The Desk Review Program was developed to provide NSF with reasonable assurance that awardees have established award management policies, procedures, and practices sufficient to compliantly manage NSF-provided funds.

**DESK REVIEWS ARE**

- Designed to provide business assistance and highlight potential areas for operational improvement; desk review results are retained to inform future monitoring or audits
- Focused on awardees’ general management, financial/accounting, and cash drawdown policies, procedures, and practices
- Highly standardized monitoring reviews; NSF has completed 1,400 desk reviews

**DESK REVIEWS ARE NOT**

- Designed to identify findings or question costs; desk reviews rarely (<2%) result in questioned costs, funding delays, or referrals to NSF’s OIG
- Focused on scientific achievements
- Focused on specific awards, although a representative award is selected to review an organization’s project cost ledger and cash drawdown practices
- Audits. They are not conducted to audit standards or by auditors