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Senate Appropriations Committee advances FY2024 Agriculture funding bill

The Senate Appropriations Committee [approved](#) its FY2024 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The bill includes \$6.3 billion for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) a \$615 million increase over FY 2023 that meets the h a \$48.6 million increase for the Agricultural Research Service. There is language consistent with previous years, keeping a 15% set aside from AFRI for EPSCoR jurisdictions.

SASC Completes its NDAA Markup

U.S. Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Roger Wicker (R-MS), Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, announced that the Committee voted 24-1 to advance the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024. During the subcommittee and full committee markups of the legislation, the Committee considered 445 amendments and adopted 286 amendments. The bill now heads to the Senate floor for consideration. Within the bill, there is \$25 million for the Defense Established Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR), which ensures EPSCoR state jurisdictions may compete to perform cutting-edge basic research and partner with defense labs.


Debt Ceiling Deal

Early June, Congress passed and President Biden signed, the bipartisan debt ceiling agreement to avert a U.S. government default. The bill was carried by moderates in both parties. As a reminder, the agreement suspends the debt ceiling through Jan. 1, 2025 and sets spending caps for fiscal 2024 and 2025. Those caps would limit defense spending to a 3.3% increase in 2024 and a 1% increase in 2025, while nondefense discretionary would be essentially flat funded in 2024 and 2025. Regarding appropriations, the debt ceiling bill also includes a mechanism to discourage a FY24 Continuing Resolution (flat FY23 funding), providing that if all twelve appropriations bills are not enacted by Jan 1, 2024, discretionary spending will temporarily operate at a maximum of 99% of current levels.



Funding requests may be for a maximum total budget of \$7,000,000 over the first four (4) years and a maximum of \$4,500,000 over the subsequent three-year renewal period, as applicable. The Year-1 budget will be committed upon award, and subsequent year budgets are subject to satisfactory annual review of project success. Pending performance and outcome of a renewal proposal review in the fourth year, support for years five through seven will continue at an expected total of up to \$4,500,000 over the three-year renewal period.

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possibility of continuation for four additional years, where the continuation is based on project on satisfactory progress as based on the annual reporting requirements.

Regional Innovation Engines Awards

NSF [announced the first-ever NSF Regional Innovation Engines](#), or NSF Engines, program awards to 44 unique teams spanning universities, nonprofits, businesses and other organizations across the U.S. states and territories. Each awardee team will receive up to \$1 million for two years.

A New Organization to Help Secure the Nation's Research

The Office of the Chief of Research Security Strategy and Policy (OCRSSP) at the National Science Foundation (NSF) is [released a Dear Colleague Letter](#) (DCL) soliciting input from the research community on creation of the Research Security and Integrity Information Sharing Analysis Organization (RSI-ISAO). As described in the DCL, the RSI-ISAO is meant to empower the U.S. research community to address foreign interference issues, support a security-informed decision-making structure, and serve as a conduit that connects research community stakeholders with U.S. government officials and expertise as appropriate. Importantly, the RSI-ISAO will offload some of the administrative workload from those it serves and empower them to utilize tools and other capabilities not typically available to them.

Federal Research Funding: Is There a Fairer Way to Share the Pie?

On June 27, 2023, Issues in Science & Technology [hosted a discussion](#) of how efforts to share research dollars can promote equity and enhance research capacity nationwide. Issues in Science and Technology is a quarterly journal published by the [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) and [Arizona State University](#). Panelists are below and you can find a video of the discussion [here](#).

- Anna Quider, Founder, The Quider Group; Senior Research Fellow, Northern Illinois University
- Vanessa Sansone, Director of Policy, Alliance for Research on Regional Colleges



EDA Tech Hubs Webinar

Our team attended a [tech hubs webinar](#), hosted by EDA, and the highlights are below. You can find the slide presentation [here](#). Over 150+ questions were asked on the webinar and EDA has promised to address them all on their website. We will report further when there is more information.

- You can apply as a designation or strategy development grants, or for both. Must apply for designation if you want to apply for Phase 2
 - EDA expects to designate ~20 regions for Phase 1
- Strategy Development grants could help you receive a designation in the future.
- Phase 2 EDA expects to award 5-10 consortia
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