

# NIH Common Fund and Other Transaction Authority (OTA)

## Common Fund has the legislative authority to support research through Other Transactions

From the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act:

SEC. 213. (a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Director of NIH (“Director”) may use funds available under section 402(b)(7) or 402(b)(12) of the PHS Act to enter into **transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, or grants)** to carry out research identified pursuant to such section 402(b)(7) **(pertaining to the Common Fund)** or research and activities described in such section 402(b)(12).

In general, NIH would use the OTA when it needs greater flexibility to identify and engage nontraditional research partners, or to engage traditional partners in new ways, and negotiate terms and conditions that will concentrate their efforts, spur innovation, and facilitate collaborative problem solving.

