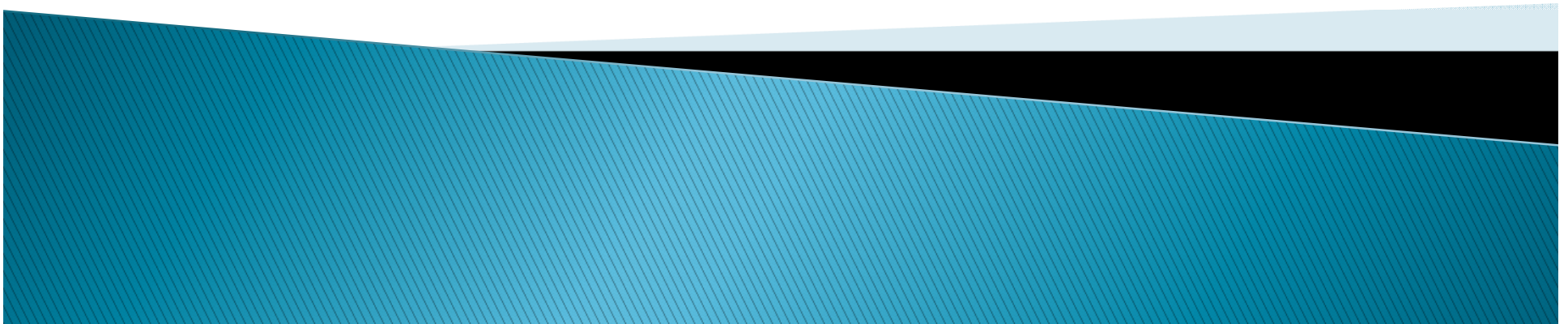


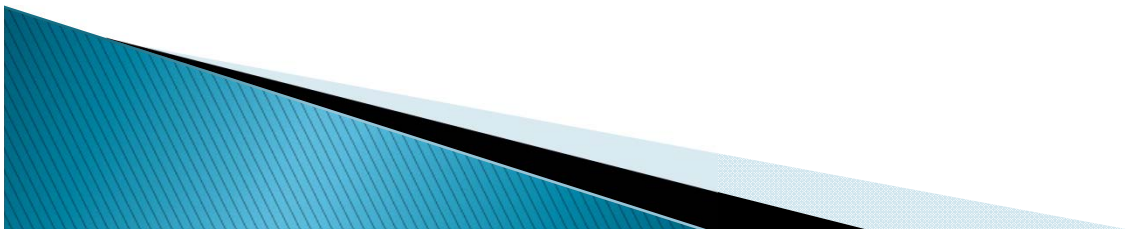
NSF ADVANCE Program, SOLICITATION FY15–FY16

Webinar on Overall Changes And Changes To the
Tracks, with a Focus on PLAN
July 2014



Webinar Outline

- ▶ ADVANCE Program goals
- ▶ Synopsis of tracks
- ▶ Key changes in this solicitation
- ▶ Focus on new track, PLAN
- ▶ Due dates and eligibility
- ▶ Track description
- ▶ Required components of PLAN proposals
- ▶ Successful proposals
- ▶ Common pitfalls in proposals
- ▶ FAQs
- ▶ Budget
- ▶ Contact information



ADVANCE Program Description

- ▶ Develop systemic approaches to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic STEM careers
- ▶ Develop innovative and sustainable ways to promote gender equity in the STEM academic workforce
- ▶ Contribute to the development of a more diverse science and engineering workforce
- ▶ Contribute to and inform the general knowledge base on gender equity in the academic STEM disciplines



Framing of Program in Synopsis

- ▶ Institutional Transformation
 - Large-scale, comprehensive institutional transformation
 - Locus for research on gender equitable change
- ▶ Institutional Transformation – Catalyst
 - Focused self assessment or adaptation of strategies to unique environments, MSI
- ▶ PLAN – Partnerships for Learning and Adaptation Networks (replaces PAID)
 - Larger scale environment for networked adaptation and learning across institutions and disciplines



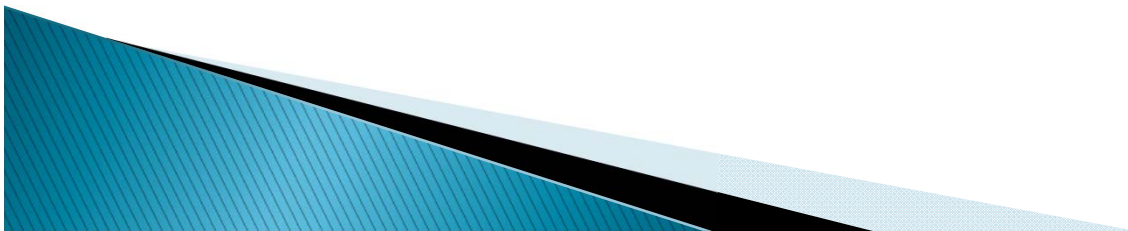
Overall Changes to Solicitation I

- ▶ Less prescriptive proposal guidelines
- ▶ Summative evaluation focused on project impact
- ▶ IT Scientific study:
 - Scientific Research and Policy Analysis
- ▶ Multidisciplinary team research and appropriate skills to conduct project activities



Overall Changes 2: Emphasis on Inclusion in STEM

- ▶ “STEM includes but is not limited to Arctic and Antarctic sciences, biological sciences, computer and information sciences, engineering, geosciences, mathematics, physical sciences, the learning sciences, and social, behavioral and economic sciences.”



Changes to the Institutional Transformation Track

- ▶ “Research that investigates novel aspects of the proposal is especially encouraged. It should be clear in the proposal, which team members, and/or consultants will undertake the research and their relevant qualifications and skills in areas such as learning, social, behavioral and economic sciences or policy analysis.”
- ▶ “The external evaluator must be a qualified evaluator that works with the program to develop an impact analysis.”



Changes in the IT Catalyst Track

- ▶ **New structure**
 - 3 year self-assessment or implementation
 - \$250,000 budget (formerly, 2 years@\$200,000)
- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - Department of Education Title III and V status (HSIs and MSI-designated)
 - Community colleges
- ▶ **Project Activities**
 - Assessment of unique climate
 - Contextualized adaptation and implementation of effective activities



Partnerships for Learning and Adaptation Networks Replaces Partnerships for Adaptation, Implementation and Dissemination

- ▶ Modeled on Carnegie Foundation program on networked learning communities
 - Capacity building to learn to improve within the system
 - Common aim (adaptation activity)
 - Understanding of problem and how it is produced
 - Coordinated development, testing, and improvement
 - *Learning what works, why, in what context and for what populations*



PLAN Tracks:

1. Institutions of Higher Education (PLAN IHE)

2. Disciplines (PLAN D)

- ▶ Broad scale replication/adaptation and implementation and knowledge building
- ▶ Lead institution or organization
 - University or professional organization
- ▶ One activity or coherent thematic set
 - Implemented at a variety of locations
- ▶ Assessment design/protocol
 - Iterative implementation of improvements
- ▶ Up to 5 years/\$750,000



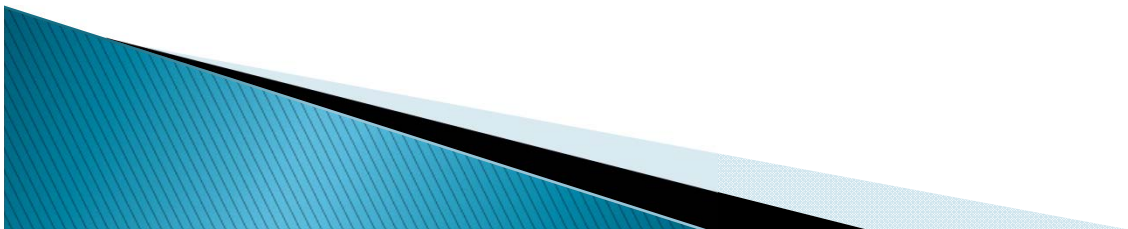
Due Dates for Letters of Intent and Full Proposals

- ▶ Letters of Intent
 - PLAN IHE
 - August 11, 2014
 - PLAN D
 - August 20, 2014
- ▶ Full Proposals
 - PLAN IHE
 - September 22, 2014
 - PLAN D
 - October 3, 2014
- ▶ PROGRAM ELEMENT CODES –
 - PLAN D – 7639 AND PLAN IHE – 7650



What should be included in a PLAN LOI?

- ▶ Separate LOI for each PLAN proposal
- ▶ Name of the track
 - PLAN IHE
 - PLAN D
- ▶ Project synopsis (max 2500 characters)
- ▶ Senior personnel and brief description of their roles
- ▶ Partner institutions and description of involvement
- ▶ Conflicts of interest



PLAN Eligibility

▶ PLAN IHE

- Non-profit institutions of higher education with fields supported by NSF
- Education Department Title III and V encouraged to apply
- Community colleges

▶ PLAN D

- All of the above plus
- Professional societies



Example of Potential PLAN IHE

- ▶ Partnership network
 - 3 to 5 academic institutions (as appropriate) each representing different types of institutions
 - Subawards for each partner
- ▶ Adaptation and implementation
 - STEM mentoring program/department chair training on implicit bias/grant writing boot camp/writing workshops
- ▶ Learning network
 - Assessment protocol designed to assess effectiveness and impact and improvement
- ▶ Long term sustainability of activity



A Potential Proposal for PLAN D

- ▶ Partnership network
 - Led by an institution or professional organization
- ▶ Adaptation and implementation of:
 - Activities aimed at meeting disciplinary specific and documented needs
 - Facilitate moving post-docs to faculty jobs for women in biological sciences; retention of women from URG in computing
- ▶ Learning network
 - Assessment protocol designed to assess effectiveness and impact and improvement
- ▶ Sustainability of activity and replication to other disciplines



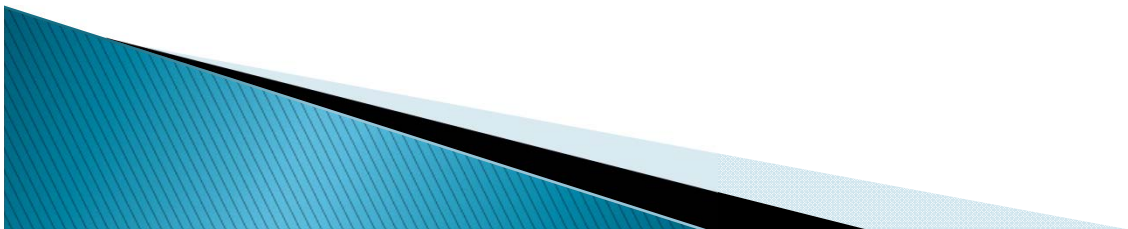
Required Components of PLAN Proposals

- ▶ Project summary
- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Context and Data
- ▶ Commitment and Sustainability
- ▶ Activities Description
- ▶ Project Management
- ▶ Project Evaluation
- ▶ Supplementary Documents



PLAN IHE and PLAN D: Context and Data

- ▶ Provide for each proposing institution/discipline
 - Motivates the project and justifies
- ▶ Relevant current and past activities and initiatives
 - Informs the current project or is integrated into
- ▶ Information on the status of women in STEM at each institutional partner or in the discipline
- ▶ If “special populations” of women are included, data must be presented disaggregated by that group



Commitment and Sustainability

- ▶ Letters of commitment from each institutional partner
 - Institutional and organizational leadership
 - E.g., president, provost, executive director, dean
- ▶ PLAN D
 - Letters of support from each decision making group including advisory board
- ▶ Detailed financial support prohibited
 - Commitment may indicate sustainability



Activities Description, I

- ▶ One activity OR a coherent set of related activities
 - Describe in detail
- ▶ If a previous ADVANCE activity
 - Must demonstrate effectiveness
- ▶ If an innovative ADVANCE activity
 - Must explain in detail why this activity should be effective



Activities Description, 2

- ▶ Detailed assessment/knowledge building protocol
 - How will you come to knowledge:
 - What works?
 - Why does it work?
 - In what context does it work?
 - For what populations?
- ▶ Detailed description of who conducts assessment



Project Management

- ▶ How will activities be organized?
 - Across institutions?
- ▶ How will activities be implemented?
- ▶ How will assessment be conducted?
- ▶ How will evaluation be conducted?
- ▶ Organization of project personnel
 - Personnel
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Level of effort
- ▶ Steering or advisory committee



Project Evaluation

- ▶ Formative AND summative evaluation
- ▶ Impact evaluation
 - Benchmarks
 - Indicators of progress
 - More than a compilation of project data and participant evaluations
- ▶ Distinct from the assessment protocol
 - Summative evaluation could be developed as one protocol
- ▶ External evaluation
 - Independence from PI team



Supplementary Documents

- ▶ Letters of support/commitment from all network partners

AND/OR

- ▶ Letters of support/commitment from all decision making bodies of the organization
- ▶ Data management plan
- ▶ Postdoctoral mentoring plan
- ▶ External evaluator CV



Components of Successful Proposals, 1

- ▶ An understanding of the problem to be addressed
 - clear description of the institution or disciplinary characteristics
 - appropriate use of a conceptual framework for the activities of the project
- ▶ Familiarity with and understanding of the products of earlier ADVANCE awardees and the larger relevant literature
- ▶ Activities that are consistent with institutional or disciplinary characteristics, the conceptual framework, project goals, and the leadership team's capabilities and capacities
- ▶ Projects focused on systemic/sustainable change



Components of Successful Proposals, 2

- ▶ Fully integrated assessment protocol
- ▶ Strong rationale for choice of partners
- ▶ STEM as defined in solicitation
- ▶ Appropriate team of experts
- ▶ Inclusion of detailed management plan
- ▶ A realistic timeline
- ▶ Budget appropriate to scale of activities



Common Pitfalls

- ▶ Incomplete description of activities
- ▶ Inadequate reference to the literature
- ▶ Project team not sufficiently broad or skilled for proposed activities
- ▶ Not addressing
 - Intellectual merit criteria
 - Broader impacts criteria
 - PLAN specific merit review criteria
- ▶ Project scope does not fit budget



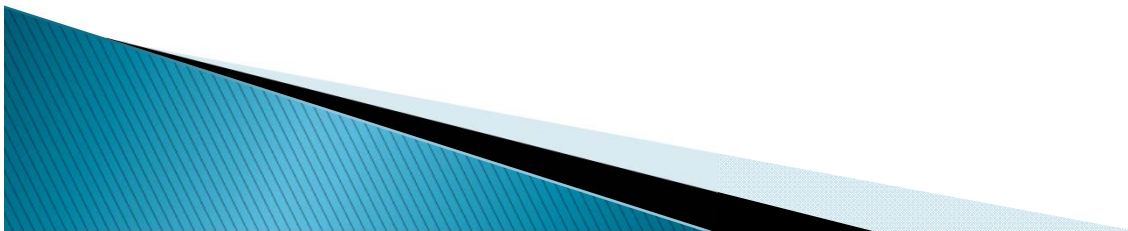
PLAN Specific Merit Review Criteria

- ▶ How well did the proposer demonstrate the effectiveness and/or lessons learned of the strategies and methods chosen to be adapted?
- ▶ How well did the proposer establish the significance of adapting the strategies and methods to the proposed context(s)?
- ▶ How well did the relevant literature (from evaluation, education, behavioral, social and economic sciences, as appropriate) inform the design of the PLAN activity and knowledge-building?



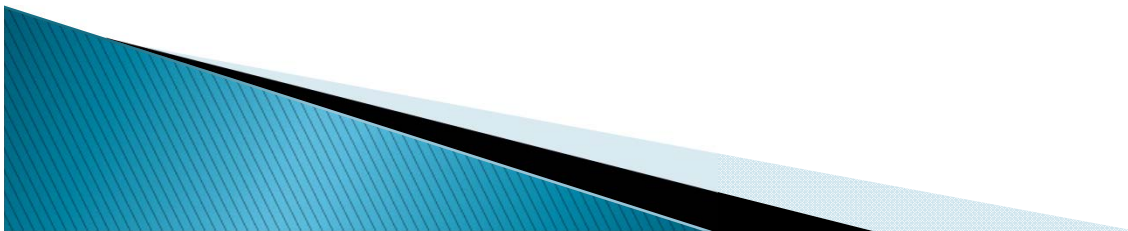
PLAN Specific Merit Review Criteria, 2

- ▶ If women from special populations are included, how likely are the proposed activities to target their unique circumstances?
- ▶ Are mechanisms planned and explained that ensure long-term sustainability beyond the duration of the funded project?
- ▶ Are the resources maximally shared between/among partnering institutions?
- ▶ Is there adequate representation of all partner institutions in the leadership of the project?



PLAN Specific Merit Review Criteria, 3

- ▶ Is adequate attention paid to the unique institutional characteristics of all partner institutions; are these nuances addressed in the proposed strategies to be implemented?
- ▶ Is there balance between the adaptation and learning components to maximize the potential for adding to the knowledge base?
- ▶ For PLAN D proposals, what is the likelihood of replication with other disciplines?



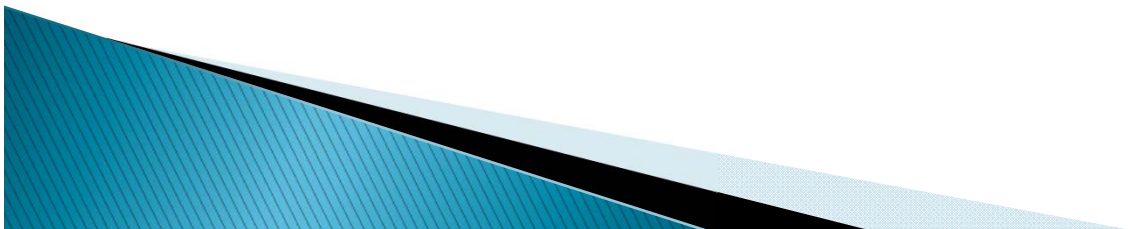
Frequently Asked Questions, 1

- ▶ Do we need to include all STEM disciplines?
 - For IT and Catalyst, yes
 - For PLAN D and PLAN IHE, not necessary
- ▶ Are social, behavioral and economic sciences eligible?
 - Yes
- ▶ Can an internal consultant act as our external evaluator?
 - No



Frequently Asked Questions, 2

- ▶ Can our PLAN proposal be collaborative?
 - No. There must be one lead institution and the network partners must have subawards.
- ▶ What if we do not have an expert on education, evaluation, economist, social or behavioral scientist or policy analyst at our institution?
 - You may use a subaward to contract for the expertise and/or may have someone with the knowledge at a partner institution serve that function.



PLAN Budget Matters

- ▶ Cost sharing is NOT ALLOWED
- ▶ Budget should be based on the project's scope
 - Max 5 years/\$750,000
- ▶ Note that the budget and length of the project must be justified within the proposal and in the Budget Justification
- ▶ Dependent care costs may be allowable
 - Does your institution already have an employee welfare plan that includes dependent care costs? If so, then allowable.
- ▶ Please consult your sponsored projects office and the GPG for allowable NSF costs



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