

## RCA Update - April 20, 2020 Edition

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on behalf of

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Mon 4/20/2020 3:15 PM

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April 20, 2020

## Funding Opportunity Edition

**Today's issue of the RCA Update is a Funding Opportunity edition.  
Twice each month the RCA Update will primarily focus on this information.**

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Dear NDSU colleagues:

Greetings from the home office. As we are all busy discovering important things in this new normal—whether in a field of research or in our kids' daily math homework—continually adapting to a routine that is changing so quickly that it never has time to become 'routine' is getting pretty tiresome. Hang in there!

The expertise of NDSU's scholars has been an impressive resource as we move through the crisis and I have no doubt that it will continue to shine as we assist with the recovery of our local economies through teaching, research, and outreach. I've always thought of the land grant mission in terms of service and community. Your investment in our community, generosity of spirit, and brilliant ingenuity make me very proud to work with you.

Thank you to those who were able to donate PPE material in our recent collections. Three pallets of our donations have been sent to join the state efforts to help those who are on the front lines of the pandemic. I have several close friends and relatives who are working in healthcare, and they were so happy to see this outpouring from NDSU!

Last week the RCA team conducted our first virtual Research Connections event. While this version of the event was conducted completely online, it shared all the goals of previous events and brought together NDSU

researchers to initiate collaborative ideas around a research theme. The event's topic was Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC).

Along with our RCA Research Development team, Faculty Fellows Christi McGeorge and Rajesh Kavasseri provided expertise, insight and research ideas to the program. Rajesh provided information on the NSF Smart and Connected Communities program based on his success in receiving a S&CC planning grant.

We plan to host more discussions on developing interdisciplinary collaborations over the coming months. Please keep an eye out for future opportunities.

Thank you for all you're doing. The RCA team is here for you, and we'll continue to look for opportunities to help our researchers do what they do best.

Kind regards,  
**Jane Schuh**  
Vice President  
Research and Creative Activity

**COVID-19 Guidance for researchers is available on the [RCA Website](#), including NDSU guidance for PIs, Federal Agency guidance, and Funding Opportunities. As this situation is rapidly changing, please refer to the [NDSU COVID-19 Preparedness and Response page](#) for additional information.**

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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For more funding opportunities related to COVID-19, visit  
the  
[RCA COVID-19 Funding Opportunities page.](#)

## DoD CDMRP: Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health

The Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) has several open opportunities in the area of Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health:

**Investigator-Initiated Research Award for Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health:** This program supports studies that will make an important contribution toward research and/or patient care in one or more focus areas published in this funding opportunity for the topic areas of Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. [Download PDF >>](#)

**Technology/Therapeutic Development Award for Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health:** This product-driven award mechanism is intended to provide support for the translation of promising pre-clinical findings into products for clinical applications in one or more focus areas published in this funding opportunity for the topic areas of Emerging Viral Diseases and/or Respiratory Health. Products in development should be responsive to the healthcare needs of military Service members, Veterans, and/or beneficiaries. [Download PDF >>](#)

**Clinical Trial Award for Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health:** This program supports the rapid implementation of clinical trials with the potential to have a significant impact in one or more of the focus areas published in this funding opportunity for the topic areas of Emerging Viral Diseases and Respiratory Health. Clinical trials may be designed to evaluate

promising new products, pharmacologic agents (drugs or biologics), devices, clinical guidance, and/or emerging approaches and technologies. [Download PDF >>](#)

[Learn more about these programs >>](#)

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## DoD: Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program

The Office of Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) is funded through the Department of Defense (DoD). The vision and mission of the CDMRP includes addressing issues related to military health, mission readiness, and the health needs of both deployed and non-deployed military personnel, their dependents, Veterans, and other military beneficiaries (i.e., family members of retirees).

Currently, CDMRP programs with open funding opportunities include:

- [Lung Cancer](#)
- [Orthotics and Prosthetics Outcomes](#)
- [Ovarian Cancer](#)
- [Peer Reviewed Cancer](#)
- [Peer Reviewed Medical](#)
- [Peer Reviewed Orthopaedic](#)
- [Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Spinal Cord Injury](#)
- [Tick-Borne Disease](#)

For a full list of open programs, visit the [CDMRP website](#).

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## DOE: AI and Machine Learning

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science program in Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) has recently published two funding opportunities related to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning:

**AI and Decision Support for Complex Systems:** This program ([DE-FOA-0002321](#)) is interested in research applications to explore potentially high-impact approaches in the development and use of artificial intelligence and machine learning *in the context of computational decision support for complex systems*.

*Required pre-application deadline: May 6, 2020; Application deadline: June 5, 2020*

**Scientific Machine Learning for Modeling and Simulations:** This program ([DE-FOA-2319](#)) is interested in research applications to explore potentially high-impact approaches in the development and use of artificial intelligence and machine learning *for predictive scientific modeling and simulations*.

*Required pre-application deadline: May 1, 2020; Application deadline: May 29, 2020*

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## DOE: Research, Development and Training in Isotope Production

The Department of Energy (DOE) Isotope Program (DOE IP), managed by SC's Nuclear Physics (NP) program is interested in receiving [applications for Research and Development \(R&D\)](#) on novel methods to produce or improve production of radioactive or enriched stable isotopes needed for a wide variety of research and applications. This announcement is administered under the NP Isotope Development & Production for Research and Applications (IDPRA) Sub-Program. The proposed R&D should generate data relevant to isotope production or lead to new and innovative technologies or improvements to existing technologies to foster enhanced production of isotopes. Successful applications will clearly describe how the outcome of the proposed work would support and enhance the production of isotopes used for research and applications in medicine, homeland security, the physical sciences, biological and geological sciences, energy, industry, etc.

Applications incorporating effective ways to train personnel with essential knowledge and skills related to the production, processing, purification, and distribution of enriched stable and radioactive isotopes are strongly encouraged.

*Deadline: June 15, 2020*

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## DOI: Montana / Dakotas Cultural and Paleontological Resource Management

The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Montana / Dakotas manages archaeological and historic sites, artifact collections, places of traditional cultural importance to Native Americans and other communities, and paleontological resources that occur on federal lands in the states of Montana and the Dakotas. Collectively, these heritage resources represent thousands of years of human occupation, and millions of years of the earth's natural history. BLM Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Programs coordinate management, preservation, education and outreach efforts, economic opportunities, and public uses of a fragile, nonrenewable scientific record that represents an important component of America's heritage. The [BLM Montana / Dakotas Cultural Heritage and Paleontology Resource Management Programs](#) seek to establish partnerships that collaboratively encourage the public to learn about and engage with heritage resources in Montana and the Dakotas, with the goals of building a meaningful conservation stewardship legacy through expanding public access for recreation opportunities on public lands, working to ensure meaningful consultation and self-determination for Tribes, enhancing visitor experience on public lands by better meeting infrastructure and maintenance needs, and eliminating unnecessary steps and duplicative reviews while maintaining rigorous environmental standards.

*Deadline: June 5, 2020*



## ED: Statistical and Research Methodology in Education

Through the National Center for Education Research (NCER), the Institute of Education Sciences (Institute) in the Department of Education (ED) provides support for programs of research in areas of demonstrated national need. The Institute's research grant programs are designed to provide interested individuals and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities for all learners. Through the [Statistical and Research Methodology in Education](#) grant program, NCER intends to support the development of a wide range of methodological and statistical tools to better enable applied education scientists to conduct rigorous education research.

*Application deadline: July 30, 2020*



## James S. McDonnell Foundation: 21st Century Collaborative Activity Awards

The James S. McDonnell Foundation offers [Collaborative Activity Awards](#) to initiate interdisciplinary discussions on problems or issues, to help launch interdisciplinary research networks, or to fund communities of researchers/practitioners dedicated to developing new methods, tools, and applications of basic research to applied problems. In each case the focus of the collaborative activity must meet the program guidelines for one of the following program areas: Studying Complex Systems, Understanding Human Cognition, or Mathematical & Complex Systems Approaches for Brain Cancer. Strong preference will be given to applications involving multi-institutional collaboration.

*Letter of Inquiry Accepted Anytime*



## MIT Solve: Health Security and Pandemics

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is the latest in a series of infectious disease emergencies, including cholera, Ebola, SARS, Chikungunya, HIV/AIDS, and influenza. While scientists and drug developers, with support from governments and multilateral organizations, have been rushing to produce, test, and deliver vaccines and treatments, tech innovators also have a crucial role to play, both in the near term and to prevent and mitigate future disease outbreaks.

In the near term, we need improved solutions for prevention, accurate

detection, and rapid response. [MIT Solve](#) is seeking tech innovations that can slow and track the spread of an emerging outbreak, for example by improving individual hygiene, developing low-cost rapid diagnostics, analyzing data that informs decision making, and providing tools that support and protect health workers.

At the same time, we cannot solely treat disease outbreaks reactively. Climate change and globalization leave us ever more vulnerable to future epidemics and pandemics, and it's critical to be prepared. Solve is also seeking solutions that focus on preventative and mitigation measures that strengthen access to affordable primary healthcare systems, enhance disease surveillance systems, and improve healthcare supply chains.

Over \$1.5 million in prize funding is available for Solve's 2020 Global Challenges, including Health Security & Pandemics. [Learn more >>](#)

*Deadline: June 18, 2020, 11am*



## NEH: Digital Projects for the Public

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) [Digital Projects for the Public \(DPP\)](#) program supports projects that interpret and analyze humanities content in primarily digital platforms and formats, such as websites, mobile applications and tours, interactive touch screens and kiosks, games, and virtual environments. The projects must be designed to attract broad public audiences.

All DPP projects should:

- present analysis that deepens public understanding of significant humanities stories and ideas;
- incorporate sound humanities scholarship;
- involve humanities scholars in all phases of development and production;
- include appropriate digital media professionals;
- reach a broad public through a realistic plan for development, marketing, and distribution;
- create appealing digital formats for the general public; and
- demonstrate the capacity to sustain themselves.

All projects should demonstrate the potential to attract a broad, general, nonspecialist audience, either online or in person at venues such as museums, libraries, or other cultural institutions. Applicants may also choose to identify particular communities and groups, including students, to whom a project may have particular appeal.

NEH also welcomes applications for non-promotional digital components of a larger project. For these projects, you should explain how the digital platform will enrich the users' learning experience and engagement. For instance, if your request is for a mobile experience that would operate within a museum or would work in conjunction with a film, you should explain how this project element will substantially add to the audience's learning experience.

*Deadline: June 19, 2020*





## NIH NIEHS NOSI: Understanding the Impact of Environmental Exposures on Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) encourages applications for mission-relevant research to understand the impact of environmental exposures on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and its causative agent, the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov-2). NIEHS is particularly interested in applications that will provide insight into the role of environmental exposures in pathogenicity, transmission, individual susceptibility, or prevention and intervention strategies. To apply, you can use several mechanisms:

- For a **new R21 grant** that doesn't build off an existing NIEHS grant, apply to [RFA-ES-19-011](#) (Time-Sensitive Research Opportunities in Environmental Health Sciences) providing the time-sensitive criteria are met. (The entire cycle from submission to award is expected to be 3 – 4 months).
- For a supplement to a **current funded NIEHS grant** within your scope of work, apply to [PA-18-591](#) (Administrative Supplement).
- For a work related to a **current funded NIEHS grant**, but outside the original scope of work, apply to [PA-18-935](#) (Urgent Competitive Revision).



## NIH: Instrumentation Grants

### Shared Instrumentation for Animal Research (SIFAR) Grant Program [[PAR-20-112](#)]

SIFAR encourages applications from groups of NIH-funded investigators to purchase or upgrade scientific instruments necessary to carry out animal experiments in all areas of biomedical research supported by the NIH. Applicants may request clusters of commercially available instruments configured as specialized integrated systems or as series of instruments to support a thematic well-defined area of research using animals or related materials. Priority will be given to uniquely configured systems to support innovative and potentially transformative investigations.

This opportunity supports requests for state-of-the art commercially available technologies needed for NIH-funded research using any vertebrate and invertebrate animal species. It does not support requests for single instruments. At least one item of the requested instrumentation must cost at least \$50,000, after all applicable discounts. No instrument in a cluster can cost less than \$20,000, after all applicable discounts. There is no maximum price requirement; however, the maximum award is \$750,000.

### Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG) Program [[PAR-20-113](#)]

SIG encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of expensive, specialized, commercially available instruments or integrated systems. The minimum award is \$50,000 of



direct costs. There is no maximum price limit for the instrument; however, the maximum award is \$600,000 of direct costs. Types of instruments supported include, but are not limited to: X-ray diffractometers, mass spectrometers, nuclear magnetic resonance, spectrometers, DNA and protein sequencers, biosensors, electron and light microscopes, cell sorters, and biomedical imagers.

### **High-End Instrumentation (HEI) Grant Program** [\[PAR-20-114\]](#)

HEI encourages applications from groups of NIH-supported investigators to purchase or upgrade a single item of high-end, specialized, commercially available instruments or integrated systems. The minimum award is \$600,001. There is no maximum price limit for the instrument; however, the maximum award is \$2,000,000. Types of instruments supported include, but are not limited to: X-ray diffractometers, mass spectrometers, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometers, DNA and protein sequencers, biosensors, electron and light microscopes, cell sorters, high throughput robotic screening systems, and biomedical imagers.

*Deadline: June 1, 2020*

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## **NIH: Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Short-Term Institutional Research Training Grant (Parent T35)**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) will award Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Short-Term Institutional Research Training Grants ([PA-20-162](#)) to eligible, domestic institutions to develop and/or enhance research training opportunities for predoctoral students interested in careers in biomedical, behavioral, or clinical research. Many NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) use this NRSA program exclusively to support intensive, short-term research training experiences for health professional students (medical students, veterinary students, and/or students in other health-professional programs) during the summer. This program is also intended to encourage training of graduate students in the physical or quantitative sciences to pursue research careers by short-term exposure to, and involvement in, the health-related sciences. The training should be of sufficient depth to enable the trainees, upon completion of the program, to have a thorough exposure to the principles underlying the conduct of biomedical research.

*[Standard deadline dates](#) apply; the first standard application due date for this program is May 25, 2020.*

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## **NIH: Science Education Partnership Award (R25 – Clinical Trial Not Allowed) – Limited Submission Opportunity**

[Limited submission grant programs](#) are those that indicate a limit on the number of proposals that may be submitted by an institution for a particular deadline. A selection process becomes necessary if more applicants express interest in applying than NDSU is allowed to submit to the grant program.

**NIH SEPA : [Notify RCA](#) by 4/22/2020, 5:00 p.m. if you are interested in submitting to this program.**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Research Education Program ([PAR-20-153](#)) supports research education activities in the mission areas of the NIH. The overarching goal of this R25 program is to support educational activities that complement and/or enhance the training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs.

To accomplish the stated over-arching goal, this program will support creative educational activities with a primary focus on:

- Courses for Skills Development
- Research Experiences
- Mentoring Activities
- Curriculum or Methods Development
- Outreach

Information on current SEPA projects can be found at:

<https://www.nigms.nih.gov/Research/crcb/sepa/Pages/default.aspx> and <https://www.nihsepa.org>.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with the SEPA Scientific / Research Contact to be advised on the appropriateness of the intended project for SEPA program objectives and the priorities of the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS).

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## **NSF / Amazon: Fairness in Artificial Intelligence**

NSF and Amazon are partnering to jointly support computational research focused on fairness in AI, with the goal of contributing to trustworthy AI systems that are readily accepted and deployed to tackle grand challenges facing society ([NSF 20-566](#)). Specific topics of interest include, but are not limited to, transparency, explainability, accountability, potential adverse biases and effects, mitigation strategies, algorithmic advances, fairness objectives, validation of fairness, and advances in broad accessibility and utility. Funded projects will enable broadened acceptance of AI systems, helping the U.S. further capitalize on the potential of AI technologies. Although Amazon provides partial funding for this program, it will not play a role in the selection of proposals for award.

Advancing AI is a highly interdisciplinary endeavor drawing on fields such as computer science, information science, engineering, statistics, mathematics, cognitive science, and psychology. As such, NSF and Amazon expect these varied perspectives to be critical for the study of fairness in AI. NSF's ability to bring together multiple scientific disciplines uniquely positions the agency in this collaboration, while building AI that is fair and unbiased is an important aspect of Amazon's AI initiatives. This program supports the conduct of fundamental

computer science research into theories, techniques, and methodologies that go well beyond today's capabilities and are motivated by challenges and requirements in real systems.

*Deadline: July 13, 2020*



## NSF: Civic Innovation Challenge

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Civic Innovation Challenge (CIVIC) ([NSF 20-562](#)) is a research and action competition in the Smart and Connected Communities (S&CC) domain designed to build a more cohesive research-to-innovation pipeline and foster a collaborative spirit. CIVIC introduces several unique features that differentiate it from the NSF S&CC program:

1. CIVIC flips the community-university dynamic, asking *communities* to identify civic priorities ripe for innovation and then to partner with researchers to address those priorities;
2. CIVIC focuses on research that is ready for piloting in and with communities on a short timescale, where real-world impact can be evaluated within 12 months;
3. CIVIC requires the inclusion of civic partners in the core project team, to emphasize civic engagement; and
4. CIVIC organizes and fosters “communities of practice” around high-need problem areas that allow for meaningful knowledge sharing and cross-site collaboration during both pre-development and piloting.

CIVIC is organized as a two-stage competition with two tracks centered around the following topic areas:

- Track A. Communities and Mobility (Supported by NSF and DOE): *Offering Better Mobility Options to Solve the Spatial Mismatch Between Housing Affordability and Jobs*; and
- Track B. Resilience to Natural Disasters (Supported by NSF CISE and DHS): *Equipping Communities for Greater Preparedness and Resilience to Natural Disasters*.

In the first stage (Stage 1), up to 12 awards per track will be made for Planning Grants – each with a budget of up to \$50,000 for four months to undertake pre-development activities, including solidifying the team, maturing the project plans, and preparing to submit a well-developed full proposal for Stage 2. Only awardees of Stage 1 will be eligible to submit proposals for Stage 2.

In the second stage (Stage 2), up to four teams per track will be selected from Stage 1 award recipients to receive a full award — each with a budget of up to \$1,000,000 for up to 12 months to execute and evaluate their research-centered pilot projects.

*Deadline: July 1, 2020*



## NSF: Convergence Accelerator

The NSF Convergence Accelerator has announced the release of the 2020 NSF Convergence Accelerator Phase I and II Program Solicitation ([NSF 20-565](#)).

The NSF Convergence Accelerator promotes use-inspired, convergence research in areas of national importance via partnerships between academic and non-academic stakeholders. The 2020 NSF Convergence Accelerator overall convergence topics (tracks) are related to both [Industries of the Future \(IoT\)](#) and [NSF's Big Ideas](#). The 2020 NSF Convergence Accelerator tracks are: **Quantum Technology (Track C)** and **AI-Driven Innovation via Data and Model Sharing (Track D)**. [NSF 20-565](#) contains detailed descriptions of these two tracks and NSF's expectations of your submissions.

- The submission of a Preliminary Proposal (PP) is required. There is no limit to the number of PPs you can submit. The PPs are due May 11, 2020.
- Based on the review of the PPs, Phase I proposals will be invited and submission is by invitation only and will be due July 10, 2020. Phase I awards are expected to occur in September 2020 and awardees will participate in Cohort activities for nine months.
- Phase I teams will participate in the Convergence Accelerator curriculum, which pushes them to identify and expand partnerships with end-users, other stakeholders, and other teams, allowing them to refine their plans for Phase II. All Phase II proposals must be built upon a foundation developed by one or more Phase I awards. Phase II proposals will occur in Spring 2021.

The NSF Convergence Accelerator program is committed to research and development that derives expertise from and provides broad benefits to a diverse public. The program encourages proposals from, and partnerships with, minority-serving institutions and other organizations that reflect, support, and include a diverse public (e.g., in terms of demographics and regions).

*Required Preliminary Proposal deadline: May 11, 2020*

*Invited Phase I proposal deadline: July 2020*



## NSF: Cyber-Physical Systems

Cyber-physical systems (CPS) are engineered systems that are built from, and depend upon, the seamless integration of computation and physical components. The CPS program ([NSF 20-563](#)) aims to develop the core research needed to engineer these complex CPS, some of which may also require dependable, high-confidence, or provable behaviors. Core research areas of the program include control, data analytics, and machine learning—including real-time learning for control, autonomy, design, Internet of Things (IoT), mixed initiatives including human-in- or human-on-the-loop, networking, privacy, real-time systems, safety, security, and verification. By abstracting from the particulars of specific systems and application domains, the CPS program seeks to reveal cross-cutting, fundamental scientific and engineering principles that underpin the integration of cyber and physical elements across all application domains. The program additionally supports the development of methods, tools, and hardware and software components based upon these cross-cutting principles, along with validation of the principles via prototypes

and testbeds. This program also fosters a research community that is committed to advancing education and outreach in CPS and accelerating the transition of CPS research into the real world.

*Deadlines vary by project size.*

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## **NSF: Opportunities for Promoting Understanding through Synthesis (OPUS)**

The OPUS program ([NSF 20-564](#)) provides an opportunity for an individual or a group of investigators to revisit and synthesize a significant body of their prior research or data they have previously collected to enable new understanding. This program is appropriate for scientists at any career stage and for any synthetic activities that aim to produce unique, integrated insight useful to the scientific community, now and in the future.

All four clusters within the [Division of Environmental Biology](#) (Ecosystem Science, Evolutionary Processes, Population and Community Ecology, and Systematics and Biodiversity Science) encourage the submission of OPUS proposals.

*Deadline: August 3, 2020*

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## **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions**

Cities around the world are taking meaningful action to advance health equity by designing solutions that benefit the health of people and our planet. Through this [funding opportunity](#), the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation seeks to bring the most impactful ideas from across the globe to U.S. cities to address the intertwined issues of health, equity, and climate change.

The Foundation is seeking proposals that foster learning and stimulate action in U.S. cities around smart, effective approaches from abroad that mitigate the unequal health risks posed by climate change. Specifically, they are looking for proposals that explore changes in city planning, policies, and programs that address: buildings and energy; land use and urban planning; transportation; waste; food systems and food security; and air quality.

*Deadline: May 28, 2020*

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## **USDA: Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants**

The [Distance Learning and Telemedicine \(DLT\) Program](#) provides financial assistance to enable and improve distance learning and telemedicine services in rural areas. DLT grant funds support the use of telecommunications-enabled

information, audio and video equipment, and related advanced technologies by students, teachers, medical professionals, and rural residents. These grants are intended to increase rural access to education, training, and health care resources that are otherwise unavailable or limited in scope.

*Deadline: July 13, 2020*



Have questions, ideas, or suggestions for the RCA Update?

[Contact Us](#)



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*The Office of Research and Creative Activity (RCA) sends weekly emails to NDSU faculty and staff to provide current information on various topics including funding opportunities, grant program changes, research resources, deadlines, notices, and training.*

*You are receiving this notification through the NDSU official employee listserv or sub-list. The official listserv refreshes after each pay period.*

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