Welcome to NSF Day!

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY®
Welcome to NSF Day!
What NSF Does

NSF Vision

Advance discovery, innovation, and education beyond the frontiers of current knowledge

Empower future generations in science and engineering
What NSF Does

NSF Mission

- Promote the progress of science
- Advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare
- Secure the national defense; and for other purposes

*NSF will relocate to Alexandria, VA in 2018*
NSF Core Values

Accountability for Public Benefit
Scientific Excellence
Organizational Excellence
Learning
Inclusiveness
The NSF in a Nutshell

- Independent agency
- Co-led by a Director and National Science Board
- Supports basic research & education
- Uses grant mechanism through competitive merit review
- Discipline-based structure
- Cross-disciplinary mechanisms
- Use of Rotators/IPAs
- Low overhead (~6%)
- Highly automated
## NSF by the Numbers

<table>
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<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1,826</td>
<td>Colleges, universities, and other institutions NSF funded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>Competitive awards NSF funded</td>
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<tr>
<td>49,800</td>
<td>Students supported by NSF Graduate Research Fellowships (since 1952)</td>
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<tr>
<td>48,000</td>
<td>Proposals evaluated through competitive merit review</td>
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<tr>
<td>226,000</td>
<td>Reviews conducted</td>
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<tr>
<td>321,000</td>
<td>Individuals NSF directly supported (researchers, postdocs, trainees, teachers, and students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$6.9 billion</td>
<td>FY 2013 Budget Actuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$7.1 billion</td>
<td>FY 2014 Budget Actuals</td>
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</table>

Figures represent FY 14 actuals
## NSF Budget: FY 2015 and FY 2016

<table>
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<th>FY 2015 Plan</th>
<th>FY 2016 Request</th>
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<td>Research &amp; Related Activities (R&amp;RA)</td>
<td>$5,934</td>
<td>$6,186</td>
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<td>Education &amp; Human Resources</td>
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<td>963</td>
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<td>Major Research Equipment &amp; Facilities Construction</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<td>Agency Operations &amp; Award Management (AOAM)</td>
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<td>355</td>
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<td>National Science Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Inspector General</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
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<td><strong>Total, NSF</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,344</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,724</strong></td>
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NSF in Perspective

2015 Total Federal R&D Budget for the United States ($135.4 billion)

- Defense $64.4 (47.6%)
- Energy $12.3 (9.1%)
- HHS $31.1 (23.0%)
- NSF $5.8 (4.2%)
- All Other $8.6 (6.4%)
- NASA $11.6 (8.6%)
- Commerce $1.6 (1.2%)

* Dollar Amounts in billions
NSF’s Culture of Communication
NSF is Committed to Transparency and Accountability

Projects and the expenditure of public funds must be clearly described and justified.
The Changing Budget Landscape

Federal R&D in the Budget and the Economy
Outlays as share of total, 1962 - 2014

Source: Budget of the United States Government, FY 2014. FY 2013 data do not reflect sequestration. FY 2014 is the President’s request.
© 2013 AAAS
Public Scrutiny of the NSF

Congressional debate over science funding draws fire from critics.

Senate Moves to Limit NSF Spending on Political Science

Why is Our Government Attacking Science?

Rampant Waste Reported in NSF

Amendment Limiting National Science Foundation Research Funding Passes Senate

The Congressional War on the Social Sciences

Coalition of Scientific Organizations Defend NSF Peer Review

Many Rival Nations Surge Past the U.S. in Adding New Jobs
The Media Landscape

Source: Science & Engineering Indicators 2014
Society’s Changing Needs

- Natural hazards
- Climate change
- Energy
- Food and drug safety
- Cybersecurity
- Youth violence
NSF’s Communication Strategy

Create a context and narrative for the general public and for policy makers.
When Should You Communicate?

**Before, during and after** your work is NSF funded, work with:

- Your NSF program officer
- Your institution’s public information officer
- Broader communities
- NSF’s Office of Legislative and Public Affairs
NSF’s Organization
Biological Sciences (BIO)

Suzanne Barbour
Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences
sbarbour@nsf.gov

Permanent program officer in the Cellular Dynamics and Function Cluster

National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) Steering Committee
Biological Sciences (BIO)

Priorities

• PI-driven projects in all areas of Biological Research

• Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN)

• National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON)

• Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP)

• Dimensions of Biodiversity
Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)

Chris Clifton
Information & Intelligent Systems (IIS)
cclifton@nsf.gov

Information Integration and Informatics (III)
IIS core program

Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC)
Crosscutting / interdisciplinary program

Also involved in:
BIGDATA (Crosscutting)
Computing Research Infrastructure (CRI)
Directorate Priorities

- Core research programs across computer science
- Cross-CS and cross-NSF programs (e.g., BRAIN, SaTC, NRI)
- CS education (cyberlearning)
- Building cyber infrastructure
The NSF Directorates & Offices
Elizabeth VanderPutten
Division of Research & Learning
evanderp@nsf.gov

Program officer managing awards on teacher education and cyber-enabled learning tools for 14 + years

Former acting deputy division director, chair of the CAREER Coordinating Committing and branch chief in NSF’s Division of Administrative Services

Also worked on high profile projects related to school finance, youth employment and education in Indonesia
Education & Human Resources (EHR)

Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy
Assistant Director

Division of Graduate Education (DGE)
Carol J. VanHartesveldt
(Acting) Division Director

Division of Human Resource Development (HRD)
Sylvia M. James
Division Director

Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings (DRL)
Evan Heit
Division Director

Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE)
Susan R. Singer
Division Director
Education & Human Resources (EHR)

Learning and learning environments
- Cognitive and non-cognitive foundations of STEM
- Creative uses of formal and informal STEM learning

Broadening participation in STEM
- Access to and success in high quality STEM education for underrepresented groups

STEM professional workforce development
- Capitalize on scientific advances
- Address not yet imagined global, social & econ challenges
The NSF Directorates and Offices
Lawrence Bank
ENG/CMMI
lbank@nsf.gov

Lead program director, NSF solicitation focused on the science of sustainable buildings.

Rotator from the City College of NY

Editorial board member on journals: Construction and Building Materials, Journal of Composites for Construction (which he founded) and Advances in Structural Engineering

Author, “Composites for Construction: Structural Design with FRP Materials”
ENG Initiatives and Priorities
Address National Interests

- INFEWS
- Risk and Resilience: CRISP
- Urban Science
- Clean Energy Technology*
- Cyber-Enabled Materials, Manufacturing, and Smart Systems - Advanced Manufacturing*

- Optics and Photonics
- Understanding the Brain
- Education and Broadening Participation: INCLUDES
- Innovation Corps
- Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation
- Research Centers
- National Nanotechnology Initiative*
- Communications and Cyberinfrastructure

* National Initiatives
The NSF Directorates and Offices
Chris Yusheng Liu
Division of Earth Sciences
Yliu@nsf.gov

Manager, Sedimentary Geology & Paleobiology Program

PO managing team, Genealogy of Life (“GoLife”) and Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections

Faculty member, East Tennessee State University, postdoc in Europe (Austria, Germany), Asia (Japan), and North America (Canada)

Research interests in the quantitative paleoclimate reconstruction and evolution of forests in the Northern Hemisphere
Directorate Priorities

- Support basic research in atmosphere, earth, ocean sciences, and polar studies
- Support research facilities and infrastructure (NCAR, research vessels, Antarctic base, Geochronology, EarthScope)
- Develop community-driven cyber-infrastructure
- Promote education and diversity in the geosciences
- Initiatives in hazards and resilience (PREevents, INFEWS)
The NSF Directorates and Offices
Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)

James Neff
Division of Astronomical Sciences
jneff@nsf.gov

Coordinator, AST Individual Investigator Award programs

Served as lead for:
- Galactic Astrophysics
- Stellar Astrophysics in the Astronomy
- Astrophysics Grants program (AAG)

IPA, on detail from the College of Charleston; Professor of Physics & Astronomy
Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)

F. Fleming Crim, Assistant Director
Celeste Rohlfing, Deputy Assistant Director

Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (OMA)
Clark Cooper

Division of Astronomical Sciences (AST)
Jim Ulvestad, Division Director
Pat Knezek, Deputy Division Director

Division of Materials Research (DMR)
Mary Galvin, Division Director
Linda Sapochak, Deputy Division Director

Division of Physics (PHY)
Denise Caldwell, Division Director
Brad Keister, Deputy Division Director

Division of Chemistry (CHE)
David Berkowitz, Division Director
Carol Bessel, Deputy Division Director

Division of Mathematical Sciences (DMS)
Michael Vogelius, Division Director
Henry Warchall, Deputy Division Director
Emphasis Areas

- Physical sciences at the nanoscale
- Advances in optics and photonics
- Materials by design
- Physics of the universe
- World-class, shared-use Facilities
- Quantum information science
- Complex systems (multi-scale, emergent phenomena)
- Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems
- Sustainability (energy, environment, climate)
- Interfaces between the mathematical, physical, & life sciences
The NSF Directorates and Offices
Kevin T. Leicht
Sociology and RIDIR programs
kleicht@nsf.gov

Research has been funded by NSF, NIH, Spencer Foundation and Ford Foundation.

Former editor of *The Sociological Quarterly* and *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility*

Professor, former Chair of Sociology, University of Iowa and former Director of the Iowa Social Science Research Center
SBE Focus

17 Standing Programs

2011 Report: REBUILDING THE MOSAIC

THEMES:

Social Networks
Population Change
Sources of Disparities
Technology and New Media
Communication, Language, and Linguistics
The NSF Directorates and Offices
Office of Integrative Activities (OD/IA)

Paul E. Morris
Integrative Activities
pmorris@nsf.gov

Lead data scientist at NSF

Performs text mining and text analytics on NSF research portfolio

Member of NSF evaluation team

Manages NSF proposal compliance checking tools

Former research fellow at Oxford University, UK
Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Denise Barnes, Section Head

Wanda E. Ward, Office Head (Vacant) Deputy Office Head

Office of Integrative Activities (OD/OIA)

Rebecca L. Keiser, Office Head

Office of International Science and Engineering (OD/OISE)
Integrative Activities (IA) and EPSCoR

Priorities

• IA: **Leads** and **coordinates** strategic programs and opportunities across disciplinary and geographic boundaries
  • Science and Technology Centers (STC)
  • Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)
  • Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE)

• EPSCoR: **Strengthens** and **Avoids Undue Concentration** of STEM R&D throughout the U.S.  
  Infrastructure Improvement (RII):
  • RII Track-1: Statewide projects to build research competitiveness
  • RII Track-2 Focused EPSCoR Collaborations: inter-state collaborations on topics of regional and national importance
  • RII Track-3 Building Diverse Communities: pilot to develop effective approaches to broadening participation in STEM
International Science and Engineering (ISE)

Priorities

• **Advance** the FRONTIERS of S&E via international collaboration

• **Prepare** a GLOBALLY-ENGAGED U.S. S&E workforce

• **Develop** GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS that link U.S. faculty and students to the world

• **Leverage** RESOURCES, EXPERTISE, FACILITIES around the globe

  Partnership for International Research and Education (PIRE)
Samantha Hunter
Policy Office, Institution & Award Support
shunter@nsf.gov

Grant Policy Specialist who interprets and communicates proposal and award policies and procedures to NSF staff and the external community

Primary responsibility for the Award & Administration Guide (post award section of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide)

Policy Office website and sections of www.nsf.gov
Budget, Finance & Award Management (BFA)
Questions?
Break
Getting Started: The Essentials
Navigating www.NSF.gov
Navigating www.NSF.gov

Research Areas
- Biological Sciences
- Computer & Information Science & Engineering
- Cyberinfrastructure
- Education and Human Resources
- Engineering
- Environmental Research & Education
- Geosciences
- Integrative Activities
- International Science & Engineering
- Mathematical & Physical Sciences
- Polar Programs
- Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences

Funding & Awards
- FUNDING INFO
  - Search Funding Opportunities
  - Browse Funding Opportunities A-Z
  - Recent Funding Opportunities
  - How to Prepare a Funding Proposal
  - Grant Proposal Guide
  - Submit a Proposal to FastLane
- AWARD INFO
  - Managing Awards
  - Award & Administration Guide
  - Search Awards
  - Award Statistics (Budget Internet Info System)

Learning Resources
- Film, TV, Exhibits & More!
- Slideshows & Photo Galleries
- Classroom Resources
- Funding for Research on Learning in Formal & Informal Settings

News & Discoveries
- Recent News
- Recent Discoveries
- Multimedia Gallery
- Special Reports

Contact Us
- Staff Directory
- Organization List
- Visit NSF
- Work at NSF
- Do Business with NSF
- Press
- Inspector General Hotline
- How Do I …?

The National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230, USA
Tel: (703) 292-5111
FIRS: (800) 877-8339
TDD: (800) 281-8749
Navigating www.NSF.gov

Awards Simple Search

Search award for:

Use double quotes for exact search. For example "water vapor".

- Active Awards
- Expired Awards

See What’s New in the New Award Search
Navigating www.NSF.gov

Awards Advanced Search

**Awardee Information**

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<td>Principal Investigator First Name</td>
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<td>Principal Investigator Last Name</td>
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<td>Include Co-Principal Investigator in name search</td>
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**Program Information**

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**Additional Information**

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<tr>
<td>Award Instrument</td>
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Navigating a Program Website on www.NSF.gov

- Program officer list
- Deadlines and announcements
- Program description
- Relevant links
- Past funding
## Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC)

### CONTACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jeremy Epstein</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jepstein@nsf.gov">jepstein@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8338</td>
<td>1175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nina Amla</td>
<td><a href="mailto:namla@nsf.gov">namla@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8910</td>
<td>1115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Clifton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cclifton@nsf.gov">cclifton@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8930</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sol Greenspan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sgreensp@nsf.gov">sgreensp@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8910</td>
<td>1115</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wenjing Lou</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wiou@nsf.gov">wiou@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8950</td>
<td>1175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anita Nikolich</td>
<td><a href="mailto:anikolic@nsf.gov">anikolic@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8970</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Shands</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dshands@nsf.gov">dshands@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-4505</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph Wachter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rwachter@nsf.gov">rwachter@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8950</td>
<td>1175</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victor P. Piotrowski</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vpiotrow@nsf.gov">vpiotrow@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-5141</td>
<td>865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew D. Pollington</td>
<td><a href="mailto:adpollin@nsf.gov">adpollin@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-4878</td>
<td>1025</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhi (Gerry) Tian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ztian@nsf.gov">ztian@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-2210</td>
<td>525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heng Xu</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hxu@nsf.gov">hxu@nsf.gov</a></td>
<td>(703) 292-8643</td>
<td>995 N</td>
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</table>

SaTC Questions: satc@nsf.gov

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAM GUIDELINES</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Solicitation 14-599</td>
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</table>
Important Information for Proposers

A revised version of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 15-1), is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after December 26, 2014. The PAPPG is consistent with, and, implements the new Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) (2 CFR § 200). NSF anticipates release of the PAPPG in the Fall of 2014. Please be advised that, depending on the specified due date, the guidelines contained in NSF 15-1 may apply to proposals submitted in response to this funding opportunity.

DUE DATES

Full Proposal Window: December 4, 2014 - December 19, 2014
   CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION Projects
   December 4 - December 19, Annually Thereafter

Full Proposal Window: January 2, 2015 - January 14, 2015
   SMALL Projects
   January 2 - January 14, Annually Thereafter

Full Proposal Window: September 2, 2015 - September 21, 2015
   MEDIUM Projects
   September 2 - September 19, Annually Thereafter

Full Proposal Window: November 4, 2015 - November 19, 2015
   LARGE Projects
   November 4 - November 19, Annually Thereafter

SYNOPSIS

Cyberspace has transformed the daily lives of people for the better. The rush to adopt cyberspace, however, has exposed its fragility and vulnerabilities: corporations, agencies, national infrastructure and individuals have been victims of cyber-attacks. In December 2011, the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) with the cooperation of NSF issued a broad, coordinated Federal strategic plan for cybersecurity research and development to "change the game," minimize the misuses of cyber technology, bolster education and training in cybersecurity, establish a science of cybersecurity, and transition promising cybersecurity research into practice. This challenge requires a dedicated approach to research, development, and education that leverages the disciplines of mathematics and statistics, the social sciences, and engineering together with the computing, communications and information sciences.
Drilling Down

Related URLs (FAQs, webinars, etc)

Other related organizations

Past funding by the program
Additional Information on Resources

Join Directorate Specific Listserves!

Use Grants.gov’s search feature
What is the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide?

The Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) contains documents relating to NSF's proposal and award process. It has been designed for use by both our customer community and NSF staff and consists of two parts:
What is the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide?

Part I is NSF’s proposal preparation and submission guidelines -- the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) and the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide.
Part II is NSF’s award and administration guidelines -- the documents used to guide, manage, and monitor the award and administration of grants and cooperative agreements made by NSF.
Grant Proposal Guide

• Provides guidance for preparation and submission of proposals to NSF
• Describes process – and criteria – by which proposals will be reviewed
• Outlines reasons why a proposal may not be accepted or may be returned without review
• Describes process for withdrawals, returns, and declinations
• Describes the NSF Reconsideration Process
## Types of Funding Opportunities

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Instructions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Descriptions</td>
<td>Proposals for a <strong>Program Description</strong> must follow the instructions in the GPG.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Announcements</td>
<td>Proposals for a <strong>Program Announcement</strong> must follow the instructions in the GPG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Solicitations</td>
<td>Proposals must follow the instructions in the <strong>Program Solicitation</strong>; the instructions in the GPG apply unless otherwise stated in the solicitation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dear Colleague Letters</td>
<td><strong>Dear Colleague Letters</strong> are notifications of opportunities or special competitions for supplements to existing NSF awards.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Types of Proposal Submissions

No Deadlines – Proposals may be submitted at any time

Proposers should allow adequate time for NSF review and processing of proposals (see GPG Chapter I.H for further information). Many NSF programs accept proposals at any time. Other programs, however, establish due dates for submission of proposals. The following types of due dates are utilized by NSF:

1. **Target dates**: dates after which proposals will still be accepted, although they may miss a particular panel or committee meeting.

2. **Deadline dates**: dates after which proposals be returned without review by NSF. The deadline date will be waived only in extenuating circumstances. Such a deviation only may be authorized in accordance with GPG Chapter II.A.
Target Dates –
Talk to the Program Office if you think you might miss the date

Types of Proposal Submissions

F. When to Submit Proposals

Proposers should allow adequate time for NSF review and processing of proposals (see GPG Chapter I.H for further information). Many NSF programs accept proposals at any time. Other programs, however, establish due dates for submission of proposals. The following types of due dates are utilized by NSF:

1. **Target dates:** dates after which proposals will still be accepted, although they may miss a particular panel or committee meeting.

2. **Deadline dates:** dates after which proposals be returned without review by NSF. The deadline date will be waived only in extenuating circumstances. Such a deviation only may be authorized in accordance with GPG Chapter II.A.
Types of Proposal Submissions

Deadline Dates – Proposals will not be accepted after this date and time (5 pm submitter’s local time)

Proposers should allow adequate time for NSF review and processing of proposals (see GPG Chapter I.H for further information). Many NSF programs accept proposals at any time. Other programs, however, establish due dates for submission of proposals. The following types of due dates are utilized by NSF:

1. **Target dates:** dates after which proposals will still be accepted, although they may miss a particular panel or committee meeting.

2. **Deadline dates:** dates after which proposals be returned without review by NSF. The deadline date will be waived only in extenuating circumstances. Such a deviation only may be authorized in accordance with GPG Chapter II.A.
Types of Proposal Submissions

Submission Windows – Closing date converts to a deadline date

3. **Submission windows**: designated periods of time during which proposals will be accepted for review by NSF. It is NSF’s policy that the end date of a submission window converts to, and is subject to, the same policies as a deadline date.
Types of Proposal Submissions

Letters of Intent – Enables better management of reviewers and panelists
Types of Proposal Submissions

Preliminary Proposals – Sometimes required, sometimes optional
Questions on Funding Opportunities?

Contact your NSF Program Officer—after checking the website and solicitation 😊

Work with your organization’s sponsored projects office

Look for workshops on federal research funding
Things to Consider Before Applying...
Five Key Elements

1. Great idea
2. Fit with current research expertise and career development plans
3. Ability to devise a strategy including benchmarks, timelines, and metrics
4. Adequate resources to accomplish your project
5. Assessment Plan
Developing your Proposal

Key Questions for Prospective Investigators

• What has already been done?
• What do you intend to do?
• Why is the work important?
• How is the work unique or cutting edge?
• How are you going to do the work?
• Do you have the right team?
Proposal Development Strategies:

What Do You Need Besides $ ???

• Prepare to do the project
  – Realistically assess needs
  – Determine available resources
  – Develop preliminary data
  – Present to colleagues/mentors/students

• Determine possible funding sources
  (NSF may not be the right or the only one)
Proposal Development Strategies:

What details should you glean from the solicitation?

- Overall scope and mission
- Instructions (deviations from the GPG)
- How your proposed project fits with the solicitation
- Review procedures and criteria
- Deadlines
Proposal Development Strategies:

Who Should You Talk To?
How Should You Contact Them?

**NSF Program Officer**
- Your proposed project
- Clarifications on specific program requirements/limitations
- Current program patterns

**Your organization’s sponsored projects office**
- University guidelines for applications
- Institutional Review Board “IRB” Approvals (IACUC approvals, etc.)
So You Want to Write a Proposal...
What to Look for in a Program Announcement or Solicitation

- Goals
- Eligibility Requirements
- Special proposal preparation and/or award requirements
- Review Criteria
### Sample Cover Page of a Solicitation

#### Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)

**PROGRAM SOLICITATION**

NSF 12-564

**REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):**

NSF 11-543

---

**National Science Foundation**

Directorate for Education & Human Resources
Division of Human Resource Development

**Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer’s local time):**

- August 28, 2012
  - Bridge to the Doctorate
- October 05, 2012
  - First Friday in October, Annually Thereafter
  - Bridge to the Doctorate
### Award Information

**Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant or Continuing Grant or Cooperative Agreement

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 60

Up to 60 awards will be made across fiscal 2012 and 2013.

In FY 2012, up to 20 Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) grants will be made.

In FY2013, 20 Alliance grants (this includes 5 B2B), up to 15 Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) grants and up to 5 Broadening Participation Research (BPR) in STEM Education grants.

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** $20,000,000

$20,000,000 across fiscal years 2012 and 2013; Subject to the availability of funds.
Eligibility Information

Organization Limit:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Universities and Colleges - Universities and two- and four-year colleges (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members. Such organizations also are referred to as academic institutions.

PI Limit:

Alliance (including the B2B) and BD: To promote institutional commitments to increase the quality and quantity of under-represented minorities in STEM disciplines, the President or Provost of the lead institution should serve as the Principal Investigator. A full explanation should be provided for a PI designation in variance with this requirement. Co-principal investigators from partner institutions may be designated, as appropriate, for the project.

Broadening Participation Research in STEM Education: Eligible PI/co-PI(s) for proposals applying for educational research or evaluation support should be the individual conducting or responsible for the research or evaluation project. Other potential co-Principal Investigators include collaborators on the research project. At least one of the PIs must have experience in educational research.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

Alliances (including B2B) and BD: 1

Broadening Participation Research in STEM Education: No limit.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI:

Alliances (including B2B): 1

Bridge to the Doctorate: 1

Broadening Participation Research in STEM Education: No limit
Parts of a Proposal
Parts of an NSF Proposal

Cover Sheet
Many of the boxes on the cover sheet are electronically prefilled as part of the FastLane login process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Announcement/Solicitation No.</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSF 14-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Division**
- Division Authorized: PHY
- Division Assigned: PHY
- Fund Code: 1288

**Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)**
- NSF

**Name of Organization to Which Award Should Be Made**
- NSF

**Awardee Organization Code (If Known)**
- 4102852000

**Name of Primary Place of Performance**
- Arlington, VA 222000000

**Address of Primary Place of Performance, Including 9-Digit ZIP Code**
- Arlington, VA 222000000

**NSF Proposal Number**
- 1509402

**Title of Proposed Project**
- International Conference Cosmical Magnetic Fields

**Requested Amount**
- $30,000

**Proposed Duration (1-49 Months)**
- 0 months

**Requested Starting Date**
- Not applicable

**Show Related Preliminary Proposal No. If Applicable**
- Not applicable

**Institutional Certification**
- Collaborative status: Not a collaborative proposal

**PI/PD Name**
- Terry Demo

**Degree**
- DSc

**Year of Degree**
- 1999

**Telephone Number**
- 703-292-9000

**Email Address**
- td@nsf.gov
Parts of an NSF Proposal

**Project Summary Requirements:**

Overview
Statement on Intellectual Merit
Statement of Broader Impacts

Special characters (e.g., formulas) may be uploaded as a PDF

**Project Description Addresses:**

What you want to do
Why you want to do it
How you plan to do it
How you measure success
What are the benefits

A separate section, *Broader Impacts of the Proposal Work*, must be completed
Parts of an NSF Proposal

Results from Prior NSF Support

References Cited

Biographical Sketches

Budget
Budgetary Guidelines

Amounts should be:

- Realistic and reasonable
- Well-justified and should establish need
- Consistent w/program guidelines in solicitation, GPG, and in Award and Administration Guide (AAG)

Eligible costs consist of:

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Travel
- Participant support
- Other (e.g., subawards, consultant and computer services, publications costs)
- Indirect costs (as appropriate)
Inclusion of *voluntary committed* cost sharing is *prohibited* in the budget of solicited & unsolicited proposals.

Organizations may, at their own discretion, continue to contribute voluntary uncommitted cost sharing to NSF-sponsored projects as part of the section for Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources.
Sections of an NSF Proposal

Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources

Used to assess the adequacy of the organizational resources available to perform the effort proposed. Should not contain quantifiable financial information.

Current and Pending Support

This section of the proposal requires reporting on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals from any funding source.
Special Information and Supplementary Documentation

Letters of support versus letters of commitment

Postdoctoral mentoring plans

Data management plans

You should alert NSF officials to unusual circumstances that require special handling (i.e. proprietary information)

Solicitations may specify what is and is not allowed to be submitted
Mentoring for Postdoctoral Researchers

- Explicit description of the mentoring activities

- Must include a mentoring plan as a supplementary document (maximum one-page)

- For collaborative proposals, lead organization must submit a single mentoring plan for all postdoctoral researchers supported under the entire project.
Data Management Plan Requirements

Requirements by Directorate, Office, Division, Program, or other NSF Unit

Links to data management requirements and plans relevant to specific Directorates, Offices, Divisions, Programs, or other NSF units, are provided below. If guidance specific to the program is not provided, then the requirements established in Grant Proposal Guide, Chapter II.C.2.a] apply.

Please note that if a specific program solicitation provides guidance on preparation of data management plans, such guidance must be followed.

- Engineering Directorate (ENG)
  - Directorate-wide Guidance

- Geological Sciences Directorate (GEO)
  - Division of Earth Sciences
  - Integrated Ocean Drilling Program
  - Division of Ocean Sciences

- Mathematical and Physical Sciences Directorate (MPS)
  - Division of Astronomical Sciences
  - Division of Chemistry
  - Division of Materials Research
  - Division of Mathematical Sciences
  - Division of Physics

- Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate (SBE)
  - Directorate-wide Guidance

Data Management & Sharing Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - updated November 30, 2010

nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp
Questions?
Crosscutting & NSF-wide Opportunities
What Is meant by crosscutting?

Sponsored by >1 NSF unit....

Cuts across NSF in different ways...

Collaborative with other U.S. government agencies...
Types of Crosscutting Activities

- International
- Interdisciplinary research – theme-based (e.g., Designing Materials, Hazards and Disasters)
- People-oriented (e.g., ADVANCE, CAREER, REU, Work-Life Balance)
- Infrastructure (e.g., MRI)
- Translational (ICorps, SBIR)
- Institutional, Centers (e.g., IUCRC, STC)
Find Funding for NSFwide and Crosscutting Opportunities

Go to: www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm.list.jsp?type=xcut
RAPID/ EAGER

Grants for Rapid Response Research (RAPID)

- Severe Urgency
- Up to $200K/one year
- Brief project description
- Internal review

EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)

- Potentially transformative
- Up to $300K/one year
- “High risk-high payoff"
- Internal review

Rare but occasional external review
NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) Program

Encouraging the development and implementation of bold, new, potentially transformative, and scalable models for STEM graduate training

Traineeship Track
$3,000,000 for up to 5 years

Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE) Track
$300,000 - $500,000 for 2-3 years

Application Deadline: 5/6/2015
International activities at NSF

• Span all NSF Directorates and Offices
• Globalize NSF research and education
• Strengthen partnerships with foreign counterpart funders
• Involve cooperation with other U.S. government agencies, private foundations
Priorities

• **Advance** the FRONTIERS of S&E via international collaboration

• **Prepare** a GLOBALLY-ENGAGED U.S. S&E workforce

• **Develop** GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE NETWORKS that link U.S. faculty and students to the world

• **Leverage** RESOURCES, EXPERTISE, FACILITIES around the globe

Partnership for International Research and Education (PIRE)
Examples of Support for International Activities

- Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE)
- Science Across Virtual Institutes (SAVI)
- Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) – with USAID
- International Research Experiences for Students (IRES)
- Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW)
- East Asia Pacific Summer Institutes (EAPSI)
- (International) Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program
ADVANCE: Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers

Goals:

Systemic approaches to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic STEM careers.

Contribute to and inform the general knowledge base on gender equity in the academic STEM disciplines.
Three types of awards

Institutional Transformation
Letter of Intent Date: November 5, 2015
Full Proposal Due: January, 2016

Institutional Transformation Catalyst
Letter of Intent Date: October 5, 2015
Full Proposal Due: November 3, 2015

Partnership for Learning and Adaptation Networks
(Deadline past for now)
Graduate Research Fellowship Program

Goals:

• Select, recognize, and financially support early in their careers individuals with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers

• Broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, persons with disabilities, and veterans
5 Year Award = $138,000
$34,000/year for 3 years +
+$12,000 Educational allowance to institution

Professional Development Opportunities:
GROW: International Research
GRIP: Internships
Supercomputer access: XSEDE

Career Life Balance (family leave)
RESOURCES:

Solicitation and links
www.nsf.gov/grfp

NSF GRFP FastLane Website
www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp

Application, guides, announcements

GRFP Website, www.nsfgrfp.org

Current & former Fellows
866-NSF-GRFP, info@nsfgrfp.org
INCLUDES

(Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners that have been Underrepresented for Diversity in Engineering and Science)

Foundational pillar to:
- Foster community & stakeholder engagement
- Spur a national conversation to identify “bold visions” for broadening participation

Pilot studies for 2016/2017:
Networks for STEM Excellence
Empowering All Youth for STEM

To Launch in FY 2016
Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)

**Goals:**

- Support acquisition of major state-of-the-art instrumentation
- Foster development of the next generation of major instrumentation
- Integrate research with education
- Use, advance, expand the nation's cyber-infrastructure and/or high performance computing capability
- Promote academic & private sector instrument development partnerships
Major Research Instrumentation (MRI)
Thematic Areas:

- Life Time
- Molecular Biology
- NMR Spectrometer
- Mass Spectrometer
- Structure Determination
- Performance Computing

- Electronic Devices
- Local Industry
- Electron Microscopes
- Laboratory Courses
- Computer Science
- Living Cells

- Climate Change
- MRI Instrument
- Materials Science
- State-of-the-Art
- Magnetic Resonance

- Solar Cells
- Confocal Microscope
- Spatial Resolution
- Magnetic Field

The competition for securing research funding has never been so intense. Increase your chance of getting grants by using our tools to discover the most important factors underlying funded research in your area.
Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Awards - DDRI
Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry - GOALI

Promotes university-industry partnerships
Supplies project funds or fellowships/traineeships
Supports eclectic mix of industry-university linkages

Encourages Research that lies beyond that which industry would normally fund solo
Support for Undergraduates

RUI, ROA for PUIs

RUIs and ROAs support research by faculty members at PUIs.

PUIs = accredited institutions that award Associate's, Bachelor's, and/or Master's degrees but have not awarded > 20 Ph.D./D.Sci. degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years.

ALL NSF directorates evaluate and fund RUIs and ROAs.

They are funded within R & E program allocations.

Directorate contacts found at: http://www.nsf.gov/crsspgrm/rui_roa/contacts.jsp
REU Goals:

- Initiate and conduct projects that engage a number of undergraduate students in research.
- Involve in research students who might not otherwise have the opportunity, particularly those from academic institutions where research programs are limited.
Research Experiences for Teachers

RET Goals:

Enable K-12 teachers and community college faculty to engage in STEM research and then adapt knowledge into their teaching.

- RET Sites and Supplements
- May be included in REU proposals
- Check Directorates for specific mechanisms
Questions?
Lunch
The Merit Review Process
Black Box?
When Preparing Proposals

• Read the funding opportunity; ask a Program Officer for clarifications if needed

• Address all the proposal review criteria

• Understand the NSF merit review process

• Avoid omissions and mistakes

• Check your proposal to verify that it is complete!

• Double Check that the proposal NSF receives is the one you intended to send

A. Merit Review Principles and Criteria

The National Science Foundation strives to invest in a robust and diverse portfolio of projects that creates new knowledge and enables breakthroughs in understanding across all areas of science and engineering research and education. To identify which projects to support, NSF relies on a merit review process that incorporates consideration of both the technical aspects of a proposed project and its potential to contribute more broadly to advancing NSF’s mission “to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes.” NSF makes every effort to conduct a fair, competitive, transparent merit review process for the selection of projects.
Review Format in FastLane

- Reviewers provide feedback to NSF based on the Review Criteria and the Review Elements.
- Review Criteria and Elements are available as reviewers provide feedback.
Over 2,000 proposals were RWR in FY 2014

6 most common reasons why

1. Not responsive to the GPG or program announcement/solicitation (960)

2. Does not meet an announced proposal deadline date and time (171)

3. It is inappropriate for NSF funding (74)

4. Duplicative or substantially similar to a proposal already under consideration (66)

5. Not substantively revised from a proposal that was previously reviewed and declined (37)

6. Duplicates another proposal that was already awarded (24)
Types of Reviews

• Ad Hoc
  – Proposals are sent out for review

• Panel
  – Face-to-Face sessions conducted with reviewers. Held at NSF, or virtually via assistive technologies such as WebEx or BlueJeans

• Combination
  – Some proposals may undergo supplemental ad hoc reviews before or after a panel review

• Internal
  – Reviewed by NSF Program Officers
How are Reviewers Selected?

• Three or more external reviewers per proposal are selected

• Types of Reviewers Recruited
  – Specific content expertise
  – General science or education expertise

• Sources of Reviewers
  – Former reviewers
  – Program Officer’s knowledge of the research area
  – References listed in proposal
  – Recent professional society programs
  – S&E journal articles related to the proposal
  – Reviewer recommendations included in proposal
What is the Role of the Reviewer?

• **Review all proposal material and consider**
  
  – The two NSF merit review criteria and any program specific criteria
  
  – Adequacy of the proposed project plan- including the budget, resources, and timeline
  
  – Priorities of the scientific field and of the NSF program
  
  – Potential risks and benefits of the project

• **Make independent written comments on the quality of the proposal content**
What is the Role of the Review Panel?

- Discuss the merits of the proposal with the other panelists
- Write a summary based on that discussion
- Provide some indication of the relative merits of different proposals considered
Why Serve on an NSF Panel?

• Gain first-hand knowledge of the merit review process

• Learn about common problems with proposals

• Discover proposal writing strategies

• Meet colleagues and NSF Program Officers managing the programs related to your research
How Do I Become a Reviewer?

Contact the NSF Program Officer(s) of the program(s) that fit your expertise

- Introduce yourself as a strong potential reviewer based on your research experience
- Offer to send a 2-page CV with current contact information
- Stay in touch if you don’t hear back right away
Conflicts of Interest (COI)

What is a COI?

How we address conflict of interest

NSF checks and avoids COIs in the review process

Institutional COIs

Personal COIs
Proposal Review and Processing

- NSF Announces Opportunity
  - Research & Educational Communities
    - Submit

- NSF Program Officer
  - Ad Hoc
  - Panel
  - Combination
  - Internal

- Proposal Receipt at NSF
  - 90 Days

- Program Officer Analysis and Recommendations
  - DD Concur

- Can be returned without review/withdrawn

- Award
  - Via DGA

- Organization
  - Decline

- DD Concur
  - 30 Days

- Proposal Preparation
  - 6 Months

- Proposal Receipt to DD Concurrency of PO Recommendation
  - DGA Review & Processing
Funding Decisions
Reviews are Advisory to NSF

• The merit review process provides:
  – Review of the proposal and a recommendation on funding.
  – Feedback (strengths and weaknesses) to the proposers.

• NSF Program Officers make funding recommendations guided by program goals and portfolio considerations.

• NSF Division Directors either concur or reject the Program Officers’ funding recommendations.
Feedback from Merit Review

• Reviewer ratings (such as: E, V, G, F, P)

• Analysis of how well proposal addresses both review criteria: Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

• Proposal strengths and weaknesses

• Reasons for decline (if applicable)

• If you have any questions, contact the cognizant Program Officer.
Documentation from Merit Review

• Verbatim copies of individual reviews, excluding reviewer identities

• Panel summary or summaries (if panel review was used)

• Context statement (usually)

• Program Officer to Principal Investigator comments (formal or informal, written, email or verbal) as necessary to explain a decision
Examples of Reasons for Declines

• Not considered competitive based on merit review criteria and program office concurrence

• Flaws or issues identified by the Program Officer

• Funds were not adequate to fund all competitive proposals
Revisions and Resubmissions

– Do the reviewers and the NSF Program Officer identify significant strengths in your proposal?

– Can you address the identified weaknesses?

– Can the proposal be **significantly** revised?

– Are there other ways your colleagues or you think a resubmission can be strengthened?

Questions?

**Contact your cognizant Program Officer!**
Possible Considerations for Funding a Competitive Proposal

- Addresses all review criteria
- Likely high impact
- Broadening participation
- Educational impact
- Impact on institution/state

- Special programmatic considerations (e.g. CAREER/RUI/EPSCoR)
- Other support for PI
- “Launching” versus “Maintaining”
- Portfolio balance
For More Information

Go to NSF’s Home Page (http://www.nsf.gov)

Merit Review

NOTICE: Effective January 14, 2013, the National Science Foundation implemented revised merit review criteria based on the National Science Board (NSB) report, National Science Foundation’s Merit Review Criteria: Review and Revisions. While the two merit review criteria remain unchanged (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts), guidance has been provided to clarify and improve the function of the criteria. Revisions based on the NSB report have been incorporated into the Foundation’s policies and procedures manuals, websites, and systems. Proposers should familiarize themselves with the Merit Review Principles and Criteria described in GPG Chapter III.A. For comprehensive outreach and training materials visit the Revised Merit Review Criteria Resource site.

Through its merit review process, the National Science Foundation (NSF) ensures that proposals submitted are reviewed in a fair, competitive, transparent, and in-depth manner. The merit review process is described in detail in Part I of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG): the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG). The GPG provides guidance for the preparation and submission of proposals to NSF.

The goal of this Merit Review website is to help you better understand the NSF merit review process as well as identify resources for additional information (including applicable chapters in the GPG). Sections of this website include:

- Phase I: Proposal Preparation and Submission
- Phase II: Proposal Review and Processing
- Phase III: Award Processing
- Non-Award Decisions and Transactions
- Merit Review Facts
- Why You Should Volunteer to Serve as an NSF Reviewer
- Additional Resources
- Contact Us
Ask Early, Ask Often!

Contact the cognizant Program Officer
Faculty Early Career Development program (CAREER)

http://www.nsf.gov/career
CAREER Awards

Solicitation 15-555

Due Dates:  
- July 21, 2015  BIO, CISE, EHR  
- July 22, 2015  ENG  
- July 23, 2015  GEO, MPS, SBE  

http://www.nsf.gov/career
CAREER Awards

Foundation wide
Supports junior faculty
Research and education integration

PECASE (Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers)

eligibility

http://www.nsf.gov/career
CAREER Awards

Stable support for 5 years

NSF wide: 400 per year

> $400K – CISE, EHR, MPS, SBE

> $500K - ENG, BIO, GEO/PLR
CAREER Eligible Investigators Must:

Hold PhD (by proposal deadline)

Be employed in a tenure-track (or equivalent) position at an eligible institution as an Assistant Professor (until Oct 1st following deadline)
An Eligible Institution Must be:

An academic institution in the U.S., its territories or possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that award degrees in fields supported by NSF.
An eligible institution may also be:

Non-profit, non-degree-granting (e.g. a museum, observatory or lab) if the eligibility requirements of the PI are satisfied.

NSF encourages proposals from different institutional types, including minority serving and undergraduate institutions
CAREER Eligible Investigators May **NOT**: 

- Receive tenure before Oct 1st following proposal deadline
- Have previously received a CAREER award
- Have had more than two CAREER proposals reviewed
- Be an untenured associate professor
CAREER Varies across NSF

- Number of submitted CAREER proposals
- Review and Funding methods
- Other Proposals with which CAREERs compete

NSF CAREER Coordinating Committee Sets NSF-wide goals

http://www.nsf.gov/career
CAREER Proposals

Contact program manager liaison* and ask about:

• Expectations for scope of research and education
• Assessment of 2-page departmental letter
• Funding rate trend for regular proposals in the program of interest

* see http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp
Are CAREER Awards Right for you?

Yes, if:

Your proposed research is innovative, ambitious and within NSF’s the purview of research and education supported

You have support from your department/organization, mentors.

You are at the right stage of your career.
CAREER Personnel and Budgets

YES

Consultants, subawards, unpaid collaborators

Academic year buyouts for teaching intensive institutions

NO

Co-PI, senior personnel
CAREER Departmental 2 Page Letter

• Statement of PI CAREER program eligibility

• Support for PI’s proposed research and education activities

• Description of how the PIs career goals and responsibilities mesh with that of the organization and department

• Commitment to support professional development and mentoring of the PI

• NOT a letter of recommendation or endorsement of the PI or the research project
CAREER Awards Urban Myths

“*You cannot apply because you have another NSF award.* . .”

“It is an entry program, so you must first apply to CAREER. . .”

“I need to see a successful proposal to write a successful proposal. . .”

“You have no chance, if you are not from a research intensive institution...”

“CAREER proposals are more portable than other NSF funding.”

“The education component does not matter.

“I read on the web that to succeed, I have to...”
Traits of a Successful CAREER Proposal

High quality -- This is a highly competitive program!

Matches disciplinary program expectations

Includes an appropriate scope of activities for a 5-year plan, not one’s whole life!

Goes outside the education box of regular research proposals in the field

Strikes a balance between doable research activities and more risky pursuits
PECASE: Presidential Early Career Awards for Science and Engineering
April 18, 2014
CAREER Awards Resources:

• Program Solicitation - NSF 15-555
• Frequently Asked Questions - NSF 15-057
• CAREER Directorate/Division Contacts
  • http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp
• Links to recent CAREER and PECASE awards
• Deadlines for 2015
  – July, 2015 - BIO, CISE, EHR
  – July 22, 2015 - ENG
  – July 23, 2015 - GEO, MPS, SBE
Questions?
Break
Thank you for Attending!

Please Complete Your Evaluation!