NSF Webinar on NSF Solicitation 20-593

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (CISE) RESEARCH INITIATION INITIATIVE (CRII)

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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OUTLINE

• Goals of the program
• Eligibility
• Areas of interest
• Submission process
• Review process
• Questions
• Program Director contacts
STEP 1

• READ THE SOLICITATION
PROGRAM GOALS

• Encouraging research independence immediately upon obtaining one's first academic position
• Undertake exploratory investigations
• Acquire and test preliminary data
• Develop collaborations within or across research disciplines
• Develop new algorithms, approaches, and system designs/prototypes

**This program is not appropriate for PIs who already have access to resources to conduct any early-career research**
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

• Hold a primary appointment (or if applying to the CISE Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure, hold a full- or part-time appointment) in computer and/or information science and/or engineering, or in a related field of computational or data science (where the PI would normally submit proposals to CISE programs).

• Be untenured and;

• Be in the first three years of a tenure-track or research science or education position (or equivalent) as of the submission deadline. The number of years includes any academic position held post-PhD, exclusive of postdoctoral appointments.

  • Only official leaves of absence (for illness, family, etc.) may be subtracted from the total time in the position, as certified by the PI's department chair/head in the required letter, to be included in the Supplementary Documents section of the proposal.
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (CONT)

• **At the time of the award**, the PI may not have received any other grants in the PI role from any institution or agency

• Following do **NOT** disqualify:
  - Award as a co-PI or Senior Personnel on another grant;
  - Workshop or student conference travel awards;
  - Doctoral dissertation improvement grants;
  - Post doctoral research fellowship awards, such as SEES Fellows or CI Fellows;
  - A Graduate Research Fellowship or similar fellowship award from NSF;
  - REU or RET awards;
  - SBIR or STTR awards that were received while the PI worked in industry;
  - Awards from PI’s university;
  - Awards from companies or private foundations
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (CONT)

Funds from existing awards (Fed/state govt, industry, university, other) including funds already expended:
NOT MORE THAN 24 MONTHS of grad student support

Funds from CRII proposal:
NOT LESS THAN 24 MONTHS of grad student support

Sufficient resources
NOT MORE THAN 48 MONTHS
MAGIC DATES

- Nov 2 2015 – PhD must be granted *after* this date to meet the five year limit
- Nov 2 2017 – must have started academic appointment *after* this date to meet three year limit
- ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE FOR FAMILY OR MEDICAL LEAVE
- No exceptions for any other reason, including work abroad, ”just a few days”, etc.
AREAS OF INTEREST

• Anything that fits within any of the NSF CISE research programs

• Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC)
  • OAC Core Research

• Computing and Communications Foundations (CCF):
  • Algorithmic Foundations (AF)
  • Communications and Information Foundations (CIF)
  • Software and Hardware Foundations (SHF)
  • Foundations of Emerging Technologies (FET)

• Computer and Network Systems (CNS):
  • Computer Systems Research (CSR)
  • Networking Technology and Systems (NeTS)
  • CISE Education and Workforce (EWF)
  • Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS)
  • Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC)

• Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS):
  • Information Integration and Informatics (III)
  • Human-Centered Computing (HCC) - formerly Cyber-Human Systems (CHS)
  • Robust Intelligence (RI)
  • Smart and Connected Health (SCH)

• Program sites have more information on topics for each program
STEP 2

• READ THE SOLICITATION
SUBMISSION DETAILS

• Project summary plus **10 pages** of project description; see Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) for standard NSF font & margin limits.
  
  • The Project Description **must justify** how the proposal helps obtain essential resources that the PI otherwise lacks to initiate the PI’s research career, and not just for this project.
  
  • The department chair letter must follow the template provided – no changes.

• Proposals (< $175,000 for **exactly** 2 years – no more, no less)
  
  • Must include a minimum .5 months salary for PI per year
  
  • Must include a minimum of 24 months grad student support over the 2 years (except PUI)
  
  • No co-PIs or other senior personnel permitted
  
  • Postdocs are allowed

• Submission deadline: **November 2, 2020**

• Limit of **1** proposal per PI
  
  • **Note:** this limit is **distinct** from the PI limit in any other NSF solicitation

• No classified proposals will be accepted
SUBMISSION DETAILS (CONT)

• Data Management Plan

• Postdoc Mentoring Plan

• **Department Chair/Head Letter (required):** A letter from the PI’s department chair/head must be submitted as a Supplementary Document, following the template provided.

• Four sections, for four criteria:
  - Time criterion
  - Appointment criterion
  - Federal financial assistance criterion
  - Essential resources criterion
BUDGET DETAILS

• Up to $175,000 / 2 years
• Eligible for Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) supplements
• Funding for students, equipment, travel
• Minimum of .5 months of support for the PI per year
• Most of the funds should go toward student(s)
  • Must include at least one full-time graduate student – minimum 24 months of support over the 2 years (except for PUIs, where at least two part-time undergraduate students must be included for each year of the award. Students may receive summer and/or academic year support)
  • May be used toward postdoctoral scholars, travel, and/or research equipment.
PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS

• Proposals will be reviewed through standard NSF merit review process including **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impact** criteria

• Factors to be considered:
  
  • Relevance to one or more CISE programs
  
  • Appropriateness to 2-year timeline
  
  • Potential of activities to produce sufficient preliminary results to serve as the basis for future competitive research proposals (e.g., CAREER, other solicitations)
  
  • Whether the activities are necessary and critical steps for the PI to achieve research independence
STEP 3

• READ THE SOLICITATION
TAKEAWAYS

• CRII is for new faculty members to initiate independent research through funding students, equipment, and travel

• Proposals due November 2, 2020

• READ THE SOLICITATION
  • Follow font and margin requirements
  • Follow title guidelines
  • Make certain all the required sections are easily identifiable
  • Department chair letter must follow the template

• Contact an NSF program officer with questions!
Questions?

Submit your questions through the Zoom chat
Thank You
Almadena Chtchelkanova
Jeremy Epstein
Ephraim Glinert
Henry Kautz
Alan Sussman

Our email addresses can be located on the NSF web site