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*Presented by* 

**Weekly COVID 19 Opportunities Update**

**New Opportunities**

**August 31, 2020**

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**Health Systems Capacity Building (including public health, telemedicine and mental health)**

**Department of Health and Human Services – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - Strengthening the Nation's Public Health Communication Infrastructure to Respond to COVID-19**

**Proposal Due Date: September 3, 2020**

**Expected Number of Awards: 1**

**Estimated Total Program Funding: $500,000**

**Award Ceiling: $500,000**

**Award Floor: $500,000**

**Funding Opportunity Number: CDC-RFA-CD20-2001**

***Purpose****: There is a need to strengthen the nation’s public health communications infrastructure to be able to respond to the historically unique challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has strained the public health infrastructure in the United States almost to the breaking point. Maintaining a strong public health system requires strong communications and public affairs support throughout every level of government and across the entire country. Public information officers (PIOs), public affairs officers (PAOs), and other health communicators can provide safe and consistent messages and guidelines for safely reopening America in communities across the United States. As each state and locality will need to address issues specific to their jurisdiction, it is important to ensure that the public health communication infrastructure can support effective dissemination of consistent public health messaging. This program seeks to strengthen the public health communication infrastructure.*

*The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in an unanticipated and tremendous surge in demand for real-time public health information from CDC, tailored to each state and local jurisdictions’ needs. One criticism of the current response as seen from communications monitoring and congressional inquiries, is the lack of cohesion in messaging: the various levels of government are sharing different messages. Therefore, the public struggles to understand which messages to listen and what strategies to implement. As each state and locality grapples with how to best continue “reopening America” in a way that is safe, based on data, and that addresses each jurisdiction’s needs, there is a high likelihood of mixed messaging. While some sectors have already opened, other key sectors—such as schools in the fall—will require cohesive and consistent public health messaging. As new evidence is incorporated in public health guidance and strategies related to reopening must shift accordingly, the public health communications network will require immense support. Since the responsibility of reopening has been pushed down to the state and local level, the federal response needs to have a trusted channel and organization that can bring their membership body together. Public health communicators at the state, local, tribal and territorial levels need additional support to effectively do their job in ensuring that their health department and their partner organizations are providing accurate and actionable guidance*

[*https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=328860*](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=328860)

**Health Research Opportunities**

**Department of Health and Human Services – National Institutes of Health - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health - NIOSH Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health® (U19)**

**Letter of Intent Due Date: November 2, 2020**

**Proposal Due Date: February 3, 2021**

**Expected Number of Awards:**

**Estimated Total Program Funding:**

**Award Ceiling:**

**Award Floor:**

**Funding Opportunity Number: PAR-20-297**

*Purpose: NIOSH/CDC invites applications for the NIOSH Centers of Excellence for Total Worker Health (TWH). The purpose of this FOA is to solicit meritorious applications for Centers of Excellence for TWH to develop and conduct a broad range of multidisciplinary research, intervention, outreach and education, and evaluation activities that advance the overall safety, health, and well-being of the diverse population of workers in our nation. Center structure should take advantage of diverse scientific resources and focus on local, regional, or national worker safety and health issues. Centers should emphasize creating and implementing evidence-based solutions to address evolving challenges and opportunities related to worker safety, mental and physical health, and well-being. Collaborations in partnership with academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, and other groups focused on occupational safety and health are expected. Applicants must concisely describe the occupational health burden within their service area and directly link research and outreach activities to help alleviate the burden. Applicants should also clearly articulate the anticipated impacts of the proposed work, both during the project period and beyond.*

*Today’s workers face not only the traditional risks of chemical, physical, and biological hazards but also increased risks related to the changing nature of work, shifting workforce demographics and diversity, and evolving employment patterns. The changing workplace environment also contributes to stress, mental health effects, chronic diseases and other impacts on population health and well-being.*

*At the time of publishing this FOA, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the workplace environment and increased worker concerns about economic insecurity, mental health and well-being, isolation and other challenges of working remotely, and reintegrating back into the workplace safely. New and daily challenges in the workplace, families, and communities create emerging conditions that increase allostatic loading (the wear and tear of ongoing stress experienced by individuals) and may affect cognitive reserve and resilience, and potentially lead to cognitive decline. Gender, age and socioeconomic characteristics of workers may affect their sensitivity to these emerging conditions.*

*The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health’s (NIOSH) TWH Program builds on four decades of scientific knowledge through the recognition that work is a social determinant of health; job-related factors such as wages, hours of work, workload and stress levels, interactions with coworkers and supervisors, access to paid leave, and health-promoting workplaces all can have an important impact on the well-being of workers, their families, and their communities. TWH is defined as policies, programs and practices that integrate protection from work-related safety and health hazards with promotion of injury and illness prevention efforts to advance worker well-being. This approach prioritizes a hazard-free work environment for all workers and comprehensively integrates workplace systems relevant to the control of hazards and exposures, organization of work, compensation and benefits, work-life integration/management, and organizational change management. The NIOSH TWH program supports ground-breaking research and practical applications that address the implications of today’s changing workplace and responds to demands for information and practical solutions to the health, safety, and well-being challenges that workers face.*

[*https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-297.html*](https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-20-297.html)

**Environmental Protection Agency – Center for Early Lifestage Vulnerabilities to Environmental Stressors**

**Proposal Due Date: November 12, 2020**

**Expected Number of Awards: 1**

**Estimated Total Program Funding: $1,900,000**

**Award Ceiling: $1,900,000**

**Funding Opportunity Number: CDC-RFA-CD20-2001**

***Purpose****: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications to support a Center for Early Lifestage Vulnerabilities to Environmental Stressors. EPA is interested in supporting a transdisciplinary research center to better understand potential causal relationships among cumulative exposures to chemicals and non-chemical environmental stressors during early lifestages and modifying factors that result in adverse developmental health effects. Developmental health outcomes may include attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), reduced IQ, obesity, lessened self-regulatory capacities, anxiety, depression, attention problems, lower memory function, or structural changes to the brain. The application should include the development and demonstration of novel and revolutionary quantitative methods and approaches to integrate multidisciplinary data (epidemiology, toxicology, exposure science, risk assessment, public health, social science, and environmental science).*

*https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=328838*

**Other Relevant Opportunities**

**Department of Health and Human Services – Centers for Disease Control - Proposed Data Collection Submitted for Public Comment and Recommendations - Cruise Operator COVID-19 Response Plans**

**Comments Due Date: October 27, 2020**

**Docket Number: CDC-2019-0096**

***Purpose:*** *The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce public burden and maximize the utility of government information, invites the general public and other Federal agencies the opportunity to comment on a proposed and/or continuing information collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This notice invites comment on a proposed information collection project titled “Cruise Operator COVID-19 Response Plans,” which will provide CDC with the ability require cruise ship operators to submit plans outlining their response procedures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 onboard, and for preventing the use of scarce U.S. domestic resources in response to COVID-19 cases originating on cruise ships.*

***Contact:*** *Jeffrey M. Zirger, of the Information Collection Review Start Printed Page 53375Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1600 Clifton Road NE, MS-D74, Atlanta, Georgia 30329; phone: 404-639-7570; Email:* *omb@cdc.gov**.*

[*https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/28/2020-19010/proposed-data-collection-submitted-for-public-comment-and-recommendations*](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/28/2020-19010/proposed-data-collection-submitted-for-public-comment-and-recommendations)

**Department of Health and Human Services – Food and Drug Administration - Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting**

**Meeting Date: October 22, 2020**

***Purpose:*** *The meeting presentations will be heard, viewed, captioned, and recorded through an online teleconferencing platform. In open session, the committee will discuss, in general, the development, authorization and/or licensure of vaccines to prevent COVID-19. No specific application will be discussed at this meeting.*

***Contact:*** *Prabhakara Atreya or Monique Hill, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food and Drug Administration, 10903 New Hampshire Ave., Bldg. 71, Rm. 6306, Silver Spring, MD 20993-0002, 240-506-4946,* *Prabhakara.Atreya@fda.hhs.gov* *or 301-796-4620,* *monique.hill@fda.hhs.gov*

[*https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/28/2020-18985/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-notice-of-meeting*](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/28/2020-18985/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-notice-of-meeting)

**U.S. International Trade Commission - COVID-19 Related Goods: The U.S. Industry, Market, Trade, and Supply Chain Challenges; Notice of Institution of Investigation and Scheduling of a Public Hearing**

**Hearing Date: September 23, 2020**

***Purpose:*** *Following receipt on August 13, 2020, of a joint request from the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance (the Committees), under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930, the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) instituted Investigation No. 332-580, COVID-19 Related Goods: The U.S. Industry, Market, Trade, and Supply Chain Challenges, for the purpose of providing a report that provides detailed information on COVID-related industry sectors and particular products identified in Commission inv. No. 332-576, COVID-19 Related Goods, U.S. Imports and Tariffs.*

*September 11, 2020: Deadline for filing requests to appear at the public hearing.*

*September 14, 2020: Deadline for filing prehearing briefs and statements.*

*September 21, 2020: Deadline for filing copies of oral testimony to be presented at the hearing.*

*September 23, 2020: Public hearing.*

*September 30, 2020: Deadline for filing post-hearing briefs and statements.*

*October 2, 2020: Deadline for filing all other written submissions.*

*December 15, 2020: Transmittal of Commission report to the Committees.*

***Contact:***  *Co-Project Leader Samantha DeCarlo (202-205-3165 or* *samantha.decarlo@usitc.gov**) or Co-Project Leader Andrew David (202-205-3368 or* *andrew.david@usitc.gov*

[*https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/26/2020-18796/covid-19-related-goods-the-us-industry-market-trade-and-supply-chain-challenges-notice-of*](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/08/26/2020-18796/covid-19-related-goods-the-us-industry-market-trade-and-supply-chain-challenges-notice-of)