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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program

Receipt Deadline: July 22, 1999

Also includes information on the NSF component of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)

The official guidelines for submission of CAREER proposals can be found in the publication *Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program Guidelines for Submission of Proposals* (NSF 99-110), available from the CAREER Web page. (From the NSF home page www.nsf.gov, select "Crosscutting Programs," then "CAREER.") The following questions and answers are intended to be helpful supplements to that document.

Please note that the CAREER Web page that you have accessed to find this document contains other information on the CAREER program, including the *CAREER Program Guidelines for Submission of Proposals* (NSF 99-110); NSF and PECASE forms; lists of CAREER awards in previous years; press releases; and a link to the PECASE brochure. Before preparing a CAREER proposal, refer to the CAREER Guidelines and the FastLane Web page at http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov. Also refer to the "frequently asked questions" document on FastLane proposal preparation which can be found at http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a0/about/a1faq.htm.

The following sections of this document can be directly accessed by selecting the appropriate heading:

1. **ELIGIBILITY**
2. **PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND FASTLANE**
3. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAREER AWARDS AND PECASE AWARDS**
4. **BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION OF AWARDS**
5. **SUPPLEMENTS TO AWARDED GRANTS**

1. ELIGIBILITY

Question: **Can I apply for CAREER this year if my tenure-track appointment won't officially start until September 1999?**
Answer: No, you must officially be in a tenure-track appointment by the July 22, 1999, deadline in order to apply.

Question: **I began my first tenure-track appointment before July 1, 1995, but my career has been interrupted by serious health problems (or family leave). I am not tenured and have not held tenure at any time. Can I apply?**
Answer: Possibly, if your career was interrupted for a length of time comparable to that needed to meet the initial tenure-track date. You will need to document your case for receiving an exemption. Prior to submitting a CAREER proposal the documentation must be submitted to NSF with a request for an exemption. If NSF approves your request, the written approval from NSF must be sent in with the signed original cover sheet of your CAREER proposal. Do not scan the exemption into your FastLane proposal as only the original should be submitted since exemptions are not sent to reviewers. If you have questions regarding your eligibility, you should discuss them with the appropriate CAREER division contact from the list on the CAREER Web page.

Question: **My department (or institution) does not offer tenure, so I am not in a "tenure-track" appointment. Can I submit a CAREER proposal to NSF, and how can I determine if NSF would consider my position as a "tenure-track equivalent" position?**
Answer: You may be eligible to apply, but before submitting a CAREER proposal, you should contact the appropriate CAREER Division contact from the list on the CAREER Web page and describe your circumstances. If it appears that your situation warrants an exemption, you will be asked to submit written documentation to show that your appointment is a continuing faculty appointment having substantial educational responsibilities. If an exemption is granted, NSF will give you a written approval that must be sent in with the signed original cover sheet of your CAREER proposal. Do not scan the exemption into your FastLane proposal as only the original should be submitted since exemptions are not sent to reviewers.

Question: **I was previously employed in a non-tenure-track (research only) position. Does that count? When does my window of eligibility begin?**
Answer: The non-tenure-track position does not count toward eligibility. You are eligible if you were appointed to your first tenure-track position on or after July 1, 1995, and before July 22, 1999. If you have changed institutions and are in your second tenure-track appointment, you are eligible only if your first tenure-track position began on or after July 1, 1995. If you are in your third or later tenure-track appointment, you are not eligible. Also, you are not eligible if you are now tenured or have held tenure at any time.

Question: **My first faculty appointment began before July 1, 1995, at an institution (or department) that did not offer tenure. That appointment would probably fall into the "tenure-track equivalent" category described in the *CAREER Program Guidelines for Submission*. Am I eligible to submit for the July 22, 1999, CAREER deadline?**
Answer: No. If your first appointment was at an institution or department that did not offer tenure and was a continuing faculty appointment having substantial educational responsibilities, then that appointment would be considered a "tenure-track equivalent" position and would count as your "first tenure-track" appointment. If you have any questions about this, you should discuss them with the appropriate CAREER division contact from the list on the CAREER Web page.

Question: **Am I eligible if I work at a two-year college?**
Answer: Possibly. If you are significantly involved in ***both*** research and education, and your appointment is a continuing faculty appointment, you may be eligible. You should contact the NSF program director in your discipline to describe your circumstances. If it appears that your situation warrants an exemption, you will be asked to submit written documentation. If an exemption is granted, NSF will give you a written approval that must be sent in with the signed original cover sheet of your CAREER proposal. Do not scan the exemption into your FastLane proposal as only the original should be submitted since exemptions are not sent to reviewers.

Question: **I am not a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. Can I still apply to the CAREER program?**
Answer: Yes, you can apply to the CAREER program if you meet the other CAREER eligibility criteria, including affiliation with a U.S. institution. However, you will not be eligible for nomination by NSF for PECASE unless you become a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident by the CAREER deadline (July 22, 1999).

Question: **I may be considered to be a senior or experienced investigator. Am I eligible for this program?**
Answer: If you already have an established independent research career, you should apply for a traditional NSF research grant. Generally speaking, although individuals may meet the

stated CAREER eligibility requirements, if they have more than five years of independent research experience (typically in governmental or industrial laboratories), they do not meet the spirit of the program. Before preparing a CAREER proposal, you should contact the NSF program director in your discipline for advice.

Question: **Can I have a collaborator listed on my grant?**
Answer: No. Your research *project* can be collaborative, but a CAREER award is intended to enable an awardee to carry out his or her individual career-development plan. Therefore, no Co-Principal Investigator may be named, collaborators cannot be analogous to Co-P.I.s, and no salary support for co-investigators or other faculty members can be included in the budget. (See below under "preparation and submission of proposals" for information on appropriate documentation for collaborators.)

Question: **If I have received funds from the Federal Government to perform research, am I still eligible?**
Answer: Yes, you may submit a CAREER proposal as long as those funds were not received from NSF in the NYI, PYI, PFF, CAREER or NSF PECASE programs and the proposed research activities of your CAREER application do not overlap with those concurrently supported through the other source(s).

Question: **I have two great projects. Can I submit two proposals?**
Answer: Only one proposal may be submitted to the CAREER program. If the research topic of the second proposal is considerably different from that described in the CAREER proposal, you may submit a regular research proposal while the CAREER proposal is under consideration. A second proposal on a closely related research topic will be returned to you by NSF without review.

Question: **Should I submit my proposal to the CAREER Program, to another special NSF Program, or as a regular proposal?**
Answer: Before writing your proposal, it is recommended that you discuss this with the appropriate NSF program director.

2. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND FASTLANE

Question: **What if my proposal arrives after July 22, 1999?**
Answer: Only proposals submitted through FastLane before 5:00 p.m. (your local time) on July 22, 1999, will be accepted. In addition, your original signed documents (including the two-page cover sheet) must arrive at the NSF FastLane office (address below) by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on July 29, 1999. Since NSF receives nearly 2,000 proposals in the CAREER program each year, you are encouraged to start your FastLane proposal submission well before the CAREER deadline. Refer to the CAREER Guidelines for Submission and the FastLane Web page for more details. **Any CAREER proposal received after the deadline will be returned to the proposer without review**. Please note that NSF program officers are not authorized to grant extensions to the deadline for the CAREER program

Question: **How do I decide which program to indicate on the Cover Sheet in the block marked "For consideration by NSF Organizational Unit"?**
Answer: Appendix A of NSF's *Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)* lists directorates, divisions, and programs that provide support. For more detailed descriptions of NSF disciplinary programs, refer to the NSF *Guide to Programs*. Both of these documents are available from the NSF Web site under "documents online" or from the CAREER Web page. If you are unsure where to direct your proposal, you should talk with the program director of the program you think is most closely related to your research. However, if you indicate the wrong program on the cover sheet, the proposal will be redirected to the appropriate

organizational unit. **It is important** to identify an NSF division, **and** if possible, a disciplinary program, in this block since this information will be used to expedite the initial distribution of your proposal. NSF will make the final assignment of your proposal. *Do not submit a proposal to more than one program. NSF will accept only the first official FastLane submission for each CAREER applicant.*

Question: **Am I required to submit the full proposal electronically through FastLane?**
Answer: Yes. Your CAREER proposal **must be** submitted electronically using NSF FastLane by 5:00 p.m. (your local time) on July 22, 1999. In addition, the signed cover sheet and other original documents and forms (such as PECASE and EPSCoR) must be received at the NSF FastLane office (address below) by 5:00 p.m. Eastern time, July 29, 1999. More detailed directions are included in the *CAREER Program Guidelines for Submission of Proposals* as well as from the FastLane Web page. The proposal number assigned by FastLane can be used for tracking your proposal during the review process. There is a lag time between when the proposal is "submitted" via FastLane and when it shows up in the FastLane Proposal Status Inquiry and FastLane Institutional Reports applications. Technical support on FastLane is available at fastlane@nsf.gov and 703-306-1142.

The signed original CAREER cover sheet and other original forms and documents should be sent to:

National Science Foundation
DIS—FastLane Cover Sheet
CAREER, NSF 99-110
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230

Allow sufficient time for getting the necessary signatures on the original cover sheet pages and for delivery of all original documents to NSF by the July 29, 1999, deadline**. Proposals received after the deadline will be returned without review**.

Question: **I am having difficulties with FastLane. Who at NSF should I contact for assistance?**
Answer: If you encounter problems when using the Proposal Preparation feature on FastLane, you can reach the FastLane user-support staff by scrolling down any page and clicking on “send comments to NSF.” Be sure to include your name and e-mail address in the appropriate boxes before clicking on the “submit comments” button.

For assistance, you can also contact FastLane at fastlane@nsf.gov or 703 306-1142 well in advance of the deadline for proposal receipt.

Question: **My SRO submitted my FastLane proposal to NSF and I noticed an error in the project description. I want to correct it (before the July 22nd deadline). How can I do this?**
Answer: Once your SRO has selected the “Submit” function from FastLane, your proposal cannot be changed or edited in FastLane. If an error is noticed after it has been electronically submitted (and before the July 22nd deadline), contact your disciplinary Program Director or CAREER Division Contact to inquire about sending in a revised paper copy of the proposal before the deadline.

Do not submit more than one CAREER FastLane proposal, as each one is assigned a proposal number once the SRO “submits” the proposal. Only the first-registered CAREER FastLane submission for each individual will be accepted.

Question: **I am not registered with NSF as a PI (or my institution is not registered for FastLane). What do I need to do?**
Answer: If your institution is not a FastLane registered institution, your SRO needs to submit the registration form located at http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a0/about/registration.htm. **This should be done as soon as possible and at least ten days before the CAREER deadline.** A list of FastLane registered institutions is located at http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a0/fastlane_insts.htm.

If you have never submitted a proposal to NSF before, your Sponsored Research Office (SRO) will need to assign you a Personal Identification Number (PIN) and add your name to the NSF PI database. **This should be done as soon as you decide to submit a proposal and at least one week before the CAREER deadline.** To do this, you should contact your SRO (or equivalent) **as soon as possible**, and send them the following information:

First Name
Last Name
Middle Initial
Suffix (e.g., Jr., Sr., III)
Social Security Number
Department
Degree Type
Degree Year
Street Address
City, State, Zip
E-mail Address
Business Phone
Fax Number

The SRO will then be able to go into the "Add New User" module of the "Institutional Management of FastLane" application, pull up their list of users, and if you are not on this list, click on the "Add New User" button, and add you as a PI. The SRO will provide you with a PIN for you to use for all FastLane PI transactions, including proposal preparation. Instructions for registering a PI can be found on the FastLane Web page at http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm under the heading "Requirements for Accessing FastLane Proposal Preparation."

Question: **How many pages should I devote to describing research and how many to education?**
Answer: No number is specified for each; use the 15 pages of the Career Development Plan to your best advantage. A major objective of the CAREER program is to encourage the integration of research and education. You may wish to prepare a career-development plan that fully integrates these aspects of your academic career, rather than separating them.

Question: **What should I discuss with my department head? What should be addressed in the department head's one-page statement?**
Answer: You should discuss your Career Development Plan and how it fits with the department's and institution's plans, your responsibilities to the department, and the support that the department will give you. Your department head's statement should describe how the department will support your plan and how your plan is integrated into the educational goals of your department and institution. **To ensure that your Departmental Endorsement and Certification page is reviewed along with your proposal, you should scan it into your FastLane proposal as the back section of the project-description Portable Document Format (PDF) file.** The signed and dated original must

then be submitted with your signed cover sheet (and other original documents and forms) by the CAREER deadline. Refer to the *CAREER Program Guidelines for Submission of Proposals* for information on the content of the Departmental Endorsement statement. Proposals that do not have the Departmental Endorsement and Certifications page of the Career Development Plan will be returned without review.

Question: **My proposal involves collaborators. What documentation can I submit to show the collaborative effort?**
Answer: The planned collaborative effort(s) should be described in your Career Development Plan. You may also submit a short letter from each collaborator to support the partnerships you have described in the proposal. The letter(s) should be included in the "Special Information and Supplementary Documentation" section of the proposal. **To ensure that letters from your collaborators are reviewed with your proposal, you should scan them into your FastLane proposal as the back section of your project-description Portable Document Format (PDF) file.** The signed originals must then be submitted with your signed original cover sheet (and other original forms and documents) by the CAREER deadline. A collaborator's letter should not include comments that make it possible to infer that the letter is a reference letter. Letters of reference or recommendation ***are not appropriate*** and ***will not*** be sent to reviewers. Do not submit any other documentation such as biographical sketches or other NSF forms for any collaborators. If the collaborator is from an organization that is eligible to provide matching support, you should note that only contributions received *after* the CAREER proposal has been officially submitted to NSF are eligible for matching support. Money or equipment provided in advance of submission and described in a letter submitted with the proposal will not be eligible for matching funds.

Question: **I would like to submit some additional tabular material that would exceed the project-description page limits. Can I submit this as an appendix?**
Answer: No. Only if you have received a written authorization for this deviation from the Guidelines from the appropriate NSF Assistant Director can you include any appendices. Such authorizations are seldom granted. (See *GPG,* Chapter II.A, for instructions on deviations.)

Question: **How do I know if I am in an EPSCoR state, and what should I do if I am?**
Answer: The EPSCoR Program currently is operating in 18 states—Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming—and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. If you are submitting from one of these states, contact the EPSCoR director for your state. State Project Director addresses and telephone numbers, as well as general information about the EPSCoR Program and the process for EPSCoR eligibility certification for co-funding, are available from the EPSCoR Program Web page at http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/EHR/EPSCOR/report/cofund.htm. If your proposal has been EPSCoR certified, be sure that "EPSCoR" is written on the top-right corner of the signed original cover sheet only. (Do not include "EPSCoR" on the electronic FastLane cover sheet.)

Question: **How do I apply for the PECASE award?**
Answer: Each participating Federal agency has its own nomination procedures. NSF will select its PECASE nominees for 2000 from among the PECASE-eligible CAREER awardees who applied for the July 22, 1999, deadline. To be eligible for a PECASE award through NSF, you must submit a CAREER proposal and send in a signed and dated (on or before July 22, 1999) PECASE Information Form (NSF Form 1317A), with your signed original documents. In addition to meeting the CAREER eligibility requirements, PECASE nominees must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents who hold that status on or before July 22, 1999. Late PECASE forms will not be accepted. The PECASE form is

not available electronically through FastLane but can be found on the CAREER Web page. (From the NSF home page select “Crosscutting Programs,” then “CAREER.”)

Question: **I am preparing a CAREER proposal for submission to the Division of Research, Evaluation and Communication (REC) in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). What are considered acceptable research activities?**
Answer: Research plans submitted to REC/EHR should be oriented toward laying the conceptual foundations and expanding the knowledge base necessary to support the reform of science, mathematics, technology and engineering education. Activities such as software development, hardware development, laboratory-equipment design, instructional-materials development, teacher and informal education may be cited as part of one’s *education* project, but these activities ***do not*** satisfy the requirement for *research* in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education and, therefore, cannot be the basis for the research plan. For information on CAREER awards funded by the REC Division, refer to the lists of CAREER awards available on the CAREER Web page. Additional information on appropriate research areas in science, mathematics, technology and engineering education can also be found on the REC Division’s Web page at http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/ehr/rec/default.htm. You are strongly encouraged to consult the EHR/REC contact person (shown in the list of CAREER contacts on the CAREER Web page) before submitting a proposal.

Question: **I am preparing a CAREER proposal for submission to the Office of Polar Programs. Do I need any additional information before writing my proposal?**
Answer: Before preparing your CAREER proposal, you should refer to the *Antarctic Research Program Announcement* (NSF 99-93) or to the *Arctic Research Program Announcement* (NSF 98-72). Both of these documents are available from the Office of Polar Programs Web page. (From the NSF Web page <www.nsf.gov>, select "Polar Research," then "Office of Polar Programs.")

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAREER AWARDS AND PECASE AWARDS

Question: **When will I be notified of the final decision on my CAREER proposal?**
Answer: CAREER proposals are reviewed by different panels and/or mail review held at different times across the Foundation. For this reason, award and declination letters will be issued at different times. Most applicants will be notified by February 2000. You can check the status of your CAREER proposal by accessing FastLane. There is a lag time between when the proposal is "submitted" via FastLane and when it shows up in the FastLane Proposal Status Inquiry and FastLane Institutional Reports applications. If you have not received notification of a decision on your proposal by the beginning of February 2000, and your proposal status is shown as “pending” in FastLane, you can contact the program or division to which your proposal was assigned to inquire about the status. Your proposal’s NSF program assignment can be found through FastLane or on the acknowledgment card that was sent to you when your proposal was received by the NSF program.

Question: **If I receive a CAREER award in 2000, how will I know whether I am being considered for a PECASE award? When will I hear something if I am to get a PECASE award?**
Answer: CAREER awardees who are eligible for PECASE (and submit Form 1317A with their signed original documents by July 22, 1999) are initially in the 2000 PECASE pool. It is expected that at least 250 CAREER awardees will be in this pool. Based on the results of the review of their CAREER proposals, up to 20 of the most meritorious will be recommended to the White House for consideration for a PECASE award. After the Presidential awards have been selected and approved by the White House, the PECASE awardees will be notified by NSF. It is anticipated that **notification will not be made**

before Fall 2000. No information can be released until such time as the White House announces the awards.

Question: **If I receive a PECASE award, what will happen to my CAREER award? What would the PECASE award include?**
Answer: Your CAREER award will continue and be increased to a total of $500,000 and to a five-year duration, if the award was initially made below that level or for a shorter duration. The PECASE award will be conferred at the White House.

4. BUDGETS AND ADMINISTRATION OF AWARDS

Question: **What is an appropriate level of funding to request?**
Answer: Within the range of $200,000 to $500,000, the appropriate level of funding is that which is necessary to adequately support the proposed research and education activities for 4 or 5 years. Typical NSF award amounts vary by disciplines and directorates. **Note that applicants to the Engineering Directorate (ENG) should submit their budget requests for $50,000 per year and for a four-year duration,** since the ENG Directorate has a standard amount for all of its CAREER awards. You can contact your disciplinary program director or the CAREER division contact (from the list on the CAREER Web page) to inquire about appropriate budget requests for your discipline.

Question: **Are there any different rules for the administration and reporting requirements of CAREER awards, compared to other NSF grants?**
Answer: The annual report for the CAREER award must be approved by your department head as well as by you. The report should include an update of other support and summarize progress in **both** research and education development and, where appropriate, collaborative activities. CAREER awards are eligible for supplements that encourage partnerships and for the same kinds of supplements as traditional NSF grants (see below).

In all other ways, CAREER awards have the same requirements and options as other NSF grants.

5. SUPPLEMENTS TO AWARDED GRANTS

Question: **What types of supplemental funds are available for CAREER awards?**
Answer: General information is given below, but you should also check with the NSF program officer named in your award letter about possible supplemental funding.

Limited supplemental funds are available for special NSF programs such as Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU), Research Opportunity Awards (ROA), and Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities. Refer to the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide,* the NSF *Guide to Programs*, and the appropriate program guidelines. All are available on the NSF Web Site under “documents online.”

To encourage development of partnerships, NSF *may* provide up to $25,000 each year in supplemental support to match the funds and new equipment obtained from industry, from state, county, or local governments, or from nonprofit institutions other than your own. The request must be justified on the basis of a *genuine intellectual involvement* between the awardee and the collaborator. Refer to the *CAREER Program Guidelines for Submission of Proposals* for information and deadlines for that type of supplement.

The Engineering Directorate may also provide a one-time supplement (up to $10,000) for the purchase of equipment to be used in conjunction with the CAREER award. Your institution must provide at least 50% of the cost of the equipment. Indirect costs cannot be applied to this equipment request.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Grantees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with federal statutes, regulations, and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF projects. See the program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 306-1636.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation regarding NSF programs, employment, or general information. To access NSF TDD, dial (703) 306-0090; for FIRS, 1-800-877-8339.

Privacy Act and Public Burden Statements

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Reports Clearance Officer; Information Dissemination Branch; Division of Administrative Services; National Science Foundation; Arlington, VA 22230.

Year 2000 Reminder

In accordance with Important Notice No. 120 dated June 27, 1997, Subject: Year 2000 Computer Problem, NSF awardees are reminded of their responsibility to take appropriate actions to ensure that the NSF activity being supported is not adversely affected by the Year 2000 problem. Potentially affected items include: computer systems, databases, and equipment. The National Science Foundation should be notified if an awardee concludes that the Year 2000 will have a significant impact on its ability to carry out an NSF funded activity. Information concerning Year 2000 activities can be found on the NSF web site at http://www.nsf.gov/oirm/y2k/start.htm .

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.