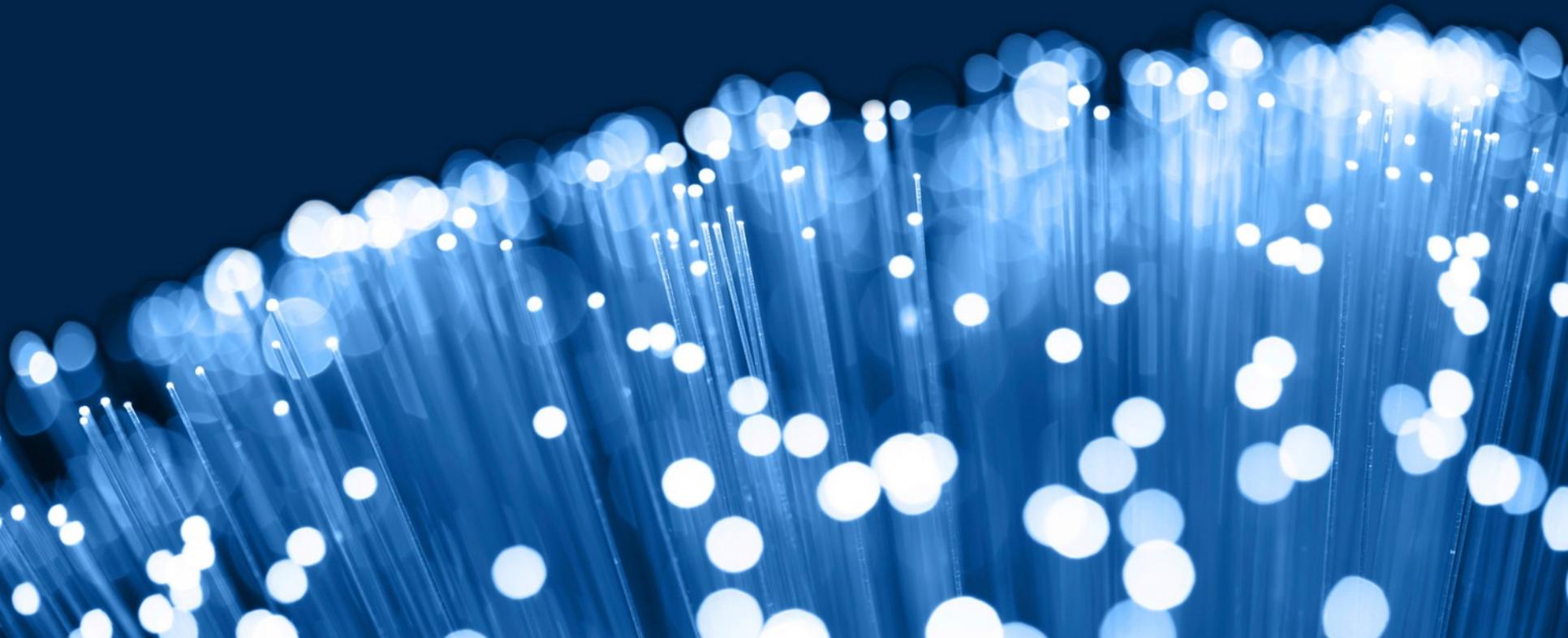# HBCU Excellence in Research

Information Webinar

6 August 2020

HBCU - Excellence in Research (EiR)

- The **HBCU Excellence in Research (EiR)** program supports projects that enable STEM faculty at HBCUs **to conduct research**.

- Faculty interested in support for institutional or departmental efforts to improve STEM education should apply to HBCU-UP 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 20-542, the current Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide 20-1, and that fits into NSF's research portfolio and agency priorities.
- **After the PI identifies the NSF program secondary to HBCU EiR 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 Excellence in Research program solicitation, NSF 20-542, is available at:

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf20542

The Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide NSF 20-1, which contains the Grant Proposal Guide, is available at:

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=papp

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 EiR program in the Office of Integrative Activities and **indicate a secondary program on the proposal cover page** in one of the research directorates.

- Proposals submitted to this track will be routed to the secondary program in one of the research directorates for review. Funding recommendations will be made by the relevant research 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 research directorates for further information.

FY 2021 Deadline for EiR

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

October 6, 2020

Budget Guidelines

Please note that budget guidelines have significantly changed in this new solicitation.

- Project budgets and duration should be on a scope and scale commensurate with the projects typically supported by the research program(s) with which the proposal aligns, and appropriate to the proposed activities.
- Proposing PIs should review the selected program's portfolio of recently funded awards and pay close attention to any guidance, if available, in the selected program's program description or solicitation to determine typical project budget sizes, duration and any other special requirements.
- Proposing PIs are also encouraged to ask the most relevant program director about typical funding levels in the research program where the proposal will be reviewed.

Budget Guidelines

- For preparation of the budget and budget justification, follow the directions in the PAPPG.
- Simultaneously submitted collaborative proposals are allowed if all collaborating institutions are HBCUs.
- If the project involves a collaboration with a non-HBCU institution, it must be in the form of a subaward. If the project involves a collaboration with a non-HBCU institution(s), the budget for all non-HBCU partners must be well justified, may not total a substantial portion of the overall budget, and must be in the form of a subaward(s).
- No more than 20% of the budget can be allocated for equipment.

Budget Guidelines

To reemphasize:

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.

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.

Follow the instructions in solicitation 20-542:
For all HBCU EiR proposals under "NSF Unit Consideration" select:
"Office of Integrative Activities" as the primary division
"Excellence in Research" as the primary 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

HBCU EiR will return without review proposals that

1) Are NOT research focused, but instead focus on, for example, curriculum development, student/faculty centered activities, or student access.
2) Are 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.

3) Do not follow stated guidelines in the PAPPG and solicitation (e.g., page lengths, margins, etc.)

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 full-time faculty member or researcher at the HBCU from which the proposal is submitted.

- Can I involve students in my project?
  - Involvement of students (graduate and undergraduate) in the research is encouraged and allowed.

- 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. No more than 20% can be allocated for equipment.

FAQs

- 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, dean, or chief academic officer 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

- 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.

- 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?
  - Yes. Please see section V – A in the solicitation for details about letters of collaboration.

Follow-up Webinars By Directorate

- Directorate representatives will conduct a follow-up webinar where directorate or division specific information will be provided.

- Look for announcements of these webinars via e-mail. The announcement will be sent to all, but you should only participate in the follow-up webinar(s) in your field of research.

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