Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum Webinar Series

Public Access Repository (PAR) 2.0, Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and Proposal Submission Modernization Updates: Status of Migration and Adoption of Research.gov and Demo of Research.gov Proposal Preparation

National Science Foundation
November 16, 2021
Welcome and Webinar Administrative Logistics

• Attendees will be in listen-only mode during the webinar.

• View real-time captions during the webinar at URL:
  &Customer...
  • Enter confirmation ID # 4909632

• Presentation and Agenda will be available on the NSF ERA Forum Website https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era_forum.jsp.

• For Zoom Support, call +1-833-966-6468 (+1-833-Zoom-Gov) or email support@zoom.us.
Agenda

• Welcome, Forum Webinar Logistics, and How to Engage with the Forum
• The ERA Forum
• Speakers
• Forum Webinar Discussion Topics:
  • Public Access Repository (PAR) 2.0 Updates
  • Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
  • Proposal Submission Modernization Updates
    • Where we are and what is planned for the future
    • Status of migration and adoption of Research.gov
    • Demo – NSF-PAR and How to prepare a proposal in Research.gov
• Questions and Answers
• Next Steps and ERA Forum Resources
How to Engage with the Forum

Forum Participation
• Questions can be sent to nsferaforum@nsf.gov
• Post-webinar Survey
• Future Forum Topics
• Forum Listserv and Email
  • Subscribe: NSF-ERA-FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
  • Email us: nsferaforum@nsf.gov
• General Information
The ERA Forum

Background and Purpose

• Provides the approach to regularly engage the research community, which includes collecting individual opinions and perspectives on ERA activities, gathering topics of interest for future Forum Webinars, and soliciting volunteers for usability studies.

Past Forum Webinar:

• Spring 2021:
  • Key updates included additional proposal types and associated automated compliance checks enabled in Research.gov and in the Research.gov demo site: Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED), Equipment and Travel.
  • Ability for proposers to withdraw both single submission (with and without subawards) and separately submitted collaborative proposals in Research.gov.
  • New proposal withdrawal FAQs and Training resources were added to the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page as of March 22.
  • New callout box to help proposers quickly see the proposal and submission types currently supported in Research.gov.
## Panelists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maria Koszalka</th>
<th>Jean Feldman</th>
<th>Martin Halbert</th>
<th>Jeff Vieceli</th>
<th>Stephanie Yee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staff Associate, Research.gov, Division of Institution and Award Support</td>
<td>Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution and Award Support</td>
<td>Science Advisor for Public Access, Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure</td>
<td>Head, Systems Office, Division of Institution and Award Support</td>
<td>IT Project Manager, Division of Information Systems</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
National Science Foundation

Public Access Repository (PAR) 2.0
Sharing Research Dataset Information

NSF Public Access Initiative
Martin Halbert
NSF Science Advisor for Public Access
Context for PAR 2.0 Dataset Features

• Historical Context of the NSF Public Access Repository (PAR)
  ▪ Reasons why NSF undertook a Public Access Initiative and created the PAR together with associated public access deposit policy requirements
  ▪ PAR 1.0 (Current System) functions

• Transition from PAR 1.0 and PAR 2.0
  ▪ Reasons for continuing to enhance the NSF PAR
  ▪ What is staying the same
  ▪ New PAR 2.0 research dataset capabilities

• Anticipated Continued PAR Development
  ▪ Adding capabilities for additional research products in future releases
  ▪ Public feedback on PAR 2.0 and future capabilities
Holdren Memo

- **Subject:** “Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research”

- **Issued** February 22, 2013 by John P. Holdren, Director, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) under the Obama Administration

- “committed to ensuring that”...“the direct results of federally funded scientific research are made (publicly) available”... “Such results include **peer-reviewed publications** and **digital data**.”

- Directed agencies that issue $100M+ “to develop a plan to support increased public access to the results of research funded by the Federal Government.”
NSF 15-52 Plan


- Published March 18, 2015; issued under NSF Director France Córdova, with report leadership by Amy Friedlander and contributions by many others within NSF

- This plan led to the development of NSF PAR, public access deposit requirements in the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG), an intra-NSF cross-agency working group, and active NSF participation in inter-agency coordinating groups
Public Access Requirements for Depositing Articles Resulting from NSF Funded Research Awards (from PAPPG)

- NSF’s policy on public access to copyrighted material reflects the Foundation’s commitment to making certain that, to the extent possible, the American public, industry and the scientific community have access to the results of Federally funded scientific research. Pursuant to this policy, grantees must ensure that articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and papers in juried conference proceedings:

  - are deposited in the NSF Public Access Repository (PAR)
  - are available for download, reading, and analysis within 12 months of publication
  - possess a minimum set of machine-readable metadata elements
  - are reported in annual and final reports with a persistent identifier
  - either the final printed version or the final peer-reviewed manuscript is acceptable for deposit
  - each NSF grant contains, as part of the grant general terms and conditions, an article implementing these public access requirements
The NSF PAR is the infrastructural implementation of the agency’s public access requirements.

Developed as a result of the NSF 15-52 Plan in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI).

NSF PAR is a distributed, virtual system comprised of components in NSF Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) and the DOE OSTI public repository interface.
PAR 1.0 (Current) System Functions and Characteristics

PAR 1.0 is focused on Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Enables researchers to enter metadata for peer-reviewed articles or auto-populate by means of Digital Object Identifiers (DOI)
- Metadata recorded in PAR is also transmitted and synchronized with Award Search database
- The metadata for articles can be searched and displayed
- Researchers may deposit (or retrieve) public access articles as PDF/A files or point to download locations through DOI
- Note that PAR is not a single system, but rather an infrastructure of various interacting software systems in several different parts of the NSF infrastructure, also making use of modified modules from the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI) system

https://par.nsf.gov/
Reasons for Continuing to Enhance the NSF PAR Data Sharing and the Broader Lens of Open Science

- Recent reports, projects, and recommendations by advisory groups such as the National Academies of Science have highlighted the critical importance of open science principles and data sharing practices such as FAIR
- Similarly, members of many scientific communities have highlighted the importance of these issues in many professional venues
- The NSF has noted this emerging need and is responding to it by initiating this enhancements program for PAR
- NSF anticipates that a robust ecosystem of public repositories and data management practices will continue to emerge and evolve among disciplinary communities and in institutions
What is Staying the Same

- All of the functions and requirements in PAR 1.0 will carry over to the new PAR 2.0
- Researchers must still deposit juried papers in PAR 2.0 as previously
- The new capabilities will be OPTIONAL and not required for at least calendar 2022 year
- This is a moment to begin making plans to notify your researchers of this new capability; it is NOT a change in requirements of NSF grants.
PAR 2.0 (New Version)
Feature Enhancements

PAR 2.0 will add capability for public access to **DATASETS**

- Will enable researchers to auto-populate metadata for reposited datasets by entering a DOI
- Unlike articles, *will not require deposit of datasets* (because of extreme variations in dataset size and established disciplinary practices)
- The metadata for datasets will be searchable and displayed in NSF PAR
- Dataset reporting will be **voluntary** in this initial release
Feedback on PAR 2.0 and Future Capabilities

Future versions (PAR 2.5 – 3.0) will add additional needed enhancements

- Subsequent versions of PAR are anticipated to add additional research product types (e.g., software, reports, etc.) and machine-actionable interrelationships between research products
- There are a variety of questions to be explored with datasets and other research product types (metadata quality control, expectations about data dictionaries, etc.)
- The public announcement of PAR 2.0 at the November 2021 Electronic Research Administrators webinar will invite institutional research administration professionals to coordinate feedback from their communities to inform NSF about new PAR capabilities
To Provide Feedback on PAR, PAR 2.0, and future directions please email us at: publicaccess@nsf.gov
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
UEI Changes by GSA and SAM Registration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>GSA Changes</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UEI Implementation date:</strong> by April 4, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. DUNS ID will no longer be used to uniquely identify entities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Entities will use a SAM.gov-issued Unique Entity Identifier (SAM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. SAM.gov-issued UEI will be 12-character alpha-numeric</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Benefits</strong></th>
<th><strong>GSA UEI Updates</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Eliminates the requirement to obtain UEI from a third-party website</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Streamlines the entity registration, identification, and validation process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Makes it easier and less burdensome for entities to do business with the Federal Government</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

[GSA UEI Updates Page]
**NSF Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) High-Level Overview**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSF UEI Implementation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NSF UEI Implementation: End of January 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Organization Registration on Research.gov:**
   - A. SAM.gov-issued UEI required
   - B. DUNS ID will no longer be used or displayed
   - C. Between January and April 4, 2022, users must still obtain DUNS ID and SAM.gov-issued UEI for SAM registration, per SAM requirements

2. **Organization Information Updates**

3. **Research.gov & FastLane Display Changes:**
   - A. Proposal Preparation (Research.gov & FastLane)
   - B. Award Notices
   - C. Reporting
   - D. Award Search
Organization Information Update Changes

**Name & Address Updates**

As of end of January 2022:

- SAM Legal Business Name and SAM Physical Address changes must be made on SAM.gov
- NSF organization information will be **synched daily** with SAM.gov databases
- Organization information changes for physical address will no longer be allowed through the FastLane Organization Update (at right).
• Compliance: Displaying SAM Legal Business Name and SAM Physical Address will align NSF with SAM data standards and policies
• To decrease potential confusion (see SUNY example to the right), NSF Organization Name will be displayed alongside the SAM Legal Business Name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NSF Organization Name</th>
<th>SAM Legal Business Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNY at Albany</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY at Binghamton</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY at Buffalo</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY College at Brockport</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY College at Buffalo</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY College at Fredonia</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY College at Geneseo</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNY College at Old Westbury</td>
<td>RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, THE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NSF Impacts and Display Changes

1. DUNS-to-UEI display & transition:
   A. SAM.gov-issued Unique Entity Identifier will be displayed as: Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) or UEI
2. SAM Legal Business Name to be displayed alongside NSF Organization Name
3. SAM Physical Address will be the address of record for organizations registered with NSF
4. DUNS+4 (DUNS Qualifier) will be renamed ETF Indicator
5. Subawardees will need to receive a UEI from SAM – they will not need to formally register in SAM
NSF Sample Changes to Research.gov User Interface (NOTIONAL)

Initial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization Name</th>
<th>Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CUNY Brooklyn College</td>
<td>ABC123DEF456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Infotip

Research Foundation of the City University of New York

Clicking the link activates the infotip which displays the SAM legal business name. The infotip can be closed by clicking the link again or clicking the close "X" icon.
NSF – Sample Changes to Role Management Page (Research.gov)

SAM Legal Business Name added in the Review Fields

Add a New Role to Prepare Proposals and Manage Awards

Review

Your Contact Details

Organization Name: ABC Organization
SAM Legal Business Name: Alpha Beta Charlie
Role(s): Other Authorized User
Work Email: work@email.com
Work Phone Number: (757) 843-4930

Cancel  Previous  Submit
NSF Proposal Cover Sheet (Proposal Submission)

Page updates:

- DUNS-to-UEI update
- NSF Organization Name will be displayed in “Name of Primary Place of Perf” unless PPOP is updated by end user
- SAM Legal Business Name will be displayed in “Name of Organization to which Award should be made” field
- SAM physical address to be displayed in “Address of Awardee Organization” field
NSF Award Notice (Research.gov or FastLane)

- DUNS-to-UEI
- SAM Legal Business Name will replace Award Recipient Fields.
- NSF Organization name will be retained in “Institution” field
- Institution will be changed to Organization as a field label
NSF Reporting – RPPR (Research.gov)

SAM Legal Business Name will be displayed alongside Organization

![Project Reports](image)
NSF Award Search

DUNS-to-UEI
Address will reflect
SAM Physical Address
for Awardee
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov
Research.gov Implementation – Important Notice No. 147

- Per Important Notice No. 147, NSF is taking proactive steps to incrementally move the preparation and submission of all proposals from FastLane to Research.gov.

- FastLane is targeted to be removed as a submission option from all funding opportunities by December 31, 2022.

- Many NSF funding opportunities are supported in Research.gov and clearly specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required.
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov: Why?

• FastLane, launched in 1994, is built on technology once cutting edge but now considered old and inflexible
  ▪ Research.gov architecture can support current and future improvements and requested features to help reduce administrative burden for both the research community and NSF staff (e.g., expanded automated compliance checking supports reducing administrative burden as well as minimizing return without review proposals)
  ▪ Research.gov user interface conforms to modern industry standards and is intuitive and user-friendly

• Since July 2020, Research.gov is able to support all Research proposals that conform to standard Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) requirements for formatting and document content

• New proposal types and submission types are only being developed in Research.gov

Note: Grants.gov continues to be an option for the preparation and submission of most types of NSF proposals. Research.gov is not the same as Grants.gov, the interagency portal allowing organizations to search and apply for federal funding opportunities for many federal agencies including NSF.
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov: How?

• Incrementally remove FastLane from funding opportunities as an option for proposal submission. Gradual proposal system transition decreases burden on both the research community and NSF staff (e.g., Program Officers and NSF Help Desk technicians)

• Continue to develop and deploy additional proposal preparation functionality in Research.gov (Research.gov Proposal Submission Capabilities)

• Engage NSF staff to facilitate a smooth transition

• Expand Foundation-wide efforts to reach the research community

• Bolster training resources for internal and external stakeholders

• Update NSF policy documents including the PAPPG
Research.gov Proposal Preparation: Advantages for Principal Investigators and Research Administrators

Features to help reduce proposal preparation administrative burden:

• Improved user experience through intuitive and dynamic interfaces that provide only relevant proposal preparation options
• Immediate feedback within each proposal section and for each document upload rather than at proposal submission in FastLane
• Faster document uploads (a few seconds versus 30-90 seconds for each document upload in FastLane)
• Expanded automated compliance checking utilizing error messages (preventing proposal submission) and warning messages (allowing proposal submission)
  ▪ There are currently 100+ compliance checks in Research.gov versus ~60 compliance checks in FastLane
  ▪ Specific, actionable error and warning messages
• Higher quality proposal submissions (e.g., PDF uploads are not altered)
• Minimized Return without Reviews due to some proposal formatting issues
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Tips

• Research.gov is being added to solicitations whenever possible as a submission option, even if FastLane is not yet removed. NSF strongly encourages proposal submission via Research.gov

• Program descriptions and solicitations are supported in Research.gov

• Proposal information cannot be transferred from FastLane to Research.gov and vice versa

• Proposal file updates (PFUs) and budget revisions must be executed in the same system as the proposal was submitted (i.e., Research.gov or FastLane)

• All proposals in a separately submitted collaborative from multiple organizations must be prepared in the same system (i.e., all in Research.gov or all in FastLane)

• Proposals submitted in Research.gov are evaluated by NSF in the same way as proposals submitted in FastLane and Grants.gov, and this migration does not affect the merit review process in any way
# Research.gov Proposals: Where We Are and What’s Ahead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Capabilities</th>
<th>Upcoming Capabilities</th>
<th>Future Capabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposal Types</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Proposal Types</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Research: Single Submissions from One Organization (April 2018)</td>
<td>• Center (November 2021 release)</td>
<td>• SBIR and STTR Phases I/II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Research: Single Submission Collaborative Proposals with Subawards (June 2019)</td>
<td>• Research Infrastructure (November 2021 release)</td>
<td>Solicitation-specific Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Research: Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals from Multiple Organizations (March 2020)</td>
<td>• Fellowship (including Reference Letter Writer) (TBD release)</td>
<td>• Additional specified forms or documents (e.g., post-doc forms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Rapid Response Research (RAPID) (November 2020)</td>
<td><strong>Submission Types</strong></td>
<td>• Secondary Units of Consideration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) (November 2020)</td>
<td>• Preliminary Proposal (non-Ideas Lab) (November 2021 release)</td>
<td>Post-award Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) (November 2020)</td>
<td>• Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal (November 2021 release)</td>
<td>• Supplemental Funding Requests, including Career Life Balance Supplemental Funding Requests per PAPPG (NSF 22-1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) (March 2021)</td>
<td><strong>Proposal Features</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Equipment (March 2021)</td>
<td>• Project Descriptions Exceeding 15 Pages (November 2021 release)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Travel (March 2021)</td>
<td>• EHR Project Data Form (TBD release)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Conference (August 2021)</td>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Ideas Lab (August 2021)</td>
<td>• Additional Topic-specific How-to Guides (ongoing)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) (October 2021)</td>
<td>• Webinars (e.g., Fall 2021 ERA Forum)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Planning (October 2021)</td>
<td><strong>Submission Types</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Preliminary Proposal (Ideas Lab only) (August 2021)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Submission Types:</strong></td>
<td>• Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Preliminary Proposal (Ideas Lab only) (August 2021)</td>
<td>• Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
<td>• Letter of Intent (October 2021)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
<td><strong>Proposal Features</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Letter of Intent (October 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Proposal Features</strong></td>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Withdrawal (Single and Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposal Submissions) (March 2021)</td>
<td>• Additional Topic-specific How-to Guides (ongoing)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Webinars (e.g., Fall 2021 ERA Forum)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td><strong>Proposal Features</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Research.gov Proposal Prep Demo Site (October 2020)</td>
<td>• Project Descriptions Exceeding 15 Pages (November 2021 release)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Initial Topic-specific How-to Guides (March 2021)</td>
<td>• EHR Project Data Form (TBD release)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Proposal Preparation Demo Video (March 2021)</td>
<td><strong>Submission Types</strong></td>
<td></td>
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Recent Research.gov Proposal Enhancements
Recent Research.gov Proposal Enhancements

• New submission types and new proposal types were enabled in Research.gov on August 30 and on October 4:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW Submission Types</th>
<th>NEW Proposal Types</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 30:</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Preliminary Proposal (Ideas Lab Only)</td>
<td>• Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Renewal</td>
<td>• Ideas Lab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Accomplishment-Based Renewal</td>
<td><strong>October 4:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Letter of Intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 4:</strong></td>
<td>• GOALI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Letter of Intent</td>
<td>• Planning</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

• An updated layout for the proposal preparation landing page was enabled on August 30 and enhanced on October 4 to include letter of intent

• Research.gov system changes in support of PAPPG ([NSF 22-1](#)) were implemented on October 4, including enhancements to support the updated NSF-approved formats for biographical sketch and current and pending support. Trimming functionality for the current and pending support fillable PDF was also enabled
Recent Enhancements: Proposal Preparation Landing Page

- An updated proposal preparation landing page was enabled to accommodate new submission types in Research.gov and in the Research.gov Proposal Preparation demo site.
- Users select the submission type first and then will follow the custom setup wizard to initiate the letter of intent or proposal.
Recent Enhancements: Proposal Preparation Landing Page

New submission types available as of August 30:
• Preliminary Proposal (Ideas Lab only)
• Renewal Proposal
• Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal

New submission type available as of October 4:
• Letter of Intent
Recent Enhancements: Letter of Intent Preparation

• Letter of intent (LOI) was enabled on October 4
• Users with a Principal Investigator (PI), Sponsored Project Officer (SPO), or Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) role can initiate an LOI
• Both the LOI and the associated full proposal must be prepared in either Research.gov or FastLane and cannot be a mix of both systems
Recent Enhancements: Preliminary Proposal Preparation *(Ideas Lab Only)*

- On August 30, preliminary proposals for **Ideas Lab only** were enabled in Research.gov
- FastLane must be used to prepare preliminary proposals for other proposal types
- Only Ideas Lab funding opportunities will display and be available for selection in Step One of the proposal setup wizard
Recent Enhancements: Renewals

• Available proposal types for Renewal and Accomplishment-Based Renewal proposals are limited to Research, GOALI, FASED, Conference, and Travel

• To renew a RAPID, EAGER, or Planning proposal, the PI will select the Research proposal type

Research.gov Proposal Screenshots: Renewal and Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal Type Options
Recent Enhancements: Full and Renewal Proposal Preparation

Full and Renewal Proposal Four-step Proposal Setup Wizard

Prepare New Full Proposal

Prepare New Renewal Proposal

Prepare New Accomplishment-Based Renewal

The proposal setup wizard changed from five steps to four steps for Full proposals on August 30 when submission type moved to the proposal preparation landing page.
Recent Enhancements: Proposal Types

- **New proposal types** available as of August 30:
  - Conference
  - Ideas Lab

- **New proposal types** available as of October 4:
  - Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)
  - Planning

- Associated automated compliance checks for each proposal type were also enabled

*Research.gov Proposal Screenshot: Full Proposal Type Options*

*Note: All Proposal Types are listed in Research.gov but only those currently supported will be available for selection (i.e., unavailable selections are grayed out). View the Research.gov Proposal Submission Capabilities for details.*

*Note: Career-Life Balance (CLB) Supplemental Funding Request was added as a new proposal type in the PAPPG (NSF 22-1) and must be submitted by using the “Supplemental Funding Request” function in FastLane.*
Recent Enhancements: Proposal Preparation Landing Page

- **In Progress tile** drop-down menu includes the following options as of October 4:
  - Letters of Intent
  - Preliminary Proposals*
  - Proposals (Full and Renewals)
- Users navigate to in progress LOIs and proposals using the drop-down menu to continue working on them

*Preliminary proposals were only enabled for Ideas Lab on August 30. FastLane must be used to prepare preliminary proposals for other proposal types.
Recent Enhancements: Proposal Preparation Landing Page

- Submitted and Updates tile drop-down menu includes the following options as of October 4:
  - Letters of Intent
  - Preliminary Proposals*
  - Proposals (Full and Renewals)
- Users navigate to submitted LOIs and proposals using the drop-down menu to view them or to perform a proposal file update/budget revision

*Preliminary proposals were only enabled for Ideas Lab on August 30. FastLane must be used to prepare preliminary proposals for other proposal types.
Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support
Updates to NSF-approved Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support Formats

- NSF-approved biographical sketch and current and pending support formats are available on the NSF biographical sketch and current and pending support websites. Updated system-related FAQs are also posted: FAQs on using SciENcv and FAQs on using NSF fillable PDF.

- The current version of the biographical sketch and current and pending support formats must be used for proposals submitted or due on or after October 4, 2021, in accordance with the PAPPG (NSF 22-1).

- Biographical sketch format updates include increasing the page limit from two to three pages.

- Current and pending support format updates include the addition of new sections for information on objectives and overlap with other projects to help NSF and reviewers assess overlap/duplication.
**NSF-approved Format: SciENcv**

- Research.gov, FastLane, and Grants.gov will ONLY accept the current versions as of October 4, 2021
- **Determining format version**
  - Right click anywhere in the SciENcv-generated PDF document and select Document Properties
  - The current versions have the titles "NSF Biosketch 22-1" and "NSF CPS 22-1"
  - The previous versions have the titles “NSF Biosketch 20-1" and “NSF CPS 20-1“
- SciENcv documents created using version 20-1 prior to October 4, 2021, are automatically converted in SciENcv to the updated 22-1 version after October 4, 2021
NSF-approved Format: NSF Fillable PDFs

Research.gov, FastLane, and Grants.gov will ONLY accept the current versions as of October 4, 2021

Current Version of Biographical Sketch:
• has the title "NSF Biosketch 22-1" in Document Properties (right click anywhere in the PDF document and select Document Properties)
• has "Effective 10/04/2021" in the title line on the first page
• may be up to three pages

Previous Version of Biographical Sketch:
• has the title "NSF Biosketch 20-1" in Document Properties (right click anywhere in the PDF document and select Document Properties)
• has “Revised 05/01/2020" in the title line on the first page
• may be up to two pages

Current Version of Current and Pending Support:
• has the title "NSF CPS 22-1" in Document Properties (right click anywhere in the PDF document and select Document Properties)
• has "Effective 10/04/2021" in the title line on the first page
• is 27 pages

Previous Version of Current and Pending Support:
• has the title "NSF CPS 20-1" in Document Properties (right click anywhere in the PDF document and select Document Properties)
• has “Revised 05/01/2020" in the title line on the first page
• is 15 pages
Trimming Functionality for Current and Pending Support Fillable PDF
Current and Pending Support Fillable PDF Update: Trimming Functionality

- Trimming functionality was incorporated in FastLane and Grants.gov on August 30 and in Research.gov on October 4, to remove any blank pages (i.e., pages with no data entered by users) from the NSF-approved current and pending support fillable PDF.

- Trimming service is triggered in FastLane and Research.gov at document upload and in Grants.gov at proposal submission.

- Current and pending support documents submitted as part of annual and final project reports in the Research.gov Project Reporting System also will be trimmed of blank pages upon document upload.

- Functionality **only** applies to the NSF-approved current and pending support fillable PDF and not to any other uploaded PDFs. Current and pending support PDFs generated in SciENcv do not include blank pages.

- PDF page numbers will not be updated during the trimming process in the paginated current and pending support fillable PDF document, so it is possible for the trimmed PDF to have skipped page numbers corresponding to the blank pages removed.
Upcoming Research.gov Proposal Enhancements
Upcoming Enhancements Available November 22

- **New proposal types:**
  - Center
  - Research Infrastructure

- **New submission types:**
  - Preliminary Proposal (Program Solicitations other than Ideas Lab)
  - Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal

- **New feature:**
  - Project Description exceeding 15 pages
Research.gov Proposal Demo

- Setup Wizard
- Main Page
- Document Upload and Compliance Error/Warning Messages
- Budget
- Highlights of recent and upcoming enhancements
DEMO
NSF PAR and
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Site
and Training Resources
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site

- Demo site can be used to explore preparing proposals and to check compliance of uploaded proposal documents (e.g., Collaborators and Other Affiliations and Biographical Sketch)

- All demo site users are automatically given the PI role for demo site purposes, in order to perform the proposal preparation functions that a PI can do in the actual system. Proposal submission capability is disabled

- See the demo site FAQs on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page for information on demo site access and features
Research.gov Proposal Training Resources

Training resources on the Research.gov About Proposal and Submission page:

- FAQs by topic
- Links to video tutorials including a 16-minute demo video highlighting key proposal preparation features and preparing proposal file updates/budget revisions
- Link to Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals page to view current Research.gov proposal compliance checks
- Links to topic-specific how-to guides (e.g., Initiating a Proposal and Sharing Access with Sponsored Projects Office/Authorized Organizational Representative)
Research.gov Proposal Training Resources (cont’d)

Inline help features are available to proposers throughout the Research.gov proposal system and the proposal preparation demo site:

- Information tool tips indicated by the blue information icon: 
- Links to the PAPPG
- Links to FAQs
- Links to video tutorials
Information Resources

• Join our NSF System Updates listserv to receive the latest Research.gov system enhancement information and FastLane news! Sign up by sending a blank email to: system_updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov

• Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals page

• Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page (new information is being added on an ongoing basis, so please check back frequently....)

• Research.gov About Account Management page

• NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum page

• NSF ERA Forum listserv to receive updates on ERA Forum activities. Sign up by sending a blank email to: NSF-ERA-FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
Contacts for Questions

• For program-specific questions, please contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer

• For IT system-related questions or technical questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via rgov@nsf.gov

• Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov
Next Steps and ERA Forum Resources

- **Post-webinar Survey**
  - [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSFFall2021ERASurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NSFFall2021ERASurvey)

- **ERA Forum Email**
  - Questions pertaining to the presentation can be sent to nsferaforum@nsf.gov
  - If you are interested in participating in future application usability studies, please send an email with your contact information to nsferaforum@nsf.gov

- **Subscribe to ERA Forum Listserv**
  - Send an email to Nsf-era-forum-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov

- **NSF ERA Forum Website:**
  - Agenda and presentation slides will be available soon on the ERA Forum website at: [https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era_forum.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/era_forum.jsp).
Thank you for participating in today’s ERA Forum Webinar
Appendix
Research.gov Proposal Compliance Error and Warning Messages

• Automated proposal compliance checks triggering an error message will prohibit proposal submission to NSF, whereas checks triggering a warning message will still allow proposal submission.

• Proposers receiving a compliance error or warning message should check the Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals page and the solicitation for specific proposal requirements.

• Proposers should also review the topic-specific FAQs on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page:
  - *Uploading Documents* topic includes margin and line spacing FAQs
  - *Proposal Sections* topic includes Cover Sheet and budget FAQs

• **Reminder:** Effective November 2020, the compliance checks and associated compliance warnings for font type and font size were removed in Research.gov to align with FastLane and NSF policy.
**Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site Tips**

- Demo site FAQs are available on the Research.gov [About Proposal Preparation and Submission](#) page via the left navigation menu. How-to guides with step-by-step instructions and screenshots are also available.

- The demo site is available both to the research community and to NSF staff.

- An orange "Proposal Preparation Demo Site" banner is at the top of each demo site page to indicate the user is on the demo site.

- The demo site allows users to prepare and edit proposals before preparing them in the actual Research.gov site.

- Demo site proposals are not visible or available in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System, and data cannot be transferred between the demo site and the actual proposal system.

- All proposal and submission types available in the actual system are also available in the demo site. As proposal and submission types are added to the Research.gov Proposal Submission System, they will also be added to the demo site.

- All compliance checks enabled in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System are also in the demo site. Proposers can use the demo site as a resource to check document compliance before uploading them in the actual system.
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site Tips (cont’d)

• Proposals created in the demo site will be available for six months and then will be deleted by NSF. Neither NSF nor users will be able to access deleted demo proposal data

• Demo site does not support proposal submission and will not trigger any system-generated email notifications (e.g., link requests for separately submitted collaborative proposals)

• The organization that you are affiliated with in your NSF account profile will be incorporated when you are in the proposal preparation demo site, but the user role(s) that you have will not be available in the demo site
  ▪ All users who access the demo site will be given the role of PI and the mock organization “National Science Foundation”
  ▪ This means that users from the research community will have the organization(s) they are affiliated with in their NSF account profile plus the “National Science Foundation” mock organization as available organizations in the demo site

• The only time other users will be able to view and/or edit any proposals that you create in the demo site is if you add them to the proposal as a co-PI or OAU. If you don’t add any users to the proposal, no one will else will be able to access, view, or edit your demo proposal
Providing Research.gov Proposal Feedback

**Why?**
- Influence the future of proposal submission
- Help NSF continue to build Research.gov

**How?**
- Feedback may be submitted on the Research.gov [Feedback page](#)
  - Select “Proposal Preparation & Submission” under the Site Area dropdown menu to provide feedback on the Research.gov Proposal Submission System
  - Select "Proposal Preparation Demo Site" under the Site Area dropdown menu to provide feedback on the demo site
Appendix: Research.gov Demo Screenshots
Appendix: Research.gov Letter of Intent Demo Screenshots
Demo: Letter of Intent

• PI, SPO, or AOR chooses Letter of Intent from the Prepare New tile on the proposal preparation landing page to initiate a new letter of intent.
Demo: Letter of Intent Setup Wizard

- Indicator shows required three step letter of intent setup process.

- Only the funding opportunities requiring or accepting letters of intent display and will be available to select.
Demo: Letter of Intent Setup Wizard

- If funding opportunity has multiple NSF organizations associated with it, the PI/SPO/AOR can choose the primary, secondary and tertiary organizations from a drop down list.
- The secondary and tertiary organization fields are optional; the primary organization must be selected to proceed.
Demo: Letter of Intent Setup Wizard

After entering the title, the Prepare Letter of Intent button is enabled.
Demo: Letter of Intent Main Page

• Inline edit of the title
• Quick view and access to the letter of intent due date
• Required and optional sections are driven dynamically based on the funding opportunity selected
Appendix: Research.gov Full Proposal Demo Screenshots
Demo: Proposal Setup Wizard

- User chooses the applicable proposal type
- The choices shown here will be customized to the funding opportunity

• Indicator shows required proposal setup process steps that address current frustrations with the FastLane Cover Sheet module

Prepare New Full Proposal

Select Proposal Type

- What type of proposal will be used? (Proposal Types)
  - Research
  - Planning PAPPG II.E.1
  - Rapid Response Research (RAPID) PAPPG II.E.2
  - Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) PAPPG II.E.3
  - Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) PAPPG II.E.4
  - Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) PAPPG II.E.5
  - Ideas Lab PAPPG II.E.6
  - Facilities Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) PAPPG II.E.7
  - Conference PAPPG II.E.8
  - Equipment PAPPG II.E.10
  - Travel PAPPG II.E.11
  - Center
  - Research Infrastructure
  - Fellowship
  - Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)
  - Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR)
Demo: Proposal Main Page

- Inline edit of the title
- Quick view and access to the due date of the proposal
- Conditionally required sections become required after corresponding data is input
- Required and optional sections are driven dynamically based on the funding opportunity selected
- Add and Remove Co PIs, Senior Personnel, and OAUs
- Quick access to link collaborative proposals
Demo: Document Upload and Compliance Error/Warning Messages

- Immediate feedback on compliance of all documents that are uploaded to the system
- Documents are inspected to ensure machine readable text for analysis
- Documents are stored on cloud hosted storage to ensure availability of proposals and scalability for future proposals
Demo: Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals

- Collaborative Research will be prefixed to the title
Demo: Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals - Linking

Collaborative Research will be prefixed to the title

1. Link/View Collaborative Proposals
2. Collaborative Proposals
3. You have successfully invited Proposal - 15081 to link to this proposal. The proposals will become linked once the non-lead views their proposal and accepts the link.
Demo: Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals - Non-lead

Provide the lead organization with the temp prop ID

Fewer required sections
Demo: Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals - Non-lead

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporary ID Number</th>
<th>Proposal Title</th>
<th>PI Name</th>
<th>Date Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15081</td>
<td>Collaborative Research; this title will be replaced by Lead title</td>
<td>Subanando-Pi, Sally</td>
<td>Date inherited from the Lead Proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13378</td>
<td>Wednesday, January 29</td>
<td>P, Paula</td>
<td>02/11/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13383</td>
<td>Working Group Demo 1/30/2020</td>
<td>P, Paula</td>
<td>02/11/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14340</td>
<td>Merit Review Test</td>
<td>P, Paula</td>
<td>Accepted Anytime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133453</td>
<td>Testing Demo 1-16-2020 Change 2</td>
<td>P, Paula</td>
<td>Accepted Anytime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Once link is accepted, non lead cannot unlink. Must contact the lead.
Demo: Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals - Non-lead

Once linked, non lead will inherit Title, Funding Opportunity, Where to Apply (units of consideration), Proposal Type, Submission Type, and Due Date.
Demo: Senior Personnel Documents

- All documents required for senior personnel are consolidated on one screen
Demo: Budget

- Subaward organization budget listed here
### Demo: Budget

**Budget(s)**

For Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

- **Total Requested Amount**: $161,200

#### Personnel Direct Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Total Funds Requested</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A. Senior Personnel</strong> (Manager)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>$70,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B. Other Personnel</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral Scholars</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Professionals</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Students</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Students</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative/Clairical</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>C. Fringe Benefits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes:
- Rows expand and collapse for easy navigation.
- All totals are dynamically summed and the total amount is placed on the Cover Sheet.
- Multiple years displayed on one screen.
Demo: Proposal File Update/Budget Revision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Title</th>
<th>Submit Date</th>
<th>Proposal Number</th>
<th>Temporary ID Number</th>
<th>PI Name</th>
<th>Proposal Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automation test ready</td>
<td>01/24/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>13303</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submitted to NSF (Due Date Passed But Prior to Reviewer Assignment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation test ready</td>
<td>12/12/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>13297</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submitted to NSF (Due Date Passed or Assigned for Review)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation test ready</td>
<td>12/12/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>13296</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submitted to NSF (Due Date Passed But Prior to Reviewer Assignment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation test ready</td>
<td>12/12/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>13295</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submitted to NSF (Due Date Passed But Prior to Reviewer Assignment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation test ready</td>
<td>12/12/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>13294</td>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation test ready</td>
<td>12/12/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>13293</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submitted to NSF (Due Date Passed But Prior to Reviewer Assignment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automation test ready</td>
<td>12/09/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>13282</td>
<td></td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Prior to Review Assignment

• Proposal File Update (PFU) / Budget Revision
• Withdrawals
Demo: Proposal File Update/Budget Revision
Demo: Proposal File Update/Budget Revision

- **Budget Revision Status**

- Proposal Update Justification is required if there is a change in proposal content, not budget content
Demo: Proposal File Update/Budget Revision

- Assigned for Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Title</th>
<th>Submit Date</th>
<th>Proposal Number</th>
<th>Temporary ID Number</th>
<th>PI Name</th>
<th>Proposal Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Automation test submit ready</td>
<td>01/24/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td>13303</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submitted to NSF (Due Date Passed But Prior to Reviewer Assignment)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automation test submit ready</td>
<td>12/12/2019</td>
<td></td>
<td>13297</td>
<td></td>
<td>Submitted to NSF (Due Date Passed or Assigned for Review)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Demo: Proposal File Update/Budget Revision

- Prepare Proposal File Update/Budget Revision
Demo: Proposal File Update/Budget Revision

• System will not enforce that the Budget Impact Statement exists if the budget is reduced by 10%