



# NAIPI NEWS

June 18, 2015

Dear NAIPI membership:

Below and attached contain good news from Van Scoyoc Associates.

**Carolyn H. Bohach, Ph.D.**  
NAIPI President

Dear EPSCoR/IDeA State Representatives,

Today, the House Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee held a mark-up of their FY16 bill. We are very happy to report that the bill recommends \$311,865,000, a \$38.5 million or 14% increase for NIH's IDeA program. The Chairman of the EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition, Dr. Bill Gern, sent the attached letter to House Labor-HHS Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK), thanking him for supporting the IDeA program with such a significant increase in an austere budget environment. While the increase for the IDeA program is very good news, the Congressional Quarterly article that was published yesterday (attached below) is a reminder of the increased focus this year on the EPSCoR/IDeA programs in Congress and in the press.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers (R-KY) announced during the mark-up that the Full Committee mark of the FY16 Labor-HHS appropriations bill will take place next week. For those of you with Members on the House Appropriations Committee, please contact them before Friday and ask that they support Chairman Cole and the increase for IDeA during next week's Full Committee mark-up. We also encourage all states to ask their House members, whether they are on the House Appropriations Committee or not, to contact Chairman Cole and thank him for his support of the IDeA program.

The Senate Labor-HHS-Education appropriations subcommittee will mark-up their FY16 bill next week. Thank you for your on-going support of the Coalition's efforts to increase funding for the IDeA program. We will keep you posted as further developments occur.

Mike Adcock and Stu Van Scoyoc  
Van Scoyoc Associates

## CQ HEALTHBEAT NEWS

June 16, 2015 – 3:30 p.m.

House Bill Would Boost NIH Rural Grant Program by 14 Percent

By Kerry Young, CQ Roll Call

A National Institutes of Health program that channels research money into mostly rural states would get a 14 percent increase in its budget under a House spending plan, a notably generous bump at a time of tight spending caps.

Spending for the NIH's Institutional Development Awards program would rise by almost \$39 million to \$311.8 million under a draft House Appropriations bill. Finding money for such an increase meant taking funds from other programs. The House Labor-Health and Human Services-Education bill would cut about \$3.7 billion overall from fiscal 2015 spending levels.

The Senate Appropriations Committee also is likely to be generous to the Institutional Development Awards, or IDeA, program when it unveils its Labor-HHS bill, which may be marked up this month. Senate Appropriations Chairman Thad Cochran, R-Miss., in April issued a press release highlighting his questions at a hearing about why President Obama had sought to keep funding for the program flat at the fiscal 2015 level. The IDeA program accounted for almost a quarter, \$11.2 million of \$43.2 million, of the NIH money that his state received last year, Cochran said.

"As we work through the budget process this year, I will support funding to keep this program successful," Cochran said.

Mississippi is one of the 23 states targeted by the IDeA program, along with the home states of the House Labor-HHS Chairman Tom Cole of Oklahoma and House Appropriations Chairman Harold Rogers of Kentucky. The program is meant to develop the scientific communities in states where "the aggregate success rate for applications to NIH has historically been low," according to a description of the program posted on the organization's site.

Many of the leading universities for medical research are clustered in California, Washington, Massachusetts, Maryland, Texas and Pennsylvania, which don't qualify for the IDeA program.

Having a vibrant academic research center can aid a local economy, with biotech and medical devices companies tending to center in these communities. Their presence can also serve to inspire local students, said NIH Director Francis S. Collins at an April Senate Appropriations hearing.

"The next generation of talent doesn't necessarily all grow up in Boston," he said. "They're all over the country and they ought to have a chance to be involved in very exciting research."

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## KEEP SMILING!



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**New website:**  
[naipi.org](http://naipi.org)