One Year Later: NSF Fulfilling the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA)

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American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (AICA): Overview of the NSF Response

- Enacted into law on January 6, 2017.
- A bipartisan agreement that maximizes research and education opportunities and innovation opportunities to fuel the U.S. economy.
- Primarily impacts NSF, with some impact on NIST, NASA, and OSTP.
- Affirms and enhances NSF’s management and operation.
Overview

• The American Innovation and Competitiveness Act is a policy bill; it does not authorize funding levels.
• Recent previous NSF reauthorization bills:
• States that NSF shall maintain the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact criteria as the basis for evaluating grant proposals.
• Congress engaged NSF throughout the legislative process.
Major Provisions of the AICA

- § 102 – Transparency and Accountability.
  - Ensures that NSF awards contribute to societal goals.
- § 109 – Mid-Scale Project Investments.
  - Defines a new category of funding research instrumentation, equipment, and facilities upgrades.
- § 110 – Oversight of NSF Major Multi-User Research Facility Projects.
  - Strengthens oversight and accountability over the *full life-cycle*; calls for senior agency official appointment.
- § 111 – Personnel Oversight.
  - Control costs associated with IPA program.
Major Provisions of the AICA

• § 112 – Management of the U.S. Antarctic Program.
  - Improving logistical effectiveness to sustain and strengthen research.

• § 116 – Research Reproducibility and Replication.
  - Establishes a partnership with the National Research Council to examine and improve the rigor and reproducibility of federally-funded research.

• § 303 – STEM Education Advisory Panel.
  - Establishes a multi-agency joint advisory panel on STEM education.

• § 601 – Innovation Corps (I-Corps).
  - Authorizes further development and expansion of I-Corps.
NSF-wide Oversight to Fulfill the AICA

- May 2017: AICA Coordinating Committee (AICA-CC) established to ensure an effective and efficient response to AICA.
  - Coordinate and oversee the implementation of NSF’s response to AICA.
  - Ensure the timely submission of periodic progress reports to Congress.
§ 110 – Oversight of NSF Major Multi-User Research Facility Projects

First Chief Officer for Research Facilities appointed, Jan. 2018

Ensuring Life-Cycle Oversight: Primary Actions

- Formed Facilities Governance Board
- Reset Major Facilities Working Group of Accountable Program Officials
- Reset MREFC panel as Large Facilities Development Panel
- Engaging in NSB facilities O&M study
- Budget, branding, mid-scale, collaborations, spectrum
AICA One Year Later: The NSF Response

- NSF Director Córdova testifies before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation Hearing, January 30, 2018
Provisions of the AICA Highlighted at Hearing

- § 102 – Transparency and Accountability.
- § 110 – Oversight of NSF Major Multi-User Research Facility Projects.
- § 303 – STEM Education Advisory Panel.
- § 601 – Innovation Corps (I-Corps).