

The Fall 2013 competition for Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) proposals submitted to the Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program has been cancelled. The next deadline for submission of DDRI proposals to GSS will be Thursday, February 13, 2014.

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE); the Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS); and Geography and Spatial Sciences Program have made the difficult decision to cancel the Fall 2013 GSS DDRI competition. This cancellation decision resulted from the fact that the posted deadline for submission of DDRI proposals to the GSS Program was October 10, 2013; which fell during the 16-day time period when NSF operations were suspended due to a lapse in appropriations.

With resumption of NSF operations on October 17, SBE officials explored the possibility of conducting the competition on a modified schedule. Because a delay in the proposal-submission deadline would push the Fall 2013 competition into the early months of 2014, any investigator whose Fall 2013 proposal was declined would be unable to revise and submit a new proposal by the next proposal-submission deadline. NSF officials decided it would be best to enable all investigators to have until February 13, 2014, to submit their strongest possible proposals.

NSF anticipates conducting two GSS DDRI competitions in FY 2015.

Investigators preparing DDRI proposals for the February 13, 2014, deadline should consult the GSS solicitation (NSF 12-570) as well as either the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide* or the NSF *Grants.gov Application Guide* for instructions regarding the preparation of proposals.