

Montgomery County 2014 Federal Priorities

Below are federal priorities submitted by Montgomery County to our Congressional delegation for consideration during 2014. More information may be obtained by contacting the County's Office of Intergovernmental Relations (sara.morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov). In addition to these requests, Montgomery County's Office of Intergovernmental Relations worked closely on many other issues of importance to the County including the expansion of FDA at White Oak, highway and transit priorities throughout the County, tax policies, communications issues, and other federal policies and programs that intersect with local government.

- Biomedical Entrepreneurs in Residence (EIR) Expansion- A network of EIRs is required to effectively provide an increase in technology transfers and commercialization from the billions in research, the thousands of scientists, and over 30 Institutes and agencies being conducted by HHS. The proposed approach allows HHS and the NIH to utilize a long-recognized model in the "startup" business world to realize the benefit of a trove of scientific ideas for improving the quality and longevity of Americans who suffer from a range of medical diseases and conditions.
- National Institutes of Health (NIH) Centers for Accelerated Innovations (NCAI)- With the economic cost for cardiovascular, lung and blood diseases at \$424 billion in 2009, the NIH must pursue all opportunities to turn its research into patient ready therapeutics, treatments, and diagnostics. A fourth NCAI will allow the National Health, Lung and Blood Institute to fully investigate the research within the intramural program and ensure quicker access to products that can improve the health of millions in the population while creating growth in the economy by creating new companies.
- Center for Biomolecular Therapeutics- Congress must encourage the NIH to aggressively partner with academic and other entities that can assist with bringing new discoveries through the translational and clinical processes to meet the needs of residents coping with disease burdens which lack viable treatment and drug options.
- Intramural Opportunity Grant Fund- Government policies and initiatives must be able to spur the commercialization of innovative technologies in the biomedical and pharmaceutical sectors. While the NIH has laid out some concepts to aid this process, new specific mechanisms are needed to create quicker, more profound translational impact of its intramural program. The proposed Intramural Opportunity Grant Fund would trigger partnerships with biomedical companies and intramural researchers and would resource those scientists to foster greater collaboration and focus on achieving more rapid commercialization and technology transfer of their scientific discoveries.
- National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (NCCoE)- The growing use of the Internet for banking, health care, critical infrastructure and other business sectors requires improved security and confidence in our nation's cyberspace infrastructure. NCCoE is leading the search for the solutions to these challenges.