



UPDATE: National Institutes of Health ARRA Awards for Health Services Research

Overview

On September 30, 2009, President Obama announced the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded \$5 billion for grants funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. AcademyHealth conducted an analysis of these awards under the auspices of the Health Services Research Projects in Progress (HSRProj) program, an effort funded by the National Library of Medicine (NLM). HSRProj was created to link researchers and funders in health services research (HSR) in a national searchable database of ongoing projects. The results of AcademyHealth's analysis show that 178 of the NIH ARRA-funded projects can be classified as HSR, representing \$80.5 million in new investment in the field.

HSRProj is funded by the NLM and the database is maintained by AcademyHealth and the Cecil G. Sheps Centers for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Since the program's inception in 1991, HSRProj staff have developed and sustained relationships with major funders and HSR investigators including federal and state agencies, foundations, private organizations, and universities. Projects included in HSRProj are either provided by the funder or extracted from other reputable sources, such as the NIH RePORT¹ Expenditures and Results (RePORTER) database, which is an online system that provides public access to information on federal funding activities.²

Findings

At the time of this analysis, the RePORTER database listed 12,787³ projects funded by NIH under ARRA 2009. Of these, 178 projects are focused on HSR topics,⁴ representing 1.4 percent of all NIH projects funded by ARRA (figure 1). In total, ARRA funding for HSR projects awarded by the NIH represents more than \$80.5 million in new investment in the field, or 1.6 percent of ARRA funds awarded by the NIH. The percentage of NIH's annual budget historically directed toward HSR projects is about 2.6 percent.⁵

Distribution of Funds by Institute

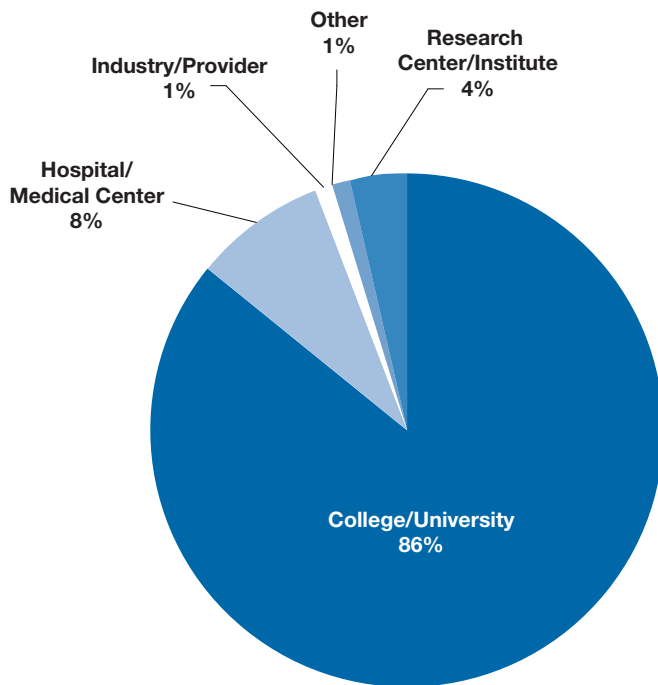
Nearly all of the institutes at NIH awarded at least one project classified as HSR under ARRA 2009. The National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute on Aging (NIA), and the National Heart Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) awarded the majority of funds (51 percent) for HSR projects through NIH. The NLM provided more than \$3 million in funding for HSR through ARRA.

Figure 1. Health Services Research Projects and Funding Under ARRA 2009, by NIH Institute, September 2009

NIH Institute	# of HSR Projects	Funding (\$)
National Cancer Institute (NCI)	34	\$16,473,248
National Institute on Aging (NIA)	11	\$14,577,613
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)	16	\$10,257,181
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	28	\$8,299,893
National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)	15	\$5,715,377
National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)	9	\$5,162,652
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)	12	\$4,633,215
National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)	5	\$3,161,994
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	4	\$3,092,337
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	8	\$2,112,690
National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)	6	\$1,776,693
Fogarty International Center (FIC)	7	\$1,082,363
National Institute on Nursing Research (NINR)	5	\$898,807
National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)	2	\$708,664
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)	4	\$576,403
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	1	\$484,137
National Eye Institute (NEI)	1	\$454,142
National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)	4	\$426,811
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	3	\$359,469
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	1	\$242,939
Office of the Director (OD)	2	\$14,037
TOTAL	178	\$80,510,665

Source: National Institutes of Health Research Online Portfolio Tool (RePORT). Data shown were retrieved from RePORTER on October 5, 2009.

Figure 2. Distribution of 2009 ARRA funding for HSR across performing organizations



Distribution of Projects by Performing Research Organization

HSR awards have been made to more than 100 different research organizations, including universities, hospitals, medical centers, research institutes, and private organizations. Universities received 86 percent of all funding for projects classified as HSR (figure 2). Hospital/medical centers and research institutes received 8 percent and 4 percent of ARRA funds classified as HSR, respectively.

For a table of all funded projects, including project titles, abstracts, and principal investigators, please see Appendix A. The appendix is sorted by investigator last name within each of the institutes. Additional information on ARRA-funded projects is available by searching the NIH RePORTER database by investigator or supporting agency at <http://projectreporter.nih.gov>

Methods

HSRProj staff used the NIH RePORTER database to conduct a search for all ARRA-funded projects, using the keywords ‘health services.’⁶ This search generated a list of 286 projects. Staff then exported the list into an Excel spreadsheet and manually reviewed the project abstracts to determine which of the projects qualify as HSR according to the definition of the field used by the HSRProj program.⁷

Staff summarized the projects that qualify as HSR (n=178) and calculated the total amount of funds awarded by each of the NIH institutes.

Staff also reviewed project abstracts to categorize ARRA-funded projects classified as HSR by type of performing organization. The following categories were used: colleges/universities; hospital/medical centers; research centers/institutes; industry/providers and other.

Endnotes

- 1 RePORT stands for “Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tool”
- 2 NIH’s RePORT provides access to reports, data, and analyses of NIH research activities, including information on NIH expenditures and the results of NIH-supported research. Its database, RePORTER, allows users to gain access to information on research projects funded by federal institutes, agencies, and centers, including: all NIH centers and institutes, the Agency for Healthcare Quality and Research (AHRQ), the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). (Source: http://projectreporter.nih.gov/RePORTER_Information.html)
- 3 The total set of NIH ARRA projects was largely (but not completely) established as of the date of this analysis. Change since this time has been small. As of November 18, 2009 RePORTER showed 12, 806 projects funded under ARRA.
- 4 Includes awards for relevant training programs.
- 5 Coalition for Health Services Research. Federal Funding for Health Services Research Chart. 2009. See: <http://www.chsr.org/MarkupFY10.pdf>.
- 6 The search was conducted on October 5, 2009.
- 7 The HSRProj program uses the following definitions of HSR. In a 2000 report, AcademyHealth defined HSR as the “multidisciplinary field of scientific investigation that studies how social factors, financing systems, organizations structures and processes, health technologies, and personal behaviors affect access to health care, the quality and cost of health care, and ultimately our health and well-being. Its research domains are individuals, families, organizations, institutions, communities, and populations.” In 2002, AHRQ developed the following definition, “Health services research examines how people get access to healthcare, how much care costs, and what happens to patients as a result of this care. The main goals of health services research are to identify the most effective ways to organize, manage, finance, and deliver high quality care; reduce medical errors; and improve patient safety.”