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INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETY,
CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT
VIRGINIA TECH.

ISCE NEWS FLASH

March 31, 2020



We wish you well, personally and professionally, during these unusual times.

Keep physically distant but socially connected!

Karen, David, Isabel, Yancey, and Cyndi

ISCE is offering bridge funding to support NSF RAPID proposals, or other external proposals, related to individual and community responses to COVID-19.

See the information below for more details.

Please send any news items to Yancey Crawford
at yanceyc3@vt.edu by Friday each week.

Funding Opportunities



Congress pumps up NSF program to fast-track COVID-19 research

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has **received an extra \$75 million to spend on non-medical research that will help "prevent, prepare for, and respond" to the coronavirus through its RAPID mechanism.** The funds are a small part of the stimulus package recently passed by Congress to help address the impacts of COVID-19. Read a [Science news article](#) on the funding and the [Dear Colleague Letter from NSF](#) on the related RAPID mechanism.

Deadline: Ongoing



ISCE Bridge Support for NSF RAPID and other External Proposals

During these unprecedented and challenging times, there is need for research to understand individual and community response to COVID-19. One avenue for doing so is the [NSF Dear Colleague Letter on COVID-19 using the RAPID mechanism](#), which has received additional federal funding to support non-medical, non-care studies. Other agencies and foundations may also offer similar opportunities now or in the future.

If you have received the “green light” from an NSF Directorate to submit a full RAPID proposal, or from some other funding agency, for a non-medical COVID-19 study, **ISCE is making available limited bridge funding of up to \$5,000 if there is a need to start data collection prior to receiving notification of the award.**

To apply for bridge funding, use the [ISCE Unsolicited Request Form](#) and

include a copy of the email from NSF, or other organization from which you are seeking funds. In addition, all ISCE staff is available remotely to assist you with proposal reviews and submissions. Contact [Yancey Crawford](#) with questions.

Deadline: Ongoing

Upcoming Limited Submission Funding Opportunities

The following federal grant opportunities have upcoming internal deadlines for notices of intent. **These opportunities are limited submissions, where only one proposal can be submitted by Virginia Tech.** If interested in applying, contact [Janet Webster](#) to learn more about the internal process for selecting a proposal to move forward.

- [NSF Partnership for Innovation](#): Notice of Intent due date: April 8, 2020
 - [NIH Data Science Research: Personal Health Libraries for Consumers and Patients](#) (R01); Notice of Intent due date: April 10, 2020
 - [USDA/NIFA Education and Workforce Development: Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy](#); Notice of Intent due date: May 29, 2020
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Request for Concept Papers for Data & Decisions Extended

The **Data and Decisions Destination Area (DA)** has extended the deadline for its concept papers until **April 12th**. The Data and Decisions DA is committed to transdisciplinary solutions that advance the human condition and society with better decisions through data. The DA invites proposals for projects that identify and make impactful changes, highlighting VT as a destination for Data and Decisions research. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: April 12, 2020

Grand Challenges

Solving global health and development problems for those most in need

Improving the Impact of Health Campaigns

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation invites applications for a Grand Challenge focused on Innovations for Improving the Impact of Health Campaigns. The foundation is **seeking innovative solutions that accelerate the improvement of coverage, reach, efficiency, and effectiveness of mass health campaigns that deliver health products or services in low- and middle-income countries**, specifically through improved planning/microplanning and focus on unreached populations. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: April 22, 2020



Call for Applications for Aging Research

The RRF Foundation for Aging (formerly The Retirement Research Foundation) is accepting proposal applications for its next grant cycle. RRF recently completed a strategic planning process that focuses its grant making on four **priority areas: caregiving, economic security in later life, housing, and social and intergenerational connectedness**. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020

The MITRE logo, consisting of the word "MITRE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, centered within a white rectangular box.

RFP for Cybersecurity Research

As part of its National Cybersecurity Federally Funded Research and

Development Center, MITRE Corporation has issued a request for proposals for projects led by academic researchers **that describe groundbreaking ideas or highly innovative approaches which have the potential to produce novel contributions to the state of cybersecurity in the United States.** Typical awards are for \$100,000-200,000. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020



Call for Proposals for Waste Management Practices

The Environmental Research & Education Foundation welcomes **applications for projects and research addressing any area of integrated solid waste management, with priority given to research aimed at increasing sustainable solid waste management practices.** The following topic areas will be considered: waste minimization; recycling; waste conversion to energy, biofuels, chemicals or other useful products; strategies to promote diversion to higher and better uses; and landfilling. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020



Call for 2021 Applications for Bogliasco Fellowships in Italy

The Bogliasco Foundation **supports the arts and humanities by providing residential fellowships at its study center in Bogliasco near Genoa, Italy.** The fellowships provide one-month residencies to individuals whose achievement in any discipline of the arts and humanities helps society understand its place in the world, shaping and defining what it means to be human. To be eligible, applicants must be able to demonstrate significant

achievement in their disciplines, commensurate with age and experience. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: May 1, 2020



MIT Solve Invites Proposals for Health Security & Pandemics Challenge

MIT Solve, through its Health Security & Pandemics Challenge, is **seeking tech innovations that can: 1) slow and track the spread of an emerging outbreak, such as COVID-19; or 2) develop preventive and mitigation measures** that strengthen access to affordable primary healthcare systems, enhance disease surveillance systems, and improve healthcare supply chains in the event of pandemics. Solutions selected for this challenge will receive a \$10,000 grant from Solve. Solver teams will be selected by a panel of cross-sector judges at the Solve Challenge Finals during the meeting of UN General Assembly in New York City on September 20, 2020. [Click here](#) for details.

Deadline: June 18, 2020



Virginia Catalyst Announces Round 11 of Grant Funding

The Virginia Catalyst is accepting letters of intent for Grant Round 11 to fund the development and commercialization of life science projects that address major unmet needs for improving human health and advancing Virginia's economy. **Emphasis will be placed on innovative projects focused on solutions for COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.** Awards, which range from \$200,000-\$800,000, help fund collaborative efforts between industry and Virginia research universities. [Click here](#) for details. A free webinar for applicants will be held on April 22nd from 12:00-1:00 p.m. via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/644376195>.

Deadline: June 30, 2020

Previously Posted Opportunities

- [ICAT - 2021 Accelerate Festival](#)
Deadline: April 17, 2020
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Conferences, Seminars and Events

Due to the need for social distancing, all in-person events at VT have been cancelled. Check back for announcements of any virtual events in our next issue.

Announcements and Faculty News



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

COVID-19 Websites and Resources for VT Research Community

Adapted notification from Trudy Riley, Associate VP for Research & Innovation and Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs:

Please be aware the Office of Sponsored Programs is here to support the research endeavor at Virginia Tech. Most of the OSP staff are telecommuting but are available via email, phone and zoom as needed.

- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):** Under the [Sponsored Programs section of the FAQs](#) on the OVPRI COVID-19 website are General FAQs regarding VT specific processes and procedures. There are also sections

with FAQs for some specific sponsors.

- **Resources:** There is a link on the OVPRI COVID-19 website for [resources](#) where OSP is posting information and links to federal agencies guidance as well as other organizations that provide insight and information.
- **Personal Activity Reports (PARs):** The deadline for PARs submission is extended to April 22, 2020. **In order facilitate the submission of the remaining PARs, OVPRI IT is working in conjunction with the Controller's Office to develop a Google Form that can be used.** The Google form will only be sent to individuals who have not submitted their PAR as of the date this goes live. No one will need to duplicate their PAR submission. There will be more communicated about this topic as it becomes available.
- **Contacting sponsors:** If the PI determines that there is going to be a programmatic impact to their research, they should contact their sponsor's program official to disclose this information. **We ask that PIs copy their post award associate, so we have a record of the communication.** If PIs have a question regarding a financial action, contact the appropriate OSP post award staff member for guidance. Please remember that many sponsors will allow a grantee an approved No Cost Time Extension (NCTE). If this is the case, please follow standard OSP procedure for requesting the NCTE. If PIs do not know what or if they should contact their sponsor, please contact your post award associate to discuss.



Databases Available to Amplify Research related to COVID-19

The Consortium for Social Science Associations (COSSA) announced there are **a number of new databases for researchers wishing to amplify their work that may have relevance to the current crisis**, including the [COVID-19 Open Research Dataset](#), supported by the [Allen Institute for AI](#), and a [grassroots effort on GitHub](#) to compile new social science research related to COVID-19. COSSA also encourages any social scientists sharing their work on these platforms to send it to [COSSA](#) to help them explain to policymakers the impacts of social sciences on crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.



Research-to-Policy COLLABORATION

Research to Policy Solutions & Resources

The Research to Policy Collaboration is actively **collecting and disseminating research-informed solutions and resources on the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on children and families to federal staff and legislators**. To learn more, visit their [COVID page](#) and review the first issue of their weekly newsletter. To join their contact list or share suggestions for topics for fact sheets, op-ed, policy brief, blog or other communications, contact [Cagla Giray](#).



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

NEH Receives \$75 Million to Distribute to Cultural Institutions Affected by Coronavirus

The National Endowment for the Humanities will receive \$75 million in supplemental funding to assist cultural institutions affected by the coronavirus as part of the \$2.2 trillion CARES Act economic stabilization plan appropriated by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Trump. **This emergency funding will support at-risk humanities positions and projects at museums, libraries and archives, historic sites, colleges and universities, and other cultural nonprofits** that have been financially impacted by the coronavirus. [Read more...](#)

'Zoombombing' Attacks Disrupt Classes

Online Zoom classes have been disrupted by individuals spewing racist, misogynistic or vulgar content. **Experts say professors using Zoom should familiarize themselves with the program's settings.** Read the [Inside Higher Ed article about the uptick in this phenomenon](#) and a [Zoom blog post on ways to prevent this problem](#) from occurring.



Create A Coronavirus Plan B For Elder Care

Dr. Karen Roberto, Virginia Tech distinguished professor and senior fellow for the Center of Gerontology, says its vital now to take extreme precautions and to consider alternate plans to care for elderly individuals. [Read more...](#)

Alternative modes of transportation can help with social distancing & health

Virginia Tech transportation expert **Ralph Buehler** says that people who need to travel should consider alternate modes of transportation to not only practice social distancing, but foster healthy lifestyles and mental well-being. [Read more...](#)



11 ways the novel coronavirus pandemic is eerily similar to the 1918 influenza outbreak

E. Thomas Ewing, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies and Research and professor of history, is featured



in an Insider article comparing the coronavirus to the 1918 influenza outbreak. [Read more...](#)

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