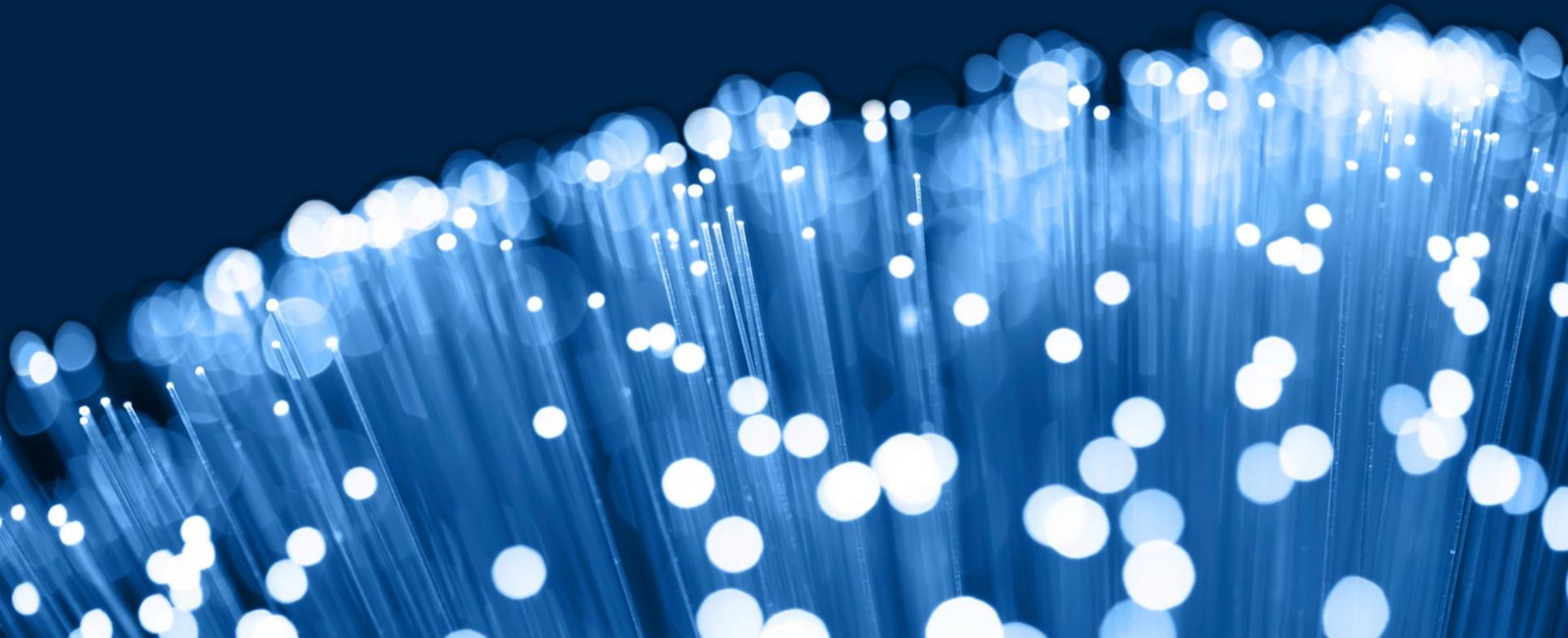




Excellence in Research

Information Webinar

3 September 2019



Excellence in Research (EiR)

- The **Excellence in Research (EiR)** component supports projects that enable STEM and STEM education faculty at HBCUs **to conduct research** and to thus 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.



Excellence in Research (EiR)

- Everyone who submitted a Letter of Intent is eligible to submit a proposal.
- That said, it is the PI's responsibility to submit a proposal that complies with the guidelines of EiR, the solicitation NSF 18-522, the current Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, and that fits into NSF's research portfolio and agency priorities.
- **After the PI identifies the NSF program secondary to HBCU-UP into which the proposed research fits best, the PI is encouraged have communication with the program director of the secondary program.**



Two Important Documents

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

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=5481&ods_key=nsf18522

The Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide NSF 19-1, which contains the Grant Proposal Guide, is available at:

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg19_1/nsf19_1.pdf



R&RA Directorates Participating in EiR

- Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO),
- Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
- Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)
- 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).



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 on the proposal cover page** in one of the Research and Related Activities (R&RA) directorates.
- Proposals submitted to this track will be routed to the secondary program in one 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 2020 Deadline for EiR

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

October 1, 2019

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Collaborations and Budgets

We received numerous questions about collaborations and budgets associated with collaborations. Here are some guidelines.

Proposals that are collaborative across more than one institution can

- a) have subawards to the collaborating institutions; or
- b) submit a simultaneously submitted collaborative proposal.

When preparing the budget(s), please consult with the SRO on the intricacies involved in doing subaward or collaborative proposal budgets. In either case, each institution must use their federally negotiated indirect cost rate. The specified maximum amount of either \$1,000,000 or \$500,000 must include the indirect cost.



Collaborations and Budgets

Please note that:

- 1) NSF expects that funds going to non-HBCU partners are not a significant portion of the budget;
- 2) funds going to a non-HBCU must be in the form of a subaward;
- 3) we will not define what a “not significant portion” is.

EiR awards are designed to strengthen research at the HBCU. It is anticipated that the non-HBCU partner will have significant funding and research capacity. Funds going to non-HBCU partners must be well justified and must be limited.



Error in Solicitation 18-522

Solicitation 18-522 states that EiR proposals must include: “A letter from the department chair, dean or chief academic officer. This letter should explain the institutional commitment to enabling the PIs to carry out this project.” In the proposal preparation instructions the solicitation reads like this letter should be part of the 15 page project description. That is stated in error.

The letter should be submitted as a supplementary document.



Return Without Review

NSF returns without review proposals that do not follow the stated guidelines. Here are some obvious and simple steps to consider to avoid that from happening to you. Note that this list is NOT comprehensive. You must always follow the guidelines in the solicitation and the PAPPG.

1) Follow the instructions in solicitation 18-522:

For all HBCU EiR proposals under "NSF Unit Consideration"
select:

"HRD-Division of Human Resource Development" as the division
"Hist Black Colleges and Univ" as the program

**Then select the appropriate division and program in another
research directorate as the secondary program**

Begin the title with "Excellence in Research"



Return Without Review

- 2) Do not submit a proposal that is not research focused, but instead focuses on, for example, curriculum development, student/faculty centered activities, or student access. While some of these activities could be part of an education or outreach effort, they cannot be the focus of the proposal.
- 3) The proposal is in an area of research that is not within the purview of NSF. The next two slides list what areas of research NSF does not fund. When in doubt, speak to a program director.
- 4) NSF will return without review proposals that do not follow stated guidelines in the PAPPG and solicitation (e.g., page lengths, margins, etc.)
- 5) Be sure to include the required Collaborators and Other Affiliations form.



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 studies that are ineligible include patient-oriented research, epidemiological and behavioral studies, outcomes research and health services research. For example, clinical studies that are ineligible include 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 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 simultaneously submitted 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. Additionally, the letter from the chair of dean must state that the university will grant you release time, should the proposal be funded.
- What if some of the information I submitted on the LOI has changed?
 - You do not need to inform us of changes on the LOI, unless the name of the PI has changed.



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

- 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 limit of \$500,000 may depend on the R&RA Directorates. Contact the most appropriate Program Officer if you are unsure.
- Are mentoring plans required for undergraduate or graduate students?
 - No. If the project includes a postdoctoral fellow, a mentoring plan must be submitted.
- 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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