

## THE U OF I SYSTEM COVID-19 RESPONSE:

## RESEARCH RELIEF PRIORITIES

The University of Illinois System urges Congress to provide **at least \$26 billion in emergency research relief funding to federal research agencies in the next pandemic relief bill to support and maintain the research workforce, mitigate the disruptions to federally-supported research and core research facilities, and restart research that has been halted or slowed due to COVID-19. We recommend this funding be apportioned to federal agencies, at minimum, as follows:**

- Department of Defense (DOD): \$3 billion
- Department of Energy (DOE): \$5 billion
- National Institutes of Health (NIH): \$10 billion
- National Science Foundation (NSF): \$3 billion
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA): \$2 billion
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA): \$380 million

#### THE ROLE OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES & COVID-19 IMPACTS

- Higher education is a key element of the supply chain for innovation and economic movement. Institutions invest in being the engines of mobility — student viability, scientific research contributing to training and outcomes, and international collaborations. The institutions themselves are the centerpieces of recovery.
- The federal agencies that rely on research universities need the research and education ecosystem to become robust and responsive as quickly and sustainably as possible to ensure U.S. leadership in research and innovation.
- The pandemic has created new and varying risks. Institutions are part of the network for recovery — modifying past approaches to learning to address the varying risks and offering safe new levels of interactions. The quicker and more reliable those modifications occur, the faster the country can work towards recovery.
- **URGENCY:** University research funding relies on short term (~3-year) grants and contracts. With many researchers unable to be in their labs during COVID-19, additional funding is needed to extend the duration of research projects to ensure teams can deliver their proposed research projects. Additional funding is also needed to support graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and early career faculty to complete their studies and projects and ensure career stability for America's future researchers.

#### WHY ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS NEEDED

- **Financial relief for the nation's research enterprise, including funding to cover:**
  - Grant and contract supplements
  - Operations costs for core research facilities
  - Additional support for graduate students, postdocs, and other trainees whose careers have been disrupted
  - Near-term ramping of labs and facilities shuttered during pandemic related closures
  - Long-term investments to rebuild and revitalize the federally-supported scientific research enterprise
  - Exempt education and scientific research from FY 2021 budget caps
- **New COVID-19 related research**
  - Research grant cost extensions
  - Investment in cutting-edge research infrastructure and instrumentation
  - Support for scientific research workforce pipeline