

February 2021 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](#).

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES SPECIFIC TO COVID-19

A list of active and expired funding opportunities across NIH related to SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 research can be found [here](#).

HHS COVID-19 AWARDS TRACKING WEBSITE

The HHS COVID-19 award tracking website, including data on awards made by all HHS awarding agencies with supplemental appropriations, can be found [here](#).

NIH COVID-19 RESEARCH WEBSITE

A new website provides a central location for trusted, up-to-date, accurate information about research and the NIH's strategic role in COVID-19 research. Read more [here](#).

RESEARCHERS FIND LINK BETWEEN THC USE AND NEUROPSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

A new meta-analysis published by JAMA on February 2 found that adverse psychiatric symptoms are correlated with THC use in adults over 50. Researchers analyzed clinical trials of THC and other synthetic cannabinoid medicines and found that the risk of transient negative psychiatric symptoms increased as the dose of cannabinoids increased. However, researchers did not find any association between adverse psychiatric symptoms in studies looking at THC and CBD together. Read more [here](#).

BIPARTISAN LAWMAKERS INTRODUCE BILL TO BOOST MARIJUANA RESEARCH

On February 5, Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Brian Schatz (D-HI), and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) introduced a bill to encourage scientific and medical research of marijuana and cannabidiol. Identical legislation introduced by the senators during the 116th Congress passed the Senate unanimously, but the House and Senate ran out to reconcile differences before the end of the congress. Read more [here](#).

BALDWIN, SHAHEEN URGE BIDEN TO INCREASE OPIOID ABUSE FUNDING

Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) led 17 other senators in a February 18 letter urging the president to increase federal funding to fight opioid and substance use disorder, which has been exacerbated by the pandemic. They requested boosts in resources for prevention, treatment, and recovery as well as treatment provider workforce programs in the administration's upcoming budget. Read the letter [here](#).

STUDY SUGGESTS MARIJUANA USE BY CALIFORNIA TEENS INCREASED AFTER LEGALIZATION

According to a new study published in the Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, in the two years after California enacted marijuana legalization, there was an uptick in the share of adolescents using marijuana, reversing a decline that occurred in prior years. Read more [here](#).

NEW JERSEY LEGALIZES CANNABIS

On February 22, New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed legislation that legalizes cannabis for adults, decriminalizes the possession of up to six ounces of the drug and codifies criminal justice reforms that will upend how police officers interact with underage offenders. Read more [here](#).

LAWMAKERS TARGET X-WAIVER IN ADDICTION LEGISLATION

On February 25, Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Reps. Paul Tonko (D-NY) and Michael Turner (R-OH), announced the reintroduction of their Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act to eliminate the x-waiver. Read more [here](#).

OPM ISSUES UPDATED GUIDANCE REGARDING FEDERAL WORKERS AND CANNABIS USE

Kathleen McGettigan, Acting Director of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in the Biden Administration, on February 26 provided updated guidance with respect to whether individuals with a history of marijuana use are suitable for federal employment. Read more [here](#).