

Research Development & Grant Writing News

Who Funds What? A Quick Guide

Funding Agency and Funding Links	What They Fund	Comments
National Science Foundation (NSF)	Research in science, mathematics, engineering, social science, and education. STEM education initiatives. Fellowships, instrumentation.	Largest funder of academic research. Tend to fund basic research. Will not fund human disease-related research or research in the humanities.
National Institutes of Health (NIH) RFAs PAs	Basic and applied research related to human health, including social science research. Fellowships, instrumentation, training grants.	Part of Department of Health and Human Services. Research must have implications for enhancement of health, lengthening life, and reduction of the burdens of illness and disability.
Department of Education IES OPE	Research on education from pre-school through higher education, adult education	Main research programs funded through Institute for Education Research(IES) and Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE).
Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP)	Disease-related research. Diseases of focus selected each year by Congress.	Includes grant categories for high-risk research and new investigators.
Agency for International Development (USAID)	Applied research and development to evaluate new products, tools, approaches and interventions focusing on health concerns in developing countries (includes behavioral research).	Collaborative Research Support Programs partners with Land Grant Universities to strengthen agriculture in developing countries.
Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)	Funds a wide range of food and agriculture research, including biotechnology, genomics, pest management, biofuels, childhood obesity and more. Funds fellowships.	Most research funding through AFRI. Also teams with other agencies (NSF, DoD) for some grant programs.
Economic Development Agency (EDA)	Funds projects to stimulate job creation, economic development, and innovation (institutional projects)	Part of Department of Commerce. Funds collaborations between university and industry (entrepreneurship and small business development)
National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST)	Funds research related to materials, manufacturing, information technology, measurement and standards	Part of Department of Commerce. Most of research is intramural, but they do funds some extramural research, particularly in collaboration with NIST researchers.
Department of Defense - AFOSR - ONR - ARO - DARPA - NSA	Fund basic and applied research related to the mission of each service. In addition to physics, materials, mathematics, computer science, etc., they may fund some life science and psychology (e.g., human cognitive and behavioral modeling)	Research offices are AFOSR (Air Force), ARO (Army), ONR (Navy), DARPA (high risk, high payoff research for all services), NSA.
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)	Funds research to improve quality, safety, efficiency and effectiveness of health care.	Part of Department of Health and Human Services. Current funding priorities include health issues of minorities, health information technology, health care

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		system redesign and more.
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSA)	Implementation grants for mental health and substance abuse services	
Administration for Children and Families (ACF)	Funds research to promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. Funds fellowships.	Most of the grants are implementation rather than research grants. Be sure to look for grants related to research.
Centers for Disease Control (CDC) - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health	NIOSH funds research to identify occupational populations at risk, develop methods for measuring exposures to hazards and detecting adverse health effects, determine the prevalence and incidence of occupational hazards, understand the etiology of occupational diseases and injuries, and reduce or eliminate exposures to hazards.	Part of Department of Health and Human Services. Procedures are similar to NIH
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Funds research to improve EPA's scientific basis for making decisions on environmental issues	STAR grants , fellowships, research, small business grants
National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)	Funds research related to NASA's space mission (also funds some STEM education programs)	Description of programs released annually in large ROSES solicitation. All open solicitations
Department of Energy – Office of Science	Funds basic research related to energy, including advanced computing, biological and environmental research, basic energy sciences, high energy physics, nuclear physics, and more.	Offer new investigator-type grants in the various program areas.
Department of Energy – National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)	Funds research related to energy, including solid state lighting, smart grid, electric vehicles, clean coal, and other technologies	
Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)	Funds research related to clean energy technologies, including solar, wind, water, biomass, geothermal, and hydrogen & fuel cells.	
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Office of Education	Fund research on the structure and behavior of the ocean, atmosphere, and related ecosystems. Also fund education and scholarships related to their mission.	Part of the Department of Commerce
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)	Funds fellowships and projects in the arts (including theater, arts education, dance, literature, folk arts, music and more)	
National Endowment for	Funds fellowships, humanities	

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the Humanities (NEH)	initiatives, collections and education in the humanities	
Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)	Fund activities including professional development, conservation, collections management, informal learning, community engagement, and more.	
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)	Funds education, minority serving institutions, research on nuclear materials safety and other nuclear-related issues.	
Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - Office of University Programs	Funds some research on housing and urban issues and policy analysis. Mainly funds dissertation research.	Most grants are not research-related, but they do fund some research out of the Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R)
Department of Justice - National Institute of Justice	Funds physical and social science research, development and evaluation projects about criminal justice. Also funds fellowships.	
Department of State Fulbright Program	Most grants fund cultural exchanges, fellowships	Funds opportunities for faculty to conduct research abroad.
Department of Transportation - Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA)	Funds research to bring advanced technologies to the transportation system. Funds university transportation centers.	
Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Bureau of Land Management Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement Bureau of Reclamation National Park Service Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. Geological Survey	Each of these bureaus funds projects specific to their missions. Overall agency goals focused on resource protection, resource use, recreation, and serving communities.	
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	Funds projects to improve the health and health care of all Americans.	
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Funds research related to global health, poverty and development and education.	Many of the grants are for implementation rather than research. Be sure to look for opportunities that target research.