

June 2020 Newsletter
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NIH COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS AND GRANTEES

Guidance for various aspects of research and grant application processes, as well as FAQs and COVID-19 funding opportunities can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 UPDATES HISTORY WEBPAGE

Relevant updates for applicants and grantees by date can be found [here](#).

FAQ DOCUMENT ON COVID-19 FLEXIBILITIES

Policies and programs affecting the grants process can be found [here](#).

HHS AWARDS \$20M TO EXPAND ADDICTION WORKFORCE

On June 2, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that they had awarded \$20.3 million in grants to 44 recipients to increase the number of fellows at accredited addiction medicine and addiction psychiatry fellowship programs. Read more [here](#).

VOLKOW WEIGHS IN ON CIVIL UNREST

On June 4, Dr. Nora Volkow sought to address the recent large-scale protests against police brutality by drawing a connection between entrenched racism and public health. Dr. Volkow noted that systemic racial discrimination in the United States justifies treating addiction as a disease instead of a moral failing that should be dealt with through punishment. Read more [here](#).

JOINT PROGRAM TO FIGHT ONLINE OPIOID SALES

On June 8, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration [announced](#) that it is partnering with the FDA to start a 120-day pilot program aiming to curb illegal online sales of unapproved opioids. Read more [here](#).

USPSTF RELEASES RECOMMENDATION ON SCREENING FOR UNHEALTHY DRUG USE

On June 9, The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) released a final recommendation statement on screening for unhealthy drug use. The recommendation, the evidence on which it is based, and a summary for clinicians can be found [here](#). The final recommendation statement can also be found in the June 9, 2020 online issue of JAMA [here](#).

OMB ISSUES LIMITED EXTENSION OF FLEXIBILITY DUE TO COVID-19 IMPACTS

On June 18, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a memo allowing federal funding agencies, including NIH, to continue to provide certain administrative flexibility to their grantees in light of COVID-19 impacts to research. Read more [here](#).

NIH RELEASES GUIDANCE ON OMB MEMO ON ADMINISTRATIVE FLEXIBILITIES

On June 25, NIH released guidance in response to the June 18 memo posted by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on federal funding agencies continuing to provide certain administrative flexibility to their grantees. Read more [here](#).

RAPID ACCELERATION OF DIAGNOSTICS FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS (RADx-UP) INITIATIVE

Through its Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics for Underserved Populations (RADx-UP) initiative, the NIH aims to reduce COVID-19 associated morbidity and mortality disparities for vulnerable and underserved populations that are disproportionately affected by, have the highest infection rates of, and/or are most at risk for adverse outcomes from contracting the virus. As part of the [RADx-UP initiative](#), NIH released three Notices of Special Interest on June 12 to solicit emergency competitive revision applications to existing awards and a fourth funding opportunity announcement for a Coordination and Data Collection Center to support the goals of the NIH RADx-UP program. Read more [here](#).

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: NIDA STRATEGIC PLAN

As part of the strategic planning process, NIDA has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for feedback on an initial outline of their FY 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Comments will be accepted at NIDAstrategicPlan@nida.nih.gov through August 7, 2020. Read the RFI [here](#).

PANDEMIC UNLEASHES A SPIKE IN OVERDOSE DEATHS

A White House drug policy office analysis shows an 11.4 percent year-over-year increase in fatalities for the first four months of 2020, confirming experts' early fears that precautions like quarantines and lockdowns combined with economic uncertainty would exacerbate the addiction crisis. Read more [here](#).