



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

NSF Grants Conference Policy Update

October 22-23, 2012

Hosted by George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia





Topics

- Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Revisions
- Grants.gov Application Guide Revisions
- Cost Sharing Update



PAPPG Revision Process

- Federal Register Notices issued in January 2011 and May 2012 to alert the public to NSF's intent to revise PAPPG
- Disseminated draft document with changes highlighted to research community
- Comments submitted to OMB/NSF (were due July 12th)
- Updated PAPPG released October 4, 2012; effective for proposals submitted or due on or after January 14, 2013



PAPPG Changes Topic List

- Revised Biographical Sketch requirements
- Indirect Costs
- Proposals Not Accepted
 - Increased clarity on submission of required sections of the proposal
- Conflict of Interest Policies
- Wildlife Research



Biographical Sketch(es)

- The “Publications” section to of the Biosketch has been renamed “Products”.
 - This change makes clear that products may include, but are not limited to, publications, data sets, software, patents, and copyrights.



Indirect Costs

- Except as noted in the *Grant Proposal Guide*:
 - Participant support section;
 - International Travel Grants Section; or
 - In a specific program solicitation

Institutions must use the applicable indirect cost rate (F&A) that has been negotiated with the cognizant federal agency.

- Foreign grantees and subawardees also are generally not eligible for indirect cost recovery.



Proposals Not Accepted

- Formally recognizes a new category of non-award decisions and transactions: Proposal Not Accepted
- Is defined as “FastLane will not permit submission of the proposal”
- This new category applies to:
 - Data Management Plans
 - Postdoctoral Mentoring Plans
 - Project Summaries



Required Sections of the Proposal

- Cover Sheet – including certifications
- Project Summary
- Project Description – including Results from Prior NSF Support
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget and Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources
- Supplementary Documentation
 - Data Management Plan
 - Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (where applicable)



Proposals Involving Vertebrate Animals

- Proposals involving the study of wildlife
 - Organizations must establish and maintain a program for activities involving animals in accordance with the National Academy of Science publication, *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.



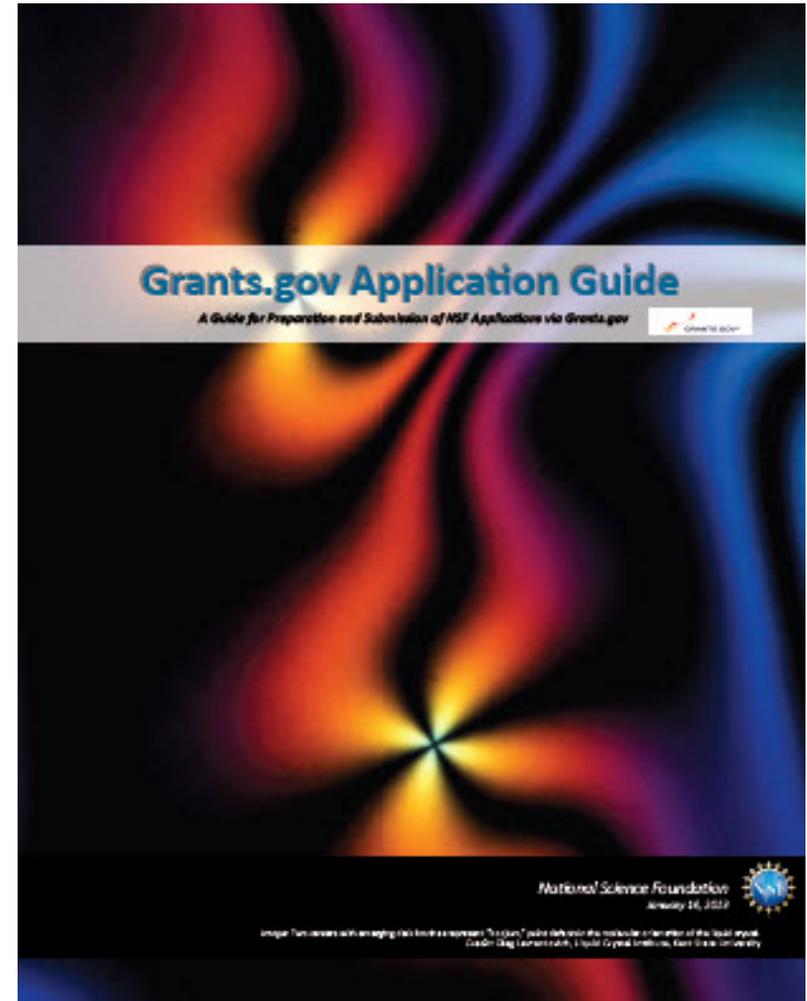
Conflict of Interest Policies

- When the NSF Office of General Counsel (OGC) is notified of an unmanageable conflict of interest, the OGC will:
 - Examine a copy of the institution's COI policy;
 - Contact the awardee institution's representative to determine what actions the institution plans/has taken;
 - Request confirmation from awardee when proposed actions have been accomplished.



Grants.gov Application Guide - Revisions

- Revisions made for consistency with those released in the PAPPG
- For applications submitted or due on or after January 14, 2013





Grants.gov Application Guide - Revisions

- Project Summary/Abstract contents must include three separate statements covering (1) Overview; (2) Intellectual Merit; (3) Broader Impacts
- Revised instructions for attachments
 - Facilities & Other Resources
 - Equipment Documentation
 - Other Attachments – Data Management Plan
 - Biographical Sketch
 - Current & Pending Support
- Budget – Total Direct Costs modified per PAPPG changes
- Other Information – High Resolution Graphics



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Cost Sharing at NSF

Progress Update





Cost Sharing Update

- As recommended by the National Science Board and implemented by NSF, inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited in solicited & unsolicited proposals, unless approved in accordance with agency policy.
- Only 6 programs have been approved to require cost sharing:
 - Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI);
 - Robert Noyce Scholarship Program;
 - Engineering Research Centers (ERC);
 - Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC);
 - Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); and
 - Innovation Corps (I-Corps)



Cost Sharing Update

- **Removal of PI from Budget**

- If no person months are requested for senior personnel, they should be removed from the budget.
- Their names will remain on the coversheet
- Role should be described in the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal.



Cost Sharing Update

- **Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources**
 - New format will assist proposers in complying with NSF cost sharing policy and is a required component of the proposal.
 - Provides an aggregated description of the internal and external resources (both physical and personnel) that the organization and its collaborators will provide to the project.
 - No reference to cost, date of acquisition, and whether the resources are currently available or would be provided upon receipt of award
 - If there are no resources to describe, a statement to that effect should be included in this section of the proposal and uploaded into FastLane.



For More Information

Ask Early, Ask Often!

[nsf.gov/staff](https://www.nsf.gov/staff)

[nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp)

[nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/index.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/index.jsp)