Enables employers to provide a student loan repayment benefit to employees on a tax-free basis up to \$5,250 annually toward an employee's student loans. Payment would be excluded from the employee's income. The \$5,250 cap applies to both the new student loan repayment benefit as well as other educational assistance (e.g., tuition, fees, books) provided by the employer under current law. Applies to any student loan payments made by an employer on behalf of an employee before January 1, 2021.