

- Abiodun Ilumoka

00:00:00

And welcome everyone to this third Webinar in our series of three on the Expand Ai program.

- We're pleased to have you here, and our first deadline actually went by on Monday, the thirteenth of March, and we got some proposals in, so we're excited to go through those
- start doing more formal reviews and making awards. But thank you for being here, and without watching, i'm gonna ask you



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:00:33

to start. Please introduce yourself before you speak, and then we'll move along. Thank you.

- Great thanks. Well, um uh thanks. Meeting host, if you give me control of the slides. In the meantime, I'm Jim Donnelly. Everybody welcome to the Webinar. We're really happy to see everybody here. I'm: a program officer in size, which is the Uh. Nsf. Director for computer and information science and engineering, and together with Avi ilamopa i'm one of the program, co-leads for expand ai really happy to welcome you to the program.
- See? Looking for some kind of arrow or something otherwise. Next slide.
- Oh, there it is. Thank you very much.
- Um. So as I lease. Ah, but there are many other program contacts involved in the um in the program, and you're going to hear from a number of us today, as you see listed here. Um, The program contacts come from directors from all over Nsf. We're really proud to be working in this. Ah, very robust multi-directorate and even multi-agency effort, together with them so thanks everybody,



• Weihang Zhu

00:01:42

and that's a section of what we're going to be covering, and i'm starting off with just a little framing at the Nsf. Level, and then a little framing of the program. Um on behalf of Nsf. Leadership. Ah, welcome you to the Webinar and thank you for your interest in the expand Ai program as you'll later see, an assembly is joined by several other agencies. Ah! All of whom are together with Nsf. And significantly ah! Seeking to diversify participation in Ai research, education and workforce development



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:02:10

through capacity, development, and partnerships

- within the National Ai Research Institute's ecosystem,
- and as that was established by Congress in one thousand nine hundred and fifty to promote the progress of science, to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare to secure the national defense.
- Nsf. Considers it vital
- to support basic research and people

- to create knowledge that transforms the future.
- In programs such as the Ai Institute's program and this Ai Ah expand Ai program. All Nsf. Research Directors join efforts to advance knowledge and sustain global leadership.
- So
- zooming in a little bit uh more closely strategy uh you'll have seen in the solicitation you've been reading, expand Ai and thinking about proposing that the expand Ai program is an initiative of the National Ai Research Institute program That's led by Nsf. But is itself a multi sector and multi agency ever Ai institutes, and now expand ai um
- together. Work to deliver on this national ai strategy which emphasizes a number of national objectives in Ai.



Mauro Diaz

00:03:21

The first of these objectives in the strategy is to promote sustained long-term support to Ai research in an effort to maintain and grow us leadership in Ai.



Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:03:31

So the Ai Institutes, just looking at the Institutes. Here

- they all have in common some core missions in ah, across all institutes, and you can see them listed here. In brief, I'll just expand on them a little bit. Each Institute advances fundamental research to add new knowledge and methods in artificial intelligence, which is, we can all see as a rapidly growing and advancing area.
- Each institute also pursues this mission in a use-inspired context, meaning
- host if you could look for anybody to mute there. Thanks. So that use inspired context means that the research has application
- with broad use for society. And mind that doesn't mean that it's research that's application oriented only, but rather that situating the research and a realistic use-inspired context helps identify the important Ai research goals. And then, of course, the added research is conducted in such a way that it can contribute directly to those use inspired contexts.
- So finally, we note here that each Ai Institute seems to grow the Us. Ai workforce. This is really important and much needed. In an increasingly ai-powered future.
- All right the Institutes is a program that was started in two thousand and nineteen, the
- as a significant strategic effort to deliver on that Ai strategy, and it's currently in its third iteration. We're expecting Institute award announcements to continue in April
- uh of this year that's going to be announcing New Institute awards that are a result of the previous Ai Institute solicitation. So until this round we had eighteen active Institutes, and we're going to see more Institutes added in April. So if we just look at looking at this slide, for now, where we can kind of tout the first eighteen institutes you'll see those institutes plus a nsf's partners funding partners that all came together to make this a program
- uh the network of networks that it is.
- The Institutes cover a wide range of Ai, and use inspired uh topics. Uh, this is guided by the themes that you can a second partners list in each successive solicitation. So whereas the

Institutes I listed on the previous slide show the institutes that were already stood up. But what we expect announced in April will be institutes that are announced delivering on these new themes that we identified in the current Ai Institute solicitation. So as we're approaching award announcements, you can expect

- um ai institutes to be announced for themes like a for cybersecurity, climb a smart agriculture and forestry, and the like, as you see listed here. This is all given to you at kind of the beginning of the expand Ai
- Webinar, partly to paint a richer context for what? The pro how the program is situated within Ai Institute, both in terms of how institutions can think about Ai capacity, and in terms of what partnerships might look like with those Institutes as we go along. So you'll see in greater detail later that the solicitation provides a link to a navigator page at our Ai Institute's virtual organization. This is meant to help you connect more directly with any of these individual institutes.
- Now that you know a little bit about the background of Ai Institutes, and how you, your plans might relate to those Institutes now or in the future. This Ai Institute's navigator page can be a rich resource for you and the the Avo. The artificial, the Ai Institute's virtual organization can be a resource to you in helping you navigate. Who should I talk to about X right?
- So it's also worth emphasizing here that if we were to drill down to any of the Institutes here. Um, you know whether through the Avo page, or if you directly find their website, you would find that each of these institutes is itself a pretty significant network of its own collaborators and partners. And so these collaborative partners are
- right around the country, and it makes an even richer ecosystem in which you might be able to find suitable partnerships for your future Ai plans.
- So each Institute has, as a primary goal to diversify participation in Ai research, education, and career pathways. Therefore we think of the overall program as what I refer to earlier as a network of networks.
- Um. The time is now for us to add to this growing Ai network. Through this. No expand Ai program. We're we're excited to share it with you. And so to continue doing that I'm going to hand it over to my partner, Abi Ilaboka, who will start to take you through the details of the expanding. I program.
- Thanks, Eddie.



Abiodun Ilumoka

00:08:27

Thank you, Jim.

- Okay, To continue the narrative here.
- I'm going to give you additional information on expand Ai. But first of all, My name is Abby Ilamonka. I'm. A program director here in the Directorate for Education, newly named,
- and within that directorate I work in the division of undergraduate education. My background is electrical and computer engineering and I'm. Colleague for the Expand Ai program. This is a great program for drawing minority, serving institutions into the
- ai research education and workforce development enterprise
- program goal is displayed on this slide.

- We recognize that msi's minority-serving institutions are a great source of untapped talent and they will be critical to the
- ah future. Ai innovation, Ai research. I would like to make sure that researchers, educators at those institutions have the resources that they need to conduct research and an education
- expand A. I promote capacity development for new Ai programs at Msi's.
- Well, as promoting partnerships between Msis and existing Ai Institutes.
- So this uh slide kind of uh summarizes those uh two aspirations: first building capacity at the different types of msis that we have around the country. They range from Hsi to Hbc. News,
- Tc. Use those abbreviations Uh: some of you may not be familiar with tribal colleges, historically black colleges. Hispanic serving institutions predominantly, black institutions, and so forth.
- Definitions are all available on the department of Ed website.
- So once the capacity is established at these msis, the idea is to encourage the Msi to partner the National Ai Institute, which has, Jim said, Ah are currently nineteen in number.
- Yeah, we'll grow shortly. They are distributed across the country as shown on the map. Yeah,
- the rationale for the program is summarized here. We want to build capacity. We want to leverage partnerships with
- Ai institutes encouraging folks to partner, and we want to make it as easy as possible by lowering barriers to success.
- And the elements of that include the use of concept outlines, which are two page summaries of your idea.
- Ah! And then flexible salvation windows that um are continuous. One start as soon as one ends. Another one starts. So when the submission window ended on Monday, the thirteenth of March, a new submission window opened on Tuesday, the fourteenth of March. So a lot of flexibility
- in terms of preparing concept outlines which we look at, and then give you feedback before you submit the proposal.
- This diagram summarizes the various tracks in the expanded Ai program depending on your level of capacity for Ai, you can either
- work with trap one which is a capacity building pilot track, in which, if you have zero to very little ai capacity, you can put together a plan for growing capacity at your institution.
- If you already have considerable capacity for Ai at your institution. Then you might want to look at track two partnerships in which you want to scale up established Ai research education, workforce development programs and initiate new collaborations.



Vasilis Zafiris

00:13:13

I am



Abiodun Ilumoka

00:13:16

okay fine. A reminder to mute yourself, please.

- Here is some background noise

- uh track two. You can ask for up to seven hundred thousand per year for up to four years. So keep that in mind
- the estimated budget for the program between ten and seventeen million for fifteen, to twenty, five awards. This year we anticipate ten to fifteen capacity-building pilots five to ten partner awards.
- So far things are going well. There's a quite a bit of interest, and we're getting some very interesting concept outlines and proposals
- participating agencies Jim already covered. There's a bunch of other agencies involved such as this Homeland Security and Nefa
- within Nsf: It's pretty much all the directorates that are involved, and they listed here So Ai ah can be used in any field essentially non-stem fields included. So all of the Nsi directorates are involved in this effort
- regardless of your disciplinary expertise. There may be something for you Here,
- uh Ivo, is the virtual organization that supports the Ai Institute program. And again, Jim already mentioned that please visit the Iowa website to learn a little bit more about the different Ai Institute.
- We have a couple of Institute representatives with us this afternoon that will join us for the breakout rooms to give you additional information on their Institutes
- program contacts. There's a group of about twelve of us involved in the program as you've seen listed here. We are a diverse group from different backgrounds,
- different types of institutions and some of us are permanent program directors at Nsf.
- All of this is available by the way on the program page.
- I will continue into this section, tell you a little bit about concept outlines and what is involved. Normally, a lot of time and effort goes into preparing a proposal. A concept outline is meant to reduce
- the amount of effort that you put into a proposal that ultimately is not funded concept outlines are two-page descriptions of your ideas that we ask you to put forward two.
- Ah it's relatively easy to put forward a two-page description than a fifteen-page proposal. So the idea is to send in the two-page concept outline for either cap or partner
- and get feedback in a relatively short time, and currently we're running. At about three weeks. You send us a concept outline today. You get a response within three weeks um with feedback. Ah, either an invitation to submit a proposal
- or an invitation to revise your concept outline and reset. Recently
- we have some strict eligibility rules. As you can imagine. You you have to be an Msi, and those rules are described in detail in the solicitation. So I encourage you to read up on eligibility.
- Ah,
- I've already talked about uh the time window for responding to concept outlines. If you are uh invited to submit a proposal, you will get a program officer concurrence email that is, your invitation to submit the proposal.
- If you are not invited to submit, I said, please read the feedback carefully, and consider Resubmitting your concept outline
- concept offline contains essentially Ah, five parts. The first four parts are the same for either a partner or concept or title. Names of the pis and copies.
- Your Msi status should be described, and then tell us about your current ai capacity.
- Then finally tell us about the goals that you have for the project

- capacity-building goals should be given, or the cap track. It's optional for the partner, and we restrict you to five hundred words. Partnership goals are required for the partner track
- are only up to five hundred words,
- and at this point I believe I hand over to Shah. But before I do that I have a quick poll for you. So if you will be with me, Shaham, do a quick call,
- I launched the poll so it should come up on your screen. Two quick questions shouldn't Take you more than
- twenty, maybe thirty seconds, Max. Please respond, and we'll
- shedding invitation and
- to tell us about your institutional role and the type of concept outline you might be thinking about submitting.
- Give it a couple more seconds.
- Okay, wonderful. Thank you for participating. I will now hand over to my colleague Shah, who will continue the presentation.



Shahab Shojaei-Zadeh

00:19:43

Okay, Thank you so much. Abbey. Um,

- is he?
- Hey? Good afternoon, everyone. Good morning, depending on where you are located. My name is Shahab, and I'm, a program director.
- I at the Engineering Directorate at Nasa, and I'm. Coming from a division that is called Sibat, which stands for chemical, bioengineering environment
- systems and a manager program we just called particulate and multi-page processes.
- But obviously we're different house, including being a program officer for an Ai Institute and dynamic systems based on the University of Washington.
- So to continue this conversation that we have let me talk about eligibility both for cap and partner. From this meeting.
- Um!
- I heard something, but I don't know if it was a comment for me. If not, let me continue
- um,
- so. Ah, let's talk about institutional eligibility expand. Ai. Proposals may be submitted only by accredited institutions of higher education, or I
- that belong to at least one of the following seven Msi classifications: There are already now many of these. But let me just mention them again.
- Um. So number one. We have Alice by native serving institutions. These are accredited ihes that award bachelor level degrees that have a twenty percent or greater enrollment of Alice carnative undergraduate students
- and We have Hispanic serving institutions or Hsi's. These are accredited. Um I. That award bachelor level degrees that have a twenty percent or greater full time equivalent enrollment of hispanic undergraduate students.
- We have um historically buying colleges and universities. These are identified in the Higher Education Act, or where identified in the Higher Education of Act of one thousand nine hundred and sixty five, as any accredited historically Black college or university,

- that was established prior to one thousand nine hundred and sixty four, whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans.
- Next, we have a predominantly black institutions, as defined by the Department of Education that award bachelor level degrees.
- We have native Hawaiian-serving institutions. These are accredited IIs that award bachelor level degrees that have a ten percent or greater enrollment of native y and undergraduate students.
- We have native American serving non-tribal institutions and tribal colleges and universities, or tcos, you take a look at the satisfaction for the definition of this
- and then eventually we have other minor two-serving institutions. These are accurate to the IIs that award bachelor of degrees that have an aggregate undergraduate enrollment of African Americans blacks, Hispanic Americans, American Indians,
- Alaska natives, native Hawaiians, and native Pacific islanders exceeding fifty percent of total undergraduate enrollment.
- Let me talk about who is eligible to serve as a pi.
- The principal investigator must hold a full-time faculty, appointment, or be a senior administrator at an eligible institution, as defined in the eligible institutions of Higher Education Section of the Solar Station
- for the partner proposals only. A copii also must be identified to represent each partner in Ai Institute.
- The copy, I must be verified by the Institute Director and the Institute Integration Plan as being among the senior personnel of the Institute at the time of submission.
- So at this point I'm. Handing the next section over to my colleague. I think Jeremy is the next one
- Abbey. I'm not correct. Is this
- is the next section.
- It is going to be presented by Bailey.
- Someone else, or I should continue,



Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:25:03

not seeing Jeremy pop up. Do you wish to carry on a job?



Shahab Shojaei-Zadeh

00:25:07

I can't. I can't complete it.

- Yes,
- yeah, all right. So let's talk about proposal proportion and submission.
- Um, This is both for cap and partner proposal. So the expand. Ai program has, as have you mentioned, recording proposal, Submission windows.

- Um. Unlike deadlines, this submission window allow the proposers the flexibility to submit a food proposal at any time during their specific dates listed on each submission window closing dates. The proposal submission system will shut down at five P. M.
- Submitters local time, but the system will open again for the new submissions. The morning of the next window, the
- the exception of the final separation lay in,
- announced on the limit of the number of proposals per organization. An organization may submit one proposal to Submission Window,
- and an organization must wait for a determination from Nsf. Either an award or decline or return without review,
- depending proposal before submitting a new proposal in the next window. The
- decline proposals require a new invitation to submit again where the concept online outline process and significant revision, what proposals return without review may be submitted, using the same invited concept offline.
- Assuming that the proposal is received within one year of the original concept outline invitation,
- An organization that has received an invitation to submit a full proposal must wait for the proposal to be submitted and resolved before submitting another concept out.
- There are no restrictions on the number of proposals per P. I or Copia.
- So, as my colleagues mentioned. These are the submission windows. Eligible. Smis can submit a concept outline at any time
- emphasize that have been invited to submit. A foot proposal can submit a proposal based on the concept outline at any time during the lists of mission windows,
- and these submission windows are also available in the solicitation
- else on the preparation of full proposals for cap and partner proposals. You can submit a proposal through research. Gov:
- um and to understand um about the rules um and policies. Um, you're welcome to take a look at the path. G as it is listed on this pink. Here you can also just Google Nsf. Apology. Ah, two thousand and twenty three, and can find this document
- if you're submitting it through Grants golf, you can find the Ns. Of Grant stock of application guide available on the Grant stock website, and also available on the
- and i'd say we're bad. I'll
- ask this to to the next colleague.



• **Jim Donlon (NSF)**

00:28:40

Thanks, Jhab I might be pinch-hitting for both Michelle and Amy. Let me just check real quick, Michelle Amy.

- Okay, host, If you could give me slide control,
- We're going to talk about each one of these
- funding opportunity tracks in the in the solicitation tap for capacity, building and partner. Let me start with cat. Thanks for the arrows. So

- um! We've put text in here directly from the solicitation to kind of walk you through how we're structuring and scoping the cap track, and we'll do the same thing for a partner. Capacity Building pilots are meant for the planning and growth of efforts focused on establishing a Ai
- activities in your institution. So one of the things we're really trying to encourage in this right up in the solicitation is that you
- uh, as a pi submitting to this program, you should really be doing so on behalf of your institution's, needs and interest to build that capacity. So, while your research project and the research projects of colleagues might be part of that overall plan. Keep in mind that a strong cap proposal is about planning and growth Efforts focused on the establishment of Ai activities at the funded minority serving institution. Ah,
- projects are also ideal, for if I continue on in that text, creating the foundation for synergistic partnerships that have the potentially be part of future expand Ai partnerships. So our view of these pilots is that successful caps can involve
- enhancement of research. Capacity can be educational workforce development and career pathway streams, or it could be establishment of Ai infrastructure, capacity, or some combination thereof, all depending on how you make the case in your proposal, for here's where our current institution is capacity wise. Here are the needs. Here's how this project is going to address those needs of build capacity. So,
- and we mentioned earlier that this is for,
- and, you know, engaging appropriate communities to test the feasibility of partnerships. Eventually, if you were to look to the partnership track. But this is not to rush you through the cap activities. It's really important that in cat proposals you build the foundation needed in your institution to serve your institutional goals.
- Um! So
- moving on to the next one here a little bit of specifics on how we try to set you up for responding well to the cap
- track.
- Tap proposals have to have a clear vision that motivates this capacity building in terms I described before. You know, here's our current capacity. Here's where we wish to grow, and how we're going to do it. And we really wish for you to focus on the long-term benefits to your institution. So the benefits to your institution could include
- the the examples listed here enhance faculty, capacity, new models for education and career pathways and ai, or maybe an enhancement of your research projects and that sort of thing.
- Part of your foundation for for for proposing to cat will be when you submit a full proposal that you're going to submit a strong what we call institutional need and support statement, and that institutional need and support statement is going to be a statement from your institution leadership that says
- those arguments that I kind of laid out earlier. Here's our current capacity. Here are our goals, and how this cat project fulfills those goals, and that's an appropriate place. Also for your Institution leadership to make any kind of statement of commitments of institutional support that they're going to provide to building that Ai capacity at their institution.
- So proposals that have a strong need and support statement are likely to be greatly strengthened by that support statement, and and in the connection to that capacity-building, need

- we outline in the description of capacity-building pilot track the features that could be part of your capacity-building plan. And this is a place as is common in and as of solicitations, where we say
- could include the following kinds of measurable outcomes: benefits. It's not the case that your proposal has to do each one of these things. It's also not the case that you have to restrict yourself only to these uh these example activities. It's more the case of helping you to understand what nsf's been thinking about when we describe capacity. Note that these kinds of example activities. Uh would be suitable for cap. And please consider what's
- appropriate for your institution Capacity building,
- so as it says, in the solicitation representative of suitable activities and calibrate accordingly. Um! So now, because there's both the cap track and the partner track want to make a couple of statements about the relationship between the two. One statement is
- early inclusion of a partnership between your institution and an Ai Institute is not intended to be a feature of capacity building. This is meant to be a local effort at your institution focused on your needs without any of the overhead of a partnership with an institute. It may be the case that you have some existing relationship with an institute, and that's fine. But we do not wish to see you developing partnerships early as part of the Cap proposal, including a partnership, or
- of a partnership with an Ai Institute and a Cap proposal in principle. Doesn't make the Cap proposal stronger. It could, in fact, raise questions about What's the sort of How do I say it without saying capacity? What's the
- What's the capacity of this four hundred K. Grant to go to the local needs of the institution versus this nascent partnership. So please be very careful about that. Another thing i'd like to say about cap and collaborations in general is these are four hundred K. Grants for your institution to build capacity, so we don't encourage cap proposals to come in as collaborative efforts In general, we don't prohibit it in the solicitation. But a matter of feedback we've been giving to the
- individually, and now in the Faq. Document is that
- funded collaborations in your capitals raise concerns that it dilutes the resources. Going to your institution for the building of institutional capacity. So please be careful about those, and feel free to consult with us if you have questions about.
- Oh, that comes to the end of Cap, and as I transition it to partner. I'm going to say one more thing about Kat. But let's talk about the partnership track. What we call the partner track
- partner is an opportunity for Msis that have already established Ai research and or education programs to leverage those programs to partner with the Ai Institute.
- And you're partnering with an Ai institute potentially for the mutual kind of project benefit that you'll do together in collaboration, and also as a platform to continue the scaling up and the maturation of your own capacity in ai research and education, and the like. So
- partnership is for institutions that have sufficient cap capacity that perhaps the capacity building
- proposal wouldn't be appropriate because
- you you're sufficiently robust in that sense that you might not compete well for a cap proposal. Well, then, a partnership might be right for you. So this is where I want to link back to Cap. It is not necessary that you have received a cap award before you
- proposed to partnership. It's all a matter of where your capacity is, and if you built a sufficient ai capacity at your institution already that partnership is appropriate. That may be as a result of a previous capital order, it might be a result of just existing capacity, or some other source of um

support that you received in that in that vein, so keep in mind. These don't have to be one successive after the other.

- These are meant to be structured, as the second bullet mentions. Here These are meant to be structured as a multi-institution of multi-organization collaboration
- between your Msi and other organizations to include an ai institute so the typical or the typical arrangement should be submitting Msi and the Institute. You are collaborating with with the Msi as the lead and the M. And the Ai Institute coming in as a software.
- So the projects
- accordingly have to be centered around, shared complementary goals. They're submitted as a single collaborative proposal. You issue a sub award to the Ai Institute, and you'll demonstrate in your proposal how this is centered around those complimentary goals, and we'll show you some mechanisms We're using to help you describe that
- and that last bullet I mentioned up front.
- So in partner proposals they must include collaboration with one or more Ai institutes. So we say one or more
- our canonical thinking about this. It's your Msi in partnership with A. With an Ai institute. It's certainly possible that you might have ah found an arrangement where multiple institutes are interested in the same space. And And that's a an arrangement that makes sense. It's fine to submit such a thing. The concept outline is set up so that you can have ah, some iteration with us, and get advice about the the sort of viability and advisability of those kinds of arrangements I already mentioned the Sub Award Plenty of times,
- and we are evaluating these for the authenticity and the significance of the new partnership activities that's been better to take place between the institutions.
- Let me just mention again here that Abo has this expanded Ai navigator page that will help you identify the appropriate initial contact points at an institute. If you don't already know who to talk to. So this is a good place to go. If you're wishing to explore those potential partnerships, and in the process of exploring that you're going to be seeking these kinds of conditions. Here's how we're trying to structure the partner track and help proposers. Think about what makes a
- competitive partner proposal
- longer-range plans, right
- further development of your local efforts and contributions to the Institute mission, and the way you'll describe those activities is in what's called a partnership roadmap. So in the Cap track, you notice there's something called a capacity building plan, and there's elements thereof that you'll law that you'll propose, and some suggestions in the partnership track. We have the partnership roadmap, and this is meant to describe your goals in terms of both you and partner. Organization.
- Effective roadmaps are going to have descriptions of activities, and even a visual conceptual diagram here, like we say, depicted visually. So it be a logic model, you know, just a conceptual diagram, a table some way to describe. Here's the relationship here, the activities and the relationship between the Msi and the Institute, and just as in the Capacity building track, we give you examples of activities that could be suitable as
- under the partner track. These are not meant to be all inclusive. You're not meant to have to do all of them, and you may indeed think of things that are more suitable for your partnership.

- So there's um. There's two supporting documents. These are these: come in, and when you get to the final, the full proposal stage. There'll be two supplementary documents that are required that are meant to help you propose to partner track
- One is that institutional need and support statement, just like in the capacity building track, except this institutional need and support statement is likely to describe a little bit more ah significant basis of ai capacity that exists at the institution, and how it relates to the partnership,
- and how that partnership is going to further advance the goals of the institution. And again as before. It's a good opportunity for your institution to demonstrate institutional supports and other kinds of commitments to your partnership.
- There's a second supplementary document that you'll submit with a partner proposal, and that's the Institute Integration Plan. This is something that your Institute collaborator will have prepared by the Institute in fact, it's the Institute director, who,
- regardless of who your actual co-pi, is at the Institute, the Institute Director is going to be submitting a statement called the Institute Integration plan that describes in some detail what exactly this arrangement is, and how they're integrating, and into their Institute strategy. The way we ask for the Institute to do. This
- corresponds very closely to the relationship That and Nsf. Is already in or at Usda Nifa is already in with that institute, and we'll be able to recognize where the plugins are with their Institute strategy and what will make it successful. So these two documents together go a long way to help substantiate the the viability of your partnership.
- So I think that's the That's it for the two tracks now on to the timeline. Who did we have on for that one.
- Let's see. Nitty: Yeah. Important dates.
- So mems, if you could uh pass on to needing. Thanks,
- feel feel free to pass back to me. If there's any technical difficulties.



Neeti Pokhriyal

00:42:48

Okay, Yeah. Hi: So uh, yeah, Good afternoon, everybody. My name is Pipe Pokreal. I am a a A Aaas science and technology policy fellow in the science director at Nsf: My background is in computer science. So my academic training is as a computer scientist in building machine learning models. Um,

- and I am currently in the expand Ai program in understanding how to build capacity.
- And I work with Jim and Abbey and the bigger team of program officers for this program. And so the important dates for this program. I think they are mentioned here. So why this is our last live Webinar. We have
- monthly office hours. So office hours are less structured.
- Um compared to the Webinars, and it is as you have time. You can come and go, and then the program. Officers are available during that time, and you can ask questions. We'll be more. We are chat, or you can show on the camera and ask questions.
- Um! And so these office hours are every third Tuesday of every month, and we've had these office hours from November, and they will go till June. So the upcoming office hour is on March twenty first, so they come in Tuesday,
- and then you can submit the concept outlines in a continuous manner.

- We plan to provide, you know, um to provide the recommendation within three weeks of time, and then to submit the final proposals. The first window just passed, but then the proposals can be submitted in a
- at any time. The second window is currently on, which will go till Ah, June the Twenty sixth, and then the final window will open, which will go till October twentieth.
- Yes, so I already said it that you know the concept outlines you can submit at any time we um work diligently to provide a response within three weeks of time, and then, once you get our response, we provide you a recommendations, and then you can um you some it the. If you are invited for a proposal, you can submit the full proposal within an um year of the time. Um, you know, when you get the response,
- else you know, if there are so, there is a go for improvement the reviewers want. Then you can submit a revised concept outline again.
- And uh, you know we can go from there. So
- yes, I,
- he said,
- I think we have some breakout sessions. But do I have to do this, or



Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:45:52

I think some of the dates, I think members might be able to help us as well with, uh sending them up.

- How many breakouts were using this time.
- How many enslaved do we have?
- Oh, it looks like ah! So we're we're planning on um wi-fi with marissa Ah, adam, with Ah ifml Steve with aphas and celine with molecule maker lab so if we could have those four breakouts,
- and then we're going to let people self-assign
- Now I don't know if there's any other introductory kind of uh lead, and we do this while we set up the breakouts. But let me just mention that. Um uh! These are opportunities for you to engage with representatives of these Institutes to learn more about what they're doing. They'll give you a very brief overview of their institute. Um, you can talk a bit about uh uh perspective partnership engagement and that sort of thing, and then you can um have informal chat with those Institute personnel and ask them any questions you have and that sort of thing.
- So we hope that turns out to be useful for you.
- Let's see. Okay.
- See the rooms populating here won't be long.
- So I take it resilient. Agriculture. That's probably aphas right.
- I see. I see the question that came in through. Chat about what's allowed in Budget. Please look carefully at the at the
- the added details that are in solicitation about that, otherwise defer to the Pa. Pg: The Nsf. Pbg. Also consult with your local sponsored Research Office because they'll have um. They'll have expertise about that. Any questions you have in that process. Please Don't hesitate to get in touch with us.
- I wonder if I could be allowed to also modify the breakout rooms? I'm not sure who ethical and fair use of Ai is meant. For

- which institute is that?
- Talk to me, Ms:



MEM AV TECH | Derrick Hampton

00:48:17

These thirty eight There is currently three breakouts.



Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:48:21

Okay, I'm going to stay in the main session. Uh, just in case any of the Institute uh participants don't have a breakout room, and then we can troubleshoot got it. I believe these titles for the breakouts on the slide are for the February session.

- Okay, I got you.
- Thank you.
- Uh, if you don't know how to get to the breakouts. Please click the button in the zoom toolbar called breakout rooms. You'll see a list of rooms and blue buttons You can choose to join which one you like.
- Uh mems. Can you make one called Athena? Please?



MEM AV TECH | Derrick Hampton

00:49:08

Ooh!



Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:49:09

Thank you.

- There's no restriction
- now. There's no restriction on submission of concept outlines. This is partly so that we don't create a bottleneck at your institution. But if we receive multiple concept outlines from an institution, we'll start talking to the seven Apis and ask, What is your intent here, and try to help you sort things out. This goes again back to this idea that we hope that your submission to expand the I will have sort of institute-wide strategic scope And so even if you
- come up with individual ideas at a pi level to submit a concept outline. If there's multiple ideas that they'll merge, and you'll come up with some combined plan.
- No strict restrictions on concept outlines.
- Yes, we do make these presentations available to you,
- still looking for a breakout room called Athena.
- Oh, okay, tell you what, let's make a Let's make a change of plans. The one called ethical and fair use of Ai is now Athena.

- So, despite the name Athena representatives, thank you for coming. Please go there, and especially if there are um participants who would like to hear from Athena and interact with them. That's the place to go.



• Paul Kasili

00:51:19

Oh, hello, Jim! I have a question for you in the chat,



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:51:22

Dennis.

- Ah, let me, sir,



• Unknown Speaker

00:51:26

to Zephyr.



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:51:28

Ah, yes, all community college is an Hsi. So yeah, you'll notice that there's four year degree granting kinds of stipulations here. So if yours is not a four year degree granting institution, then you wouldn't be eligible to submit, you might find ways to partner with one who is eligible, that that could be a route to go. If there's some. Sometimes there's an institution where there's so rare where they have some special four year program. They're generally a two year community college that they have a special four year

- kind of program, or something like that uh talk to us about it.
- That helps



• Paul Kasili

00:52:02

all right. He does. Thank you.



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:52:04

He's.

- I don't mind taking other questions that there's something that pops up here.
- Otherwise i'm going to start surfing the breakout rooms. I'm not hearing any other need for breakout changes.

- All right. I'm gonna go start surfing. I might even be by myself at this point.



Jian-Ge Zhou

00:52:30

Excuse me, sir. I cannot find the record session link where I can find it.



Unknown Speaker

00:52:37

You're looking for the breakout room, Link.



Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:52:39

Yes, right um in the zoom toolbar. You'll you'll see a number of tools one's called breakout. Oh, I see, and then you'll be able to click the button to join the window. I see I see the three uh three rooms right. There are three. The one on ethical and fair use is actually the one the session for the Institute called Athena, which is focused on for treating a network system.



Jian-Ge Zhou

00:53:02

Thank you, sir.



Jim Donlon (NSF)

00:53:03

You're luck. But i'll see you there.



Kingsley Nwosu

00:57:04

Okay, So let's do fundamental.



Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:02:21

It looks like we might have timed out in the breakouts, and we're all filtering back into plenary sessions. So welcome back everyone. If You're in the middle of something, and you need to finish. Raise your hand or let yourself be known, and we can.

- We can carry on with that question.

- I was in a session. Ah, where there was a question beginning, and you guys can, If it's Institute specific, you can carry on kind of one on one after the Webinar. Or if you wish to ask a question, that's sort of program-wide feel free to raise. It. Now,

- Okay, then, what is this? Now, Dt: Is this the end of the program in terms of the time allotted to the Webinar?



- Neeti Pokhriyal

01:03:15

Yes, I think it is question and answer. So if they are. They have some questions. They can answer them. I will want it to the chat.

- You can.



- Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:03:23

Okay. So we have time for Q. And A. Lay it on us. What you guys have.



- Neeti Pokhriyal

01:03:29

Oh, yeah, I see we're scheduled to three, thirty, so uh don't be shy. We've had some. So you know, as we've gone along. We've had a series of webinars. It's been very interesting opportunity to engage with the community in this Webinar we're in the unique position of having received a lot of concept outlines at this point, and so we can share with you, you know, if you have any questions about,



- Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:03:52

you know the configuration of your of your idea how to express it in a concept. You know questions about things we said about the two tracks. That kind of thing now is a good time to ask. We're happy to answer

- Why, you guys are thinking um, and I don't know if they have the opportunity to unmute themselves and just pop in, otherwise feel free to put something in chat, and we'll we'll see your question. Um while you're thinking. And while we monitor for questions. There's a question that popped up in one of the breakouts I was in. That was essentially about

- what's, what? What is nsf's thinking about? What's the right number of pis to be associated with a cat

- uh proposal. So I mentioned earlier that you should be very careful about multi-institution collaborations in a Cap, because we don't wish to overly dilute the resources going to the proposing institution, but it's not unusual to have multiple pis on a proposal. There's not a right or wrong? Answer. It depends on what pis would be involved to support the various activities you're thinking about. So don't don't worry that there is a canonical like,

- you know. Answer to. Why is there only one P. I. Or why are there five pis right tomorrow? Matter of what matches your proposal idea and keep in mind multiple pis might be a way to demonstrate the sort of more broad institution-wide effort toward that long-term capacity building. We're looking for
- Now I did see a couple things pop up in chat.
- Can we submit both cap and partnership in two proposals? Ah, in theory, yes. But note that the um that the solicitation restricts you to one pending proposal at a time. And then, when that pending proposal's been adjudicated and received a determination letter, you can submit. Ah, only in the next submission window.
- Um!
- And now,
- with that in mind, think also about again what was the intention we have toward the program in terms. Of it's meant to either build capacity or engage in partnerships
- with an institution-wide strategy in mind. So what is suitable for your institution as a capacity building or as a partnership. Um. And how will reviewers be viewing that question as they look at proposals? Right? So Think about that as you're strategizing
- we're representing Uh-huh. Having. Yep, Are we eligible to apply contact us with any individual eligibility Questions and We will help you about
- Uh kind of the system, Professor, act as a pi



Unknown Speaker

01:06:29

anybody. So eligibility in the B Api is actually determined by your institution.



Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:06:34

So you would check with your sponsored research office to see if they, if they've designated you as pi eligible,

- Can an Msi be part of an institute, but lead a partner proposal to connect to another Institute. The solicitation does have has no restrictions in that regard.
- Should an institution carry out an internal competition for concept outlines. So that's an interesting question.
- You'll notice that the solicitation does not restrict submission of concept outlines in principle there's nothing to prevent twelve of you from bombarding us with concept outlines one.
- However, if we received your twelve concept outlines, we're going to get back in touch with you right away. And say, you guys want to talk to one another and sort out what you're trying to do institution-wide right? So part of the reason we sort that we've we've kept it
- unrestricted in that way. Just so that we don't create burden on your end, where you must do some kind of a pre competition round to figure out right um,
- and it's also more signal, both for you and for us if we get multiple ideas from both sides of your institution, and we get in touch with both of you for multiple of you. And say, Hey, we noticed this and wonder what your plans are. Maybe you guys talk to one another. It helps you develop your plans better right, and there's no penalty for doing it. So that's the reason we want

to do that. We want to get your concepts when they're ready, and be able to have an interaction with you without any kind of dire consequence, like I can only do it once a year, or something like that,

- that



Unknown Speaker

01:08:11

you know there's something else I wanted to say about the multiple concept outlines. But there's some aspect that I didn't treat. Please let me know.



Neeti Pokhriyal

01:08:20

Yeah.



Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:08:26

Number of copies. No, there's no limit other than and Nsf. Had. There's just a practical limit to the number of pi's. It can be listed on a cover page. So Nsf. Views anybody who

- um ranks as senior personnel as such, and among senior personnel will be people designated as Pi's on the program. The first list of P. I. Is considered by Sf. To be the lead. I and the other list of Pi's are considered are called copies, and the only reason that distinction matters is because
- somebody has to be responsible for reporting and such other than that. Nsf. Makes no distinction in stature or anything else related to the pi's listed on a project so practical limitation is one lead pi for for other
- copies.



Neeti Pokhriyal

01:09:13

Can I?

- The same question can emphasize, be sub Award is as well.
- So thanks for raising that question. Um! We touched on this when we presented a contract like to reiterate a few things about it uh notice. So i'm going to say again, the solicitation has no restrictions in that regard. So any place where the solicitations say you may not,



Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:09:39

and you know if it's allowed by N. As if it's allowed right. But please keep in mind the goals of the track, and what's advisable for your situation. We won't really know, until we see the idea whether your arrangement made sense, but generally in a cat proposal,

- we wish for you to devote the resources to your institution and not send them out
- to in in civil wars to other institutions, if it's not in service of the capacity building at the submitting institution. Of course this question could also apply to partner, and there things can get a little bit more robust in terms of what partnership arrangements make sense. This that may very well be something you can propose again. It's the quality of the idea. It's not the configuration per say it's no canonical do it, or don't do it so think about it carefully, and when you iterate with this in the concept outline,



• Unknown Speaker

01:10:31

describe it, then, so we can have any conversation with you about it if there's questions.



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:10:37

Thank you. Needy for posting eligibility criteria.

- Lincoln University has this question. Activities related to what's the best way to present the cat for our institution. Well, we,
- my suggestion, would be a drafter
- your concept outline and send it to us for feedback. Um, if you're considering a kind of a concept outline for Cap. You're probably not partnered with a with an institute. If you're considering something for a partner, the Institute will be a really valuable source of advice and guidance for how to how to configure high-powered ideas. But if you're doing cap and your ideas are more local to your institution, get in touch with us. If you have. If you have some draft ideas,
- it's really best for you to express them as a concept outline and send them to us and get our feedback, so
- otherwise there's no way in real time. I can tell you how how to sort of spec out your proposal. Right?



• Neeti Pokhriyal

01:11:40

Let's see I found a possibly incomplete list of Msis on a Government website. I could not find our university's name there. How can I make sure we are an Msi. Well, I ask you, or go ahead and meeting.

- Sorry I have um given a list of um. Ah, you know you are anywhere they can check. That's great, and college navig year is ah very valuable Also the um. The Department of Ad has its eligibility stuff. If we If we had that handy. We couldn't post that. But the most authoritative place for you to go.



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:12:11

Guess where?

- What am I going to say again? Your sponsored research Office? You have to go to your sponsored research office there. Your authorized organizational representative, in a full proposal will be a testing to your Msi status. We will check,
- you know, various sources like Department of Education, for have you been designated as an Hsi as an Hbc. Or whatever whatever it is that you're ah claiming, and if we have questions about it, we'll ask you um where you have individual questions about that, like if you
- contacted your Sro, and they've given you advice about it. If there's further questions, please have your Sro get in touch with us.



• Neeti Pokhriyal

01:12:51

It's a question from Jessica. It says that if an Msi has a robust Ai research program, but not in the area of agriculture. Should they focus on cap

- to build the Ai in agriculture or a partner to leverage the existing Ai, That's an interesting question. Um, A robust Ai research program. If you're an institution, has a robust Ai program,



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:13:17

you're likely to get pushed back on a cap concept outline,



• Neeti Pokhriyal

01:13:21

because we anticipate that panels will likely not look



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:13:26

competitively on proposals to cap for an institution that already has robust ai capacity. Jessica.

One way to think about this is with all due respect It wasn't a building Capacity and agricultural sciences funding opportunity. It was building a capacity and ai funding opportunity. But the good news is in that case a partnership might be soon

- please anybody. Interrupt me if I give a sort of like a unsatisfactory answers to things. Um! Can the full proposal be submitted after seven months? Yes, you'll notice in the solicitation we have guidelines about this. You have a full year after you've been invited, not after you submitted the concept deadline, but after you receive the invitation to submit, you're given a full year to submit a foremost.

- Thank you, Nitty, for um posting.
- Thank you. Thank you. Another posting. Thank you. All right now. I think I've reached.



•

Neeti Pokhriyal

01:14:28

I might have reached the end needy. Did you notice anything? I skipped? No, no, no, no other working group members. Does anybody have anything to add to any of the Q. And A. We've done so far advice that you might have for the community



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:14:47

one of the takeaways We hope you'll take from the Webinar here, and please feel free. If you come up with other questions, go ahead and post them, and we'll handle them. But while you're thinking or considering, let me point out. We hope that you've seen in this Webinar that the program

- is people right. It's not just some dry solicitation description that you have to decode. Engage with us. If you have questions, get in contact with the working group, you'll see the expand Ai program. And as a Gov. Email address on the solicitation Um, we highly recommend. You look in the solicitation. I know there
- they're dense things sometimes. But if you're really interested in submitting to the program, it's worth reading through our program, description and our proposal, preparation, instructions, or whatever we call them in there. It tells you the details of things like,
- uh, how should this be configured, and how many pages that kind of stuff. And you'll also notice there's places in there where we give guidelines where we say suggested like the likes of things, and then there's other guidelines that are sort of must have. So
- if you have any questions about those requirements, as you're preparing concept outlines or later full proposals just get in touch with us
- again. Working group is
- a diverse and large one, representing all of Nsf: Well, we're standing by to help you
- navigate what can be a sort of a dense process, especially if you're new to it.
- Okay, final call for questions,
- all right, going once, going twice, and if there are no others
- yes, the slides will be posted. Um, we're going to,
- I suppose. What we'll probably do is send a notification of people out who attended the Webinar that we posted. But we'll also post links to the slides on the program page the webinar page for the program or whatever uh, we're not going to email them. We're just. We're going to post them, and we'll send you a notification with a link.
- Um. So ah! If this is goodbye, let me just take this opportunity to thank everybody in the working group who attended this. Webinar participated in presenting it. Ah, thank you, Niti and Abby for all the outstanding organization in this program. Thank you. Institutes



• Neeti Pokhriyal

01:17:10

for participating in the Webinar and engaging with the community and showing that there is a face to this program, even behind the the agency base. So we really appreciate it, and we look forward to hearing from you in the community.

- Chimp is the last question.
- Now they can get in touch.
- Okay, Thank you. Thanks, ma'am. That's the end of the webinar, and we'll we'll talk to you guys individually, if you have any further,



• Jim Donlon (NSF)

01:17:39

Are you ready?

- Thank you.