

# Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) Virtual Office Hour

**Today's topic:  
Early Career Investigators**

Welcome to the DEB Virtual Office Hour.  
We will begin soon.

Please submit questions via the Q&A  
button available to you on ZOOM.  
Please set to "Send anonymously"

# Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) Virtual Office Hour – Welcome!

## Program Officers in attendance today

- Matt Herron – Evolutionary Processes (mherron@nsf.gov)
- Kendra McLauchlan – Ecosystem Sciences (kmclauch@nsf.gov)
- Heather Throop- Ecosystem Sciences (hthroop@nsf.gov)
- Diana Pilson- Population and Community Ecology (dpilson@nsf.gov)
- Bruce Lieberman- Systematics and Biodiversity Science (blieberm@nsf.gov)
- Sam Scheiner- Evolutionary Processes (sscheine@nsf.gov)

**Facilitators** – Christina Washington, Bill Lawson, and Megan Lewis



# Recent Solicitations and DCLs

Find links to all recent solicitations and Dear Colleague Letters at the bottom of the DEB webpage (WebSearch: NSF DEB) under Funding Opportunities and Popular Links

**Remember** – Core DEB solicitation (NSF 21-504) has no deadlines and no submission limits.

- [NSF 21-543](#) – Integrative Research in Biology - **Deadline March. 16**
- [NSF 21-546](#) – Enhancing Discovery through GENomics Tools (EDGE) – **Deadline March 16**
- [NSF 21-545](#) – Dimensions of Biodiversity- **Deadline March 26**
- [NSF 21-549](#) – Center for Advancement and Synthesis of Open Environmental Data and Sciences – **LOI Deadline April 1**
- [NSF 20-564](#) – Opportunities for Promoting Understanding through Synthesis (OPUS)- **Deadline Aug. 2**
- [NSF 19-582](#) – Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)- **Deadline Aug. 25**
- [DCL 21-021](#) – Career-Life Balance Supplement
- [DCL 20-038](#) – Developing New Research Collaborations Between Evolutionary Biologists and LTER Scientists
- [DCL 20-033](#) – Developing and Supporting the National Ecology Observatory Network (NEON) User Community



# DEB Virtual Office Hour

- DEB Office Hours: second Monday of each month, 1-2 pm Eastern
- Today: Early Career Investigators

## Upcoming Topics:

April 12: Getting to know the Division of Biological Infrastructure:  
Opportunities and Priorities

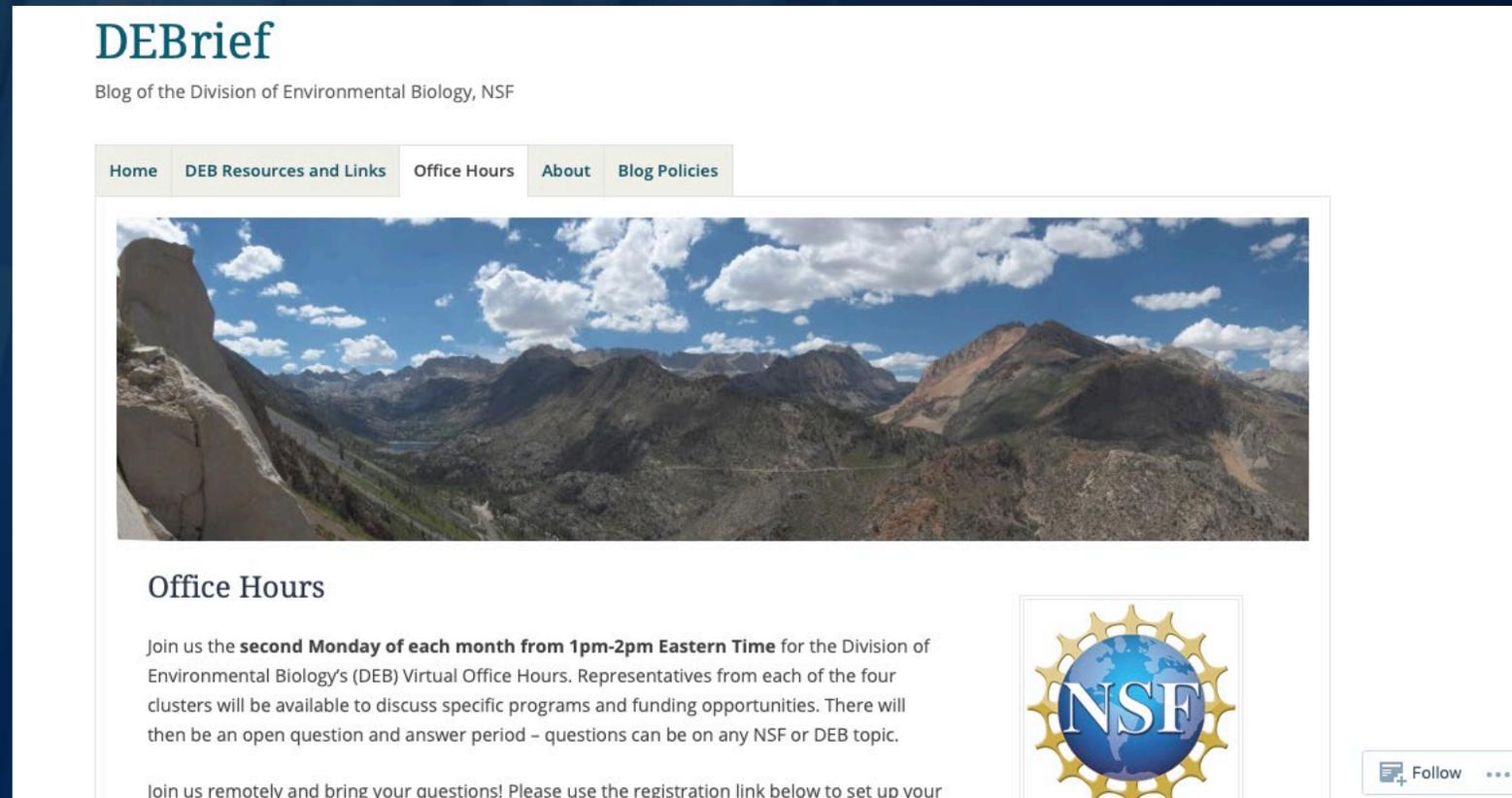
May 10: CAREER

June 14: How to write a great proposal



# DEB Office Hours webpage has upcoming topics, registration, and recap posts

<https://deblog.nsfbio.com/office-hours/>



The screenshot shows the DEB Brief webpage. At the top, the title "DEB Brief" is displayed in a teal font, with the subtitle "Blog of the Division of Environmental Biology, NSF" below it. A navigation menu includes "Home", "DEB Resources and Links", "Office Hours", "About", and "Blog Policies". The main content area features a large landscape photograph of a mountain range under a blue sky with white clouds. Below the photo, the heading "Office Hours" is followed by a paragraph: "Join us the **second Monday of each month from 1pm-2pm Eastern Time** for the Division of Environmental Biology's (DEB) Virtual Office Hours. Representatives from each of the four clusters will be available to discuss specific programs and funding opportunities. There will then be an open question and answer period – questions can be on any NSF or DEB topic." To the right of the text is the NSF logo, which consists of a blue globe with the letters "NSF" in white, surrounded by a golden gear-like border. At the bottom of the text block, there is a "Follow" button with a plus icon and three dots.



# DEB Virtual Office Hour

## Questions:

- Submit your questions via the Q&A box on your screen and set to “Send anonymously”
- For recently asked questions and future office hour topics, see the DEB blog (<https://deblog.nsfbio.com/>)
- For specific questions about your project, please contact a Program Officer



# Ecosystem Science is searching for a rotator

- Rotators are very important to the NSF mission, joining NSF on a short-term basis (1-3 years).
- Flexible start date of August 2021 through 2023.
- If you or someone you know might be interested in serving in this important role at NSF, please read the posting and apply at <https://beta.nsf.gov/careers/openings/bio/bio-18-001>



# Search for funding opportunities

## Step 1: search nsf.gov

The screenshot shows the NSF website homepage. At the top left is the NSF logo with the tagline "WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". To the right, there is an "Operating Status" indicator set to "OPEN" and a search bar. A navigation bar contains links for "Research Areas", "Funding", "Awards", "Document Library", "News", and "About NSF". The "Funding" menu is open, displaying a list of research areas: Biological Sciences (BIO), Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), Education and Human Resources (EHR), Engineering (ENG), Environmental Research and Education (ERE), Geosciences (GEO), Integrative Activities (OIA), International Science and Engineering (OISE), Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), and Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE). To the right of the menu are "RELATED LINKS" for Interdisciplinary Research, NSF Organization List, Staff Directory, and Understanding NSF Research. The main content area features a "SCIENCE NATION" banner for "Better batteries made with sodium" with a "FULL STORY" button. Below this is an "Inspiring & Educating" section with three news items: "Genetic mutation drives tumor regression in Tasmanian Devils" (November 28, 2018), "Easy to use 3D bioprinting technique creates lifelike tissues from natural materials" (November 28, 2018), and "Light-activated, single-ion catalyst breaks down carbon dioxide" (November 26, 2018).

www.nsf.gov

The sidebar titled "FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES" contains a search section with a text input field "Enter search term" and a "GO" button. Below it is a section "or Search by Program Area" with a dropdown menu "Select One" and a "GO" button. At the bottom of the sidebar is a large orange button labeled "VIEW ALL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES" with a right-pointing arrow. Below the sidebar are links for "Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide", "Prepare a Proposal", "Upcoming Due Dates", and "Submit Proposal to FastLane".



# Search for funding opportunities

## Step 2: subscribe to our blogs

### DEBrief

Blog of the Division of Environmental Biology, NSF

[Home](#) [DEB Resources and Links](#) [Office Hours](#) [About](#) [Blog Policies](#)



DEBrief

MARCH 1, 2021 BY DEB SCIENCE STAFF

#### Upcoming Virtual Office Hours: Early Career Researchers

Join us **Monday, March 8th** from 1-2PM EST for DEB's next Virtual Office Hour. Program Officers will provide information for Early Career Researchers. Representatives from each DEB cluster will be available for questions.

To participate, please use the registration link below. Upcoming DEB Virtual Office Hours are announced ahead of time on DEBrief, so we suggest you also sign up for blog notifications.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



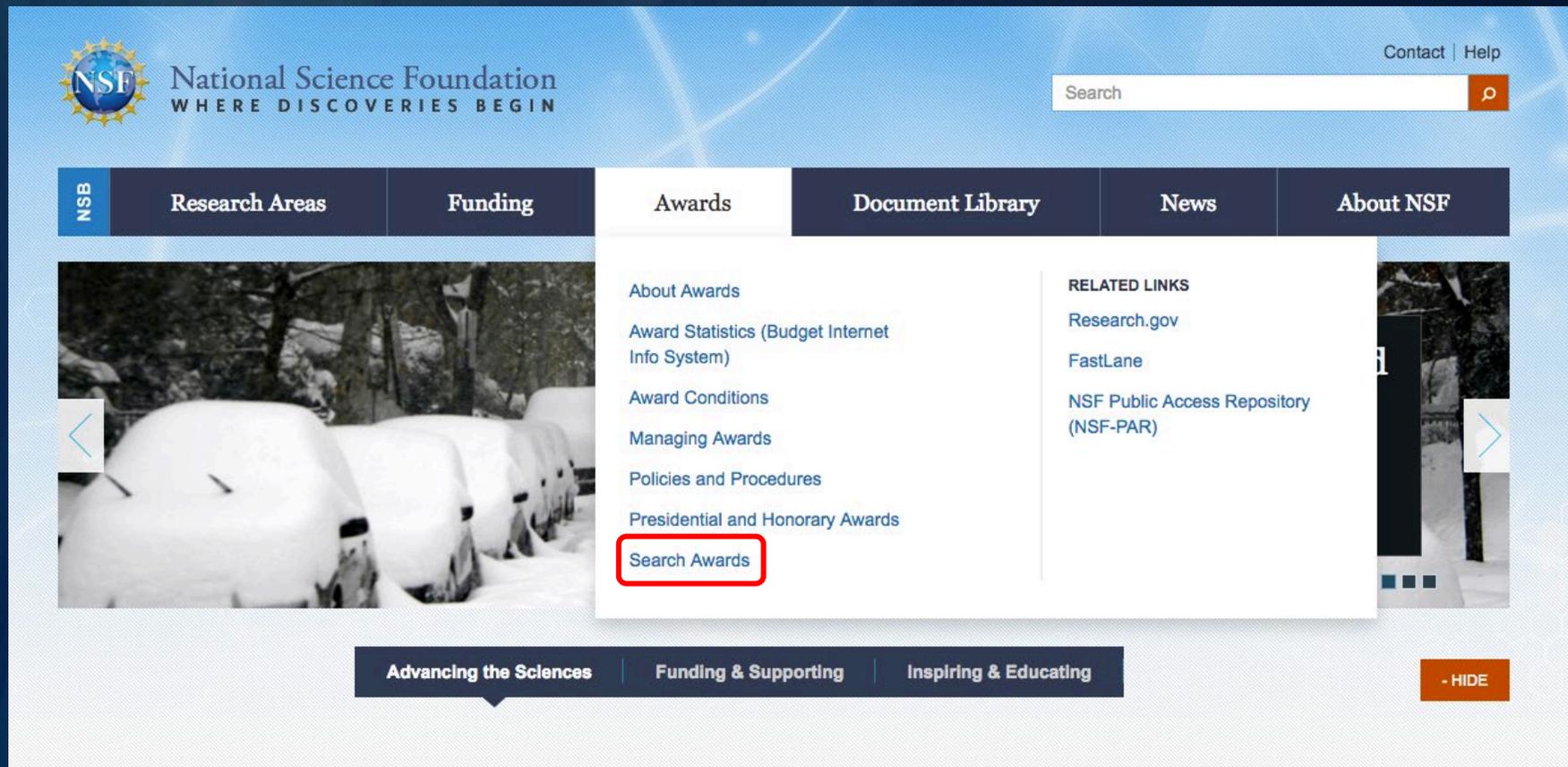
## BIO BUZZ

BLOG OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION'S DIRECTORATE FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES,  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR



# Where does your research fit?

## Step 1: online award search



The screenshot displays the National Science Foundation (NSF) website. At the top left is the NSF logo with the tagline "National Science Foundation WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". To the right is a search bar and "Contact | Help" links. A navigation bar below features tabs for "Research Areas", "Funding", "Awards", "Document Library", "News", and "About NSF". The "Awards" tab is active, showing a dropdown menu with the following options: "About Awards", "Award Statistics (Budget Internet Info System)", "Award Conditions", "Managing Awards", "Policies and Procedures", "Presidential and Honorary Awards", and "Search Awards". The "Search Awards" option is highlighted with a red rectangle. To the right of the menu is a "RELATED LINKS" section with links to "Research.gov", "FastLane", and "NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR)". Below the navigation bar is a footer with the text "Advancing the Sciences | Funding & Supporting | Inspiring & Educating" and a "- HIDE" button.



# Where does your research fit?

## Step 2: contact a Program Officer

Home > Funding > Biological Sciences > Environmental Biology Email Print Share

### Evolutionary Processes Cluster (EP)

CONTACTS

Name	Email	Phone	Room
Samuel M. Scheiner	<a href="mailto:sscheine@nsf.gov">sscheine@nsf.gov</a>	(703) 292-7175	W12134
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Francisco (Paco) B. Moore	<a href="mailto:fbmoore@nsf.gov">fbmoore@nsf.gov</a>	(703) 292-5376	
Christopher Balakrishnan	<a href="mailto:cbalakri@nsf.gov">cbalakri@nsf.gov</a>	(703) 292-2331	W12182
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SYNOPSIS

The **Evolutionary Processes Cluster** supports research that makes inference about micro- and macroevolutionary processes and their consequences, over any addressable spatial or temporal scale. The cluster addresses evolutionary processes at multiple levels including: 1) the genome and epigenome; 2) the phenotype; 3) intraspecific evolution and adaptation, including life history evolution; 4) the evolutionary genetics and evolutionary ecology of lineage divergence and speciation; 5) interspecific interactions and evolution (e.g., hybridization; parasitism; etc.); and 6) biogeography. We encourage both empirical and theoretical approaches. Projects should address one or more fundamental questions of broad significance that will substantially advance science.

Develop a two-pager  
to communicate  
your project idea

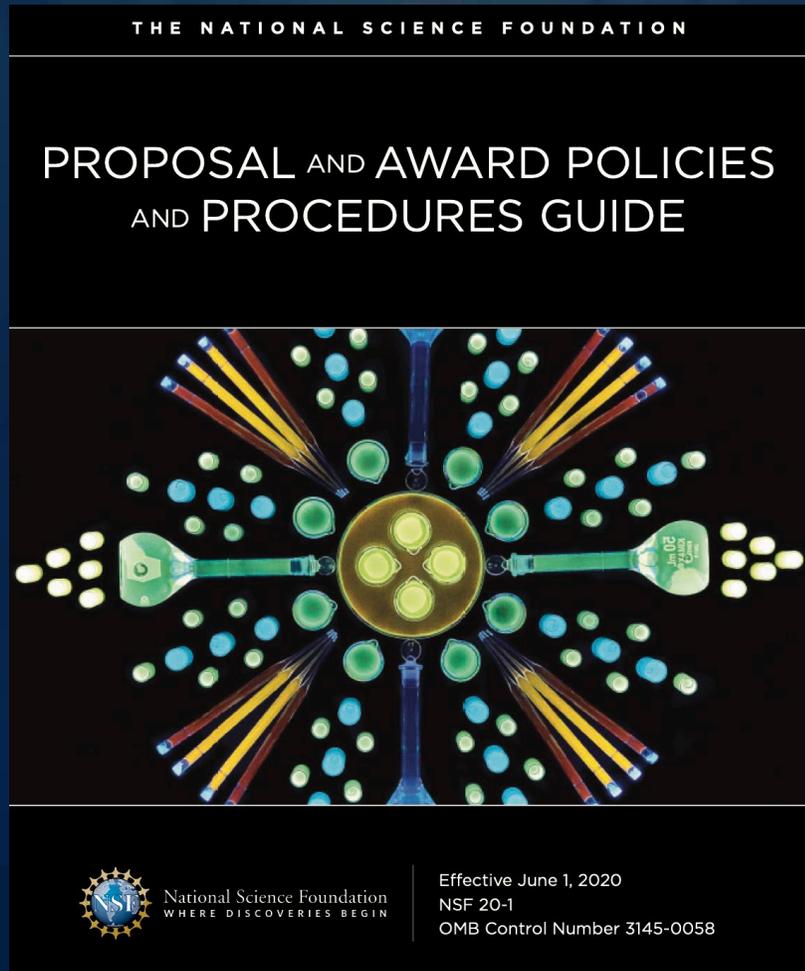


# What if your project fits in 2+ programs?

- Many projects are multidisciplinary
- We as Program Officers are committed to:
  - trying our best to find the best home for any proposal submitted
  - the inclusivity of all good ideas
- One benefit of co-review, beyond sharing financially, is that the PI will benefit from feedback from a broad community



# Essential Documents - PAPPG



- Provides guidance for preparation and submission of proposals to NSF
  - Who can submit proposals?
  - What is allowed in the budget?
  - Format + required documents
- Describes process by which proposals will be reviewed
- Outlines reasons why a proposal may be returned without review

NSF 20-1

# Essential Documents - Solicitation

## Division of Environmental Biology (core programs) (DEB)

### PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 21-504

### REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):

NSF 20-502



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Biological Sciences  
Division of Environmental Biology

### Full Proposal Deadline(s):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

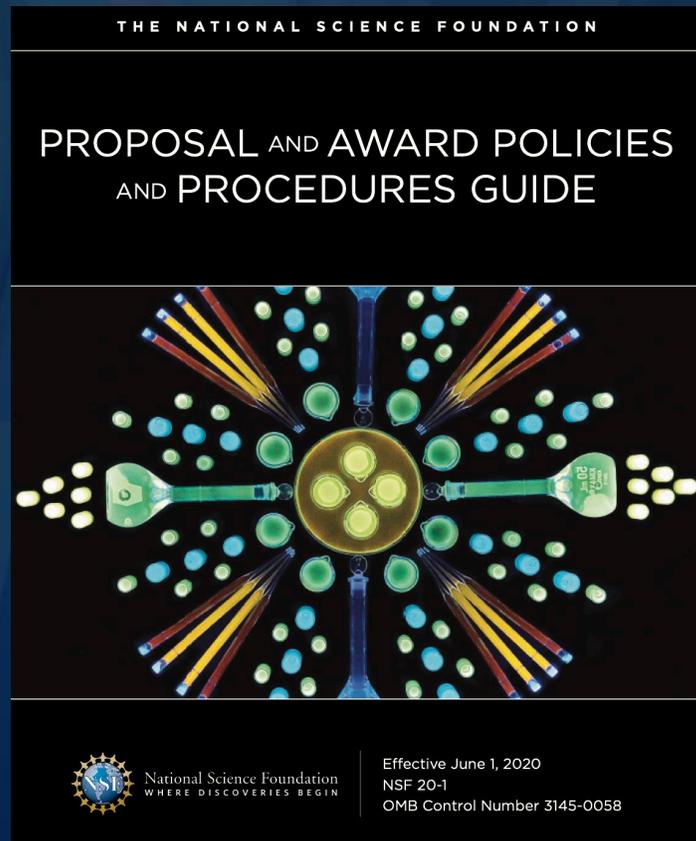
Innovating and migrating proposal preparation and submission capabilities from FastLane to Research.gov is part of the ongoing NSF information technology modernization efforts, as described in [Important Notice No. 147](#). In support of these efforts, the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) is now requiring the use of Research.gov for the preparation and submission of proposals in response to its core programs that do not have deadline dates (see Dear Colleague Letter [NSF 20-129](#)). As such, full research proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation must be prepared and submitted via Research.gov. Proposals also may continue to be submitted via use of Grants.gov.

NSF is taking proactive steps to move the preparation and submission of all proposals from FastLane to Research.gov, however until capabilities are fully implemented, the other types of proposals outlined in Chapter II.E of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), as well as accomplishment-based renewal proposals, must be prepared and submitted via FastLane or Grants.gov in accordance with the applicable guidance contained in the PAPPG or the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide*.

- Deadline / Target Date
- Synopsis (do you belong?)
- Program Directors
- Eligibility (are you/your institution allowed in this program?)
- Budget limitations
- Special criteria, pre-proposal or Letter of Intent?
- How much money do they have, how many awards do they expect?



# Essential Documents



## Division of Environmental Biology (core programs) (DEB)

### PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 21-504

### REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):

NSF 20-502



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Biological Sciences  
Division of Environmental Biology

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**PAPPG**

+

**Solicitation**



# Merit Review Process

1. Deadline/Target Date/No Deadline



2. Ad hoc review and/or



3. Panel



4. PD makes recommendation

***Note that this varies across NSF, even within BIO!***



# Merit Review Criteria

- **Intellectual Merit (IM):**  
the potential to advance knowledge
- **Broader Impacts (BI):**  
the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes



# 5 Review Elements

IM

BI

1. Will the work advance knowledge, and benefit society?
2. Is the work creative? even potentially transformative?
3. Does the work plan make sense? Will they know if they're successful?
4. Is the team qualified to do what they propose?
5. Do they have the right lab, or know the right people?



# Broader Impacts: Benefitting Society

**Teaching, training,  
and learning  
(undergrads + grad  
students)**

**Broaden  
participation of  
underrepresented  
groups**

**Build or enhance  
partnerships  
(internationally, or  
with other  
agencies)**

**Broad  
dissemination to  
enhance scientific  
+ technological  
understanding**

**Enhance  
infrastructure  
(labs, equipment, +  
work  
in developing  
countries)**

**Local impacts  
(policies @ state +  
local level)**



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