

Concept Clearance - Construction Grant Program

The NIH construction program provides support for creation of new and improvements to existing biomedical research facilities. Special congressional appropriation is required to fund such construction activities. In addition, an organization must possess statutory authority to issue funding opportunity announcements (FOAs), to fund construction awards, and subsequently to oversee the usage of the facilities. ORIP was created with such authority. Since ORIP's creation in 2011, it is the only NIH unit which has issued construction FOAs and managed construction projects.

These activities were supported by:

- 1) Special Congressional initiatives:
 - a) Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 led to the publication in FY2014 [RFA-OD-13-007](#);
 - b) Hurricanes Maria, Harvey & Irene Relief A - Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, P.L. 115-123 led to the publication in FY2019 of [PAR19-041](#);
- 2) Construction funds appropriated to the DPCPSI's Office of AIDS Research (OAR);
- 3) FY 2019 Congressional appropriation.

The Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief funded two awards to re-create animal research facilities at the NYU Langone Medical Center, for a total of \$49M. Applications submitted to PAR19-041 (Maria, Harvey & Irene Relief) were reviewed by a peer review panel last March and this Council of Councils will provide the second level of review during its closed session. A budget of up to \$15M is available.

ORIP – OAR collaboration resulted in different projects determined by OAR priorities towards infrastructure needed for HIV/AIDS-related research:

- 1) In FY 2013 ORIP published [RFA-OD13-003](#) and funded four awards with a cumulative budget of (about) \$3.5M to maintain the physical infrastructure of National Primate Research Centers;
- 2) In FY2017 ORIP published [PAR16-290](#) and funded one award with a budget of \$4.9M for a cGMP-level facility to produce HIV/AIDS vaccine candidates for small clinical trials;
- 3) FY2018 ORIP published [PAR18-693](#) and funded two awards with a cumulative budget of \$7.8M to rebuild the infrastructure at the University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus supporting the Caribbean Primate Research Center;
- 4) In FY2019 ORIP published [PAR19-114](#) to upgrade infrastructure of non-human primate facilities; submitted applications will be peer reviewed in June and presented to the Council of Councils in September. A budget of up to \$8M is available.

The FY2019 NIH budget included a \$50M line item for construction. Such an appropriation, the first time since 2001, has created lots of interest in the NIH extramural community. Applications submitted for [PAR19-128](#), titled *Biomedical Research Facilities*, will be peer reviewed in June and considered by the Council of Councils in September.

In summary, these construction programs provided unique support for recovery, improvements, and creation of biomedical research facilities that are crucial for the success of NIH's extramural research. Individual activities were directed to remedy the most pressing needs.

ORIP requests continued support for the extramural construction program, when appropriations are available.