Assessment of CARES Act Research Funding Opportunities

While the legislative language does not specify eligibility requirements for the various research funding opportunities, institutions of higher education are generally eligible and competitive for these types of opportunities. Broadly speaking, UC is highly competitive for the general research areas outlined by agency/proposed funding amount.

Given UC’s overall research landscape, UC has the bench strength across research funding call topics from NIH, CDC, NSF, and HHS, as well as DOD, DOE, NIST, NOAA, NASA, NSF, EPA. The strengths of individual UC campuses could also be amplified if investigators across campuses were to decide to join together to pursue funding.

Expected Federal Agency Funding Opportunities


[NOTE: This document is not updated in real-time and may not accurately reflect the status of agency funding opportunities. Please refer to documents provided by FGR for the most up-to-date information about COVID-19-related hospital and research funding opportunities that are currently open and soliciting applications.]

National Institutes of Health (NIH) - $975 million

Purpose: To support research, including developing an improved understanding of the prevalence of COVID-19, its transmission and the natural history of infection, and novel approaches to diagnosing the disease. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2024.

Funding will be distributed as follows:

- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute: $103.4 million
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease: $706 million
  - Not less than $156 million shall be provided for the study, construction, demolition, renovation, and acquisition of equipment for, vaccine and infectious diseases research facilities of or used by NIH, including the acquisition of real property.
- National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering: $60 million
- National Library of Medicine: $10 million
- National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences: $36 million
- Office of the Director: $30 million

Eligibility: The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

Status: Awaiting Agency action

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - $2.8 billion

Purpose: For CDC-wide activities/program support. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2024.
Evaluation of Potential Research Funding Opportunities Provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act - H.R. 748

Funding will be distributed as follows:

- **Grants/cooperative agreements** with States, localities, territories, tribes, tribal organizations, urban Indian health organizations, or health service providers: **$1.5 billion** to contain and combat the virus, including repatriation and quarantine efforts, purchase and distribution of diagnostic test kits, support for laboratory testing, workforce training programs and combating antimicrobial resistance as a result of secondary infections.
- **Global disease detection and emergency response**: **$500 million**
- **Public health data surveillance and analytics infrastructure modernization**: **$500 million**
- **Infectious Diseases Rapid Response Reserve Fund**: **$300 million**

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**National Science Foundation (NSF) - $75 million**

**Purpose:** For research and related activities. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2021, to support NSF’s ongoing Rapid Response Research (RAPID) grant response to coronavirus which is funding research at the cellular, physiological, and ecological levels to better understand the virus.

The legislation also specifies that grants or cooperative agreements made by NSF to carry out research grants and other necessary expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus shall include amounts to reimburse costs incurred between January 20, 2020, and the date of issuance of such grants or agreements. In addition, funds appropriated for NSF may be made available to restore amounts, either directly or through reimbursement, for obligations incurred by NSF for research grants and other necessary expenses.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action


**Health & Human Services: Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund - $27 billion**

**Purpose:** For the development of necessary countermeasures and vaccines, including the development and demonstration of innovations and enhancements to manufacturing platforms. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2024.

Among the funds available:

- **Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority**: **$3.5 billion** for the manufacturing, production, and purchase of vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and small
molecule active pharmaceutical ingredients, including the development, translation, and demonstration at scale of innovations in manufacturing platforms.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**Department of Defense, Health Program** - $415 million

**Purpose:** For R&D, test, and evaluation. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2021.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**Department of Energy, Office of Science** - $99.5 million

**Purpose:** To provide support and access to scientific user facilities in the Office of Science and National Nuclear Security Administration, including equipment, enabling technologies and personnel. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2021.

The bill also includes language to support continued payment for federal contractors and subcontractors who, due to COVID-19, are unable to perform work at their duty-station or telework because of the nature of their jobs. This will be helpful for DOE national laboratories.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**Link:** [https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-applauds-passage-cares-act](https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-applauds-passage-cares-act)

**National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)** - $66 million

**Purpose:** For scientific and technical research/services. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2021.

Funding will be distributed as follows:

- **Scientific and Technical Research and Services:** $6 million to support continuity of operations, including measurement science to support viral testing and biomanufacturing.
- **Industrial Technology Services:** $60 million, as follows:
  - Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership: $50 million to assist manufacturers to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.
  - National Network for Manufacturing Innovation: $10 million to support the development and manufacturing of medical countermeasures and biological equipment and supplies.
Evaluation of Potential Research Funding Opportunities Provided by the 
*Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act - H.R. 748*

**NOTE:** None of the funds provided above will be subject to cost share requirements.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - $20 million**

**Purpose:** For operations, research, and facilities. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2021 to support continuity of operations, including National Weather Service life and property operations.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - $60 million**

**Purpose:** For safety, security, and mission services. The funds will remain available until 9/30/2021.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - $1.5 million**

**Purpose:** For the Science and Technology program. Funds will remain available until 9/21/2020, to conduct research on methods to reduce the risks from environmental transmission of coronavirus via contaminated surfaces or materials.

**Eligibility:** The bill does not specify eligibility requirements, but UC is generally eligible and competitive for this type of opportunity.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**Health & Human Services: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry - $12.5 million**

**Purpose:** For toxic substances and environmental public health. Funds will remain available until 9/30/2021.

Funding will be distributed as follows:

- *Geospatial Research, Analysis and Services Program - $7.5 million* to support spatial analysis and Geographic Information Systems mapping of infectious disease hot spots, including cruise ships. (page 720)
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- *Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU)* - *$5 million* for awards to PEHSU’s and state health departments to provide guidance and outreach on safe practices for disinfection for home, school, and daycare facilities. (page 720)

**Eligibility:** UCSF is listed as the Western States (Region 9) Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit. The Region 9 service area includes Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Nevada.

**Status:** Awaiting Agency action

**Link:** [https://www.pehsu.net/region9.html](https://www.pehsu.net/region9.html); [https://wspehsu.ucsf.edu/](https://wspehsu.ucsf.edu/)

**While not a funding opportunity, the following provision may be of interest to the UC research and innovation community.**

**U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)**

**Purpose:** Temporary authority of the USPTO Director during the COVID-19 emergency to toll, waive, adjust, or modify any timing deadline established by 35 U.S.C. 321 note (or regulations promulgated thereunder) if the Director determines that the emergency:

1. Materially affects the functioning of the Patent and Trademark Office;
2. Prejudices the rights of applicants, registrants, patent owners, or others appearing before the Office; or
3. Prevents applicants, registrants, or patent owners, or others appearing before the Office from filing a document or fee with the Office.