



**National Science Foundation**  
**4201 Wilson Boulevard**  
**Arlington, Virginia 22230**

SBE 12-003

## **Dear Colleague Letter - Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Employment Opportunity**

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DATE: February 28, 2012

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) announces a nationwide search for senior researchers to serve as Program Directors. Formal consideration of interested applications will begin **March 1** and will continue until selections are made. While we are interested in a variety of experts that span the Directorate's multidisciplinary scope, we currently anticipate one specific area of need, with the following target start date:

**Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP)** (Summer 2012) seeks a scholar with broad expertise in areas of science and innovation policy, developing, improving and expanding models, analytical tools, data and metrics that can be applied in the science policy decision making process. Successful candidates will have training in social or economic science, including economics, science and technology studies, organizational science, or other related fields and demonstrated expertise in research methods that advance science and innovation policy. This expertise may encompass a wide variety of scientific approaches, for example: qualitative case studies to help describe complex processes and formulate hypotheses; quantitative and statistical methods that build new linked datasets on researchers, grants, patents, publications, citations and firms and workers; or analytical models that develop new tools for describing complex outcomes or to identify the marginal impact of Federal funding on scientific progress and outcomes. Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent experience and at least six years of successful research, research administration, and/or managerial experience pertinent to the position.

For additional information about the above program, please see <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?org=SMA>. The position requires effective oral and written communication skills, and familiarity with NSF programs and activities is highly desirable. The incumbent is expected to work effectively both individually within the specific NSF program and as a member of crosscutting and interactive teams. The incumbent must also demonstrate a capability to work across government agencies to promote NSF activities and to leverage program funds through interagency collaborations.

The position may be filled with one of the following appointment alternatives:

**Intergovernmental Personnel Assignment (IPA) Act:** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides the negotiated funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement.

**Visiting Scientist Appointment:** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institution and placed on

the NSF payroll. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for a one-year period and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.

**Temporary Excepted Service Appointment:** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, and life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers, and Educators" on the NSF website at: [http://www.nsf.gov/about/career\\_opps/](http://www.nsf.gov/about/career_opps/).

**How to Apply:** Applicants should indicate within their cover letter and subject line of the email that they are applying for a position in the SciSIP program. Please submit a cover letter and curriculum vitae to [khenders@nsf.gov](mailto:khenders@nsf.gov).

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