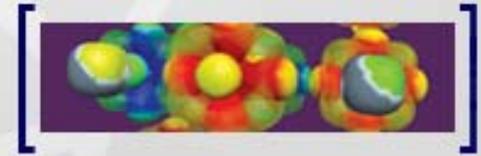




National Science Foundation



NSF Regional Grants Conference

Proposal & Award Policy Update

April 7-8, 2008

Hosted by: The University of Rhode Island
Providence, Rhode Island

Ask Early, Ask Often!

Name	Title	Contact
Jean Feldman	Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support; Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management	(703) 292-8243 jfeldman@nsf.gov
Policy Office	Division of Institution & Award Support (DIAS); Office of Budget Finance & Award Management (BFA)	(703) 292-8243 policy@nsf.gov



Coverage

- **America COMPETES Act – NSF Implementation Details**
- **Reducing Use of SSNs**
- **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide Updates**
- **FY 2008 Grants.gov Implementation**
- **Conference or Group Travel Grant Special Conditions - FL 26**
- **Merit Review Website**
- **What do YOU want to KNOW???**



America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act: America COMPETES Act

• Legislative History

- Introduced - May 10, 2007
- Passed House - May 22, 2007
- Passed Senate - July 19, 2007
- Differences Resolved - Aug 2, 2007
- Signed by President - Aug 9, 2007



America COMPETES Act

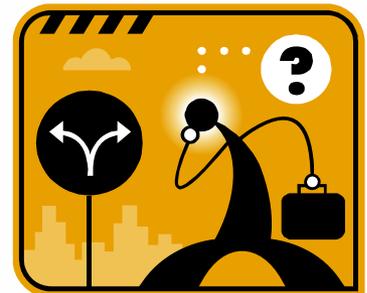
NSF Implementation

- 5 internal working groups were 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**
- **SEC 7036: Major Research Instrumentation**



America **COMPETES** Act NSF Implementation



SEC. 7036. Major Research Instrumentation

MRI solicitation was modified to stipulate:

- An institution of higher education receiving an award under the Major Research Instrumentation program shall provide at least 30 percent of the cost from private or non-Federal sources.
- Institutions of higher education that are not Ph.D.-granting institutions are exempt from the cost sharing requirement in paragraph (1), and the Director may reduce or waive the cost sharing requirement for--
- No further exemptions from the cost sharing requirement were authorized.



Stay Tuned

- For additional information on the **America Competes Act** in the weeks and months to come...



Reducing Use of SSNs

- **NSF is reducing the use of Social Security Numbers (SSNs) in NSF business applications in order to comply with Government Mandates:**
 - Office of Management and Budget
 - [M06-16](#) for the “Protection of Sensitive Agency Information”
 - [M07-16](#) for “Safeguarding Against and Responding to the Breach of Personally Identifiable Information”
 - [U.S. Office of Personnel Management memo](#) of June 18, 2007:
 - “Guidance on Protecting Federal Employee Social Security Numbers and Combating Identity Theft”
- **This is being done by:**
 - Increasing protections where SSNs must be used for business purposes
 - Eliminating the use of SSNs in processes, systems, and files where no business need exists



Reducing Use of SSNs

NSF Implementation



- NSF is switching to the *NSF-ID* as the method for identifying FastLane users;
 - Since December 2007, PIs log in using either *NSF-ID* or SSN
- SSNs no longer collected for:
 - FastLane registration
 - Grants.gov registration
- SSN required only where there is a specific business need:
 - Panelist travel and reimbursements
 - Fellowship payments
- How to determine your *NSF-ID* if you don't know it:
 - For a limited time, log in with your SSN and *NSF-ID will appear*
 - Retrieve in FastLane with last name, institution and e-mail
 - SPOs are able to look up *NSF-IDs*
 - For additional help, contact FastLane User Support



The Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide, Part I: Grant Proposal Guide Revision

- Intellectual Merit Review Criterion
- Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)
- Use of Designated Fonts



Revised Intellectual Merit Review Criterion

- What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?
 - How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, **or potentially transformative** concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?



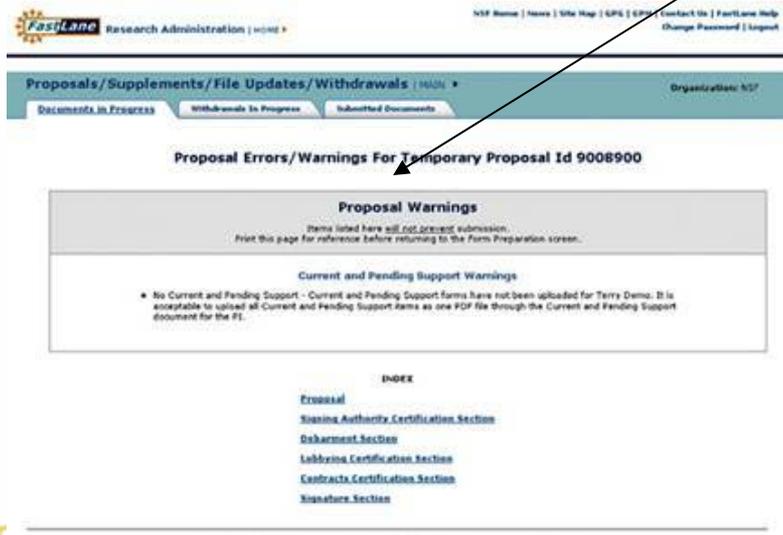
FFATA - Central Contractor Registration Implementation Details

- FFATA requires agencies to make award/subaward information, including the DUNS number, available for search by the public.
- Proposers and any known subawardees at the time of proposal submission must register in CCR prior to proposal submission.

“Organization-DUNS Conflict” – The identified organization cannot be found in CCR as the organization is either:

- (1) not registered in CCR or
- (2) the record in FastLane Research Administration (including the DUNS number and address) does not match the data in the CCR.”

Effective January 5, 2008, proposers are required to register in the CCR prior to proposal submission. Failure to complete the CCR registration process prior to proposal submission may impact the processing of the proposal.



New GPG Font Coverage

Use one of the following typefaces identified below:

- Arial, Courier New, or Palatino Linotype at a font size of 10 points or larger;
- Times New Roman at a font size of 11 points or larger;
- Computer Modern family of fonts at a font size of 11 points or larger ;
- In addition to the typefaces identified above, Macintosh users also may use Helvetica and Palatino typefaces.



New GPG Font Coverage (Cont'd)

- A font size of less than 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figure, table or diagram captions and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters. PIs are cautioned, however, that the text must still be readable.



FY 2008 NSF Grants.gov

Implementation

- Unless otherwise specified, optional submission for the vast majority of NSF programs
- FastLane is still used to submit:
 - Separately submitted collaborative proposals
 - Working Group was formed to address
 - Fellowship programs that require submission of reference letters
 - Working Group was formed to address
 - Other proposals that require submission of special forms or data, i.e., SBIR/STTR



Conference or Group Travel Grant Special Conditions - FL 26

- Effective March 1, 2008, new NSF conference or group travel grants, and funding amendments to existing NSF conference or group travel grants, will begin referencing and are subject to the NSF Conference or Group Travel Grant Special Conditions (FL 26).
- See the [Special Conditions](#) on the NSF website.



Conference or Group Travel Grant Special Conditions - FL 26 (Cont'd)

- Program Income, Article 6, is a new Article that provides guidance on the definition, treatment, reporting, and disposition of program income.
- Program income includes registration or other fees paid by conference participants or sponsors and should be added to the funds committed to the project by NSF and used to further project objectives.



NSF Merit Review Website



- A new merit review website is now live on the NSF Homepage.
- The goal of the Merit Review website is to help you better understand the NSF merit review process as well as identify resources for additional information (including applicable chapters in the GPG).





NSF Web Site



Looking for Funding?

- [For the Research & Education Community](#)
- [Find Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Upcoming Due Dates](#)
- Program Areas
- Quick Links
- Specialized Information for

About NSF

- [General Information About NSF](#)
- [Merit Review](#)
- [View Staff Directory](#)
- Search Staff Directory
- Career Opportunities

Latest News [See All](#)

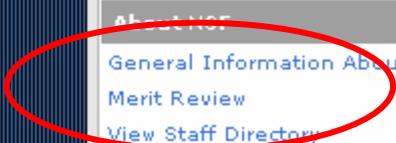
-  [NSF Announces \\$26 Million Solicitation for Projects That Advance Innovative Computational Thinking](#)
Released October 1, 2008
-  [NSF and Department of Homeland Security Partner to Drive Frontier Research in Nuclear Detection](#)
Released September 24, 2007
-  [Nutrient Pollution Drives Frog Deformities by Ramping Up Infections](#)
Released September 24, 2007

Now Showing: Film, TV, Museums and More [See All](#)

- [NSF supports great television, inspiring museum exhibits, breathtaking IMAX films, and compelling radio.](#)
-  [Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure](#)
"Sea Monsters: A Prehistoric Adventure" is a giant-screen film that brings dinosaurs of the late Cretaceous period to life.

Site Features

- [NSF at a Glance](#)
- [News](#)
- [For the News Media](#)
- [Special Reports](#)
- [Discoveries from NSF Research](#)
- [Research Overviews](#)
- [Speeches & Lectures](#)
- [Multimedia Gallery](#)
- [NSF & Congress](#)
- [Classroom Resources](#)
- [NSF-Wide Investments](#)
- [Science and Engineering Statistics](#)
- [Search NSF Awards](#)



Merit Review



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[Why You Should Volunteer to Serve as an NSF Reviewer](#)

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Proposals and Awards

[Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Proposal Preparation and Submission](#)

- [Grant Proposal Guide](#)
- [Grants.gov Application Guide](#)

[Award Administration](#)

- [Award Administration Guide](#)

[Award Conditions](#)

[Other Types of Proposals](#)

[NSF Outreach](#)

[Policy Office Website](#)

Merit Review Process

Click the square buttons to find out more information about the review process.

Download a printable version of the Merit Review Process Illustration. [PDF](#) (21K)

PHASE I

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION
90 DAYS



PHASE II

PROPOSAL REVIEW AND PROCESSING
6 MONTHS



PHASE III

AWARD PROCESSING
30 DAYS



9 - Award Finalized

The award itself is comprised of an award notice, budget, proposal, applicable NSF conditions, and any other documents or requirements incorporated by reference into the agreement.

Each NSF award notice specifically identifies certain conditions that are applicable to, and become part of, that award. When these conditions reference a particular Award and Administration Guide (AAG) section, that section becomes part of the award requirements through incorporation by reference.



Merit Review



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[Award Administration](#)

Phase III: Award Processing

GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS OFFICER CONDUCTS BUSINESS REVIEW

8 An NSF Grants and Agreements Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements (DGA) reviews the recommendation from the Program for business, financial and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or cooperative agreement. DGA generally makes awards to academic institutions within 30 days after the program division/office makes its recommendation. Grants to organizations that have not received an NSF award within the preceding two years, or involving special situations (such as coordination with another Federal agency or a private funding source), cooperative agreements, and other unusual arrangements may require additional review and processing time.

Only an appointed NSF Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF or the Government should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with an NSF Program Officer. For more information, see [GPG, Chapter III.E. Award Recommendation](#).

[View the Merit Review Process Illustration](#)

GRANTS AND AGREEMENTS OFFICER NOTIFIES ORGANIZATION OF AWARD DECISION

9 NSF awards are electronically signed by a Grants & Agreements Officer, and transmitted to the organization via e-mail. In addition to the e-mail notification, grantees may access their NSF awards via FastLane. Sponsored projects offices are able to view, print, and/or download NSF awards for their organizations. Information on the contents of an NSF award is contained in [AAG, Chapter 1.B](#).

[View the Merit Review Process Illustration](#)

What Else Do You Want To Know???

Grants.gov

Human subjects

Collaborative proposals

FFYEs

Academic year salary

Indirect costs

Award Monitoring

Proposal resubmission

Change in objective or scope

participant support costs

Foreign flag air carriers

No-cost extensions

PI Transfers

program income

Equipment

Subawards

withdrawals

Notifications & Requests

Audits

Preaward Costs

Return without review

New grantees

Allowability of Costs

subawards

reconsideration

Overdue project reports

Proposal File Updates
rebudgeting

Budget changes

travel

Cost Sharing

Proposal preparation

NSF FastLane