

Geoscience Education

Program Solicitation

NSF-01-42

DIRECTORATE FOR GEOSCIENCES
DIVISION OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
DIVISION OF EARTH SCIENCES
DIVISION OF OCEAN SCIENCES

DEADLINE(S): April 17, 2001



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



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SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Title: Geoscience Education

Synopsis of Program: Geoscience Education proposals may target any educational level: 1) graduate and postdoctoral education and training (outside the framework of normal NSF research grants), 2) undergraduate education, 3) elementary and secondary education, and 4) education outside the classroom. Awards are intended to facilitate the initiation or piloting of highly innovative educational activities that involve leading geoscience researchers where support may not otherwise be available. In appropriate cases, awards may be made by supplementing active research grants. A major motivation of the program is to foster collaborations that integrate research and education. Projects that involve active linkages which serve this purpose, either currently in place or to be developed, are particularly encouraged.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Jewel Prendeville, Directorate for Geosciences, telephone: 703-292-8521, e-mail: jprendev@nsf.gov.
- Michael Mayhew, Division of Earth Sciences, telephone: 703-292-8557, e-mail: mmayhew@nsf.gov.
- Roddy Rogers, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, telephone: 703-292-8524, e-mail: rrogers@nsf.gov.
- Lisa Rom, Division of Ocean Sciences, telephone: 703-292-8582, e-mail: erom@nsf.gov.

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):

- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources
- 47.050 --- Geosciences

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Organization Limit:** None
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** None
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** None

AWARD INFORMATION

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 18-22

- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$1.5M

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** Supplemental Preparation Guidelines
 - The program announcement/solicitation contains supplements to the standard Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable.
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Not Applicable.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

- **Letter of Intent Due Date(s):** None
- **Preproposal Due Date(s):** None
- **Full Proposal Due Date(s):** April 17, 2001

D. FastLane Requirements

- **FastLane Submission:** Full Proposal Required
- **FastLane Contact(s):**
 - Brian Dawson, Directorate for Geosciences, telephone: 703-292-4727, e-mail: bdawson@nsf.gov.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

- **Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review considerations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- **Award Conditions:** Additional award conditions apply. Please see the program announcement/solicitation for further information.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In 1998, NSF's Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) initiated a special competition titled "Awards to Facilitate Geoscience Education" (AFGE). Proposals for research in geoscience education at all levels were invited.

In FY 99 and FY 00, that competition was repeated as the first of two elements of a larger grants program titled Geoscience Education. The second element was a special emphasis area titled "Application of Digital Libraries to Undergraduate Earth Systems Education." Review was conducted jointly by GEO and the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) of the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). Through the digital library element, support was initiated for a significant new facility, the Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE).

The present Geoscience Education program announcement incorporates only the AFGE element of previous announcements. It does not include a separate digital library element, although where appropriate awardees will be strongly encouraged to submit the products of their projects to DLESE, as described further below in "Proposal Preparation Instructions."

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

An overview of the FY 98, 99, and 00 AFGE competitions and abstracts of the successful awards are available via <http://www.geo.nsf.gov/adgeo/education.htm>. The comprehensive scope of AFGE and the emphasis on the integration of research and education follow the recommendations of the report of the Geoscience Education Working Group titled "Geoscience Education: A Recommended Strategy" (NSF 97-171). The report is also available at <http://www.geo.nsf.gov/adgeo/education.htm>. Proposers are encouraged to consult the report, which the Geoscience Education competition follows closely in scope and philosophy.

Proposals may target any educational level: 1) graduate and postdoctoral education and training (outside the framework of normal NSF research grants), 2) undergraduate education, 3) elementary and secondary education, and 4) education outside the classroom. Awards are intended to facilitate the initiation or piloting of highly innovative educational activities that involve leading geoscience researchers where support may not otherwise be available. In appropriate cases, awards may be made by supplementing active research grants. Examples drawn from the Geoscience Education Working Group report of possible activities that might be supported are:

- initiation of novel approaches to creating geoscience curricula, especially those involving new technologies,
- bringing cutting-edge research to the classroom or to the public,
- partnerships to implement the National Science Education Standards,
- technologies to reach small and community colleges more effectively,
- development of Web-based pedagogy,

- opportunities for teachers to work with scientists,
- workshops for training of geoscientists in educational issues,
- planning grants for interdisciplinary research on geoscience education,
- workshops to organize precollege data collection programs,
- partnering for initiation of museum exhibits,
- support for outreach activities of professional societies,
- distinguished geoscience education lecture series,
- initiation of state-based alliances of geoscience researchers, educators, and practitioners, and
- innovative use of university consortia networks for sharing of resources.

A major motivation of the program is to foster collaborations that integrate research and education. Projects that promote active linkages which serve this purpose, either currently in place or to be developed, are particularly encouraged. Experience has shown that major facilities such as ships, aircraft, museums or aquariums, analytical or computational facilities, national centers, and repositories of samples or data can be particularly successful as focal points for linking research and education; such use of these facilities is encouraged (though not a precondition for participation in the competition).

Specific review criteria are given in the section titled "Proposal Review Information."

Individuals interested in being reviewers of proposals submitted under this announcement should send a summary of their expertise and business address and phone number to Jewel Prendeville (jprendev@nsf.gov).

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The categories of proposers identified in the [Grant Proposal Guide](#) are eligible to submit proposals under this program announcement/solicitation.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

It is anticipated that \$1.5M will be available for the competition, subject to the availability of funds. It is estimated that 18-22 awards will be made.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Full Proposal Instructions:

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement/solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the NSF *Grant Proposal*

Guide (GPG). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF Web Site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf012>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

Projects are expected to be focused as well as to have potentially broad impact that may lead to innovative intellectual developments or involve innovative partnerships. Proposals should therefore contain plans for dissemination of project results and evaluation of project impact appropriate to the project scope.

Dissemination plans can potentially take a number of forms. For many projects an attractive means of dissemination will be through contributing to the services or collections of the Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE). DLESE has emerged as a national Web-based information system dedicated to the collection, enhancement, and distribution of materials that facilitate learning about the Earth system. It will allow users to readily find the materials they need at any educational level and be assured of their high quality.

Dissemination via DLESE may take place through the DLESE Program Center, an existing thematic collection linked to DLESE, a collection group that is a federated partner of DLESE, or by other means. Proposers should consult <http://www.dlese.org> to understand the full scope of DLESE, and where appropriate develop a plan for dissemination of their project results through the library. Awardees will receive help from DLESE with such submissions, including the important process of constructing metadata records describing submitted electronic objects.

Evaluation plans aimed at gauging the quality and impact of a project may also take a variety of forms, for example the application of formal mechanisms for assessing student learning. Evaluation plans should be appropriate to the scope of projects funded under this solicitation, which are intended to be largely exploratory and short term in nature. A solid evaluation process of appropriate scale will bring strength to a follow-up proposal to another competition for longer-term support. The following references may be helpful in designing an evaluation plan:

- User Friendly Handbook for Project Evaluation: Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology Education (NSF 93-152, revised 2/96)
- User Friendly Handbook for Mixed Method Evaluation (NSF 97-153)
- Online Evaluation Resource Library (<http://oerl.sri.com>)
- Field-tested Learning Assessment Guide (FLAG) (<http://www.wcer.wisc.edu/nise/CL1/flag>)
- Evaluation Handbook, W.K. Kellogg Foundation (<http://www.wkkf.org/Publications/evalhdbk/default.htm>)
- American Geophysical Union 2000 Fall Meeting Abstracts Volume, Measuring Success: Evaluating Geoscience Education Programs, I and II, *Eos*, vol. 81, no. 48, November 28, 2000, pp. F301-F303.

The first two documents may be obtained from the Publications section of the NSF Web site (<http://www.nsf.gov>). Awardees should plan to include an evaluation report with their final project report.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program solicitation number (NSF-01-42) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207). Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

B. Budgetary Information

Cost sharing is not required in proposals submitted under this Program Solicitation.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

Proposals submitted in response to this announcement/solicitation must be submitted by 5:00 PM, local time on the following date(s):

April 17, 2001

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this Program Solicitation through the FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. For FastLane user support, call 1-800-673-6188.

Submission of Signed Cover Sheets. The signed copy of the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207) must be postmarked (or contain a legible proof of mailing date assigned by the carrier) within five working days following proposal submission and be forwarded to the following address:

National Science Foundation
DIS – FastLane Cover Sheet
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. NSF Proposal Review Process

Reviews of proposals submitted to NSF are solicited from peers with expertise in the substantive area of the proposed research or education project. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. NSF invites the proposer to suggest at

the time of submission, the names of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer. Special efforts are made to recruit reviewers from non-academic institutions, minority-serving institutions, or adjacent disciplines to that principally addressed in the proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed against the following general review criteria established by the National Science Board. Following each criterion are potential considerations that the reviewer may employ in the evaluation. These are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. Each reviewer will be asked to address only those that are relevant to the proposal and for which he/she is qualified to make judgements.

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Principal Investigators should address the following elements in their proposal to provide reviewers with the information necessary to respond fully to both of the above-described NSF merit review criteria. NSF staff will give these elements careful consideration in making funding decisions.

Integration of Research and Education

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

Additional Review Criteria

Geoscience Education awards are intended to integrate geoscience research and geoscience education. Reviewers will evaluate whether the proposed project team has expertise in both of these areas.

Another criterion is whether funds provided through a Geoscience Education award will be catalytic. That is, awards are intended to provide start-up funding to enable projects to reach a level of maturity so that they can compete successfully for long-term funding from other sources. Awards are expected to complement, but not replicate, awards provided by NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources. Attention will be given to proposed dissemination and evaluation plans.

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and signed by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

B. Review Protocol and Associated Customer Service Standard

All proposals are carefully reviewed by at least three other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular field represented by the proposal. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement/solicitation will be reviewed by Mail and/or panel review.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

NSF will be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months for 95 percent of proposals. The time interval begins on the proposal deadline or target date or from the date of receipt, if deadlines or target dates are not used by the program. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

In all cases, after programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at its own risk.

VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Notification of the Award

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program Division administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See section VI.A. for additional information on the review process.)

B. Award Conditions

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (NSF-GC-1)* or Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Terms and Conditions * and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreement awards also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions (CA-1). Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF awards to organizations that have electronic mail capabilities and have requested such notification from the Division of Grants and Agreements.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Web site at http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants_gac.htm. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions is contained in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* (GPM) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpm>. The GPM is also for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

Special Award Conditions

For awards that involve working with students in grades K-12, additional award conditions may be included addressing the pilot testing and evaluation of materials on pre-college students. For projects involving commercial publication, additional award conditions may be included addressing the pilot testing and evaluation of materials on pre-college students and the distribution or commercial publication of materials developed, a license for government use, and program income.

C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the PI must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period.

Within 90 days after the expiration of an award, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented an electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane. This system permits electronic submission and updating of project reports, including information on project participants (individual and organizational), activities and findings, publications, and other specific products and contributions. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

VIII. CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General inquiries regarding Geoscience Education should be made to:

- Jewel Prendeville, Directorate for Geosciences, telephone: 703-292-8521, e-mail: jpredev@nsf.gov.
- Michael Mayhew, Division of Earth Sciences, telephone: 703-292-8557, e-mail: mmayhew@nsf.gov.
- Roddy Rogers, Division of Atmospheric Sciences, telephone: 703-292-8524, e-mail: rogers@nsf.gov.
- Lisa Rom, Division of Ocean Sciences, telephone: 703-292-8582, e-mail: erom@nsf.gov.

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Brian Dawson, Directorate for Geosciences, telephone: 703-292-4727, e-mail: bdawson@nsf.gov.

IX. OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF *Guide to Programs* is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. The NSF *Guide to Programs* is available electronically at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter.

Many NSF programs offer announcements or solicitations concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the *Guide to Programs* will be announced in the NSF [E-Bulletin](#), which is updated daily on the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin>, and in individual program

announcements/solicitations. Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's [Custom News Service](http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm) (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm>) to be notified of new funding opportunities that become available.

The geoscience community is specifically encouraged to explore the following sources of support within NSF:

Opportunities for Enhancing Diversity in the Geosciences

This is a new program (NSF 01-36) that is directed to underrepresented groups and integrates research and education. Information about the program may be found at <http://www.geo.nsf.gov/geo/diversity>.

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

The long-standing NSF-wide Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program has been an effective vehicle for the integration of research and education by supporting the substantive involvement of undergraduate students in research projects. As part of its effort to enhance the quality of geoscience education, GEO is encouraging submission of proposals in this area. These REU Sites projects provide opportunities for small groups of undergraduate students to work on specially formulated research projects. In providing this REU Site funding, GEO is especially interested in supporting innovative multidisciplinary projects, increasing the involvement of K-12 teachers, exploring innovative educational approaches, and significantly increasing the participation of minority students in the geosciences. GEO also is interested in supporting the innovative involvement of undergraduates as members of research teams through the use of REU supplements to existing awards.

REU proposals directed to GEO will continue to be reviewed in the GEO divisions as in the past. Proposal submission should follow the REU guidelines, as outlined in the REU program announcement (NSF 00-107). More information about the REU Program is available from the NSF Web site (<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf00107>).

Related Opportunities for Support from NSF's Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)

Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE). This Division supports curriculum and faculty development at the undergraduate level through the following programs:

- Advanced Technological Education,
- Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement, and
- NSF Computer Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarship Program
- Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service
- National SMETE Digital Library

These programs are described at the DUE Web site (<http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/ehr/ue/programs/>)

DUE, GEO, the Keck Geology Consortium, and the American Geophysical Union (AGU) co-sponsored a workshop on the future of geoscience education titled "Shaping the Future of Undergraduate Education: Innovation and Change Using an Earth System Approach." The report can be accessed from the AGU Web site (<http://earth.agu.org/sci-soc/spheres/>).

Division of Elementary, Secondary, and Informal Education (ESIE). This Division offers the following programs to promote student and teacher development at the K-12 level and public science literacy through activities outside the classroom:

- Informal Science Education,
- Instructional Materials Development,
- Teacher Enhancement, and
- Advanced Technological Education.

These programs are described at the ESIE Web site (<http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/ehr/esie/programs.html>).

The Informal Science Education Program operates a program to competitively provide supplements of up to \$50,000 to active NSF research grants "to assist in the broader dissemination of current research results and to promote science literacy for the general public in an out-of-school setting." The announcement of opportunity describing this activity is "Informal Science Education: Supplements to Active Research Awards" (NSF 97-70). Information is also available from the ESIE Web site.

Division of Research, Evaluation, and Communication (REC). REC coordinates the Interagency Education Research Initiative (IERI). The goal of the IERI is to improve preK-12 student learning and achievement in reading, mathematics, and science by supporting rigorous, interdisciplinary research on large-scale implementations of promising educational practices and technologies in complex and varied learning environments. Information is available at the REC Web site (<http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/EHR/rec/>).

Some Related NSF-Wide Programs

Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training Program (IGERT). This program replaces the Graduate Research Traineeship (GRT) and Research Training Group (RTG) Programs. It supports innovative multidisciplinary graduate programs which integrate education and research, and which provide graduate students with access to state-of-the-art instrumentation and experience in both academic and non-academic research settings. Its objective is to enhance the broad competency and flexibility of doctoral professionals as part of an increasingly dynamic workforce. The program announcement is NSF 00-78; information is also available at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf0078/nsf0078.htm>

Faculty Early-Career Development Program (CAREER). This program supports new faculty in launching a career which balances educational and research pursuits and seeks to fully integrate the two. The program announcement is NSF 00-89; additional information is available from the NSF Web site (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf0089/nsf0089.htm>).

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Awardees 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 (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement/solicitation for further information.

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 about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

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.

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 proposal 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.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. 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: Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, Information Dissemination Branch, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation (3145-0058), 725 17th Street, N.W. Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

OMB control number: 3145-0058.