



**Update on Federal Funding for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
at the National Institutes of Health (NIH)
January 12, 2010**

What is OppNet?

Opportunity Network (OppNet) is a new, trans-NIH basic behavioral and social sciences research (b-BSSR) initiative that was launched in December 2009. It is a network of twenty-four NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) and five programs within the Office of the NIH Director that share the mission of supporting b-BSSR. OppNet is meant to complement existing behavioral and social science research initiatives at NIH. The goal of this network will be to pool funds and collaborate on identified initiatives to tackle behavioral and social science challenges. The Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) below is in fact the first product of this collaboration.

The OppNet [website](#) is a valuable resource for behavioral and social science researchers. Here, NIH provides a listing of all b-BSSR funding opportunities at NIH, and through the *NIH RePORTer* system, data and statistics on amount of NIH funding dedicated to b-BSSR projects as well as a complete listing of all b-BSSR grants funded in Fiscal Year (FY) 2008. Additional resources include a catalogue of b-BSSR related journals and professional societies. Other trans-NIH b-BSSR related initiatives, such as the “Science of Behavior Change” initiative, among others, are also summarized. Ultimately, OppNet is designed to be the “one-stop-shop” for b-BSSR resources at NIH.

Funding Opportunity Announcements through OppNet

On December 28, 2009, NIH issued an FOA titled, “NIH Basic Behavioral and Social Science [b-BSSR] Opportunity Network (OppNet) Short-term Mentored Career Development Awards in the Basic Behavioral and Social Sciences [b-BSSR] for Mid-career and Senior Investigators (K18),” through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The purpose of this FOA is to support mid-career and senior level investigators in developing their b-BSSR research capability for the duration of three months to one year by providing researchers with the time and resources to enrich their b-BSSR research focus.

NIH intends to use up to \$2 million in ARRA funds for this program and plans to fund between 10-20 awards. The maximum budget for each proposal is \$50,000. **Please note that this FOA has a quick turnaround schedule – submissions will begin being accepted on January 16 and are due by February 18, 2010.** For further details on the research scope and application requirements of this FOA, please visit <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-OD-10-003.html>.

OppNet has also issued three notices for competitive revisions to existing b-BSSR grants through ARRA funding. Through these competitive revisions, OppNet plans to spend \$8 million on 20-30 awards by September 30, 2010:

- [NOT-OD-10-032](#) – This notice announces the availability of ARRA funds for competitive BSSR revisions for any parent grant. Applications due March 2, 2010.

- [NOT-OD-10-033](#) – This notice announces the availability of ARRA funds for competitive BSSR revisions for any HIV/AIDS parent grant Applications due March 25, 2010.
- [NOT-OD-10-036](#) – This notice announces the availability of ARRA funds for HIV/AIDS-related competitive revisions for any NIH parent grant. Applications due May 7, 2010. This notice differs from NOT-OD-10-033 because any eligible NIH research project grant (i.e., not simply AIDS-related parent grants) to supplement parent studies with additional research that applies to [b-BSSR](#) and to HIV/AIDS risk, prevention, disease progression, and/or treatment.