



Awards and Solicitations Working Group: Preliminary Recommendations

Presented at the AdCom Meeting
April 14, 2010





Use of Topic Codes

- ⦿ Thrust Area/Topic Codes are a Useful Management Tool in Tracking Program Activity/Outside Interest
- ⦿ Continued Use is Recommended
- ⦿ Revisions Recommended
 - › Re-structure “Thrust Areas” to division cluster titles where appropriate
 - › Re-define “Thrust Areas” titles where no clusters are used
- ⦿ Educate on the Importance of Usage on Both Awards and Declinations
- ⦿ Issue an Annual Topic Evolution Document



Improved Proposal Generation Documents

- ◉ Continue to Limit the Number of Proposal Generating Documents
- ◉ Focused Announcements with Carefully Crafted Variances
- ◉ Explore Use of Template across ENG for Program Descriptions



Mortgage Policy

- ⦿ Continuation of the "50% Mortgage Policy"*
Recommended
- ❖ No more than 50% of a program budget can be committed to the sum of out-year increments of active awards
- ❖ All Centers and Facilities Cooperative Agreements are exempted from the mortgage policy



Proposal Control

- ◎ Data indicate Unsolicited Proposals are Source of Increases
 - > Multiple submissions by PI/Co-PI is ~ half of the annual proposals
 - > Unsolicited proposals have increased 92% since 2006

- ◎ Actions for Consideration: DIRECT METHODS
 - > Limit number of proposals per PI or PI/Co-PI to core programs across ENG, would require use of “solicitation”
 - > Limit number of windows of submission
 - > Further reduce proposal generating documents
 - > Establish categories of proposals



Proposal Control (Cont.)

- ⦿ **Actions for Consideration (INDIRECT METHODS)**
 - › Incentivize PDs to increase success rates
 - › Publish institutional success rates
 - › Use of context analysis tools to determine submission duplications
 - › Required response in resubmissions to reviewers-raised issues