



Agency Heads Take to the Hill Over FY 2013 Budget Requests

Around the time that the daffodils start blooming in downtown Washington D.C., the federal government's thoughts turn to budgets.

President Obama released his administration's budget request for fiscal year 2013 in mid-February (see "Obama Unveils FY 2013 Budget Request To Partisan Cheers, Jeers," Feb. 27), marking the official start of the federal appropriations process for the year that will begin on Oct. 1.

And in late February, federal agency leadership began their annual treks to Capitol Hill to defend their FY 2013 budget requests to the congressional committees and subcommittees who will ultimately decide their fate.

The hot seat is particularly hot this year. The backdrop for the FY 2013 appropriations process includes an upcoming general election, a highly partisan and deeply divided Congress with vocal deficit hawks and other critics of federal spending, a budget ceiling agreed to last fall that some legislators are attempting to lower even further, and across-the-board

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Employment Focus

President Calls for Creation of American Job Center to Enhance Job Training

President Obama recently proposed a new American Job Center network to unify the nearly 3,000 federally funded employment centers nationwide. The president's budget request for fiscal year 2013, which was released in mid-February, included a \$50 million investment for the job center.

The White House also has provided details on related strategies, which were outlined in Obama's Jan. 24 State of the Union address, to further the administration's goals of improving middle-class employment and training.

One of the main purposes of the job center is to streamline the reemployment system through a new Universal Displaced Worker Program, which is expected to reach a million displaced workers a year by connecting them with businesses and other employers.

Education leaders have widely commended the president for his focus on higher education and job training.

"President Obama's FY13 budget indicates that the Administration recognizes the value of career and technical education in creating a pipeline for students from high school to college, and through to their careers," said Kimberly Green, executive director of the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium of Alexandria, Va.

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Webinar Alert

Don't miss Thompson's March 22 webinar entitled "Internal Controls — What They Are and Why We Need Them!" Attorney and grants management specialist Tiffany R. Winters will explain what internal controls are, identify ways to detect weaknesses in internal controls and provide practical examples of internal controls that are recommended by federal agencies.

For more information and to register, go to <http://www.thompsoninteractive.com/site/offer.jsp?promo=001524EM&priority=00295702242>.

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Obama's earlier proposals of \$1.1 billion in funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act) and the new \$8 billion American Jobs Act also would be big steps in the right direction, according to Green and the Association for Career and Technical Education.

"Given the current economic environment that our nation is enduring, we are encouraged that the budget includes level funding for Perkins at \$1.1 billion, which would support CTE programs that prepare students across the nation to be college- and career-ready, and succeed in the global economy," Green said.

Although those multibillion dollar education and jobs bills face uphill battles to be passed by Congress, the proposed American Job Center network could be accomplished soon, since the president would use his executive authority to launch it.

A proposed change to the current displaced worker job assistance program would eliminate value judgments related to how a worker is displaced. Instead of providing extensive training, reemployment services and support only to workers in trade-impacted industries, the streamlined system would expand training and employment services for a broader number of displaced workers. In addition, the Universal Displaced Worker Program would combine the Trade Adjustment Assistance program with the Workforce Investment Act Dislocated Worker program to advance a goal of nearly doubling the current number of displaced workers assisted annually to about one million.

The new program would provide displaced workers with job searching assistance and critical skills training for high-growth and high-demand industries. There also

would be an option of wage insurance for older workers. Another change would build on the recently created Community College to Career Fund that was designed to forge new partnerships between community colleges and businesses to train two million workers for jobs in high-growth industries.

As proposed in the FY 2013 budget, the Universal Displaced Worker Program would include:

- **Effective training:** The initiative would increase investment in counseling and case management services to give participants better information about effective training programs. It would provide an evaluation of what works and provide incentives and performance standards for participants and training providers.
- **American Job Center Network:** Everyone seeking job assistance and all businesses looking for skilled workers could reach an American Job Center for national assistance, information, training and other services. An online tool at JobCenter.USA.gov and toll-free number will be available to everyone in need of an American Job Center's services. Community colleges, community-based organizations, libraries and state and federal agencies would work in partnerships with the program to ensure universal access to these services and information. The website will include information from some federal programs and local resources.
- **Expanded satellite programs:** The president's budget proposes \$50 million for expanding American Job Center satellite programs and virtual centers in public housing, schools, libraries and community colleges. It would also add mobile centers and provide support services for work and training services.
- **Universal Displaced Worker Program:** When workers lose their jobs after employers close down or eliminate positions, they will receive reemployment services that include job search assistance, work search plans, skills assessment and referrals to appropriate job training.
- **Training awards:** Displaced workers could receive \$4,000 training awards per year for up to two years. This funding will provide support for workers who need to obtain training in technical fields to learn new skills. Workers also could be referred to training based on local American Job Centers' assessments.
- **Support while job seeking:** Workers would receive a weekly stipend for childcare, transportation and

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spending cuts to help reduce the federal debt that are scheduled to take effect in early 2013.

But the show must go on. One after another, the administration’s deputies have begun taking their places in front of Congress to explain and justify the latest budget requests for their agencies. The hearings are expected to continue at least through the end of the month.

The agency heads that have already presented their cases include Janet Napolitano, secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, who spoke to the House appropriations subcommittee that oversees homeland security programs on March 8. Napolitano discussed DHS’ major initiatives and activities over the past year, highlighted the proposed National Preparedness Grant Program (see “DHS Prepares Consolidation of Preparedness Programs,” Feb. 27) and defended the agency’s budget request for FY 2013 with \$39.5 billion in net discretionary funding, which is 0.5 percent below the FY 2012 enacted level.

Napolitano’s testimony was complemented by the testimony of Richard Serino, the deputy administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is housed within DHS. Serino emphasized recent FEMA initiatives to streamline and better administer its programs while detailing the FY 2013 request for just over \$10 billion net discretionary budget authority, about 6 percent below FEMA’s FY 2012 enacted level. Serino also justified FEMA’s \$6 billion request for its Disaster Relief Fund, including a \$500 million reserve cache.

Attorney general Eric Holder testified to both chambers of Congress on the Department of Justice’s \$27.1 billion budget request for FY 2013, which includes \$2 billion for state, local and tribal law enforcement programs. In his remarks, Holder emphasized the use of those funds to combat violence against women, support victims of crimes and address and prevent violent crime through Community Oriented Policing Services and other locally implemented grant programs. Holder also touted DOJ’s recovery of billions of dollars in improper payments and the accomplishments of its other fraud investigations.

One administrator whose funding has been under the congressional microscope is Lisa Jackson, who heads up the Environmental Protection Agency. Jackson testified on EPA’s \$8.3 billion budget request to a

House subcommittee whose chamber has the agency in its sights for significant reductions. Jackson gave particular emphasis to the elements of the budget request that would support public health and environmental initiatives at the state and local levels. In addition to noting that 40 percent of the agency’s budget request would go toward state and tribal assistance grants, Jackson highlighted \$1.2 billion for state and local air quality management grants, pollution control grants and the tribal general assistance program. Another quarter of EPA’s budget request would be routed to states for clean water and drinking water state revolving funds, which support water infrastructure in local communities.

In addition to the general Capitol Hill sentiment towards cutting federal spending, other budget pressures are coming from calls for specific grant programs to be consolidated or eliminated. For example, a recent report from the Government Accountability Office highlighted overlaps across four of DHS’ major grant programs that awarded a total of \$20 billion from fiscal years 2002 through 2011. GAO encouraged the agency to implement more of the recommendations from an earlier report, including improvements to its program oversight and better integration and coordination of its operations and initiatives.

Another GAO report identified duplication, overlap and fragmentation in 51 areas across the federal government, including grant-funded programs at a number of agencies, and suggested opportunities for the efficiency and/or effectiveness of those programs to be improved.

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Program Notebook

EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently accepting applications for grants to support environmental workforce development and job training programs that help individuals secure full-time employment in the environmental field.

The EPA's Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants – which were formerly known as Brownfields Job Training Grants – provide funds to nonprofits, local governments and other entities to deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and underemployed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. The program is intended to offer communities the flexibility to provide a variety of types of environmental training based on the needs of the local labor market and employers. By supporting the training of predominantly unemployed low-income and minority residents of communities that are impacted by a variety of waste facilities, blighted properties, contaminated sites and other environmental issues, the funding agency hopes to prepare local residents for environmental jobs that contractors may otherwise fill from outside the affected community. The funding agency is particularly interested in supporting training programs that offer

solid and hazardous waste remediation, environmental health and safety and wastewater-related training.

Organizations that qualify for Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training include nonprofits; state, local and tribal governments; quasi-government entities; regional councils; and redevelopment agencies. Recipients of fiscal year 2011 awards through this program are only eligible to apply for funding through this competition if they propose to serve a different city.

All applicants must use award funds to offer and require all program participants to be trained in the following areas as part of the proposed curriculum, at a level that is appropriate to local employers' hiring needs:

- hazardous waste operations and emergency response;
- underground storage tank leak prevention awareness training;
- solid waste management or cleanup-related awareness training;
- innovative and alternative treatment technologies-related awareness training;
- wastewater treatment awareness training; and
- reducing exposures and promoting the health and safety of workers.

In addition to those mandatory trainings, grant funding may be used for such activities as:

- Training in the assessment, inventory, analysis, and remediation of hazardous sites or facilities;
- Training in site preparation to install alternative energy or alternative fuel technologies;
- Training in environmental chemistry, toxicology and geology as needed to inventory, assess, remediate, and clean up contaminated sites;
- Training for spill response, including industrial and environmental spills;
- Training in first aid, CPR, emergency response, blood-borne pathogens, first responder, disaster site worker and National Incident Management System;

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants

CFDA: 66.185


Objective: To deliver environmental workforce development and job training programs that recruit, train and place local, unemployed and underemployed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field

Eligibility: States, local governments, tribes, nonprofits and other government entities

Funding: \$2.8 million

Match: Not required

Deadline: Applications are due on April 12

Contact: Multiple agency contacts. 

See *Program Notebook*, p. 6

Collaboration

This article was written by Amy Whitlock Jennings, MS, GPA, a coauthor of the Study Guide and Bibliography: Support for the Grant Professional Certification Examination (Second Edition). The study guide, which Thompson has partnered with the authors to make available, may be found at <http://www.thompson.com/public/offerpage.jsp?prod=GYPSEY>. This is the latest in a series of columns written by the authors of the study guide for Local/State Funding Report on a range of grant topics.

According to Webster, collaboration is “to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor” and “to cooperate with an agency or instrumentality with which one is not immediately connected”. Ultimately, collaboration brings people and organizations together surrounding a common goal and/or vision. *Collaboration and Community*, by Scott London (1995), states “Collaboration may be appropriate under a variety of circumstances, from resolving a neighborhood or environmental dispute, to revitalizing an economically depressed area, to settling a conflict between communities, to a joint venture among businesses, to promoting greater civic participation and involvement in the well-being of a community.”

In today’s economy, funders value collaboration more than ever. Collaboration provides the ability to address a community issue in a synergistic way that demonstrates each organization’s “buy-in” as well as to accelerate what an agency can do by itself. Furthermore, it increases access to resources and connects people with programs that meet the identified need, without duplicating service. It also brings multiple resources such as, funding, facilities, and human and social capital together in an agreed upon manner that addresses the community goal.

While collaboration is beneficial, it can also be difficult and take time to develop. While the

collaborative team has one common goal, an individual participating entity may have independent and separate objectives. Organizations tend to work autonomously, can be territorial, and have difficulties negotiating to a common ground. Working as part of a team, sharing turf, and willingness to compromise are important skills in building collaboration. Relationships with organizations are built in the same manner as individual relationships; one-at-a-time and with constant nurturing. It is also important to ensure that the organization’s mission is in harmony with that of the collaborative.

Collaboration works best when the group agrees on the rules of engagement, as follows:

- It is imperative that each collaborative team member listens to the others;
- No idea should be discounted;
- All ideas should stay on the table until the group reaches a resolution;
- Listen to flawed ideas and build upon them as they are often the stepping stones to the path the group will choose;
- Provide new learning opportunities;
- Learn from each other;
- Leave egos at the door, as there is no place for it in a collaborative; and
- Put others’ ideas before your own and the entire team will shine.

Collaboration is easier said than done! The best collaborative team will have disagreements. Don’t get frustrated and walk out the door. See the usefulness in the challenge and use it to move towards an agreeable solution. “The secret is to gang up on the problem, rather than each other.” – *Thomas Stallkamp*. 📌



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Program Notebook (cont. from p. 4)

- Training in HAZMAT and commercial driver's license, forklift and machine operations to transport hazardous waste;
- Health exams, drug testing or licensing fees directly related to training and/or placing graduates in environmental work;
- Training facility rental fees or minor alteration of existing facilities; and
- Eligible participant support costs, including trainee transportation for site visits during or to get to and from class.

Matching funds are not required for this program. However, the agency will evaluate each applicant's ability to secure and leverage additional funding and resources.

Each application will be initially screened by the relevant EPA Regional Office to determine whether it meets the program's threshold criteria. Applications that pass the initial threshold screening subsequently will be

reviewed by national evaluation panels that include EPA staff.


Specific evaluation factors are:

- Community need (up to 20 points);
- Training program description, anticipated outcomes and outputs (up to 23 points);
- Programmatic capability (up to 24 points);
- Community and employer partnerships (up to 25 points); and
- Budget/resources (up to 8 points).

All awards are made for a project period of three years. For the current competition, EPA has \$2.8 million available for approximately 14 awards of up to \$200,000 each.

All applications must be submitted by mail, commercial delivery or via Grants.gov no later than April 12.

Need More Information?

To view the full grant announcement, go to <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-oblr-12-03.pdf>. 

Job Center (cont. from p. 2)

other expenses, ranging from \$150 to \$300 for up to 78 weeks. Workers who need to relocate for better job opportunities could receive job search and relocation allowances of up to \$1,250 each.


- Wage insurance: Workers age 50 or older who find new full-time jobs at wages of \$50,000 or less could qualify for wage insurance to offset their earnings in new, lower-wage jobs. This could last for up to two years.

The president's stated goal is to simplify job training and work reentry services through the initiative, which would both streamline the process of seeking services and increase the funding available for helping displaced workers.

"Americans looking for work shouldn't have to go through a complex administrative process or navigate multiple websites just to figure out how to get the services and training they need," Obama said in his State of the Union address. "It's time to modernize the system. Anyone who has lost a job, no matter what the circumstances, deserves the same support to get back on their feet – and today's announcement will help make sure they get it."

Need More Information?

A White House press release with the president's proposals is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/03/12/white-house-announces-details-president-s-plan-provide-americans-job-tra>.

A response to the president's State of the Union address from the Association for Career and Technical Education's response is available at <http://www.acteonline.org/content.aspx?id=17330>. 

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However, all of the high-level attention, attention and chatter around streamlining and reducing redundancy crash into one simple fact, which the chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency put a point on at a recent hearing. As Craig Fugate recently told the House Appropriations Subcommittee, “everybody wants to protect their part of the budget.” Few people like to be the victim of downsizing efforts, and federal agencies and programs are no different. But in the current fiscal and political climate, the vast majority of agency heads and staff know that the issue is not a matter of whether they will be reduced – but which programs will be affected and by how much.

For now, all of the hearings and testimony and questioning and defending on the FY 2013 budget is largely for show. Most observers of the federal appropriations process agree that it’s extremely long odds that many (if any) of the appropriations bills will be passed before the general election that will occur just a few weeks after the fiscal year officially begins.

The most likely scenario is a continuing resolution that keeps the federal government and its programs funded at least through the election, if not through January, when the winners will be seated. At that point, the updated chambers of Congress would pick up the appropriations ball to finalize the fate of FY 2013.

Need More Information?

The full FY 2013 budget request is available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/budget.pdf> and the summary tables are available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2013/assets/tables.pdf>.

Janet Napolitano’s DHS testimony to Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security (March 8) is available at

<http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/testimony/20120308-s1-fy13-budget-request-sac.shtm>.

Richard Serino’s testimony on FEMA for the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications hearing is available at <http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/testimony/20120229-fema-fy13-budget-request.shtm>.


The attorney general’s testimony to the Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies is available at <http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-1203081.html>.

The attorney general’s testimony to the House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies is available at <http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-1202281.html>.

Lisa Jackson’s testimony to House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittees on Energy and Power, Environment and the Economy is available at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/6427a6b7538955c585257359003f0230/965f209e952dcec0852579b20052a667!OpenDocument>.

The GAO report on DHS is available at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/589125.pdf> and highlights from the report are available at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/589126.pdf>.

The GAO’s 2012 report on duplicative goals and activities across the federal government is available at <http://www.gao.gov/assets/590/588818.pdf>.

Craig Fugate’s testimony to the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee is available at <http://appropriations.house.gov/UploadedFiles/HHRG-112-AP15-CFugate-20120307.pdf>. 

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Grant & Regulation Alert

A compilation of funding notices and regulations issued by federal agencies and foundations

Agriculture

Expansion of 911 Access Loans and Loan Guarantees — **Effective:** March 16, 2012. **C.F.R.:** 7 C.F.R. Part 1735.

Action: The Rural Utilities Service adopted regulations to expand or improve 911 access and integrated emergency communications systems in rural areas under the Telecommunications Loan Program. **Contact:** David Villano, 202-720-9554. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-16/pdf/2012-6420.pdf>.

Arts/Culture

Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges — **Deadline:** August 14, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, states and local governments, colleges, Native American tribal governments. **Fund uses:** To advance the role of humanities at community colleges, exploring the way cultures worldwide influence American society. **Contact:** Staff, 202-606-8380; crcfp@neh.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=150493&mode=VIEW>.

Children/Youth

State Median Income Estimates for a Four-Person Household — **Action:** The Administration for Children and Families determined the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program estimated median income of four-person households in each state and the District of Columbia for FFY 2013. **Contact:** Peter Edelman, 202-401-5292. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-15/pdf/2012-6220.pdf>.

Economic Development

Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP) — **Deadline:** June 7, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, states, local governments. **Fund uses:** To generate employment and assist business firms in obtaining federal and local government contracts. **Contact:** Staff, PTAP@dla.mil. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=152454&mode=VIEW>.

Education

Discrimination on the Basis of Disability in Federally Assisted Programs and Activities — **Effective:** March 14, 2012. **C.F.R.:** 34 C.F.R. Part 104. **Action:** The Department of Education interpreted Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and issued its implementing regulations, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in federally assisted programs and activities. **Contact:** Arthur Goldman, 800-421-3481. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-14/pdf/2012-6122.pdf>.

Employment/Training

Serving Juvenile Offenders in High-Poverty, High-Crime Communities — **Deadline:** May 1, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits. **Fund uses:** To serve juvenile offenders, ages 14 and up, in high-poverty, high-crime communities. **Contact:** Melissa Abdullah, 202-693-3346; Abdullah.Melissa@dol.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=153576&mode=VIEW>.

Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Fields Program (WAMS) — **Deadline:** April 12, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, Native American tribal governments, small businesses, individuals. **Fund uses:** Program supports research and extension projects with collaborations to increase participation of women and minorities from rural areas in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. **Contact:** NIFA Help Desk, 202-401-5048; electronic@nifa.usda.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=151877&mode=VIEW>.

Environment

Solid State Energy Conversion Alliance Core Technology Program — **Deadline:** April 30, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, universities, others. **Fund uses:** To facilitate the development of solid oxide fuel cells that operate on coal derived synthesis gas fuels. **Contact:** Meghaan D. Hampton, 304-285-4442; Meghaan.Hampton@netl.doe.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=154753&mode=VIEW>.

Efficient and Timely Environmental Reviews Under the National Environmental Policy Act — **C.F.R.:** 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500-1503, 1505 and 1506-1508. **Action:** The Council on Environmental Quality issued its final guidance on improving the process for preparing efficient and timely environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act. **Contact:** Horst Greczmiel, 202-395-5750. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-12/pdf/2012-5812.pdf>.

FY 2012 Coastal Resilience Networks — **Deadline:** May 4, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, Indian Tribal governments, states, local governments. **Fund uses:** To implement activities that enhance resilience of coastal communities to natural hazards and climate risks. **Contact:** James Lewis Free, 843-740-1185; James.L.Free@noaa.gov. **More information:** <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=152213&mode=VIEW>.

Health

Primary Care Training and Enhancement Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Joint Graduate Degree Program — **Deadline:** April 19, 2012. **Eligibility:** Hospitals, allopathic or osteopathic medical schools, PA training programs, nonprofits. **Fund uses:** To educate future primary care clinicians, teachers and researchers. **Contact:** Staff, 877-464-4772; CallCenter@HRSA.GOV. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=154613&mode=VIEW>.

Lifespan Respite Care Program — **Deadline:** May 14, 2012. **Eligibility:** State agencies. **Fund uses:** To provide lifespan respite care for family caregivers of children or adults, including training and recruiting respite care workers and volunteers. **Contact:** Greg Link, greg.link@aoa.hhs.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=153433&mode=VIEW>.

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Grant Alert (cont. from p. 8)

Building Integrated and Sustainable Lifespan Respite Programs — **Deadline:** May 14, 2012. **Eligibility:** State agencies. **Fund uses:** To bring to scale and more fully integrate respite services across the lifespan. **Contact:** Greg Link, Greg.link@aoa.hhs.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=153573&mode=VIEW>.

NLM Information Resource Grants to Reduce Health Disparities — **Deadline:** May 22, 2012. **Eligibility:** States, local governments, nonprofits, tribal organizations. **Fund uses:** To bring useful health information to health disparity populations and their health care providers. **Contact:** Staff, FBOWebmaster@OD.NIH.GOV. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=153533&mode=VIEW>.

The Tobacco Regulation Awareness, Communication, and Education Program (U1A) — **Deadline:** May 9, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, government agencies, faith-based, community-based organizations. **Fund uses:** To establish or expand Tobacco Control Act health education and communication programs at community level. **Contact:** Stephanie D. Bogan, stephanie.bogan@fda.hhs.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=153853&mode=VIEW>.

Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents — **Deadline:** June 14, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, medical providers, health plans. **Fund uses:** To improve the health of nursing facility residents and reduce avoidable inpatient hospital admissions. **Contact:** Staff, 800-518-4726; support@grants.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=153873&mode=VIEW>.

Public Health Conference Support for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities — **Deadline:** May 7, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits. **Fund uses:** To support nonfederal conference for improving health and quality of life for people with disabling health conditions. **Contact:** Agency staff, 770-488-2700; pgotim@cdc.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=151695&mode=VIEW>.

Job Training/Employment

Indian and Native American Employment and Training Program; Solicitation for Grant Applications and Announcement of Competition Waivers for Program Years 2012 and 2013 — **Deadline:** April 18, 2012. **Eligibility:** Nonprofits, government agencies, serving Alabama, New Hampshire,

Vermont, New York, Georgia, and North Carolina. **Fund uses:** To provide employment and training services to Indians, Alaska natives and native Hawaiians. **Contact:** Gwendolyn Baron-Simms, 202-693-3309; baron-simms.gwendolyn@dol.gov. **More information:** <http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=153593&mode=VIEW>.

Nutrition

Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers — **Deadline:** May 14, 2012. **Eligibility:** Colleges and universities. **Fund uses:** To improve cost benefit analyses of adopting Integrated Pest Management practices and to reduce environmental risks associated with managing pests. **Contact:** Dr. Herbert Bolton, 202-401-4201; hbolton@nifa.gov. **More information:** <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=151973&mode=VIEW>.

Transportation

Environmental Impact and Related Procedures — **C.F.R.:** 23 C.F.R. Part 771. **Action:** The Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration proposed regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. **Contact:** Antoinette Quagliata, 202-366-4265. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-15/pdf/2012-6327.pdf>.

Value Engineering — **Effective:** April 16, 2012. **C.F.R.:** 23 C.F.R. Part 627. **Action:** The Federal Highway Administration updated its regulations to better integrate value engineering analysis when planning and developing highway improvement projects. **Contact:** Jon Obenberger, 202-366-2221. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-15/pdf/2012-6244.pdf>.

FY 2012 Discretionary Livability Funding Opportunity: Alternatives Analysis Program — **Deadline:** April 19, 2012. **Eligibility:** States, local governments, nonprofits. **Fund uses:** To conduct analysis and improve information involving major transit improvements. **Contact:** Kenneth Cervenka, 202-493-0512; kenneth.cervenka@dot.gov. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-12/pdf/2012-5895.pdf>.

Veterans

Vet Center Services — **C.F.R.:** 38 C.F.R. Part 17. **Action:** The Department of Veterans Affairs proposed to offer readjustment counseling now provided in VA's Vet Centers to certain veterans of the Armed Forces and members of their immediate families, and to implement provisions of the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010 regarding readjustment counseling. **Contact:** Gregory Harms, 202-461-6525. **More information:** <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-13/pdf/2012-6004.pdf>. 