

Slide 1

Welcome to the NSF Webinar on the Computer and Information Science and Engineering Research Initiation Initiative (CRII).

I am Jeremy Epstein, the Deputy Division Director of Computer and Network Systems in NSF's Computer and Information Science and Engineering Directorate. Participating today is Mimi McClure, one of the program officers for the CRII program.

Slide 2

We're going to briefly summarize the goals of the program, requirements for eligibility, areas of interest to the program, the submission process, review process, and a few of the frequently asked questions. Everything in this presentation is a synopsis of the solicitation, which has more details. The recently updated FAQs have many questions and answers; if we don't cover whatever questions you have today, please check the FAQ. If you don't find the answer there, please contact one of us – our contact information is on the CRII web site and will also be on the last slide of this presentation.

These slides will be posted to the NSF website after the conclusion of this webinar. We're going to try to keep this to an hour, but can stay longer if needed for Q&A.

Slide 3

The most important thing to do is to **READ THE SOLICITATION** and then read it again!

Slide 4

The goal of this program is to support researchers in the first 3 years of their academic positions. Importantly, the CRII program seeks to provide essential resources to enable early-career PIs to launch their research careers. For the purposes of this program, CISE defines "essential resources" as those that (a) the PI does not otherwise have, including through organizational or other funding; and (b) are critical for the PI to conduct early-career research that will enable research independence. In particular, this program is not appropriate for PIs who already have access to resources to conduct research.

Slide 5

Eligibility for this program has been the #1 question asked since the program began. In short, there are three parts to eligibility.

First, you must be in the first three years of a tenure-track or research science or education position (or equivalent) – not a postdoc or research associate – at a university or two-year or four-year college. Your primary appointment must be in an area supported by CISE – computer science, information science, or electrical or computer engineering being most common, but not exclusive. For example, you could be in a mechanical engineering department if your research is in the computing aspects of robotics or smart cars. Positions in government or industry do not count against the three-year limit. Neither do positions as postdocs or research associates. However, academic positions held overseas, whether tenure-track, tenured, or not, do count towards the three-year limit.

Second, you must be no more than 5 years since your PhD, not counting family or medical leave.

Slide 6

The third part of eligibility is that you have not received any grants from NSF or other agencies in the PI role. Being in the co-PI role does not disqualify, nor do any of these other types of NSF grants. Additionally, awards from your university or contracts from a company or private foundation, do not disqualify. Note that if you have a collaborative NSF grant, the lead PI from each institution is considered a PI, so even being the PI from a non-lead institution would disqualify.

The two questions in determining eligibility are (1) where does the money come from and (2) what is your role. The amount of money involved does not matter – be it small or large.

Note that the rule is as of time of award, not as of time of submission. So, if your proposal is selected for an award, the NSF program officer will ask you to certify that you have not received any disqualifying grants.

Slide 7

As said earlier, this program is open to faculty doing research in any of the areas supported by CISE. This slide lists the current CISE programs that are accepting

CRII submissions. Your proposal must list at least one program which is relevant to your research proposal. Descriptions of each of the programs can be found on the NSF web site.

Strictly follow the solicitation guidelines for titling your proposal.

Slide 8

The most important thing to do is to READ THE SOLICITATION and then read it again!

Slide 9

As described in the solicitation, proposals are limited to 10 pages, not the 15-page limit most typical for NSF proposals. We are not going to review the rules for fonts and margins – please see the NSF Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) for instructions. Trying to squeeze in more text by reducing fonts or margins is not only frustrating to reviewers, but is also likely to have your proposal returned without review.

A few other points on submission: No co-PIs or other senior personnel are permitted, however, consultants and subawardees are allowed. The proposal must be for no more than \$175,000 and for exactly 2 years – no more, no less. You may only submit one CRII proposal. A common question is whether a PI may submit both a CRII and CAREER proposal; the answer is NO.

Slide 10

The Data Management Plan is required to be submitted as a supplementary document in Fastlane. If you have included postdocs in your budget, you must also have a one-page postdoc mentoring plan, submitted as a supplementary document.

Your proposal must include a letter from your department chair certifying that you meet the eligibility requirement, including that you meet the criteria of time from PhD (within 5 years) and time of hire (no more than 3 years as of submission deadline).

Slide 11

The budget is intended to mostly be spent on students, including both undergraduates and graduates. Some fraction may go to specialized equipment, such as unique hardware or software needed for research. Some travel funds are expected. As noted, the total must not exceed \$175,000.

REU supplements can be requested for CRII awards, following standard NSF policies.

Slide 12

Proposals will be reviewed using the standard NSF merit review process, which will include consideration of both intellectual merit and broader impact. Unlike CAREER proposals, there is not a specific educational component required.

Factors that will be considered in the review process include relevance to one or more of the CISE programs (as mentioned on the previous slide), the appropriateness of the research to a 2 year window, the potential to produce sufficient preliminary research to help you prepare for other research awards such as CAREER, and whether the activities are appropriate to help you achieve research independence.

Slide 13

The most important thing to do is to READ THE SOLICITATION and then read it again!

Slide 14

Thanks for participating in this webinar. We hope the CRII program will enable new faculty members to initiate independent research through funding students and related support.

The slides and audio will be posted to the CISE web site in the next few days. As a final reminder, proposals are due August 14th.

Slide 15

Questions?

Slide 16

Thank you