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Please Stand By for Realtime Captions.

>>> Please continue to stand by for today's conference. The call will begin momentarily. If you want to ask a question, please unmute your phone and state your first and last name and press \* 1. Please stand by and thank you for your patience.

Good afternoon and thank you for standing by. Will come to the webinar from Biology Integration Institutes. Today's call is being recorded. If you have objections, please disconnect. Airlines are in listen only mode. That is until the question-and-answer session. At the time you may press

Please press \* 1 to ask a question. Unmute the phone and state your name is front it. It is my pleasure to turn the conference over to Dr. Joanna Shisler. please begin.

My name is Joanna Shisler. I’m in the division of Integrative Organismal Systems -- and I will talk to you today with my colleagues about the Biology Integration Institutes. We have three other people from the

biological sciences directorate.

This is Sam Scheiner from the division of environmental biology.

I am Reed Deaman from the division of biological infrastructure.

This is Wilson Francisco from the Division of molecular and cellular biosciences.

We have 10 slides to walk you through to get everybody on the same page. After that we will open up for questions. What you see here, and by the way, this is to remind everybody, you need to connect to audio. Dell 800-475-4947, and there is a passcode = 618-8660. For the purpose of Biology Integration Institutes, BII, is to support collaborative teams of researchers are investigating questions with an overarching biological three. We are excited about this. We think it is a way to move biology forward rapidly. The link to the solicitation is here. By the way, this webinar is being recorded. You will be able to see the slides soon. So, we have been hearing from people who have been calling and more interested in applying for this solicitation. A question people have is, what makes an Institute? What is an Institute? So, what we would like to try to talk you about is how we envision what an Institute is. We think of it as a structure or platform for providing a place where biology research and education can become integrated. We think that an Institute will have a core question. An overarching theme that crosses biological disciplines, that many different avenues of research can be done, can go back to this core question. That there will be multiple projects that are synergistic. We want to also make sure you understand this can include disciplines beyond biology. We want you to be aware there are two tracks. There is a design track. That is for development activities . You can ask for up to $200,000 of that and it would be up to 2 years. The point of this design track is really for you to start working together as a team to think about what strengths and weaknesses, what gaps you may have toward addressing a biological question and how to rollout the larger implementation grant for the future. And then, at the other end of the skill, we have implementation grants. These are what we would call full institutes. These are people who are shovel ready. Who have had experience working together beforehand . This is a much larger funding rate here. Here it is $12.5 million. This should be over 5 years. There is another chance for another 5 years of funding after that. So, remember, two tracks. Design and implementation. Design is for you guys to get together to start figuring out how to put together a system for competitive implementation proposals . Implementation groups are shovel ready and they are ready to apply for these large grant proposals. So, often times, people ask, what does a BII look like and what does it cover? There are some examples in the solicitation and I will talk about them here. So, it can be things like multi-scale biological responses to changes in the global environment. It could be determined as of biological complexity. So, from sales to organisms to ecosystems. It could also be origins, mechanisms and annotations of multi-similarity. And more& And the point is not that you have to have a BII with one of these topics. These are just examples to get your brain thinking about it. Please do not think these are the only topics. What I want to tell you about our some of the important timelines here. The solicitation was released October 28. Just a few weeks ago. One of the important things coming up, an important deadline, December 20, that is when the letter of intent is to for the implementation proposals . If you're doing a Design proposal, you do not have to submit a letter of intent. You can take that off your list of things to do. Regardless, for both Design and implementation proposals, you have a set fixed deadline of February 6, 2020 that you must turn in the Design and implementation proposal. We expect to be reviewing these in April and May 2020. For the implementation proposals, there is a reverse Site Visit. We will select Design awards that we would like to fund. You will be getting decisions and awards made sometime in early summer of 2020. There have been a lot of questions about the letter of intent. So, if you try this on fast Lane, and I encourage you to do this before you write your letter of intent. What you will see is you have a synopsis, which can only have 2500 characters. It is not something where you make a long case for why your biological question is interesting. It is very short. 2500 characters. You will also see there is a training summary that is even shorter. It is a maximum of 255 characters. Okay? So, the whole point here is these letters of intent are to be used by personnel at the National Science Foundation. It is to help us -- it is not something that will be reviewed. It is to help us gauge the number of proposals that we should be expecting. What you will see is that, within the letter of intent, there is a limit of the numbers of senior personnel. That is only for the letter of intent. That is because of the way the letters of intent is developed. You can put up to four senior personnel on the letter of intent, along with their institutions . But, then, in your full proposal, you obviously can add more than that. The same thing with the participating organizations. There is a limit to 4 additional organizations above or beyond the BII PI and their organization. Once again, that is a limit on the letter of intent, but not the full proposal. And, I fully expect there to be questions on this, because it is very confusing. Remember, these letters of intent are used by NSF program officers only. They are not going to be included as part of the proposal packet the reviewers get. Thank you. Okay. So, there have been a couple of questions that people have about changing after a letter of intent is submitted. You cannot change the PI or the lead institution. Those have to stay the same from the letter of intent for the proposal. However, you can add or remove other senior personnel or organizations. And we are encouraging you to inform BII program officers of any changes you plan to make in the full proposal. Once again, that is purely for internal logistics here. We are not going to hold it against you.

So, Hannah Perry, we have also had a couple of questions about ship time on a UNOLS vessel. If you need ship time, you will refer to the UNOLS website for General Information. Refer to the websites you see here. These are the same positions procedures as if you were with the division of Ocean sciences. Include a dock copy of the requested supplementary documents. Some people if they have questions, please feel free to reach out and contact a program officer if you have questions about this.

I wanted to also tell you about the proposal review, so that you realize what are the methods behind this whole process. So, what we want you to know is these review panels will be highly interdisciplinary. That they will be reviewing these proposals looking at solicitation specific review criteria . And those are in the solicitation itself. In addition, to intellectual merit and broader impacts to Judge proposals by. You will see, in the solicitation, there are specific review criteria for the Design and for the implementation proposal. Please read those and take that into account when you are writing your different types of proposals. Um, proposals should be understandable by someone who is not a specialist in the questions and techniques being proposed. Because, we have a highly interdisciplinary review panel, remember, you're going to, you know, keep things at a level that is understandable by people who have training in biology. And you will hear about your proposals from us in early summer.

Last, we wanted to put up our contact for the Biology Integration Institutes so you have our email addresses here. We are here to help you. You can reach out to us and we will hopefully be able to answer your questions very quickly. And, with that, Michelle, we are finished with our PowerPoint. And we are ready to begin with the questions.

Thank you

I will leave that there.

Thank you and remember, if you want to ask a question, you press \* 1.

It is, if you want to ask a question, Please press \* 1. Unmute your phone and state your name when prompted. Please remember \* 1 if you want to ask a question.

We have a question from Stephanie . It looks like on the chat line. Are there any limits on number of participating organizations or number of senior personnel for either track of proposal? The answer is no. You can have as many as you would like. The only limitations are, that, just like with any other NSF proposal, the coversheet can only have a PI and up to 4 co-PIs.

You also need to List all your participants on a single page.

Yes.

Kind of in the same vein -- [ Indiscernible - speaker too far away ] [ Indiscernible - low volume ] -- There questions: should the senior personnel be one contact person from the other institutions

For our purposes, we will be just getting in touch with the PI, is that correct? Getting in touch with the PI, so the co-PIs will be, you know, how you want to be communicating things.

It is just like any other collaborative proposal. It is bigger than the usual collaborative proposal. But if you have been involved in any kind of proposal or subaward, this is structured just like any of those.

In the Design versus Implementation tracks? Can a Design be small and expand during Implementation?

Absolutely.

Go ahead.

Okay, the next question is,

What is your definition of synergistic project? How timely do collaborative projects need to be to be considered synergistic?

-- Okay, so, I mean, obviously, synergistic is somewhat in the eye of the beholder. We will be asking the panel to be reviewing these things about. What I have been telling people is, the whole should be more than the sum of the parts. You know, if the proposal reads like it is just a collection of semi-independent projects that , that is not likely to be competitive , all of the projects should somehow be helping to address the big overarching question.

Okay, the next question is, how is the Institute different from NSF STC in terms of scientific structure and education goals?

$2.5 million per year. That will be smaller. We use it as a model. There are other programs out there, like the STC Center, which is the same level of this award. Much smaller. We expect the goals to be, you know, smaller than the STC

Here's another one. If you submit a Design track this year, and it is awarded with subsequent Implementation track the following year, does the Design track PI need to be also the Implementation track PI? No. It does not have to be the same. Because, these are completely separate competitions

What is the projected timeline for the next round of Implementation grants? Should we expect calls for Implementation every year if funding allows?

What am I allowed to say here -- [ Laughter ]

So, the exact timeline we do not know. I mean, we are projecting that this would be multiple years , all, always, that could always change. Um. For now, the general plan is this would go on at least a few years , and, um, the calendar may shift , um, just keep your eye out for the next version of the solicitation. >> Let's talk to Michelle and see if she has questions on the line?

Thank you. we have a few questions. Samuel Rodriguez, please go ahead, Sir.

Hello, good morning. My question is, where the Design track proposals. Do you need results from prior NSF support on the project description? Thank you.

The proposal guidelines say to include only named sections . So, that is what we expected to include. So, the answer is no.

All right, thank you.

Thank you we have one more question. You may go ahead.

Yes, my question is about the Design track of the grant. That is up to $200,000. I was wondering, what kind of activities can that support? Like, the travel to conferences or meetings ? Can you give us some examples for that?

Um, we don't expect you to use it as a means of funding travel to conferences. But, if you associate that with a meeting or the potential coinvestigators, then, that could make a lot of sense. Um, you could certainly use those funds for holding, um, workshops that look at use cases and examine questions and get coordination more tightly . So, I think, um, it is up to you to put , to list the activities that you want to pursue, in terms of designing.

Okay, thank you.

Michelle, are there other questions?

Once again, if you have a question or comment, you may press \* 1.

Okay, so we have more questions coming in to the Q and a panel. Do you know where we are?

Did I understand you correctly, projects can include disciplines beyond biology? The review panel is drawn solely from biological sciences. How will they be reviewed then?

What we are trying to do, is give as good of a review process as possible with people who have broad expertise . If you write a very narrow proposal , you know, you're not doing yourself a service . >>, But the panel will probably include people who are not allergists. I mean, obviously, that will depend upon the scope of the proposals. That is part of what we are going to use the letters of intent for, is to find out what, um, the set of disciplines are, and, um, if we need expertise outside of biology, those people can be on the panel.

Okay, the next question , the Design track looks like it is more to explore ideas. So, does it need to have a clear set of projects?

No.

It is an exploration by bringing in a think tank, something you are also interested in funding?

So, the Design the proposal has to have a clear plan for how to get to an Implementation proposal. That is the point of the Design track . Is that, at the end, you're going to be able to submit an Implementation proposal. So, what is it that you need to do to get there, and we will look at your plan and say, does that seem like a reasonable pathway to that goal?

So, the next question is about restrictions on international collaboration -- international collaboration or participation. We have an external advisory board. Can we include particpants From Canada and Switzerland? What about China? The external advisory board is generally a good idea for a project this size. Um, you can include international participants, but there are limits on what we can find in terms of what those international participants can do. We can pay for their travel in some cases. Um. We can pay for their travel to meetings in the U.S. and we can pay for travel from the U.S. to other countries, but we cannot pay for travel from one third-party country to another third-party country. There are limitations on how um, international collaborators, participants , can participate and be funded. You can certainly include scientists from Canada and Switzerland and even China. But, take into account, the limitations that we have in terms of funding , um, international participants.

And I would say, if, at the point that you are preparing the budget for your proposal, and you are planning on including international collaborators, call one of us , because, how the budget then has to be structured can get complicated.

And just to add, one more thing on that, it is generally, we generally operate on a principal that collaborators from other countries pay their own way and certainly look for developed countries.

Michelle, do you have anyone on the line?

I have a few callers. Adrian, you may go ahead.

Hello. I was wondering about working either in the Arctic or Antarctica. For the logistics, would that be cosponsored bipolar programs and how does that work exactly?

So, and hi, if this does involve, especially Antarctica, then, certainly, we would have to coordinate with other programs for those logistics. For the Arctic, um, it is a little, obviously, it is a little looser. Yes, if you're planning on doing work in the Antarctic, then, um, we would be coordinating through polar programs. -- Fuller programs . They have not committed any funding to the program. It is the thing to take into account. They would have to be ad hoc mechanisms. And, think of it also, as somewhat like ship time.

Thank you.

Thank you the next question comes from Mandy Joy. You may go ahead.

Hello, good afternoon. I have a question about graduate education programs. Are there any general guidelines for the amount of money to support the training part of the program as opposed to the research part of the program. Or do we just eyeball it and balance it? I wonder if there is program expectation 25% of the program toward graduate education.

Every case is different. It depends on what educational activities you are proposing. It would have to be an important component of the plan.

And, would it be acceptable, one of our ideas is to have international graduate research exchanges with China and Germany to sort of expand the expertise and instrumentation accessible to graduate students. That were not involved, um, that would all be done in kind on our collaborators' end. We would budget travel for the students on a stipend. I don't think there is any issue [ Indiscernible ] Correct?

No.

Thank you

Thank you. Our next question comes from Janine. You may go ahead.

I think you answered it mostly. Online. I wanted to follow up on the international collaboration and and getting a little bit of mixed-signal on what can be funded internationally and whatnot and which countries might be okay to participate in which not. It sounds like it is okay that >> Hello, Janine. This is Sam. Just give me a call. We can talk about it.

That sounds good.

That is where it starts to get very complicated.

Okay.

Thank you. our next question. You may go ahead.

Yes, hello. I just want classification on the Design track versus the Implementation part. Because if you look at the budget, it is about $400,000 for the Design, leading into the Implementation project. Now, with that level of budget for the Design project be able to adequately result in a sound instrument Implementation project of any ideas in terms of, you gave us ideas of fraud topics for the limitation projects could there -- even if we had ideas, with that kind of budget be able to cover -- I just want to, you know, do good work. That is one of the reasons I'm asking this question.

Right. This is Joanna Shisler. Design projects are capped at $200,000. Really, the whole point of this is, more for you guys to get, for you and your colleagues, to get together to , too, flesh out what an Implementation grant proposal would look like. And, I'm going to ask you to go ahead and email me. We can set up a phone call. I would be happy to talk to about that.

Absolutely. Thank you so much.

Okay.

We have another question. Would you like to take that?

Go ahead, yes.

Lou, you may go ahead.

The solicitation, for the Design proposal, Can it lead to discovering a unifying principle? I am curious how important it is to go toward that goal and also, the second question is, if you already have in the past research led to some theoretical study that can unify, or basically theoretically demonstrates to unify the field of research, then you can probably use that theory to do integration of a data concept and that there is and the models. With that get approval?

Yes, using the overall , overarching theoretical framework, as a way of drawing together all the individual components is an excellent way to create those kinds of synergies. So, in fact, I would hope that, um, all the projects would have some overarching theoretical framework. >> Let's go to some of the written questions in the Q&A.

It is important to show ability of the Institute beyond the period of NSF support?

No.

These are funded 10 years, 5 years, with a potential for a 5 year noncompetitive renewal. And, that is it.

>> Can you use the design track to get seed funding? Yes, maybe you want to get two groups together that may not have collaborated in the past. It may want to start getting some preliminary data on that. Yes, you can use the Design money for whatever activities you need to be able to be competitive for the Implementation award. Or proposal.

Okay, next question, following on the immigration, is it fair to say structuring -- many FTC's, for similar components and management? Sam says, yes.

[ Indiscernible - speaker too far away ] [ Indiscernible ]

For those of you who are familiar with STC, that is, think of these as half-size as the STC. We expect you to have community outreach plans among your colleagues. We expect some level of project management to coordinate what you are doing on a day-to-day , weekly, monthly basis. And to do that effectively. So, the next question is, for assessment --

we have already answered that.

Okay. We answer that.

So, do what you need to do. You be you.

Next question, I am having trouble connecting. Does the program require space to be identified ?

Certainly for the Design Institute, no. For the Implementation, um,

you know, it is more about convincing reviewers that you're going to be highly interactive , um, and, so, so that is all a matter of what position you're in, right?

Right. Well, and, remember, the awards are going to be made , um, by next summer, which means that, we are expecting you to start work come September, October , which means, that you have to have some kind of stated plan.

It does not have to be, it could be anything from, if there are a lot of labs on a particular campus that are applying for this as an integration Institute, and they show how close they are together, that would be fun. Or if you have different people from different institutions, but you show that you have a track record of doing joint lab meetings, or, you know, hosting workshops , then that could help reviewers, too. I think, at the end of the day, what any reviewer wants to see is that this is a group that is truly cohesive, and is going to be working together.

Do applicants have to pay the cost for the reverse site visit travel? The answer is, yes, except, all the trouble will be virtual. So, the reverse site visits will be done virtually. There will be no travel costs.

[ Laughter ]

Melissa, are there any questions on the phone?

At this time, I am showing no further questions. Again, that is \* 1 if you would like to ask a question.

Okay.

Okay, so can already established research centers at universities apply? What about personnel, in multiple biological departments in the University with diversity of goals both common and individual, as good candidates for BII.

Sure.

Yes, as long as you can show you are addressing a broad, overarching goal, the Institute can be something brand-new, it can be something that is already established, it can be some combination thereof . You know, if it is going to expand or span across institutions, it is more likely to be something new. But, even an existing collaboration could be coming in.

The groups do not need to be at the same location.

No, they don't need to be in the same location. You can have virtual participation in your Institute. But it must be coordinated and you must be compelling in the way you describe how you are going to do that.

There are a few questions in here about the subprojects and deliverables. Um, some about how much interdependency there should be between subprojects. It should be wholly integrated and interdependent, especially [ Indiscernible ] On the others, or is each able to stand alone even if they benefit from the other. And they, along the same lines, there are questions on, should he be more of an exploration like think tank style, or specifically [ Indiscernible ] Projects?

Okay.

The way you architect your Institute is up to you. But, you will have to convince the reviewers and the program that you have done it in an effective way, that is, again, not to repeat a cliché, but I will, um, the sum has to be , the whole has to be more than the sum of the parts. Again, if it comes across as separate , independent projects, that could be funded as separate, independent projects and have the same value, then we don't see a point in having an Institute to do that. But, if there is a strong synergy that you get from integrating and having connections to these activities, then, yes, by all means.

That does not necessarily mean they have to build on each other. For example, they could be all asking the same question in different sets of organisms. For example, that would be one where the projects themselves are independent, but the results of those projects come together in a way that answers a bigger question. And, so, the synergy could be by that overarching question, rather than because the pieces themselves necessarily interlock . On the other hand, the think tank thing, you still have to have a research question and some sort of clear project. If it is just, well we will all sit around and think about some big question, um, and maybe come up with some projects in the future, that is not likely to be competitive.

A quick question here , can't universities submit to both tracks with different PIs?

Yes.

The only limitation is, a person can only be a PI Or the co-PI on one of those proposals. But you could be a PI on one proposal and another senior personnel on another proposal.

If you said the disciplines outside of biology, are okay, but how far outside?

Whatever you need to go back to answer your big, beautiful, biology question in a meaningful way. We are not limiting you. Just make sure that , if you are going to bring in, you know, an astronaut, that your good rationale for bringing in an astronaut. That you have good rationale for bringing in an astronaut.

There is a question about preferences for proposals: do they need to be a senior faculty member?

Um, not necessarily. But, we will be judging the likelihood that whoever is the PI is able to manage a project of this scope. and, whoever they are, senior or junior or whatever, um, some kind of evidence of management , managerial experience would be very useful.

>> Michelle, do we have any more questions on the line?

Yes, sir, we have a few. You may go ahead, sir.

Thank you I am still a little confused about the complexities of international work. So, we have a field site in Ecuador that is one of the richest dialogical regions in the world. But, it involves quite an international array of people working there and also , much of the expense is there. So, can you give me some guidance on how that would be looked upon?

So, -- richest biological regions in the world.

So, you need to call us and talk about your individual circumstances. But, in general, um, in my division , the Department of biology, we find a lot of international research, a lot of fieldwork, in all kinds of countries . And, yes, there are a whole array of very allowable expenses when you do that. So, um, yeah,

so, contact me.

Okay, thank you. I did have one other question. Um, is there a limit on the number of the institutes that can be at a particular university? We have a very large campus here. So, there might be more than one entity interested in applying.

No limit.

Okay, thank you.

Thank you.

Can you have only one PI and everybody else is considered co-PIs , or can you have two or more lead PIs and then co-PIs? The answer is, there will only be one lead PI. One PI, because we are only accepting proposals , and then everything else under that must be a subaward he. So, you can have one PI and up to 4 co-PIs, and then, an unknown number of other senior personnel. And everything else under that will be subawardees .

One more question, you may go ahead.

Biology director, on the [ Indiscernible ] Have very successfully funded [ Indiscernible ]. We did it many years ago. Would this Biology Integration Institutes be different from that synthesis? If so, in which way?

Yes, synthesis centers are a very different sort of beast. Because, they are not focused around research projects. They are actually enabling centers for working groups and others to do a bunch of different mini projects. That is not what this is. This is a research, these are institutes that are research focused for a given institution, there is a core research question, that is being addressed.

So, what if , I have this one core question. We still use the successful integration approaches. We solicit the community anticipation. Under one theme.

No. That is not what we are looking for here. Where we are looking for a research Institute

um, that is going to be working on a problem with a, um, and the proposal is opposed to common with a set of projects that are going to be addressed within that Institute. So, no, it should not be, um, thought of as a version of one of these synthesis centers.

So it is a lot like a community effort?

Not in that same way, no. Can I talk with you over the phone for more When you are finished with this?

Yes, send me an email. This is Sam Scheiner. Okay, thank you.

We have another question, what evidence is needed to provide managerial experience ? Well, I mean, first of all, getting one of these out the door and having it submitted Is great evidence. But, of course, getting your team together, um, for the reverse Site Visit. It is another indication of , that you are able to be managerial. So, if you're asking, oh my gosh, I have not had managerial experience before, can I still apply? The answer is, yes. Just think about all the ways that you have managed large programs, or how you're going to manage this one.

And there is a section on the proposal that talks about how you're going to manage the Institute . You can be convincing about the methods , your management methods, your strategies for managing, in that section.

Michelle, do we have any more questions on the phone?

At this time, I am showing no further questions.

DO you expect proposals to span ecosystems? Can they focus on a singular Marine or terrestrial organism?

A single ecosystem is fine. Or could be multiple ones. Again, it just depends on what the central question is, and, what sort of formation you want to apply to that question.

It has to be interdisciplinary. But, in terms of the organisms and , um, ecosystems, that is completely up for grabs .

Do we receive an official approval after submitting our LOI, that will be needed for initiating the full proposal?

We will check to make sure you really did submit an LOI. If you submitted the Implementation proposal. Don't think you can submit it without submitting the LOI and get away with it.

This one question goes back to information on shovel ready. That specifically, how much previous experience together should a team have?

Once again, you know, there is no right answer here. The whole point is, for you to be able to write a proposal, we are, a reviewer is going to be convinced that there has been enough interaction, the you guys are actually going to keep on working together. Right? Um, and, and, so, it is hard to define other than, it is hard to define for us. It is more, for you to tell the story of how

you built these relationships.

Right. And, in fact, we are hoping that these institutes lead to new collaborations. So, it is perfectly okay for this to be a collection of new collaborators . And, in reading the proposal, we will get a sense of, are you actually coordinating? Um, I will just say, I have handled these sorts of proposals before. You can often tell when you read the proposal, whether or not it actually is one coherent document, versus, um, five different documents that were simply stapled together.

We have one more question on the Q&A. Um, what extent is resource development a favorable ingredient? Resource development -- [ Laughter ] -- It is part of what is described in the solicitation. Um, we expect you to leverage existing resources, infrastructure that NSF and your institution Afford. There can be positive outcomes, too. But, you still must do this in the context of a research framework, a research and training framework. So, that part, um, is essential . But, the way you wrap it up and put it together, is where you have to be convincing.

This question on here is asking you to elaborate on new training paradigms.

Okay. We are all open to new training paradigms . And, we are even more open to those which, which have data showing that they work.

Um, this question is about an external evaluator required for the assessment of the education training and outreach components. If so, what percentage of the budget Is appropriate?

So, external assessment, well, assessment is critical. Whether that assessment is done internal to the project or you bring in someone external, very much is going to depend on your individual circumstances. Um, and you know, what sort of resources are available, as far as, the amount of budget, that is going to depend on circumstances.

So, there is another question up on the Q&A. In terms of leveraging NSF funds, is it best to document cost share, or is this not necessary? In fact, it is prohibited to document cost sharing. So, don't do that in your proposal. You can demonstrate institutional commitment in your facilities document , um, that is where you should do it. But, those typically do not have dollar amounts associated with them.

Michelle, is there anybody else left on the line?

Once again, that is \* 1 if you would like to ask a question.

The question here is, if you have never done an implementation Proposal, do you have any tips on how to do these management plans or are they only for senior PIs, is there any training tracks

My suggestion would be to , when Doing an Implementation grant for BII , go find other colleagues of yours who have done these types of large proposals and start talking to them. Um, so you can understand, um, what the expectation level is. I hope that answers your question.

Um, this question is, can the ecosystem be a human documented system?

Yes. Anything is fair game.

Um, if, if no one has read out your question yet, and you somehow got messed, -- if, if, please press \* 1 to ask it, that would be great. >>

In the meantime, I will point out, my email address is spelled incorrectly on the last slide that has been up there the last hour or so. My name my email address is Reed Beaman rsbeaman@nsf.gov. My colleagues are happy to answer your questions as well.

Yes, please reach out to us , um, after this is over. We will be happy to address any additional questions or talk about specifics with you.

We have one more question on the audio side. Did you want to take that?

Yes.

Absolutely.

Many, you may go ahead.

Hello. I was following up on the last question. Reading over the solicitation, it appears to be similar to what the NIH has an what they call program projects, where it is expected that each team or lab that participates has kind of a solo R01 project they can write up. I wonder if that is why the limit is now 25 pages instead of the usual 16 pages . Even though in the description for the full proposal, those pages are well outlined.

I will just say, we do not copy what NIH does in the way we develop our solicitations. That is a coincidence. So, I suggest that you just, read through the solicitation and follow it as guidance.

Okay. Thank you.

You are welcome.

There is a question where they ask you to explain more about the history of the program.

[ Laughter ]

Um , yes, this reintegrating biology is one of the main topics of discussion here at the directorate for biological sciences. At the same time, we have this solicitation, there is another program going on in which you may have already heard, integrating -- reintegrating biology.

[ Laughter ]

And we , there will be in person meetings. Those two activities are happening at the same time.

And the other thing I would like to say, do not forget , this directorate has been thinking about reintegrating biology for a while now. It is one of the reasons that we have the rules of life called out for the directorate. Reintegrating biology. When I think about it, I like thinking about that you have your Design Implementation grants at one end of the scale. You have designed at one end of the scale. Your Implementation is at the other. Then you have rules Of life in the middle. You figure out what is best for your group in wrapping up. For one of these large integration Implementation proposals. I think rules of life is a nice stepping stone.

Michelle, are there any other questions on the line?

At this time, I am showing no further questions.

Well, one more.

This question is on any comments from supporting objectives to incorporate minorities, etc.?

With the incorporation of, broaden participation is a , an important factor , for the foundation. So, yes, and activities that can involve members from underrepresented groups or, for institutions, the [ Indiscernible ], HBCU, hispanic serving institutions, etc., -- HBCUs -- will be well received. And encouraged.

Okay. If there is nobody else on Michelle's line who wants to ask a question, and there are no other questions, which means we have other board everybody stiff or you all have all of the knowledge you need to go write one of these. If you have questions, you know how to reach out to us. We wish you a good afternoon and good luck. We have either bored everyone -- >> We look forward to your letters of intent.

Letters of intent, December 20.

Have a good afternoon.

Michelle, we are finish.

Thank you. This concludes today's conference call. You may go ahead and disconnect at this time.

[ MUSIC PLAYING ]

[ Event Concluded ]