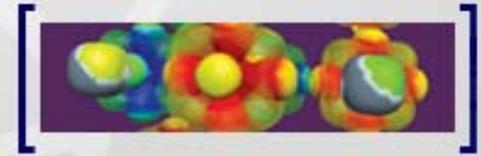




National Science Foundation



# NSF Regional Grants Conference

## Proposal Preparation

*April 7-8, 2008*

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

# Ask Early, Ask Often!

Name	Title	Contact
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# Coverage

- **Finding Funding**
- **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide**
  - Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)
- **Sections of an NSF Proposal**
- **Proposal Development Strategies**
- **Budgetary Guidelines**
- **Support for Proposal Writing**
- **Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER)**





**NSF IN THE ANTARCTIC:  
A VISUAL TOUR**



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and Global Finance



Special Report:  
Infectious Diseases



Adversity Overcome:  
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[Dustiest Star Could Harbor a Young Earth](#)  
Released July 20, 2005



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[Natural Ocean Thermostat Helps Protect Pacific Ocean Coral Reefs](#)  
Released February 7, 2008



[National Science Foundation Awards \\$50 Million for Collaborative Plant Biology Project to Tackle Greater Science Questions](#)  
Released January 30, 2008

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["RACE--Are We So Different?"](#)  
This traveling exhibition, displayed at the Liberty Science Museum in Jersey City, N.J., through April 2008, explores the science, history and lived experience of race and racism in the United States.



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## Funding



### Funding

[About Funding](#)

[A-Z Index of Funding Opportunities](#)

[Advanced Funding Search](#)

[Guide to Programs/Browse Funding Opportunities](#)

[Recent Funding Opportunities](#)

[Upcoming Due Dates](#)

### How to Prepare Your Proposal

[Grant Proposal Guide](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Other Types of Proposals](#)

[Regional Grants Conferences](#)

### How to Manage Your Award

[Grant Policy Manual](#)

[Grant General Conditions](#)

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## Find Funding

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering. [MORE](#)

### A-Z INDEX OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | [G-H](#) | [I](#) | [J-M](#) | [N](#) | [O-P](#) | [Q-R](#) | [S](#) | [T-Z](#)

### FUNDING SEARCH

Full Text:

NSF Organization:

Any  
 BIO: Biological Sciences  
 --BIO/DBI: Biological Infrastructure  
 --BIO/DEB: Environmental Biology  
 --BIO/EF: Emerging Frontiers

Program Status:

- Active Funding Opportunities  
 Currently Funded Programs  
 Archived Programs

[Advanced Funding Search](#)

### GUIDE TO PROGRAMS/ BROWSE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Program Areas

# Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)

- Provides guidance for preparation and submission of proposals to NSF
- Describes process – and criteria – by which proposals will be reviewed
- Outlines reasons why a proposal may be returned without review
- Describes process for withdrawals, returns & declinations



# Types of Funding Opportunities

NSF uses the following types of funding opportunities

- **Program Description**
  - Follows GPG instructions
- **Program Announcement**
  - Follows GPG instructions
- **Program Solicitation**
  - Deviates/supplements GPG instructions
- **Dear Colleague Letter**
  - Not used to generate new proposals, however, can be used to generate funding requests to supplement an existing award



# What to Look for in a Program Announcement/Solicitation

- Goal of program
- Eligibility
- Special proposal preparation and/or award requirements



# Types of Proposal Submission

- **No deadlines**
- **Deadlines**
- **Target dates**
- **Submission Windows**
- **Preliminary proposals**
- **Letters of Intent**



# Sections of an NSF Proposal

- Cover Sheet
- Project Summary
- Table of Contents
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget
- Current & Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources
- Special Information & Supplementary Documentation



# Proposal Development

- **Key Questions for Prospective Investigator**
  - What do you intend to do?
  - Why is the work important?
  - What has already been done?
  - How are you going to do the work?



# Proposal Development Strategies: Individual Investigator

- **Determine your long-term research/education goals or plan**
- **Develop your bright idea**
  - Survey the literature
  - Contact Investigators currently working on the topic
  - Prepare a brief concept paper
  - Discuss with colleagues/mentors
- **Read solicitation instructions carefully**



# Proposal Development Strategies

## Individual Investigator (cont'd)

- **Prepare to do the project**
  - Determine available resources
  - Realistically assess needs
  - Develop preliminary data
  - Present to colleagues/mentors/students
- **Determine possible funding sources**
- **Understand the ground rules**



# Budgetary Guidelines

- **Amounts**

- Reasonable for work – Realistic
- Well Justified – Need established
- In-line with program guidelines

- **Eligible costs**

- Personnel
- Equipment
- Travel
- Participant Support
- Other Direct Costs (including subawards, consultant services, computer services, publication costs)



# Getting Support in Proposal Writing

- **NSF Publications**

- Program Announcements/  
Solicitations
- Grant Proposal Guide
- Web Pages
- Funded Project Abstracts
- Reports, Special  
Publications

- **Targeted Workshops**

- **Program Officers**

- Incumbent
- Former “Rotators”

- **Mentors on Campus**

- **Previous Panelists**

- **Serve As Reviewer**

- **Sponsored Research  
Office**

- **Successful  
Proposals**



# Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER)

- Novel untested ideas
- New research areas
- Urgency
- Abbreviated proposal
- limited award amount
- Expedited review



# NSF Websites

National Science Board	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/">http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/</a>
Director/Deputy Director	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/od/">http://www.nsf.gov/od/</a>
Inspector General	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/oig/">http://www.nsf.gov/oig/</a>
Office of Cyberinfrastructure	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=OCI">http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=OCI</a>
Office of International Science and Engineering	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=OISE">http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=OISE</a>
Office of Equal Opportunity Programs	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/od/oeo/index.jsp">http://www.nsf.gov/od/oeo/index.jsp</a>
Office of Legislative and Public Affairs	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/index.jsp">http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/index.jsp</a>
Office of the General Counsel	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/od/ogc/index.jsp">http://www.nsf.gov/od/ogc/index.jsp</a>
Office of Polar Programs	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=opp">http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=opp</a>
Office of Integrative Activities	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/index.jsp">http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/index.jsp</a>
Biological Sciences	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?dir=BIO">http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?dir=BIO</a>
Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences	<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?dir=SBE">http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?dir=SBE</a>
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