

National Science Foundation Update

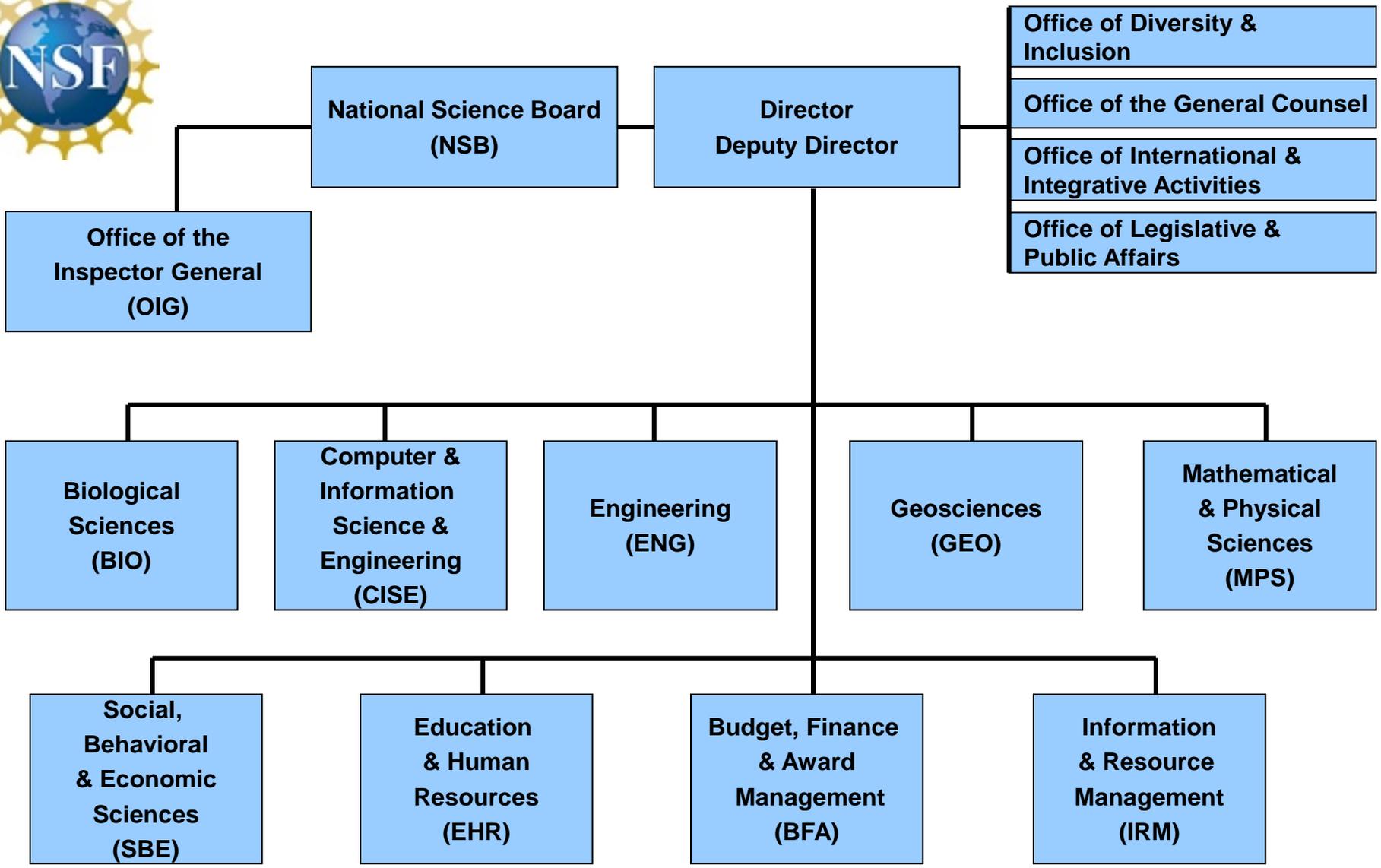
Spring 2014



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Topics

- Personnel Update
- FY 2015 Budget Request to Congress and Funding Profile
- Public Access
- Automated Compliance Checking for Proposals
- PAPPG Update
- FAQs
- Research Performance Progress Report
- Award Cash Management Service
- ARRA Reporting
- OMB's Uniform Guidance Implementation
- NSB Task Force on Administrative Burdens Update



FY 2015 Budget Request to Congress

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2013 Actual	FY 2014 Estimate	FY 2015 Request	FY 2015 Request Change Over FY14 Estimate	
				Amount	Percent
RESEARCH AND RELATED ACTIVITIES	\$5,558.88	\$5,808.92	\$5,807.46	-\$1.46	-0.03%
EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES	\$834.62	\$846.50	\$889.75	\$43.25	5.1%
MAJOR RESEARCH EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION	\$196.49	\$200.00	\$200.76	\$0.76	0.4%
AGENCY OPERATIONS AND AWARD MANAGEMENT	\$293.50	\$298.00	\$338.23	\$40.23	13.5%
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL	\$14.33	\$14.20	\$14.43	\$0.23	1.6%
OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD	\$4.10	\$4.30	\$4.37	\$0.07	1.6%
TOTAL, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	\$6,901.91	\$7,171.92	\$7,255.00	\$353.09	1.2%

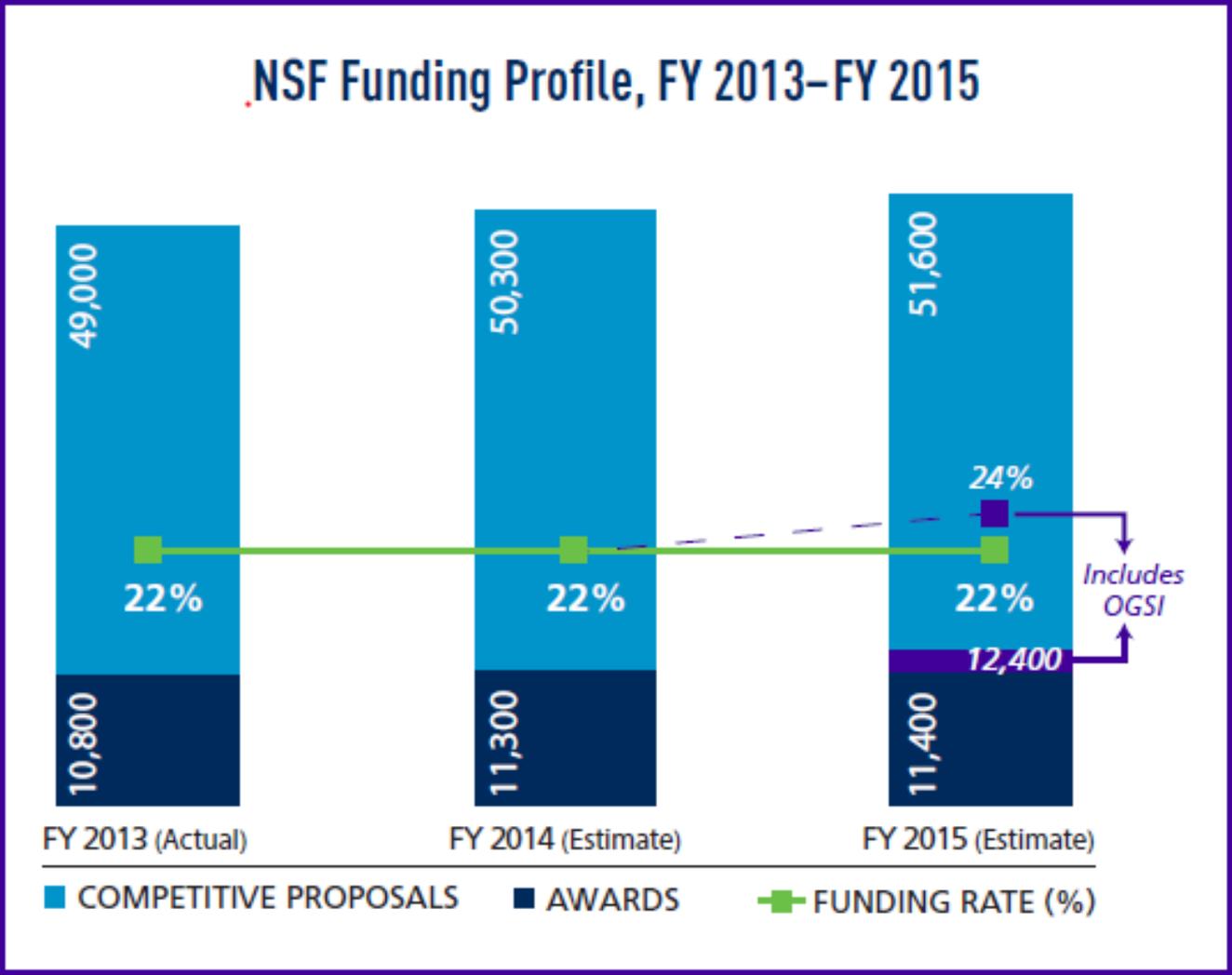
Totals may not add due to rounding.

New NSF Strategic Plan

- Transform the Frontiers of Science and Engineering
- Stimulate Innovation and Address Societal Needs through Research and Education
- Excel as a Federal Science Agency

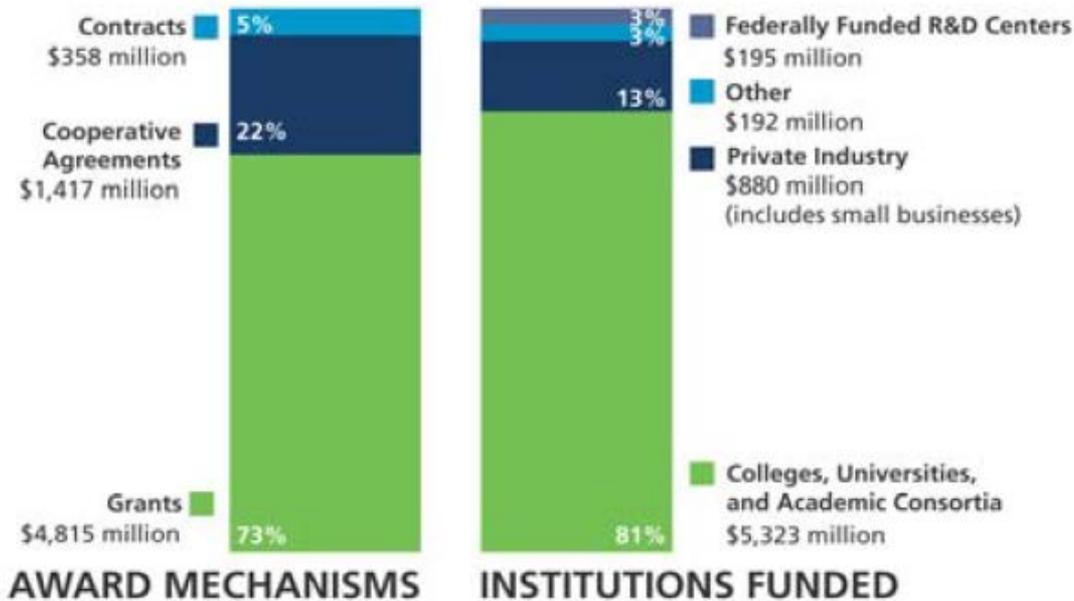


NSF Funding Profile



NSF Funding Profile

Obligations for Research and Education Programs



This chart shows the distribution of NSF's obligations by institution type and funding mechanism. While the data shown are based on FY 2013, the relative shares should provide a good indication of the FY 2015 distribution.

Note: NSF Research and Education Programs include Research and Related Activities, Education and Human Resources, and Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction appropriations. Other institutions funded include federal, state, and local governments; nonprofit organizations; and international organizations.

Public Access

Expanding Public Access to the Results of Federally Funded Research, February 22, 2013 (“the OSTP Memo”)

- Within six months (by 8/22/13), agencies will develop plans to increase public access to scientific publications and scientific data in digital formats, consistent with their missions and existing law, and within existing budgets.
- Underlying principles:
 - Maintains the importance of peer review and the role of publishers
 - Calls for collaboration among agencies and stakeholder groups
 - Does not specify a funding strategy, allowing for experimentation
 - Does not specify a technical approach but does encourage leveraging existing archives

Public Access

Where are we now?

- Draft plan submitted in August 2013
- Received comments February 2014
- Revised document in May 2014

Going Forward

- Policy
- Technology
- Communications

Automated Compliance Checking

Required Sections of the Proposal

- Project Summary
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources
- Supplementary Documentation
 - Data Management Plan
 - Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (where applicable)

Automated Compliance Checking

FastLane Will / Will Not Check:

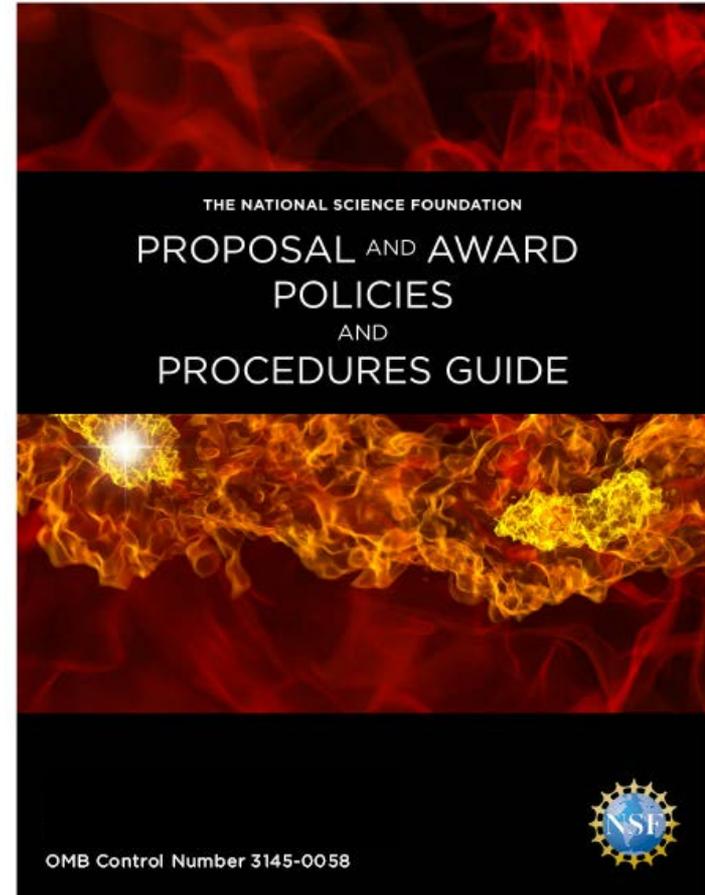
- FastLane will check for the presence of GPG-required sections of the proposal
- If a section is not included, FastLane will not permit submission of the proposal
- FastLane will not check:
 - Formatting
 - Page Length (except for Project Summary)
 - Content

Automated Compliance Checking: What the Future Holds

- Currently evaluating existing GPG policies and procedures to identify where automated compliance checking can occur.
- Extensive outreach and communication will precede any further compliance checking changes.
- Spring 2014 solicitation-specific pilots.

Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)

- New PAPPG effective for proposals submitted or due on or after **February 24, 2014**



PAPPG Changes

- Format of the Proposal
- Project Summary
- Participant Support
- International Implications -- now International Activities
 - Types Include: International Activities, International Conferences, and Work in foreign countries
- Cost sharing clarification
- Conferences, Symposia and Workshops
- Project Reporting – Not Cumulative

Results from Prior NSF Support

- Confusion over what should be included in this section. GPG states:

In cases where the PI or co-PI has received more than one award (excluding amendments), they need only report on the one award most closely related to the proposal.

- If PI or Co-PI has more than one in past five years, they can choose the one that is most relevant.
- If PI or Co-PI only has one NSF award in past five years they must report this award regardless of whether it's relevant or not.
- See GPG Chapter II.C.2d(iii)

Visa Costs

New Guidance regarding inclusion of visa costs is as follows:

Short-term, travel visa costs (as opposed to longer-term, immigration visas) are generally allowable expenses that may be proposed as a direct cost on an NSF proposal.

To be included on an NSF budget, they must :

- Be critical and necessary for the conduct of the project;
- Be allowable under the applicable cost principles;
- Be consistent with the organization's cost accounting practices and organizational policy; and
- Meet the definition of “direct cost” as described in the applicable cost principles.

Budget Justification

- Policy requires a budget justification of up to three pages per NSF proposal;
- Must be submitted with the primary budget;
- System has been allowing multiple budget justifications to be submitted in excess of the maximum three-page limit;
- FastLane is working to resolve this issue.

NSF Implementation of the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

- Compliant with new OMB-OSTP approved RPPR format and data dictionary
- Fully rolled out in March 2013 in Research.gov for PIs, co-PIs, SPOs
- Replaces annual, interim, and final project reports in FastLane
- Structured data collection

RPPR – Key Points to Remember

- The reports are not intended to be cumulative with the final report being the last annual report;
- For separately submitted collaborative proposals, each separate component must report;
- Project Outcome Reports for the General Public **are still required**;
- Annual and final reports can not be recalled once an NSF PO has approved it;
- At this time, only PIs and co-PIs have the ability to work on and submit project reports in Research.gov.

RPPR – Recent Enhancements

- Completion Check Report: PIs can run this report to identify any areas within Project Reports that still need to be completed before submittal
- Changing certain product fields to “not required” where it makes sense
- Updating warning messages to make them more understandable
- Corrected character counter for report sections
- Corrected list size limitations for products and participants
- Improvements to copy/paste functionality

Award Cash Management Service (ACM\$)

- New awardee payment service in Research.gov
- Fully implemented for NSF Awardee institutions as of June 30, 2013
 - Requires submission of award level payment amounts each time funds are requested
 - Eliminates quarterly Federal Financial Reports (FFR)
 - Implements monthly award financial closeout 90 days after the award expiration date (effective July 2013)
 - ACM\$ Info Page: Go to Research.gov, under “Our Services” and click on the link for “Award Cash Management Service”

ACM\$: Program Income

- Number of awardees reporting program income has risen dramatically.
- Awardees must report the amount earned and expended at the award level.
- Awardee organizations must submit a Program Income Reporting Worksheet to:
 - Report program income earned/expended
 - Validate that they did not earn/expend program income
- For more info, see AAG, Chapter III.4b

ARRA Reporting

- ARRA Recipient reporting ended on February 1st with its repeal in the 2014 Omnibus.
- NSF reporting rates were consistently above 99%.
- All remaining awards will be modified to remove ARRA reporting requirements.



Terms & Conditions

- Updated NSF-specific terms and conditions released in February 2014.
- Re-released in March 2014 to include applicability of the Enhanced Whistleblower Protection Act

NSB Task Force on Administrative Burdens

- Formed in December 2012 to examine burden on PIs and offer recommendations to relieve administrative workload.
- Request for Information for community feedback.
- Final report will be published on May 1.

NSB Task Force on Administrative Burdens

- *Reducing Investigators' Administrative Workload for Federally Funded Research*
- *Recommendations*
 - Focus on the Science
 - Eliminate or Modify Ineffective Regulations
 - Harmonize and Streamline Requirements
 - Increase University Efficiency and Effectiveness

Uniform Guidance Implementation: Key Dates

- OMB published Uniform Guidance on **December 26, 2013**.
- Agencies are required to submit implementation plans, policies and procedures on **June 26, 2014**.
- Guidance will apply to awards and funding drawdowns on **December 26, 2014**.
- Visit cfo.gov/cofar/ for the latest information.

NSF Grants Conference

- June 23-24 in Denver
 - Registration has reached capacity
- October 6-7, 2014 in Arlington, VA



National Science Foundation
GRANTS CONFERENCE
Colorado State University • Denver, Colorado • June 23-24, 2014

Home	Register	Payment Info	Hotel	Airport Info	Area Info	Conference Docs
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National Science Foundation Grants Conference
Hosted By:
Colorado State University
June 23-24, 2014

Location:
[Westin Denver Downtown](#)
1672 Lawrence Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

The National Science Foundation Grants Conference of fiscal year 2014 will be held in Denver, Colorado, and hosted by Colorado State University on **June 23-24, 2014**.

Key representatives from the National Science Foundation (NSF), as well as your colleagues - faculty, researchers, and grant administrators - representing colleges and universities from around the U.S. will participate.

This two-day conference is a must, especially for new faculty, researchers, educators, and administrators who want to gain key insight into a wide range of current issues at NSF including the state of current funding; new and current policies and procedures; and pertinent administrative issues. NSF program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and answer your questions.

Email grants_conference@nsf.gov to be notified once registration is available for future conferences.

Key Documents

- **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide**

nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=papp

- **NSF Budget Requests and Appropriations**

nsf.gov/about/budget/

- **NSF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014-2018**

nsf.gov/about/performance/strategic_plan.jsp

- **NSB Report on Merit Review**

nsf.gov/nsb/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsb1333

For More Information.....

Ask Early, Ask Often!

policy@nsf.gov

nsf.gov/staff

nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp