



OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Vice President James A. Dias, Ph.D.

Dear Members of the UAlbany Research Community,

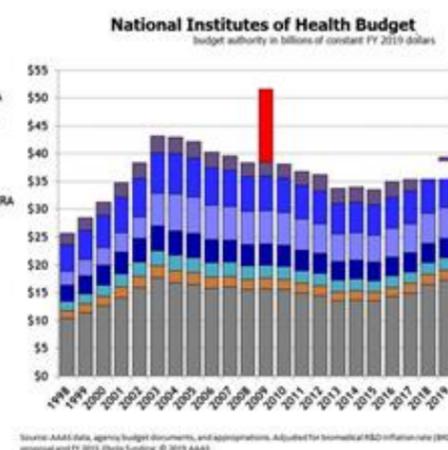
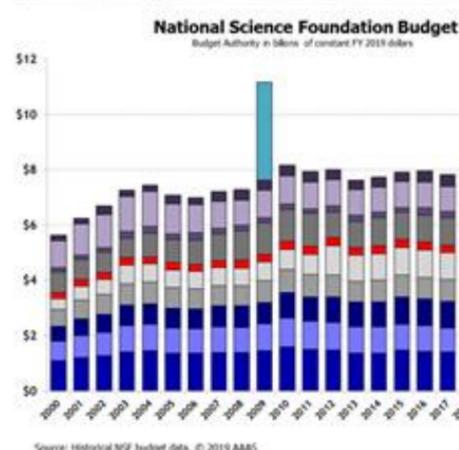
As you know, the COVID-19 global pandemic is causing untold public health harm and economic hardship not before seen in modern history. In response, Congress is preparing to advance yet another economic stimulus package (referred to as CARES 2), which promises to create an array of new funding research opportunities across the disciplines (beyond COVID-19) for UAlbany faculty and researchers to play a pivotal role in the resurgence of our nation's economy.

ARRA 2009 Redux: Major Research Funding Opportunities In the Near Future

Similar to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Congress is working on another appropriations bill aimed at increasing public spending to revitalize the economy. Under this next phase of the CARES Act, it is expected that the extramural research budgets of the federal government's major sponsors of research and scholarship will grow exponentially with a sense of urgency to spend these dollars quickly. To better appreciate the potential magnitude of Congress's additional investment in federal research and development, below are the augmented budgets under ARRA for NSF and NIH, respectively, to serve as a point of reference. As you can clearly see,

federal research budgets dramatically grew in 2010, and in so doing, so did the number of federal awards made to investigators at colleges and universities nationwide. In fact, UAlbany faculty and researchers experienced an increase of \$24.6M in federal awards (or a 32.6% rise) from FY 2009 to FY 2010 following the passage of ARRA.

ARRA 2009 Impact on Federal Research Funding



CARES 2, once adopted, will provide an excellent opportunity for our UAlbany faculty and researchers to capitalize on their scholarly expertise. Across the disciplines, additional research funding will be available for federal sponsors to spur new proposals that address a wide array of scientific questions and complex societal challenges, which will help transform and move our society forward.

Federal Sponsor Success Rates to Grow, BUT Submitting Early is Critical!

With additional research funding infused across the major federal sponsors under CARES 2 as anticipated (e.g., NSF, NIH, DOD, DHS, NOAA, DOE, DOJ, NEA, NEH, among others), proposal success rates will increase significantly as federal agencies strive to push out funding to investigators. Indeed, sponsors will be able to go further down the list of scored proposals to make additional awards, and as a result, the percentage of funded proposals will grow. Of particular importance to our UAlbany faculty/researchers, it is largely expected that the Trump Administration will urge federal agencies to make awards as expeditiously as possible in order for the stimulus funding to go to researchers and into the economy quickly.

Highlighting the need for faculty/researchers to submit federal proposals as soon as possible, *Scientific American* in February 2010 reported that "some 80 percent of stimulus-backed awards (at NSF) went to projects that had been submitted prior to the (ARRA) Act." As referenced above, UAlbany faculty and researchers directly benefited from the 2009 ARRA stimulus package. One example included NIH going further down the list of scored proposals to award our UAlbany investigators a multi-million dollar grant for a proposal that would have otherwise missed the payroll.

Time to Develop and Submit a Proposal is Now!

So what does this mean for you and your research program? Well, as you can see, it is critical for UAlbany faculty and researchers interested in federal research funding to submit a proposal to a sponsor in the near future. Congress over the next month or so will likely be acting on the new stimulus package (CARES 2), with monies flowing to federal sponsors thereafter. Accordingly, you will want to have your proposal submitted as soon as possible and in the sponsor's pipeline for review. While no one will know for certain of the timeline prior to when Congress acts, we recommend that you strive to have a proposal submitted to a federal program within the June - August time period, if not sooner, to take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic continues to cause great loss and disruption across the country, we can take some small solace in the good news coming out of Washington that federal research budgets are expected to substantially grow with new opportunities for our UAlbany faculty/researchers to secure funding in the near future.

To assist you in identifying a potential federal funding opportunity to pursue, the Division for Research developed a web resource of funding search engines and solicitations to access ([click here](#)). Please know that the Division and our entire team stand ready to support and assist you, and as such, we encourage you to reach out to your Research Administrator ([click here](#)) to discuss a future submission.

Thank you for your continue pursuit of research excellence at the University at Albany, and I look forward to learning of your extramural funding pursuits in the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

James A. Dias, Ph.D.
Vice President for Research