

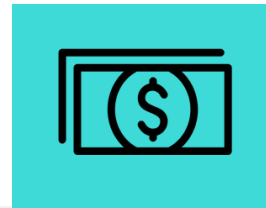
BU FEDERAL RELATIONS

We're your eyes and ears in Washington, D.C.



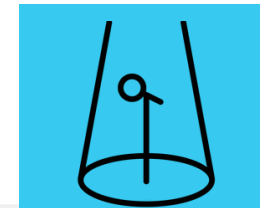
ADVOCACY

Advocate for BU's priorities as the federal government considers policies affecting research universities.



FUNDING INSIGHTS

Identify federal funding trends and connect you with federal funding opportunities.



PROFILE-RAISING

Share BU's expertise with policymakers and increase our visibility at the national level.



START A CONVERSATION

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CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN SOCIAL SCIENCE (CISS) PRESENTATION

Lewis-Burke Associates – February 2022

LEWIS-BURKE
ASSOCIATES LLC



OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION

1. Why engage with federal agencies
2. Federal funding interests in the social sciences
3. Agency Programs to support early career faculty



WHY ENGAGE WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

BENEFITS OF ENGAGING WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES

Relationship Building

- Will facilitate better engagement throughout your career

Receive first-hand information about research funding opportunities

- Gain direct feedback on your research ideas before writing full proposal
- Learn about new and emerging program priorities and future opportunities
- Be on both “send” and “receive”
- You may get directed to a more appropriate program

Learn of non-funding ways to engage with the agency

- Offer to serve on a review panel or participate in a workshop
- Respond to an RFI

Lewis-Burke can help identify specific meeting targets based on research and objectives

- Agencies new to you
- New research directions/topics

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH FEDERAL AGENCY STAFF

Review the programs of the officials with whom you will be meeting and other relevant funding opportunities at their agencies

- As you review program descriptions and past solicitations, note places of potential fit to your areas of interest so you can ask specific questions
- Make contact via email, summarize your research aims and how it fits into program officer's portfolio or solicitation
- Provide relevant information e.g. previous grant applications

Prepare a one-page description of your research that may be left behind with the program staff, or sent ahead if that has been requested

- Research descriptions should be consistent with areas of interest of the targeted agency program staff.
- Include your contact information

Speak to more senior investigators who are funded already

- Ask about their experiences and insight into the agencies and programs

Prepare questions to ask in the meetings and ensure you complete any follow-up

AGENCY PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT EARLY CAREER FACULTY

FEDERAL APPROACH TO SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES RESEARCH

National Institutes of Health

- Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR) – coordinates BSSR research supported by the NIH and integrates these sciences within the agency's research enterprise
- OBSSR co-sponsors funding opportunities with other NIH Institutes and Centers; examples:
 - Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery (R01)
 - Ethical, Legal, and Social Implications (ELSI) of human genome research (R03; R01)
 - Promoting Research on Music and Health (R61/R33)
- OBSSR currently updating its strategic plan for 2022-2027

National Science Foundation

- Primary funder of social and behavioral sciences in the federal government through the Social and Behavioral Science Directorate (SBE).
- Funding through various topical offices (ex: sociology, developmental sciences, etc.) with increased interest in multi-disciplinary, use-inspired research.

Department of Defense

- **Minerva** is the primary centralized social science program with new topics each year. Usually total of about \$15 million in funding for 10 to 12 awards averaging between \$150,000 and \$1 million per year for a period of three to five years; annual solicitation release in March to May timeframe.
- There are several more general standing programs at individual branches of the military with opportunities for PO engagement.

Department of Justice

- The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the primary research arm of DOJ; new solicitations typically between December and May
- Topics change year to year; based on Administration and congressional priorities.



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Social and Behavioral Science Directorate

- Must expand foundational knowledge and push boundaries of the field but enhanced focus on broader impacts
- Primarily split between Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) and Social and Economic Sciences (SES)

CAREER Program Overview

- Provides \$400,000 over 5-years; NSF supports around 500 awards per year
- Deadlines annually in July
- Must employed in a tenure-track (or equivalent) position at an eligible institution as an Assistant Professor

Recommendations and Advice

- Research proposed should be expansive enough to build a career on – very narrow research aims will not be competitive
- Strategy and expectations vary by division; important to speak to program director before applying
- Department chair's letter of support is helpful to show how education efforts would be of value to the department and its students.

Timing is important

- First CAREER proposals often rejected because of presentation. Pay attention to details.
- The odds of obtaining a CAREER go up on the second try, so it's important not to get discouraged.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Career Development Awards—K series

- Can be mentored or independent
- Selected examples: K01: postdoc to early career independence transition; K02: newly independent scientists with protected time for research; K08: clinical scientists; K22: career transitions
- Budget: salary and program related expenses

Maximizing Investigators' Research Award (MIRA) (R35)

- NIGMS: stability, flexibility, less administrative burden; “people not projects” approach
- Other ICs support the R35 program, but vary in how they implement it
- Budget: capped at \$250k for 5 years but renewal easier

Stephen I. Katz ESI Research Project Grant (R01)

- Supports an innovative project in an area of science that represents a change in research direction
- No preliminary data required; Emphasis on high-risk high-reward research (HRHR)
- Budget: standard R01 - \$250,000/year for 5 years (can request more per year)

Common Fund Programs

- New Innovator Award: innovative HRHR projects; \$1.5 million for 5 years

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE - YOUNG INVESTIGATOR PROGRAMS (YIP)

Office of Naval Research (ONR)

- Seeks applicants in their first or second full-time tenure-track position.
- Most relevant office: Human & Bioengineered Systems Division, under Code 34: Warfighter Performance
- Funds projects up to \$170,000 per year for three years.
- FY 2022 ONR YIP funding opportunity announcement (FOA) was released in September with deadline of Oct 29, 2021.

Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)

- Supports scientists and engineers who received their Ph.D. in the last five years.
- AFOSR's YIP provides \$120,000 per year over three years.
- AFOSR YIP solicitation was released April, with proposal deadlines on July 12, 2021 (white papers due May 31).
- Research areas: Trust and Influence (human/machine), Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience (incl. cognitive psychology)

Army Research Office (ARO)

- Supports tenure-track faculty who are less than five years from receiving their Ph.D.
- Current ARO YIP broad agency announcement (BAA) is open through March 2022.
- ARO's YIP provides \$50,000 per year over three years.
- Research areas: efforts to improve soldier performance, enhance use of equipment, and improve system effectiveness.

DARPA – Young Faculty Award

- For current tenure-track Assistant or Associate Professors and tenured Assistant or Associate Professors within three years of their tenure appointment
- Solicitation usually released August/September; provides \$500,000 over two years.
- Executive summaries due around late October, full proposals due around January.
- Cross-disciplinary, strong recent interest in improving the human-machine symbiotic decision-making

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

National Institute of Justice

- Primary research arm of DOJ; new solicitations between December and May (FY 2022 funding expected soon).
- Topics change year to year; based on Administration and congressional priorities
- Current emphasis on community policing & policing tactics, domestic radicalization interventions, forensic sciences, human trafficking, delinquency and crime, juvenile justice, pretrial issues, administration of justice (impact of bail reform etc.), mental health, homelessness, school safety, violence against women, and reentry

New Investigator/Early Career Opportunity

- NIJ may give special consideration to non-tenured assistant professors or equivalent full-time staff scientists that have completed a terminal degree or post-graduate clinical training within the four years. Applicants must self-identify upon submission to standing funding opportunities to be considered.
- NIJ also offers a Research Assistantship Program for doctoral students that provides funds to pay research assistants' salaries, health insurance and tuition remission

NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF)

- Supports doctoral students engaged in research with a specific opportunity for the social sciences.
- Funding made through a stipend to the degree-granting institution to support the student's salary and related costs.



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BACKUP SLIDES

Early Stage Investigator (ESI):

- A principal investigator who has completed their terminal degree within the past 10 years and who has not previously competed successfully for a substantial NIH independent research award
- ESI status is retained if investigator has received any smaller research, training, infrastructure, or career development awards like the R03; R21; R15; F awards; T32; etc.
- R01-equivalent ESI applications with meritorious scores will be prioritized for funding

New Investigator (NI):

- An investigator who has not previously competed successfully for substantial independent NIH funding

Resources:

- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/esi-status.pdf>
- <https://grants.nih.gov/policy/early-investigators/index.htm>