



Federal Grant Opportunities for Hispanic Serving Institutions

June 2017

This document provides an overview of federal funding opportunities specifically available to Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) or specifically in support of minority students. The list is designed to provide a survey of opportunities that exist at federal agencies; additional information on specific programs can be provided upon request. Programs described below are likely of interest to various colleges and departments across campus. Some programs are also open to all Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). Finally, this document only includes programs either currently or previously funded by Congress, and omits those that have been authorized but have never received appropriations.

Overview

Department of Education (ED)	2
National Science Foundation (NSF)	3
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).....	4
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)	5
Department of Defense (DOD)	6
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	6
National Institutes of Health (NIH)	6
Department of Energy (DOE)	7
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).....	7
Department of Transportation (DOT).....	7
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).....	8
Department of Commerce (DOC)	8

Department of Education (ED)

The HSI Division of the Department of Education offers three grant programs. An HSI is a designation granted by ED based on an institution having 25 percent of its undergraduate full-time students identifying as Hispanic and a substantial enrollment of high-need students.

- **Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program** – This program is authorized under Title V, Part A of the *Higher Education Act* (HEA) to expand educational opportunities for Hispanic students, increase their enrollment in institutions of higher education and attainment of postsecondary degrees, and improve educational and institutional quality. ED designates colleges and universities as HSIs, which are then eligible for grants because of this designation. Application Deadline (now closed): April 24, 2017.
Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/idadeshsi/index.html>.
- **Promoting Postbaccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) Program**—This program is authorized under Title V, Part B of the Higher Education Act and seeks to increase the attainment of postsecondary degrees by Hispanic and low-income students. PPOHA provides grants to improve the quality of and expand post-baccalaureate programs for Hispanic students. This program, which is funded through mandatory sources, has not been competed since 2014. The Administration does not intend to compete PPOHA in FY 2018.
Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/ppoha/index.html>.
- **Hispanic-Serving Institutions - Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (HSI STEM) and Articulation Programs**—Authorized by Title III, Part F, this program is intended to increase the number of Hispanic and low-income students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Additionally, HSI STEM encourages articulation agreements between two-year and four-year institutions as to which credits apply to associate's degrees and transfer to bachelor's degrees. This program, which is funded through mandatory sources, was competed last year. The Administration does not intend to compete HSI STEM in FY 2018.
Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/hsistem/index.html>.

ED's Higher Education Programs office provides grant funding for predominantly minority enrollment institutions, of which HSIs are eligible.

- **Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program (MSEIP)** to support institutions with over 50 percent minority student enrollment with grants of up to three years aimed at improving science and engineering programs. MSEIP generally runs an annual competition and is expected to host a competition again in FY 2018.
Source: <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/idadesmsi/index.html>

The **Institute of Education Sciences (IES)** at ED has in the past supported special programs to support minority-serving institutions and diverse student and faculty development. HSIs should also consider applying to any of the relevant education research and special education research funding opportunities available at www.ies.ed.gov/funding.

- **The Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences program**, of which the subprogram, Pathways to the Education Sciences Research Training Program (Pathways Training Program), funds awards to minority-serving institutions and other institutions partnered with MSIs to support innovative

approaches for training and mentoring of students and researchers from diverse backgrounds for success in education research careers. This program was competed last year, but will not be competed in FY 2018.

Source: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncер/projects/program.asp?ProgID=95>.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

NSF has not had an HSI-specific program in the past, but the FY 2017 omnibus appropriations bill directed NSF to establish a program, at no less than \$15 million, for HSIs to improve undergraduate STEM education. Congress encouraged NSF to use that program for HSI institutions that typically do not receive high levels of NSF funding. NSF currently has an internal working group discussing plans for the FY 2017 funding, which will be focused on capacity building. NSF has recently stated its interest in potentially using the High-Hispanic Enrollment definition to determine eligibility for its new program to reach a broader range of institutions. NSF is separately planning an FY 2018 program on improving undergraduate education for HSIs as described in the first bullet below. In addition to these emerging programs, there are a number of opportunities targeted specifically to minority-serving institutions generally, while many others include broadening participation as a primary or important goal. Programs that are specifically targeted to minority-serving institutions are listed below.

- **Improving Undergraduate STEM Education in Hispanic-Serving Institutions (IUSE: HSI)**- This program was outlined in the FY 2018 budget request and would focus on STEM undergraduate education, specifically on increasing participation, retention, and graduation rates of underrepresented minorities in STEM fields. On June 6, 2017, NSF released a new Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) calling for conference proposals to help inform the design of the new program. Conference proposals are due by September 30, 2017 for funding in FY 2018.
 - The full DCL can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17092/nsf17092.jsp>.
 - The relevant section of the budget request can be found at https://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2018/pdf/44_fy2018.pdf.
- **Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP)** – AGEP aims to increase the number of underrepresented faculty in specific STEM disciplines by advancing knowledge about career success pathways. The program supports development and implementation of innovative models of doctoral education, postdoctoral training, and faculty advancement. Strategic collaborations are encouraged as part of the program with multiple academic partners as well as with outside groups. MSIs are encouraged to lead AGEP projects. Next upcoming deadline for full proposals: December 8, 2017.
Source: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5474.
- **Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST)** – CREST provides support to enhance the research capabilities of MSIs through the establishment of centers that integrate education and research. This program is not being competed in the coming year.
Source: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6668.
- **Partnerships for Research and Education in Materials (PREM)** – PREM supports partnerships between minority-serving institutions and centers or facilities supported by the Division of Materials Research (DMR). There is no open solicitation at this time.
Source: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5439.

- **Partnerships in Astronomy and Astrophysics Research and Education (PAARE)** – PAARE develops research and educational partnerships with minority-serving institutions to enhance diversity in astronomy and astrophysics. Full proposal deadline date: August 18, 2017.
Source: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=501046.

Additional programs of interest that focus on broadening participation, but are not targeted specifically to HSIs or MSIs are below. Note that not all have active solicitations this year.

- Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (NSF INCLUDES): http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505289.
- Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP):
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13646.
- NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM):
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5257.
 - Program currently accepting proposals. Full proposal deadline is March 28, 2018.
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP):
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5488.
- Improving Undergraduate STEM Education: Pathways into Geoscience (IUSE:GEOPATHS):
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505169.
- IUSE/Professional formation of Engineers: REvolutionizing engineering and computer science Departments (RED): http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505105.
- Broadening Participation in Engineering (BPE):
https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504870
 - Program currently accepting proposals. Full proposal deadline is February 5, 2018.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic-Serving Institutions – These grants fund humanities education through content and curriculum improvement, new programs, and scholarships at HSIs. Applicants can choose to expand existing programs or propose new ones. The program receives very few applications, averaging only 27 per year. Approximately five awards (19 percent) are funded annually. NEH recently competed the program with applications with proposals under review for projects beginning January 2018.

Source: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/education/humanities-initiatives-hispanic-serving-institutions>.

- A list of recently awarded grants is available at
<https://securegrants.neh.gov/PublicQuery/main.aspx?q=1&d=0&f=0&p=1&pv=243&s=0&y=0&n=0&o=0&t=0&ob=year&or=DESC>.

Awards for Faculty at Hispanic-Serving Institutions – These awards support individual faculty members employed at HSIs who are pursuing research of interest to the humanities. The model is intentionally flexible; applicants can determine the type of research and the audience. Previous projects have included written articles, translations, monographs, and digital materials, among others. In 2011, the program received 110 applications, of which six (five percent) were funded. The application deadline is April 11, 2018 for projects beginning January 2019.

Source: <http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/awards-faculty-hispanic-serving-institutions>.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

USDA Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program - This program aims to foster partnerships between USDA and HSIs “to provide equitable access to employment, educational and institutional development opportunities.” Specifically, the program offers a variety of internship opportunities, engages in outreach to HSIs, and provides scholarships and fellowships.

Source: <https://www.outreach.usda.gov/education/index.htm>.

Opportunities include:

- **USDA E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program** – Garza fellowships allow faculty and staff from HSIs to come to USDA headquarters in Washington, D.C. for 2-4 weeks. Fellows learn more about the federal agencies at the national level and “address the spectrum of challenges faced in the development of a well-prepared Hispanic workforce.”
Source: <https://www.outreach.usda.gov/education/hsi/2017%20Fellowship%20Application%20Instructions.pdf>.
- **Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU)** - HSACU was established by USDA. Eligible institutions are defined as HSIs offering bachelor’s, associate’s, and other degrees in agriculture-related fields. However, an 1862 land-grant institution cannot qualify as a HSACU. The program offers an endowment fund; equity grants; institutional capacity-building grants; applied research grants; and extension grants. While these programs have been authorized, Congress has not yet provided funding to implement them.
Source: <https://nifa.usda.gov/hispanic-serving-agricultural-colleges-and-universities-hsacu>.

Grant Opportunities:

- **Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants Program** – This is a competitive grants program to enhance HSIs’ ability to provide food and agricultural sciences education. The most recent awards deadline has closed for FY 2018. Look for the next cycle beginning in early 2018.
Source: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/hispanic-serving-institutions-education-grants-program-hsi>.
- **Higher Education Challenge Grants Program (NIFA)** – This program provides funding to strengthen colleges’ and universities’ ability to produce (undergraduate and graduate) students capable of working in the nation’s food and agricultural workforce. The most recent awards deadline has closed for FY 2018. Look for the next cycle beginning in early 2018.
Source: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/higher-education-challenge-hec-grants-program>.
- **Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program** – This is a competitive, undergraduate scholarship program to increase diversity in the food and agricultural scientific workforce.
Source: <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/higher-education-multicultural-scholars-program-msp>.
- **National Needs Graduate and Post Graduate Fellowship Grants Program** – National Needs supports graduate students seeking degrees in “USDA mission areas, NIFA priorities, and national science education policies and statistics.”
Source: <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/national-needs-graduate-and-postgraduate-fellowship-grants-program-funding-opportunity-nnf>.

Department of Defense (DOD)

U.S. Army Research Lab's Historically Black College and University (HBCU)/Minority-Serving Institution (MI) Partnered Research Initiative (PRI) - The Partnered Research Initiative provides funding for minority-serving institutions to partner with the Army Research Lab (ARL) on collaborative research in designated research topics of interest to ARL. This is not being competed in FY 2018.

Source: <https://www.arl.army.mil/www/default.cfm?page=2888>.

Office of Naval Research (ONR) HBCU/MI Faculty Start-up Program in Materials – The Start-up Program in Materials aims to support minority institutions in efforts to provide start-up funding for new, untenured faculty, who are teaching and researching in a materials science/engineering of importance to the DOD. Funding cannot replace a startup package, but it can be used to enhance a startup package, including use of funding for equipment, supplies, and lab support. The proposal submission window closes on January 1, 2018.

Source: <http://www.onr.navy.mil/Science-Technology/Departments/Code-33/All-Programs/332-naval-materials/HBCU-Faculty-Start-Up-Materials.aspx>.

Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) HBCU/MI Undergraduate Internship Program – This NRL HBCU/MI Internship program supports undergraduates at minority serving institutions through a paid summer internship at the NRL in Washington, DC. Preference is given to students pursuing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers. There is no new solicitation for this program for the coming year.

Source: <http://www.nrl.navy.mil/hbcu/>.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

DHS Summer Research Team Program for MSIs – DHS' Science and Technology Directorate Office of University Programs sponsors this program to bring faculty and students from MSIs to conduct research at DHS Centers of Excellence (Centers). Research must relate to homeland security science, mathematics, and engineering; topics could include explosives detection, or food and agriculture security.

Source: <http://www.orau.gov/dhseducation/faculty/>.

MSI Centers of Excellence – MSIs can participate in the Centers of Excellence program, both as lead and partner institutions. The program's objective is to infuse the homeland security workforce with minority representation.

Source: <https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/minority-serving-institutions-program>.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) Research Centers in Minority-Serving Institutions – NIMHD's program seeks to expand the research infrastructure and capabilities at doctorate-awarding institutions serving a significant percentage of minority groups underrepresented in biomedical science. The program includes grants (eligibility varies) in health sciences and/or health professions.

Source: <https://www.nimhd.nih.gov/programs/extramural/coe/rcmi.html>.

Relevant grants include:

- **Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI)** – These are capacity-building grants for basic biomedical and behavioral research. Applicants must have a specific research focus. Grants can go to

support “institutional resource development, e.g. supporting core facilities and staff, purchasing advanced instruments, or minor laboratory renovations.”

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-11-132.html>.

- **RCMI Infrastructure for Clinical and Translational Research** – These collaborative agreements fund infrastructure necessary for conducting clinical and/or translational research. Recipients often work in partnership with other institutions.

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-304.html>.

- **Clinical Research and Career Development** – These are training and clinical research opportunities for early-stage investigators whose research involves health disparities. These awards typically go to minority-serving institutions for the creation of research and degree programs to train doctoral and post-doctoral students.

Source: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-17-312.html>.

Department of Energy (DOE)

Partnering with Minority-Serving Institutions – While there are no established HSI or MSI programs, the Office of Minority Economic Impact facilitates partnerships between DOE national laboratories and MSIs. The Office acts as a liaison between DOE program offices and MSIs to increase minority representation among grantees and inform MSIs of upcoming grant opportunities.

Source: <http://energy.gov/diversity/services/partnering-minority-serving-institutions>.

- The strategic plan is available at <https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/11/f19/MIE%20Strategic%20Plan.pdf>; http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/ED2/minority/documents/Strategic_Plan_2009_-_Minority_Education_Programs.pdf.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Hispanic-Serving Institutions Assisting Communities (HSIAC) – The HSIAC program assists local communities in improving their relationships with HSIs. Program areas addressed include poverty, education, housing, healthcare, etc. Eligible activities include rehabilitation of residential space, installation of public facilities, assistance to community-based development organizations, etc. It should be noted that the program has not received funding since 2010.

Source: <https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=HUDPrograms2016.pdf>.

Department of Transportation (DOT)

Minority-Serving Institution Intern Program (Federal Aviation Administration) – This program provides students from MSIs and HSIs internship opportunities throughout the year in fields including air traffic control, computer science, aviation management, business administration, engineering, and information technology (IT). Students are compensated for some living expenses, travel, and orientation. Only students who are juniors or above are eligible to apply; a 3.0 GPA is also required.

Source: <https://www.faa.gov/jobs/students/internships/minority/>.

Summer Transportation Internship Program for Diverse Groups (Federal Highway Administration) – This fellowship is administered by the Universities and Grants Program Office of the National Highway Institute. It offers college and university students a ten-week internship at the Department of Transportation headquarters and in field offices across the country.

Source: <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/education/stipdq.cfm>.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Minority University Research and Education Programs Small Projects – This is a competitive grant program that funds STEM projects at minority-serving institutions by creating “innovative approaches to using NASA-themed content to support higher education teaching and learning.” The target population is students enrolled in a STEM major at a college or university. Awards are provided on a one-year basis but can be renewed for two additional years depending on the program’s success in meeting objectives.

Source: <https://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/programs/national/murep/home/index.html>.

Department of Commerce (DOC)

Minority-Serving Institutions Program – The agency’s Office of Civil Rights operates the program, which works to ensure equal access to all DOC opportunities, contracts and grants, and supports partnerships with MSIs.

Source: <http://www.osec.doc.gov/ocr/CivilRights/MSI/MSI.html>.