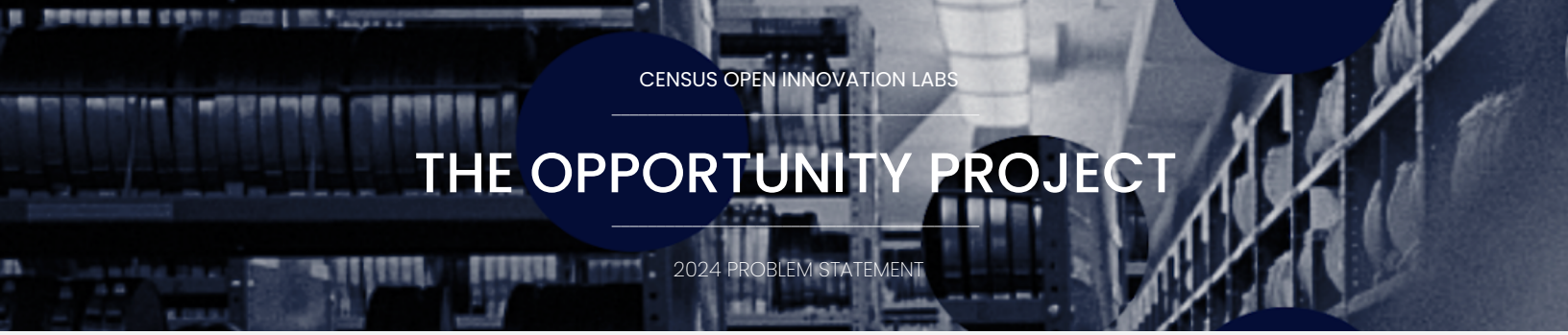

CENSUS OPEN INNOVATION LABS

THE OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

2024 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Enhancing Access to Federal Science and Technology Research & Development Funding

National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) & Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH)

THE CHALLENGE – Enhance research & development (R&D) capacity at organizations across the innovation ecosystem by broadening access to federal science & technology (S&T) funding opportunities.

EXECUTIVE CHAMPION –
Marie Bernard, M.D., Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, Office of the Director, NIH

THE PROBLEM – Every facet of the U.S. S&T research enterprise requires superior intellect, creativity, and a wide range of skill sets and viewpoints. The federal government's ability to help ensure that the nation remains a global leader in S&T discovery and innovation is dependent upon a pool of highly talented scientists and engineers from diverse backgrounds and life experiences who bring different perspectives, creativity, and individual enterprise to address complex problems. Research shows that diversity results in higher quality research, broadens the scope of scientific inquiry, and increases public trust in research outcomes.

Enabling full, innovative contributions to the nation's S&T enterprise requires that a broad and diverse range of institutions, organizations, and entrepreneurs have the appropriate foundation for success. Success depends on having sufficient resources, awareness of funding opportunities, and knowledge about how to secure such funding. Many federal S&T-funding agencies provide opportunities with an emphasis on building research capacity, workforce development, and infrastructure improvement at institutions with relatively low levels of active federal grants, contracts, and other awards for S&T research and development. However, the process to search for these different targeted opportunities can be laborious and time-consuming, which is a barrier for institutions, organizations, and entrepreneurs that already have limited resources for identifying and competing for federal awards.

THE OPPORTUNITY – Through user-friendly digital tools and resources, researchers and entrepreneurs from underrepresented groups and institutions for whom levels of funding for S&T research and development have historically been low will have more equitable access to federal grant, contract, and other award opportunities and the resources to help further advance the nation's S&T research and innovation enterprise. Such tools should support these institutions and entrepreneurs in becoming more competitive for federal funding to the full extent of their S&T capabilities without being hindered by limited experience in competing for funding or the lack of staff and resources for managing federally-sponsored programs. Tools could enable the search across databases of awarded grants and contracts to support individuals and institutions in identifying opportunities for collaboration and partnership in S&T focus areas.

TARGET END USERS – Institutions of higher education (both public and private) with an emphasis on Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and other entities within the nation's innovation ecosystem where levels of federal funding for S&T research and development have historically been low.

RELATED DATA SETS

- Grants.gov
- NIH: Find Grant Funding | grants.nih.gov;
- NSF: Funding Search | NSF - National Science Foundation
- SAM.Gov: SAM.gov | Home
- FDA: Funding Opportunities | FDA
- CDC: grants.gov/search-grants
- NASA: Funding Opportunities and Announcements (nasa.gov)
- Education: Grants Overview | U.S. Department of Education
- Energy: Funding & Financing | Department of Energy
- DoD: Defense SBIR/STTR - Funding Opportunities (defensesbirsttr.mil); Funding Opportunities, Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (health.mil)
- DHA: DHA Research Resources | Health.mil

SPRINT LEADERS

- C. Taylor Gilliland, Ph.D. (NIBIB); c.gilliland@nih.gov, 240-703-2285
- Adrianna Aliquo (NIBIB); adrianna.aliquo@nih.gov