

# ORSP Newsletter



OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

APRIL 2009

## UMass Boston and Federal Stimulus Funding

The [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (ARRA) was signed into law by President Obama on February 19, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put down a payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The ARRA includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

### Where will Recovery Act funds be invested?

#### Scientific Research and Facilities

Support for the construction of new research and educational facilities as well as ground-breaking scientific research that will improve the health of the nation.

#### Community and Family Support Services

Critical funding for programs such as community services infrastructure, adoption and foster care assistance, meals for the elderly and persons with disabilities, Head Start, and subsidized child care to support children and families through the lifecycle.

#### Community Health and Health Care Assistance

Support for the renovation and improvement of community health centers and other programs across the country; as well as Medicaid relief for the nation's most vulnerable families.

#### Health IT

Funding to modernize the health care system by catalyzing the adoption of health information technology by 2014. Achieving this goal will reduce health costs for the federal government by over \$12 billion in the next 10 years.

### What is unique to ARRA funds?

Each taxpayer dollar spent on economic recovery will be subject to unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability. All U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) agencies must ensure that:

- \* Recovery funds will be awarded and distributed in a prompt, fair, and reasonable manner;
- \* The recipients and uses of all recovery funds will be transparent to the public, and the public benefits of these funds will be reported clearly, accurately, and in a timely manner; and
- \* Recovery funds will be used for authorized purposes and every step will be taken to prevent instances of fraud, waste, error, and abuse; projects funded under the recovery legislation will avoid unnecessary delays and cost overruns; and programs will meet specific goals and targets, and will contribute to improved performance on broad economic indicators.

The evaluation criteria for DHHS awards will include those that will have an impact on the measurement and likelihood of achieving these outcomes, including jobs creation and preservation. The DHHS may obligate funds provided under the ARRA on an existing grant, including, but not limited to, a continuation or renewal of that grant. Grants and cooperative agreements will spell out the assignment of agency roles and responsibilities to fulfill the ARRA's unique requirements. These include, but are not limited to, report development and submission, accurate and timely data reporting, and special posting requirements to [www.hhs.govrecovery](http://www.hhs.govrecovery) and [Recovery.gov](http://Recovery.gov).

## Applying for Federal Stimulus Funding

Deadlines to apply for federal stimulus funds are fast approaching. As you consider the possibilities, below are two tools and one request for assisting you in your important endeavors to bring funds to UMass Boston.

Several weeks ago faculty and staff were asked to submit concept documents in response to potential opportunities that may be forthcoming with the federal economic stimulus package. These concept documents have been compiled and are now available for you to view, in the hope that these will lead to inter-departmental and inter-college collaborations. To view the compilation, click on the hyperlink [https://xythos.umb.edu:443/users/James.Mortenson%40umb.edu/Economic\\_Stimulus/Stimulus.doc](https://xythos.umb.edu:443/users/James.Mortenson%40umb.edu/Economic_Stimulus/Stimulus.doc), (continued on next page)

## Applying for Federal Stimulus Funding

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enter your e-mail address (first.last@umb.edu), enter your e-mail password, and click on OK.

Staff in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) have put together a series of web pages on “UMass Boston and Federal Stimulus Funding” available at <http://www.umb.edu/research/orsp/index.html>.

As soon as you decide to develop a proposal for stimulus funds, please immediately contact Jim Mortenson, ORSP communications and training manager, at [james.mortenson@umb.edu](mailto:james.mortenson@umb.edu). Doing so will allow us as an institution to coordinate our submission efforts, especially with respect to avoiding duplication.

## Obama makes NIH Access Policy Permanent

A provision in the 2009 Consolidated Appropriation Act, signed into law by President Obama on March 11, makes permanent the National Institutes of Health’s public access policy. The law now states, “The director of NIH shall require in the current fiscal year and thereafter that all investigators funded by the NIH submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine’s PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication: *Provided*, That the NIH shall implement the public access policy in a manner consistent with copyright law.”

While library directors and others have praised the policy, publishers have opposed it, and a bill is pending in Congress that would temporarily suspend it. The new law’s mention of “consistent with copyright law” leaves the debate open still, as publishers have claimed the policy violates copyright laws.

## NSF updates guide to reflect mentoring requirement

Beginning with proposals received after April 6, 2009, researchers submitting proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF) must include a maximum one-page description of mentoring activities if the proposal includes post-doctoral researchers. Currently, mentoring activities are described in a separate section in the 15-page “project description.” The NSF has mandated the change as part of the America Competes Act and is contained in the revised NSF *Proposal & Awards Policies and Procedures Guide*.

## GAO official describes ARRA oversight activities

At a hearing earlier this month before the Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, an official of the Government Accountability Office (GAO) described the GAO’s role in helping ensure accountability and transparency of funds distributed under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Gene L. Dodaro, acting comptroller general, testified that “GAO is charged with reviewing the use of funds by selected states and localities” and would be focusing on Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas.

Dodaro also said agencies’ inspectors general “are expected to audit the efforts of federal agencies’ operations and programs related to the Recovery Act, both individually within their particular entities and collectively.” He also described best practices for preventing fraud, which is a risk given the large sums of money that will be made available. These best practices include ensuring contracts are well-structured by establishing clear requirements prior to award, awarding contracts competitively, and using fixed-price contracts to the maximum extent possible.

## NSF to award \$2 billion in stimulus funds

The National Science Foundation will use \$2 billion in stimulus funds from the ARRA to fund proposals that are already in house and will be renewed and/or awarded prior to September 20, 2009. The foundation made this announcement and posted it on its website on March 18, 2009.

The foundation also expects to expeditiously award funds as specified in the ARRA for the following programs: Math and Science Partnership Program (\$25M); Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program (\$60M); Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) and Facilities Construction Program (\$400M); Academic Research Infrastructure Program (ARI); and Science Masters Program (\$15M). Solicitations for the MRI and ARI programs will be published this spring.

## Faculty Profile



**Jessica A. Whiteley** joined the faculty of the Department of Exercise and Health Sciences in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences as an assistant professor in 2005. She specializes in health behavior change, weight management, and promoting health through interactive technologies.

Dr. Whiteley's current research interests are in the areas of women's health, health behavior change, physical activity promotion, smoking cessation, Internet technology, and the dissemination of interventions. She is presently running a study to evaluate the impact of physical activity in helping promote smoking cessation for women at risk of cervical cancer. Sponsors of her research include the National Institute of Drug Abuse, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, National Cancer Institute, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. Whiteley has presented at the annual meetings of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) and the New England Psychological Association. She has also conducted workshops for the Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program Conference at the University of Maryland and the Working Wellness group in Miami.

She has performed several research studies to evaluate print programs, telephone programs, and Internet programs for increasing physical activity among women. Dr. Whiteley has published her research and authored articles on physical activity promotion and behavior change in various publications including the ACSM's *Resource Manual for Guidelines for Exercise Testing and Prescription*.

## Some recent new awards

**Pdraig O'Malley** (McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies) has been awarded a \$25,000 two-year grant by the Ireland Funds for his project "Cities in Transition."

**Sandra Bispham Parkin** (Early Learning Center, Division of Student Affairs) has been awarded a \$8,000 Quality Improvement Grant by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education.

**Dragana Bolcic-Jankovic** (Center for Survey Research) has been awarded a \$38,500 grant by Brandeis University for her project "Coordinating Primary Care and Substance Abuse Treatment Services."

**Gary Siperstein** (Center for Education and Social Development) has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Bank of America Foundation to support the 2009 activities of Camp Shriver.

**Anthony Roman** (Center for Survey Research) has been awarded a \$25,000 grant by the Massachusetts Department of Education for the "2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey."

**Heidi Stanish** (Department of Exercise and Health Sciences, College of Nursing and Health Sciences) has been awarded a \$13,000 grant by the National Institutes for Health for "University Centers for Excellence in Development Disabilities Education."

**Deyang Qu** (Department of Chemistry, College of Science and Mathematics) has been awarded a \$110,000 grant by the Brookhaven National Laboratory for his project "Rechargeable Metal Air Cells for Plug-In Electric Vehicle Application."

**Bob Chen** (Department of Environmental, Earth, and Ocean Sciences, College of Science and Mathematics) has been awarded a \$262,000 grant by the Office of Naval Research to support his project "Predicting Chromophoric Dissolved Organic Matter Distributions in Coastal Waters."



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Do you have items you would like to submit for possible inclusion in a future newsletter? Please contact Jim Mortenson at [james.mortenson@umb.edu](mailto:james.mortenson@umb.edu).

