

NSF Regional Grants Conference Challenges, Opportunities, & New Directions

October 5-6, 2009

Hosted by: Jackson State University, Jackson, MS

Panelists

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Ask Early, Ask Often!

Topics Covered

- **Challenges & Opportunities Along the Road Ahead**
 - The Backdrop
 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
 - America COMPETES Act
- **Congress and the Budget**
 - The Road Ahead
 - Grants Policy Committee (GPC)
 - Federal Funding Accountability & Transparency Act (FFATA)
- **Government-Wide Streamlining Agenda**
 - Grants.gov
 - Grants Management Line of Business (GMLoB)
 - Research.gov
- **Conclusion**

Challenges & Opportunities Along the Road Ahead

Elements of Today's World to Consider

- A changing political landscape
- Constrained budgets and sensitivity to earmarking
- “War time” environment and associated costs
- The economic downturn: mortgage and banking crisis, energy costs, rising unemployment, health care and the deficit
- Federal deficit & Trade deficit
- Recovery Act

Good News for Research & Development (R&D)

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- The America COMPETES Act (ACA)

ARRA: NSF Funding Prioritization

- Recovery Act funds were to be awarded in a timely manner. NSF made 4,677 awards for \$2.48B by September 30.
- All grants were issued as standard grants with durations of up to five years.
- Funding of new PIs and high-risk, high-return research were top priorities.
- The majority of eligible proposals were already in-house. Only four ARRA-specific solicitations were released.
- NSF considered proposals declined on or after October 1, 2008, and made 318 awards from this pool.

ARRA: For More Information

ARRA information related to NSF can be found at: www.nsf.gov/recovery



The screenshot shows the NSF website header with the logo and tagline "WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". A search bar is visible with "NSF Web Site" selected. The navigation menu includes links for HOME, FUNDING, AWARDS, DISCOVERIES, NEWS, PUBLICATIONS, STATISTICS, ABOUT, and FastLane. The main content area features the title "NSF Information Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" and an overview section. The overview text states that the Recovery Act was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009, and is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart the economy. Below the overview, there is a section titled "IMPLEMENTING THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (RECOVERY ACT)" with an Atom feed icon. This section includes a list of recent announcements with their dates: "NSF Announces First Major Award Under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the Alaska Region Research Vessel (ARRV)" (May 27, 2009), "NSF Announces \$200 Million Funding for Research Instrumentation" (May 11, 2009), "NSF To Help Improve Academic Research Facilities" (May 11, 2009), and a link to "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) Frequently Asked Questions".

NSF Information Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (RECOVERY ACT)

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17th, 2009. It is an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create or save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act is an extraordinary response to a crisis unlike any since the Great Depression, and includes measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

IMPLEMENTING THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (RECOVERY ACT) 

This section includes major announcements regarding the Recovery Act such as press releases, fact sheets, frequently asked questions and important notices to the community detailing how NSF is implementing the Recovery Act.

[NSF Announces First Major Award Under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to the Alaska Region Research Vessel \(ARRV\)](#)
Posted May 27, 2009

[NSF Announces \\$200 Million Funding for Research Instrumentation](#)
Posted May 11, 2009

[NSF To Help Improve Academic Research Facilities](#)
Posted May 11, 2009

[American Recovery and Reinvestment Act \(Recovery Act\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)

America COMPETES Act (ACA)

- Signed into law on August 9, 2007
- Focuses on three primary areas of importance:
 - Increasing research investment
 - Strengthening educational opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics from elementary through graduate school
 - Developing an innovation infrastructure

ACA: Budget Highlights

- Doubles authorized NSF Funding from \$5.6 billion in FY2006 to \$11.2 billion in FY 2011
- Increases funding for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) from approximately \$703 million in FY 2008 to approximately \$937 million in FY 2011
- Doubles Department of Energy's Office of Science authorized funding over 10 years
- Establishes the Innovation Acceleration Research Program to direct federal agencies that fund research in science and technology to dedicate approximately 8% of their R&D budgets toward high-risk frontier research
- Directs NASA to increase funding for basic research

ACA: NSF Implementation

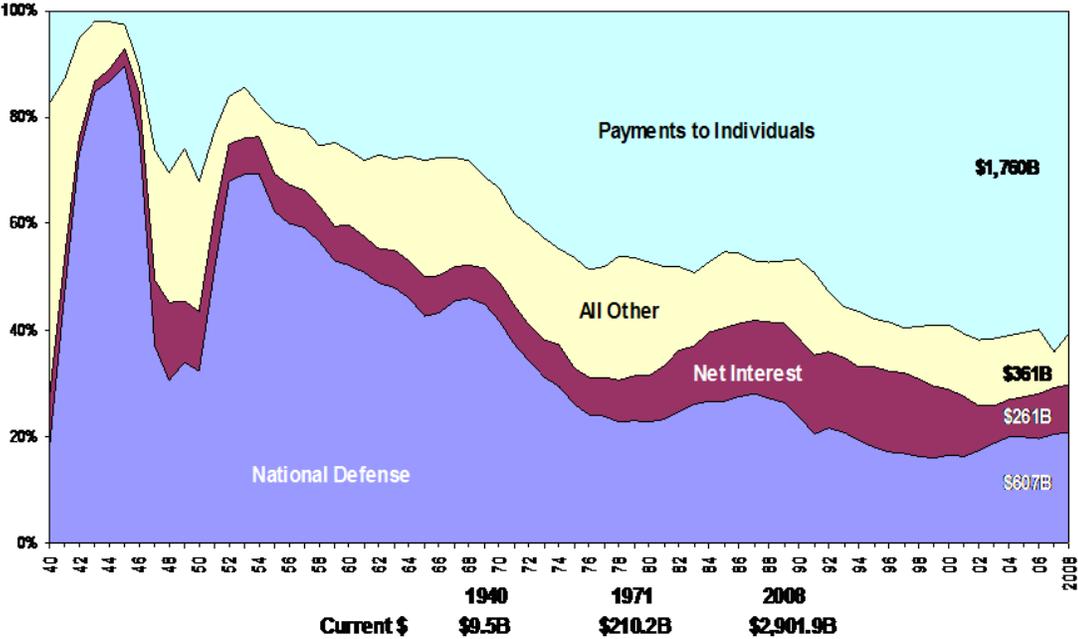
- Internal working groups have been formed in the following areas:
 - Budget
 - Major Research Equipment & Facilities Construction
 - Education & Human Resources
 - Computer & Information Science & Engineering/Cyber Infrastructure
 - Policy

ACA: Policy-Related Provisions of Interest to the Research Community

- SEC 7008: Postdoctoral Research Fellows
- SEC 7009: Responsible Conduct of Research
- SEC 7010: Reporting of Research Results
- SEC 7013: Cost Sharing

Congress and the Budget: The Future is Clouded

Percentage Composition of Federal Government Outlays



Government-Wide Streamlining Agenda

Government-Wide Streamlining and NSF

- NSF's strong presence at the table benefits the research community
 - Proven success with FastLane and IT infrastructure
 - Research community involvement in helping to shape and guide external-facing IT systems
 - Leadership in development of government-wide grants policy

Examples of E-Government Initiatives



Regulations.gov



Business.gov



Grants.gov

Government-Wide Streamlining Agenda

- Enabling Information Technologies
- Grants Management Initiatives and Operations
- Grant and Agreement Policies

Government-Wide Streamlining Agenda

- Grants.gov
- Grants Management Line of Business (GMLoB)
- Grants Policy Committee

Grants.gov – Update

- As announced on May 21st, proposers must prepare and submit proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF) using the NSF FastLane system at <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/>. This approach is being taken to support efficient Grants.gov operations during this busy workload period and in response to OMB direction guidance issued March 9, 2009.
- NSF will continue to post information about available funding opportunities to Grants.gov FIND and will continue to collaborate with institutions who have invested in system-to-system submission functionality as their preferred proposal submission method. NSF remains committed to the long-standing goal of streamlined grants processing and plans to provide a web services interface for those institutions that want to use their existing grants management systems to directly submit proposals to NSF.

GMLoB Vision and Objectives

- Government-wide solution to support end-to-end grants management activities
- Cross-agency collaborations on policies, operations and systems
- NSF and HHS are co-managing partners, support with program management staff
- Initial focus was on the reduction of grants management systems at the federal level
- Resulted in federal agency partnerships, or consortia

GMLoB Landscape

GMLoB LANDSCAPE					
Groups	Consortium Leads Partnership Group	Strategic Partnership Group	Alternative Solutions Group	Transitioning Agencies Group	Agencies Yet To Align
Group Descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium partnership where agencies share best practices and collectively design a Consortium solution. • Partner agencies migrate to Consortium solution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic partnership of agencies with similar size, mission, and processing volume. • NEH provides efficient, cost-effective support to NARA and NEA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies granted temporary approval for continued use of an efficient, cost-effective alternative solution. • COTS Sub-Group agencies work together to establish single voice with common vendor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies that have completed key milestones and directives and are entering into the planning stages of the partnering process. • Agencies partner with a Consortium Lead or form a strategic partnership with other agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies directed to complete specific milestones, reporting requirements, and further explore CL partnership opportunities.
Member Agencies	<p>HHS/ACF Partner Agencies: CNCS, DOT, EPA, IMLS, State, Treasury, VA, SSA</p> <p>ED Partner Agencies: DOI, DOJ/COPS, DOL</p> <p>NSF Partner Agencies DOD, NASA</p>	<p>NEH</p> <p>NARA</p> <p>NEA</p>	<p>HHS/NIH</p> <p>COTS Sub-Group: DOE SBA USAID</p>	<p>DOJ/OJP DOJ/OWW</p> <p>USDA</p>	<p>DHS</p> <p>DOC</p> <p>HUD</p>

GMLoB Upcoming Priorities

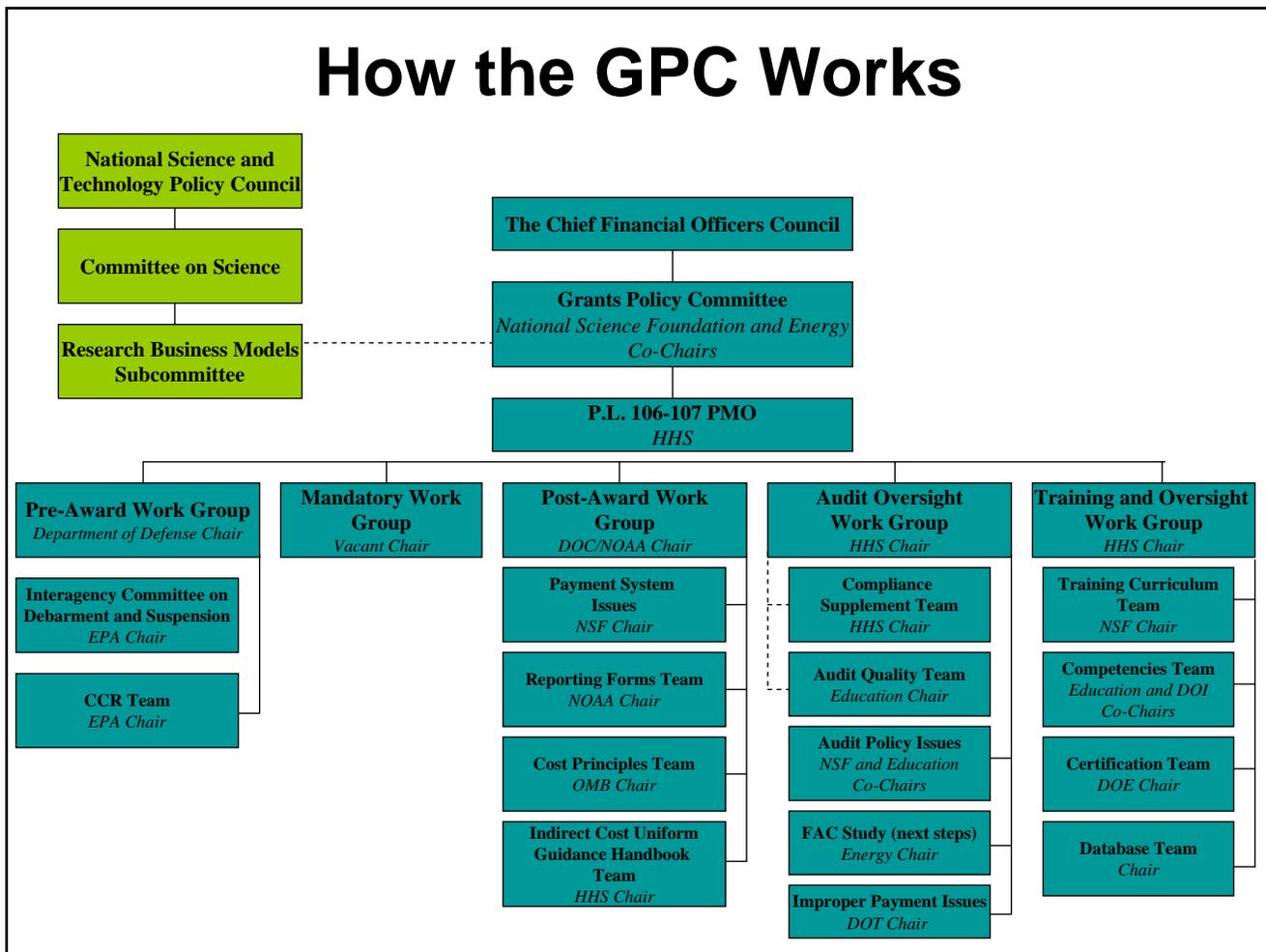
- **Focus on Standards**
 - Develop government-wide grants data standards
 - Develop and promote adoption of common grants language
 - Develop and promote adoption of web-services standards
- **Facilitate Collaboration**
 - Support interagency work groups and develop policy recommendations
 - Develop tools to increase knowledge sharing and collaboration
 - Support partnerships between agencies to share best practices and leverage technology solutions
- **Emphasize Streamlining and Efficiency**
 - Identify opportunities to reduce redundancy in reporting, improve data quality, and provide greater transparency
 - Support agencies identify grants management technology solutions that increase efficiency and reduce costs for agencies and grantees

Grants Policy Committee



- **Hot Topics:**
 - Transparency Act Subaward Guidance
 - GPC Implementation Plan
 - GPC Stakeholder Survey on new website
- **New GPC website: www.GPC.gov**
 - View committee meetings via online webcasts

How the GPC Works



Challenges

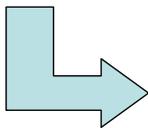
- Varying policies and procedures at different Federal agencies
- Compliance is looming large
- Maintaining the balance of award size, duration, and success rates
- Frustration caused by audits
 - Efforts to address quality of single audits (A-133) are underway
- Time and effort audits
- Cost sharing
- Unfunded mandates

What is Research.gov?



- **Enables institutions and grantees to:**
 - Access a menu of grants management and information services for multiple federal agencies in one place
- **Modernizes FastLane by providing services:**
 - Tailored to meeting the unique needs of the research community
 - Aimed at easing the grants administrative burden
- **Increases transparency and public access to information about federal research spending and outcomes**

Grants Management Environment



Find funding opportunities and apply for grants



End-to-End Proposal, Award and Financial Management Functions



★ Users can log into **FastLane & Research.gov** using the same user name, **NSF ID** and **password**

Research.gov Partnerships

- **Research.gov** simplifies the research community's access to information and grant services for **multiple federal agencies**
 - National Science Foundation (Lead)
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Partner)
 - Department of Defense Research (Partner)
 - USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (Partner)



Current Research.gov Services

Launched in December 2007, current offerings include:

- Public-facing Services
 - Research Spending & Results
 - Search Recovery Act Awards
 - Policy Library (Government-wide)
 - Research Headlines
- Research Community Services:
 - View the status of grant applications
 - Principal Investigators
 - Sponsored Projects Offices
 - Submit Federal Financial Reports
 - Manage institution and user accounts



Research Spending and Results

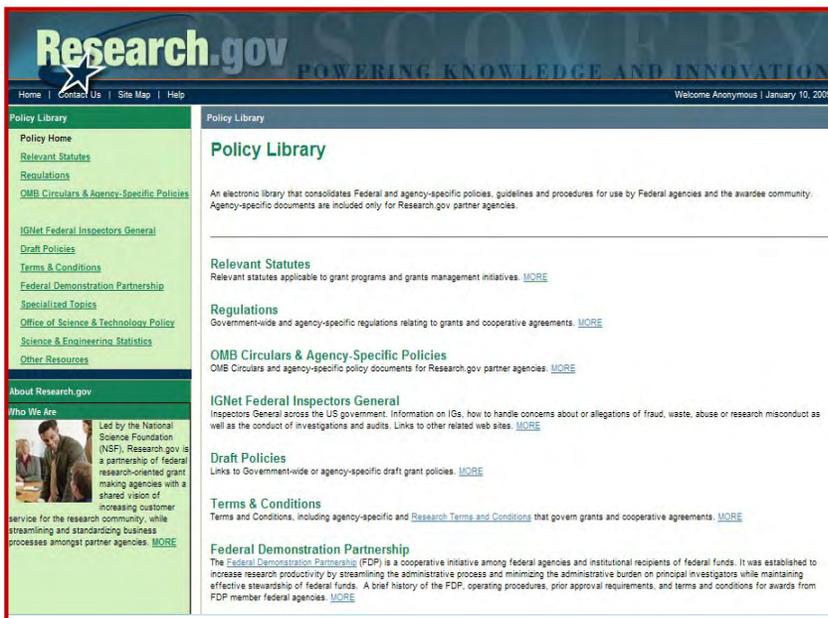
- Search for federal research award information, including award abstracts and publication citations.

The screenshot shows the Research.gov website interface. The header includes the logo "Research.gov" with the tagline "POWERING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION". Navigation links include Home, Contact Us, Site Map, and Help. The main content area is titled "Research Spending and Results" and features a search form. The search form includes a "Quick Search" section with a search box and a "DESCRIPTION OF SEARCH FIELDS" link. Below this, there are several search criteria: "Awardee or Award Information" (with a text input field and a hint), "Funds Obligated to Date Between" (with two input fields and a hint), "Project Director/Principal Investigator" (with a text input field and a hint), and "Award Date Between" (with two input fields and calendar icons). There are "Search" and "Reset" buttons at the bottom of the form. A footer note states: "Research.gov displays awards active in FY2007 and beyond with total obligations of \$25K or greater." A "Feedback" link is also visible.

Now Available!
Find NSF
Recovery Act
Funded Awards

Policy Library

- Find Federal and agency-specific policies, guidelines and procedures, including:



- Laws
- Regulations
- OMB circulars
- Agency Policies
- Draft Policies
- Terms & Conditions
- FDP Repository
- Specialized Topics
- OSTP links
- Science & Engineering Stats
- Other Resources

Research News and Events

- Get the latest news and events for the research community and multiple federal agencies, including:

Headlines

January 08, 2009 [View All Headlines](#)


[Hubble Views Galactic Core in Unprecedented New Detail](#)
January 05, 2009 - This composite color infrared image of the center of our Milky Way galaxy reveals a new population of massive stars and new details in complex structures in the hot ionized gas swirling around the central 300 light-years. [More](#)


[Respect for Sacred Values is Key to Conflict Resolution](#)
January 07, 2009 - A team of researchers funded by the National Science Foundation is investigating the role of ethical and religious beliefs, or "sacred values," in motivating human behavior. The team's most significant finding is that individuals who hold sacred values... [More](#)


[USDA Honors California Researchers for Work in Developing Flood-Tolerant Rice](#)
December 05, 2008 - USDA Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics Gale Buchanan today presented the National Research Initiative (NRI) Discovery Award... [More](#)

- NSF
- NASA
- USDA/CSREES

Research.gov
gives you access
to all of this
information in
one place

Federal Financial Report (FFR)

- Complete and submit grant financial reports to NSF using the new government-wide standard form.
- Status of the FFR Capability:
 - Available now on Research.gov.
 - Has been used by over 100 organizations to submit FFRs to NSF.
 - By fiscal year 2010, Research.gov will be the standard mechanism for submitting financial reports.

Grants Application Status

- As a researcher or sponsored program office, you can view the status of proposals submitted to:
 - NSF
 - USDA/CSREES
 - DoD/ARO
- Status of the Grants Application Status:
 - Available now on Research.gov.
 - Has already been used by hundreds of organizations to check status for NSF, USDA/CSREES, and DoD/ARO applications

This is Just the Beginning...

- **Public-facing Services**
 - Science and Innovation by topics and geographic areas
- **Research Community Services:**
 - Application Preparation and Submission
 - Public Outcomes Report for the General Public
 - Research Performance Progress Reports (new government-wide standard)

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Research.gov POWERING KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

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About Research.gov

Who We Are
Led by the National Science Foundation (NSF), Research.gov is a partnership of federal research-oriented grant making agencies with a shared vision of increasing customer service for the research community, while streamlining and standardizing business processes amongst partner agencies. [NSF](#)

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Why should I Use Research.gov?
Get the answers >>

Services
Online tools to help you manage your grants
Welcome to Research.gov. Below is a list of services that we offer. Select a service from below to find out more.

- [Research Spreadsheets and Results](#)
Now Available! First Recovery Act Awards made by NSF. Here you can also find information about how NSF and NASA grant award dollars are being spent, what research is being performed, and how the outcomes of the research are benefiting society.
- [Policy Library](#)
An electronic library that consolidates Federal and agency-specific policies, guidelines and procedures for use by Federal agencies and the awardee community. Agency-specific documents are included only for Research.gov partner agencies.
- [Grants Application Status](#)
Principal Investigators and Sponsored Projects Office staff can check the status of grant applications, from submission to decision, submitted to NSF, USOPRES, and DOD/ARO. Account Required.
- [Institution and User Management](#)
Institution Administrators can manage profiles and permissions for their institutions and users. Account Required.

Events

- August 5 - 6, 2009**
[National Science Board Meeting](#)
NSB meeting
- August 10 - 11, 2009**
[Center for Computational Materials](#)
[Design \(CCMD\) Semi-Annual Meeting](#)
Partnership meeting
- August 11 - 12, 2009**
[EPSCoR 2009 GOV Meeting](#)
Committee of visitor
[View All Events](#)

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For More Information

Ask Early, Ask Often!

<http://www.nsf.gov/staff>

<http://www.nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp>