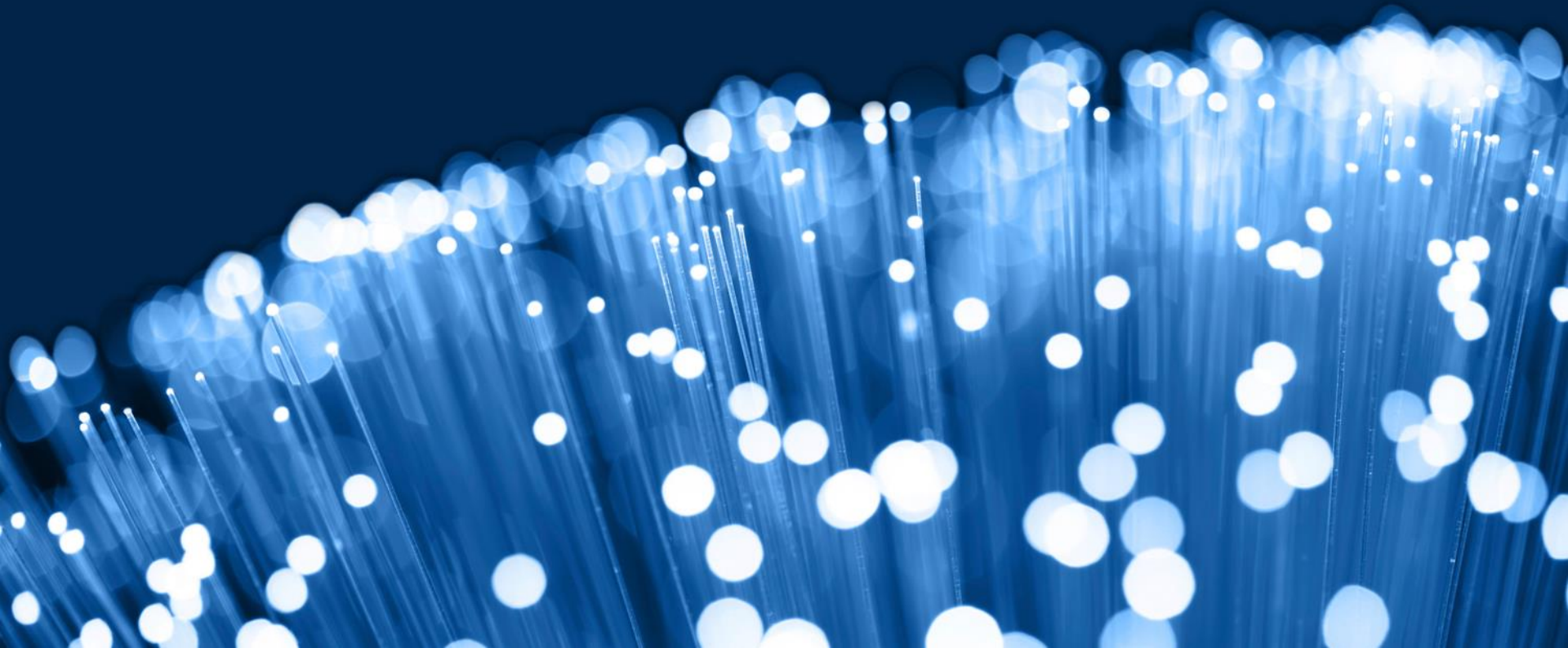




# Historically Black Colleges and Universities Excellence in Research

Webinar

December 11, 2017



# HBCU Excellence in Research (EiR)

- The new **HBCU Excellence in Research (EiR)** component supports projects that enable STEM and STEM education faculty at HBCUs **to conduct research** and to further develop research capacity.
- Faculty interested in support for institutional or departmental efforts to improve STEM education should apply to other HBCU-UP tracks or other EHR programs.
- Faculty with no prior research funding or who have held no external research funding in the last three years should consider applying to the Research Initiation Awards track.



# Two Important Documents

The HBCU-UP program solicitation, NSF 18-522, is available at:

[https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?WT.z\\_pi\\_ms\\_id=5481&ods\\_key=nsf18522](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pi_ms_id=5481&ods_key=nsf18522)

The Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide NSF 18-1, which contains the Grant Proposal Guide, is available at:

[https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf18001](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf18001)



# NSF Organizations Participating in EiR

- Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO),
- Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
- Directorate for Engineering (ENG),
- Directorate for Geosciences (GEO),
- Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS),
- Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE),
- and the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA).



# Types of Proposals Accepted by EiR

1) Collaborative projects of up to \$1,000,000\* to build and support the development of research capacity at HBCUs. Budget support may include, but is not limited to: release time to enable faculty members to conduct research; visits by faculty members to laboratories at other institutions to learn new methods and techniques; support for research and faculty professional development; support for post-doctoral fellows and students; acquisition or upgrading of research equipment; and collaborative research efforts with partner universities, research laboratories, and national laboratories.



# Types of Proposals Accepted by EiR

1 cont.) Supported projects must have a research focus in one of the research areas supported by NSF, and a direct connection to the long-term plans of the host department(s) and the institutional mission. It should be clearly articulated how the project expands institutional research capacity. Proposers are encouraged to establish a research collaboration with one or more additional HBCU partner institutions to work with faculty and to build and expand research capacity.



# Types of Proposals Accepted by EiR

2) Research projects of up to \$500,000\* to support research by individual PIs. The project should help to further the PI's research, to improve research capacity at the institution, and to involve students in research experiences. Collaborations are encouraged. Co-PIs are allowed.

\*There may be program specific variations to award size.





# Submission and Review Process

- PIs submit proposals to the HBCU-UP program in the Division of Human Resource and Development, and **indicate a secondary program** in one of the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) directorates.
- Proposals submitted to this track will be routed to the secondary program in of the R&RA directorates for review. Funding recommendations will be made by the relevant R&RA directorate(s) with co-funding from the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA).
- Prospective PIs are encouraged to contact one of the cognizant program officers from OIA or the R&RAs for further information.





# FY 2018 Deadlines for EiR

**Required Letter of Intent: 16 January 2018**

**Full Proposal deadline** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time): **1 March 2018**

NSF 18-522 also lists the FY 2019 deadlines.



# Eligibility and Collaborations

- The Principal Investigator for a **HBCU Excellence in Research Project** must be a faculty member in a STEM or STEM education discipline at the HBCU from which the proposal is submitted.
- There is no limit on the number of Excellence in Research proposals that may be submitted by an eligible institution.
- Co-PIs from the PIs home institution, another HBCU, or a non-HBCU are allowed.
- You can be PI or co-PI on no more than 2 proposals submitted to HBCU-UP in any given year.



# Eligibility and Collaborations

- Proposals that are collaborative across more than one institution can
  - a) have subawards to the collaborating institutions; or
  - b) submit a collaborative proposal.

Please note that:

- 1) NSF expects that funds going to non-HBCU partners are not a significant portion of the budget; and
  - 2) funds going to a non-HBCU are in the form of a subaward.
- PIs who are not sure whether the research topic is eligible for NSF support should contact a program officer in the most relevant program or one listed at the end of this presentation.



# Areas of Research Ineligible for NSF Support

- Clinical, counseling, business administration or management, social work, education (except in science and engineering education), or history (except in history of science) areas are not supported.
- Clinical study that is ineligible includes patient-oriented research, epidemiological and behavioral studies, outcomes research and health services research. For example, clinical study that is ineligible includes investigations to provide evidence leading to a scientific basis for consideration of a change in health policy or standard of care, and includes pharmacologic, non-pharmacologic, and behavioral interventions for disease prevention, prophylaxis, diagnosis, or therapy. Community and other population-based intervention trials are also ineligible.



# Areas of Research Ineligible for NSF Support

- Research with disease-related goals, including work on the etiology, diagnosis or treatment of physical or mental disease, abnormality, or malfunction in human beings is normally not supported.
- Animal models of such conditions or the development or testing of drugs or other procedures for their treatment also are not eligible for support.
- However, research in bioengineering, with diagnosis or treatment-related goals, that applies engineering principles to problems in biology and medicine while advancing engineering knowledge is eligible for support. Bioengineering research to aid persons with disabilities also is eligible.



# FAQs

- Who is eligible to be PI?
  - The PI must be a full-time faculty member at an HBCU.
- Can I involve students in my project?
  - Involvement of students (graduate and undergraduate) in the research is encouraged.
- Can I include a postdoctoral fellow in my proposal?
  - Yes. Be sure to include the required mentoring plan in that case.
- Can I request equipment?
  - Yes, but any request for equipment must be well justified and should be related to the research being proposed.



# FAQs

- Are collaborative proposals allowed?
  - Collaborative proposals are allowed, but the project as a whole (both pieces) should add to no more than either \$500,000 or \$1,000,000 depending on the EiR track. If you are planning on submitting a collaborative proposal, all collaborative institutions should be HBCUs.
- Can funds from this program be used for institutions that are not HBCUs?
  - The proposal itself must come from an HBCU. Funds going to non-HBCU partners are allowed through subawards, but must be well justified and should be limited.
- Can I request release time?
  - Academic year release time may be requested, but must be fully justified.
- How many HBCU-UP/EiR proposals can I submit?
  - An investigator can be PI or co-PI on no more than 2 proposals submitted to HBCU-UP/EiR in any given year.





# FAQs

- The solicitation mentions research infrastructure, and we just happen to be building a new building/outfitting labs for new HVAC requirements/hiring a new faculty member/etc. Is support for this kind of research infrastructure allowed?
  - NSF does not typically support these types of infrastructure costs. In this program we support research infrastructure in terms of new collaborations, research active faculty members, students involvement in research, and the like. Requested funds should be limited to those things that will support the research project being described, not general infrastructure for the institution.
- My institution said they would allow an indirect cost rate lower than the federally negotiated rate to show institutional support. Is this allowed?
  - No, voluntary cost sharing is not allowed. Your institution must use the federally negotiated indirect cost rate.

# FAQs

- I forgot to submit a Letter of Intent. Can I still submit a proposal?
  - The Letter of Intent is required. Preparation instructions are in NSF 18-522. The research program at NSF most relevant to the research should be identified. It can be helpful to contact the Program Officer of that program in advance to ensure a good fit between the program and the proposed research. It is important that the research is sufficiently described.
- My research proposal is in an area that typically makes awards of more than (or less than) \$500,000. Can (or should) I request more (or less) depending on the typical award size in that program?
  - The limits of \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 are not hard limits (within reason), and may depend on the R&RA Directorates. Contact the most appropriate Program Officer if you are unsure.
- Should my letters from collaborators follow the instructions in the PAPPG?
  - The HBCU-UP solicitation allows for more detailed letters of collaboration.



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