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# Geography and Spatial Sciences Program - Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Awards (GSS-DDRI)

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## PROGRAM SOLICITATION

NSF 17-567

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### REPLACES DOCUMENT(S):

NSF 14-538

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National Science Foundation

Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences  
Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

#### Full Proposal Deadline(s):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

Effective July 1, 2017, there are no proposal-submission deadlines. Investigators should submit a proposal when they believe it is ready for submission. A doctoral student may submit a DDRI proposal to GSS only two times.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

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This solicitation provides instructions for preparation of proposals for Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) awards to the Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program. It replaces instructions that had been included in the GSS DDRI solicitation ([NSF-14-538](#)).

*A different solicitation includes instructions for preparation of proposals of other kinds of proposals for submission to GSS. Note that there are deadlines for submission of other kinds of proposals to GSS.*

**DDRI proposals may be submitted to GSS at any time after July 1, 2017.** This replaces deadlines specified in the previous solicitation that had required submission of proposals prior to deadline dates in February and August each year.

This solicitation continues the limitation that permits a doctoral student to submit only two (2) DDRI proposals to GSS.

This solicitation increases the total amount of funding provided through a GSS DDRI award to \$18,000. This total includes both direct and indirect costs and covers the entire duration of the award.

This solicitation continues the requirement that the advisor or another faculty member serving as the principal investigator (PI) of the proposal must submit a signed statement affirming that the student will be able to undertake the proposed research soon after a DDRI award is made. In addition, the PI must affirm that she/he has read the proposal and believes that it makes a strong case for support of the dissertation research project. This statement must be submitted as a supplementary document within the proposal.

This solicitation notes **special review criteria** that GSS asks reviewers and panel members to address regarding the expected larger-scope, longer-term significance of a project as well as its likelihood of success. Although the wording of these criteria is slightly different than in the previous GSS-DDRI solicitation, their substance remains the same.

This solicitation changes the limit on the number of pages permitted in the Project Description to eleven (11) pages. All graphics, tables, and related captions must be included in the eleven pages.

This solicitation provides clarification regarding proposal preparation for submission of a DDRI proposal to the Geography and Spatial Sciences Program.

Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the revised *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) ([NSF 19-1](#)), which is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after February 25, 2019.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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### General Information

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Program Title:

### Synopsis of Program:

As specified in the Geography and Spatial Sciences Program [strategic plan](#), the mission of the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program is to promote:

- Basic scientific research in geography and spatial science that advances theory, fundamental understanding, scientific approaches, and that addresses the challenges facing society.
- The education and training of geographers and spatial scientists in order to enhance the capabilities of current and future generations of researchers.
- The involvement of geographers and spatial scientists in interdisciplinary research.

The Geography and Spatial Sciences Program supports basic research about the geographic distributions and interactions of human, physical, and biotic systems on Earth. Investigators are encouraged to propose plans for research about the nature, causes, and consequences of human activity and natural environmental processes across a range of scales. Projects about a broad range of topics may be appropriate for support if they offer promise of enhancing fundamental geographical knowledge, concepts, theories, methods, and their application to societal problems and concerns.

As part of its effort to encourage and support projects that explicitly integrate education and basic research, GSS provides support to improve the conduct of doctoral dissertation projects undertaken by doctoral students enrolled in U.S. universities when the dissertation research is conducted in a scientifically sound manner and it offers strong potential for enhancing more general scientific knowledge.

**This solicitation addresses the preparation and evaluation of proposals for Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) awards.**

*Instructions for submission of proposals for regular research awards; proposals for awards for conferences, group-travel support, and community-development activities; proposals for research coordination network (RCN) awards; and proposals for rapid-response research (RAPID) awards appear in another GSS solicitation ([https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=505034&org=BCS&from=home](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505034&org=BCS&from=home)).*

### Cognizant Program Officer(s):

Please note that the following information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

- Scott M. Freundschuh-Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-7076, email: [sfreunds@nsf.gov](mailto:sfreunds@nsf.gov)
- Jacqueline Vadjunec-Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-7064, email: [jmvadjun@nsf.gov](mailto:jmvadjun@nsf.gov)
- Cori Jacildone-Program Specialist, telephone: (703) 292-8740, email: [cjacildo@nsf.gov](mailto:cjacildo@nsf.gov)

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

- 47.075 --- Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences

## Award Information

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**Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 25 to 35

During a fiscal year, GSS expects to recommend (either on its own or through co-funding with one or more other NSF programs) a total of 25 to 35 doctoral dissertation research improvement (DDRI) awards. (Another GSS solicitation includes instructions for preparation of other kinds of proposals to the GSS program.)

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$400,000 to \$600,000

pending availability of funds. Project budgets should be developed at scales appropriate for the work to be conducted. GSS doctoral dissertation research improvement (DDRI) awards may not exceed \$18,000, an amount that includes both direct and indirect costs for the entire duration of the award.

## Eligibility Information

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### Who May Submit Proposals:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two- and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members. Special Instructions for International Branch Campuses of US IHEs: If the proposal includes funding to be provided to an international branch campus of a US institution of higher education (including through use of subawards and consultant arrangements), the proposer must explain the benefit(s) to the project of performance at the international branch campus, and justify why the project activities cannot be performed at the US campus.

### Who May Serve as PI:

DDRI proposals must be submitted with a principal investigator (PI) and a co-principal investigator (co-PI).

The PI must be the advisor of the doctoral student or another faculty member at the U.S. university where the doctoral student is enrolled. There is no limitation on the number of times that an individual may be the principal investigator on a DDRI proposal submitted to GSS, either

during a specific competition or over the course of her/his career.

**A doctoral student may submit a DDRI proposal to GSS to support her/his dissertation research only twice during her/his lifetime.** A student and her/his advisor therefore should carefully consider what times during the student's graduate program are most appropriate for submission of a DDRI proposal.

**Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:**

There are no restrictions or limits.

**Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI:**

As noted above, there are no limitations on the number of DDRI proposals submitted to GSS by an advisor or other faculty member functioning as the PI during a specific competition or over the course of her/his career.

**A doctoral student may submit only two DDRI proposals to GSS to support their dissertation research during her/his lifetime.**

## Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

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### A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Not required
- **Preliminary Proposal Submission:** Not required
- **Full Proposals:**
  - Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) guidelines apply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: [https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=pappg](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg).
  - Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov: *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) guidelines apply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: [https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=pappg](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg).
  - Full Proposals submitted via Grants.gov: *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov* guidelines apply (Note: The *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: [https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=grantsgovguide](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide)).

### B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:**

Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:**

Not Applicable
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:**

Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

### C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Deadline(s):**

Proposals Accepted Anytime

Effective July 1, 2017, there are no proposal-submission deadlines. Investigators should submit a proposal when they believe it is ready for submission. A doctoral student may submit a DDRI proposal to GSS only two times.

## Proposal Review Information Criteria

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### Merit Review Criteria:

National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review criteria apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

## Award Administration Information

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### Award Conditions:

Standard NSF award conditions apply.

### Reporting Requirements:

Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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As specified in the Geography and Spatial Sciences Program [strategic plan](#), the mission of the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program is to promote:

- Basic scientific research in geography and spatial science that advances theory, fundamental understanding, scientific approaches, and that addresses the challenges facing society.
- The education and training of geographers and spatial scientists in order to enhance the capabilities of current and future generations of researchers.
- The involvement of geographers and spatial scientists in interdisciplinary research.

The Geography and Spatial Sciences Program supports basic research about the geographic distributions and interactions of human, physical, and biotic systems on Earth. Investigators are encouraged to propose plans for research about the nature, causes, and consequences of human activity and natural environmental processes across a range of scales. Projects about a broad range of topics may be appropriate for support if they offer promise of enhancing fundamental geographical knowledge, concepts, theories, methods, and their application to societal problems and concerns.

As part of its effort to encourage and support projects that explicitly integrate education and basic research, GSS provides support to enhance and improve the conduct of doctoral dissertation projects conducted by doctoral students enrolled in U.S. universities in geography, other spatial sciences, and related fields.

**This solicitation provides instructions for preparation of proposals for Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) awards to the Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program.** It replaces instructions that had been included in GSS-DDRI solicitation [NSF 14-538](#).

## II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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Through its competitive grants competitions, the Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program of the U.S. National Science Foundation seeks to advance basic understanding and methods in geography, other spatial sciences, and related fields to enhance fundamental knowledge and address societal problems. GSS is committed to supporting basic geographic and spatial scientific research as well as wider-ranging interdisciplinary research in which geographers and spatial scientists may play critical roles. In alignment with the [NSF strategic plan](#), GSS expects that the research it supports will draw upon and enhance fundamental theory in geography and/or other spatial sciences, and it will encourage and support potentially transformative research that has potential larger-scale, longer-term significance for both basic understanding and for societal benefit. As noted in the [GSS strategic plan](#), GSS will seek to identify and support research projects that may potentially transform geography, other spatial sciences, and related fields by trying to assess the longer-term potential as well as the more immediate significance of research projects.

A proposal submitted for consideration by the Geography and Spatial Sciences Program at NSF will be most competitive (a) if the research is grounded in relevant geographical and/or spatial scientific theory; (b) if it focuses on one or a few core questions grounded in the theoretical framework that has been established; (c) if it articulates how scientifically sound methods will be used to explore the validity of answers to the core questions; and (d) if the results are likely to contribute not only specific answers to those specific questions but also to the enhancement of broader geographic and/or spatial scientific theory. The project also can draw on and contribute to theory in other fields, but in order to justify support from GSS, a project must show promise of contributing generalizable information and insights that will enhance fundamental geographic and/or spatial scientific theory and thinking. The investigators should plan to disseminate their results through presentations and publications for geographers and spatial scientists as well as other relevant communities.

GSS supports research that involves development of methods and techniques to advance geographic and spatial scientific research. Proposals to develop and advance methods generally are most competitive when they also address substantive questions that are grounded in broader theoretical contexts, because the

development of new methods is most compelling when their wider-ranging utility is complemented with convincing demonstrations of their practical utility to address substantive problems.

Although GSS frequently engages in co-review of regular research proposals with other NSF programs, it does so far less frequently with DDRI proposals. Co-review entails multiple programs coordinating the review of a single project proposal. Doctoral students and their advisors who believe that their work might be appropriate for co-review are encouraged to contact program officers for all programs they think might have interest in their work well in advance of submitting their proposal in order to assess whether co-review may be a viable option. Be aware that GSS will not co-review a DDRI proposal submitted to another program if the doctoral student already has had two DDRI proposals evaluated by GSS.

Doctoral dissertation research improvement (DDRRI) awards provide support to enhance and improve the conduct of doctoral dissertation projects conducted by doctoral students enrolled in U.S. universities who are conducting scientific research that enhances basic scientific knowledge. As noted in the title of the awards, DDRRI awards are meant to improve the conduct of the dissertation research. All DDRRI proposals recommended for funding by GSS must clearly demonstrate how the proposed research will contribute to the advancement of basic geographic and/or spatial scientific theory and knowledge. The most competitive proposals will be those that also demonstrate how already significant research will be improved with DDRRI funding.

DDRRI awards are not intended to provide the full costs of a student's doctoral dissertation research. DDRRI awards recommended by GSS will not exceed \$18,000, a total that includes both allowable direct costs and appropriate indirect costs over the duration of the award. Project budgets should be developed at scales appropriate for the work to be conducted and may only include costs directly associated with the conduct of dissertation research.

DDRRI awards provide funding for research costs not normally covered by the student's university. Examples of the kinds of expenses that may be included in a DDRRI proposal budget are the following:

- Costs associated with travel and related expenses to conduct research at field sites, archives, specialized collections, and/or facilities away from the student's campus
- Costs for data-collection activities, including the conduct of surveys, questionnaires, and/or focus groups or the purchase of extant data, including remotely sensed imagery
- Costs for equipment necessary for the conduct of the project that will be devoted to the project over the duration of the award. (Note that any equipment purchased with NSF funds becomes property of the awardee organization.)
- Costs for payments to research subjects and/or informants
- Costs for materials and supplies required for the conduct of the project
- Costs for analysis and research services not otherwise available
- Costs for travel to one or two professional meetings to present preliminary research results and obtain feedback to further improve the project (Note budgetary restrictions specified in the Other Budgetary Limitations section of this solicitation. Note also that GSS will not recommend a DDRRI award solely to provide support to share research results at conferences.)

Costs that cannot be reimbursed by DDRRI awards include the following:

- A stipend or salary for the doctoral student or advisor (Note that salaries or payments for work by other individuals whose assistance may be essential conduct of the project may be permitted when there is sound justification for such expenses.)
- Costs for tuition, textbooks, or other items not directly related to the conduct of dissertation research.
- Publication costs for articles based on the dissertation, except when the university's degree requirements permit the substitution of published research results for a free-standing dissertation
- Costs for travel of the advisor to the field site and/or professional meetings

DDRRI awards may be up to two years (24 months) in duration. The dissertation does not have to be completed during that time period, but costs associated with research activities to be reimbursed with DDRRI funds must be incurred when the award is active.

### III. AWARD INFORMATION

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**Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 25 to 35

During a fiscal year, GSS expects to recommend (either on its own or through co-funding with one or more other NSF programs) a total of 25 to 35 doctoral dissertation research improvement (DDRRI) awards.

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$400,000 to \$600,000 pending availability of funds. Project budgets should be developed at scales appropriate for the work to be conducted. GSS doctoral dissertation research improvement (DDRRI) awards may not exceed \$18,000, an amount that includes both direct and indirect costs for the entire duration of the award.

### IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

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#### Who May Submit Proposals:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two- and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members. Special Instructions for International Branch Campuses of US IHEs: If the proposal includes funding to be provided to an international branch campus of a US institution of higher education (including through use of subawards and consultant arrangements), the proposer must explain the benefit(s) to the project of performance at

the international branch campus, and justify why the project activities cannot be performed at the US campus.

#### Who May Serve as PI:

DDRI proposals must be submitted with a principal investigator (PI) and a co-principal investigator (co-PI).

The PI must be the advisor of the doctoral student or another faculty member at the U.S. university where the doctoral student is enrolled. There is no limitation on the number of times that an individual may be the principal investigator on a DDRI proposal submitted to GSS, either during a specific competition or over the course of her/his career.

**A doctoral student may submit a DDRI proposal to GSS to support her/his dissertation research only twice during her/his lifetime.** A student and her/his advisor therefore should carefully consider what times during the student's graduate program are most appropriate for submission of a DDRI proposal.

#### Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

There are no restrictions or limits.

#### Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI:

As noted above, there are no limitations on the number of DDRI proposals submitted to GSS by an advisor or other faculty member functioning as the PI during a specific competition or over the course of her/his career.

**A doctoral student may submit only two DDRI proposals to GSS to support their dissertation research during her/his lifetime.**

#### Additional Eligibility Info:

None

## V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

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### A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

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**Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** Proposers may opt to submit proposals in response to this Program Solicitation via Grants.gov or via the NSF FastLane system.

- Full proposals submitted via FastLane: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)*. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: [https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=pappg](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg). Paper copies of the PAPPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [nsfpubs@nsf.gov](mailto:nsfpubs@nsf.gov). Proposers are reminded to identify this program solicitation number in the program solicitation block on the NSF Cover Sheet For Proposal to the National Science Foundation. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.
- Full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation via Grants.gov should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov*. The complete text of the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: ([https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=grantsgovguide](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide)). To obtain copies of the Application Guide and Application Forms Package, click on the Apply tab on the Grants.gov site, then click on the Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions link and enter the funding opportunity number, (the program solicitation number without the NSF prefix) and press the Download Package button. Paper copies of the Grants.gov Application Guide also may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [nsfpubs@nsf.gov](mailto:nsfpubs@nsf.gov).

See PAPPG Chapter II.C.2 for guidance on the required sections of a full research proposal submitted to NSF. Please note that the proposal preparation instructions provided in this program solicitation may deviate from the PAPPG instructions.

#### Proposal Format

**Proposals not in conformance with the proposal-preparation requirements of the NSF *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG)* or the NSF *Grants.gov Application Guide* may be returned without review.**

Proposers should be sure to note explicit formatting requirements regarding proposal pagination, fonts, margins, line spacing, and page formatting. Proposers must adhere to these requirements in order to ensure the readability of proposals and to ensure that the proposers are not seen as trying to gain an unfair advantage over other proposers in the same competition.

For some sections of the GSS DDRI proposal, guidance provided below takes precedent over the requirements specified in the PAPPG and *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide*. Proposers should carefully review this section to ensure that their DDRI proposal is prepared properly before the proposal is submitted to GSS. **Failure to comply with GSS DDRI solicitation-specific instructions may also result in a proposal being returned without review.**

#### ***Proposal Sections to Be Prepared as Directed in the PAPPG or the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide***

The following sections of the proposal are mandatory and should be prepared in accordance with instructions regarding those sections in the PAPPG or the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide*:

- **Project Summary** (Note the requirements regarding explicit discussion of the project overview, intellectual merit, and broader impacts in separate

subsections.)

- **References Cited** (Note that this is a separate section of the proposal and that it immediately follows the Project Description.)
- **Biographical Sketches** (Note that biographical sketches for the PI, co-PIs, and other senior personnel should include all required sections and that there are a maximum number of items that may be listed for some categories. Note that lists of collaborators and other affiliations must not be included in biographical sketches.)
- **Budgets** (Note that a narrative with budget justification should follow the budget forms, with explanations for all costs being as detailed as possible. This narrative must not be longer than three pages.)
- **Current and Pending Support** (Note that this proposal is considered a pending activity and should be listed on the form for the advisor, doctoral student, and any other PIs.)
- **Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources** (Note that descriptions of other resources that may assist in the conduct of the project may be identified, but these descriptions should be narrative in nature and must not include any quantifiable financial information. Note also that if there are no facilities, equipment, or other resources to describe, a statement to that effect must be included in the proposal.)

**Collaborators and Other Affiliations Information** (Note that a single-copy document that accompanies the proposal but technically is not part of the proposal must be submitted for the advisor (PI), the doctoral student (co-PI), and all other senior personnel. This information should be prepared in accordance with PAPPG Chapter II.C.1. For additional information about the submission of information about collaborators and other affiliations, refer to <https://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/coa.jsp>.)

#### ***Proposal Sections with Special Instructions for Proposals Submitted in Response to This Solicitation***

The following sections of the proposal are mandatory and should be prepared in accordance to the following supplementary instructions as well as to guidance in the PAPPG or the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide*.

#### **Proposal Cover Sheet**

**The solicitation number for this solicitation should be specified as the program solicitation number.** Proposers should **not** use the number for the solicitation for other kinds of awards made by the GSS Program or the number of the *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide*.

**For the NSF organizational unit to consider the proposal, select BCS - Geography & Spatial Sci-DDRI.** You may select additional programs if you would like those programs to consider co-review of your proposal with GSS. (Note that GSS normally does not engage in co-review of DDRI proposals with other programs because of the extra work involved relative to the size of the awards, so a request for co-review should be made only when PIs believe the proposed work makes a strong case for advancing theory and basic knowledge in multiple communities served by multiple programs.)

**"Doctoral Dissertation Research:" should be the prefix before the substantive title of the DDRI proposal.** The substantive title of the proposal should follow. This substantive portion of the title should describe the project in concise, informative language so that a scientifically or technically literate reader could understand what the project is about. The title should emphasize the scientific work to be undertaken. Proposers should not use "cute" or "attention-grabbing" subtitles, because such phrases will lead reviewers to question the intellectual significance of the project.

**Start date of project.** PIs should indicate a start date for their project that is at least six (6) months after the date on which their proposal is submitted to NSF

**Personnel Listed on the Cover Sheet.** DDRI awards focus on providing support for the dissertation research of a doctoral student, but the doctoral student's advisor or another faculty member at the university where the student is enrolled must serve as the principal investigator (PI) of the proposal, and the advisor is expected to play an active role in helping the student develop a strong and compelling proposal. The doctoral student must be listed as a co-principal investigator (co-PI). In cases when a student is working closely with multiple faculty members, an additional faculty member may be added as another co-PI. (Note that identification of an individual as a PI or co-PI means that they will have administrative responsibility for an award based on the proposal.)

#### ***Project Description***

As specified in Chapter II.C.2.d of the PAPPG and in the comparable section of the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide*, the project description should be a clear statement of the work to be undertaken. Proposers should note that the project description must contain a separate section within the narrative that discusses the broader impacts of the proposed activities.

To be competitive for GSS funding, the project description should provide clear descriptions of relevant literature and theoretical frameworks within which the project is set, a complete description of the research methods that will be used, and discussion of the expected intellectual merit and broader impacts that may result from the project.

Proposers should note the GSS-specific review criteria that are used to complement consideration of the standard NSF merit review criteria and should consider explicitly identifying the expected larger-scope, longer-term significance of their project as well as its likelihood of success.

Letters of support from other individuals and/or organizations that are not permitted as supplementary documents may be included in the project description.

A section describing Results from Prior NSF Support is **NOT** required in a DDRI proposal submitted to GSS. Such a section is required for all other kinds of proposals submitted to GSS if any PI or co-PI has received an NSF award starting in the last five years.

**The project description of a GSS -DDRI proposal may not exceed eleven (11) pages in length. No additional pages are permitted.** The GSS program directors strongly urge proposers to consider the use of non-narrative visualizations to complement text in their project descriptions, but all tables, figures, and accompanying captions must be included in the eleven pages.

#### **Special Information and Supplementary Documentation**

Following are supplementary documents for which special instructions are provided for proposals submitted in response to this solicitation that supplement guidance in the PAPPG and the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide*:

#### ***Data-Management Plan***

All proposals must include a plan for data management and for sharing the products of research. The Data-Management Plan to be submitted with a proposal must be no longer than two (2) pages in length and must be included as a Supplementary Document.

When preparing their Data-Management Plans, proposers should address all five of the points specified in Chapter II.C.2.j of the PAPPG and the comparable section of the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide*. Proposers should specify how they intend to make data, software, and other products of the research readily available to potential users through **institutionally maintained** archives, repositories, and/or distribution networks so that the products may be easily accessed

by others over long time periods.

### **Signed Statement from the Principal Investigator**

The advisor or other faculty member serving as the principal investigator (PI) of the proposal is required to submit a signed statement affirming that the student will be able to undertake the proposed research soon after a DDRI award is made. In addition, the PI must affirm that she/he has read the proposal and believes that it makes a strong case for support of the dissertation research project.

The following template must be used to prepare this statement, with changes permitted only to provide information where there are blank lines in the template. Additional text is not permitted. The statement must display a real signature of the PI. Any alternatives, such as an electronic signature from the PI or a real signature from another faculty member, will be permitted only with prior written approval from a GSS program director.

#### **Required template for a statement signed by the PI:**

To: NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program

From: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert name of the PI]

By signing below, I affirm that, to the best of my knowledge, the proposal titled " \_\_\_\_\_ " [Insert title of proposal] represents the first/second submission [Remove the inappropriate word and the slash] of a doctoral dissertation research improvement (DDRI) proposal to the NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program by \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert name of doctoral student].

I affirm that the doctoral student is at a stage in her/his graduate program that makes it very likely that the student will be able to undertake the dissertation research described in this proposal soon after a DDRI award is made.

**I affirm that I have read this proposal, and I believe that this proposal makes a strong case for NSF support for this project.** [Print this paragraph in bold text]

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert PI's signature]

University: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert university name]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert date that the statement is signed by the PI]

This letter must be included in the proposal as a supplementary document. It should **not** be submitted as a single-copy document that accompanies the proposal but is not part of the proposal.

### **Letters of Collaboration**

Brief statements, whether written as letters or as free-standing email messages from individuals and/or organizations that will work with the PIs and/or assist in the conduct of the proposed project, may be included as Supplementary Documents. Such letters are not needed from individuals included as senior personnel on a project.

Letters of collaboration should focus solely on the willingness of the letter's author and/or the author's organization to directly collaborate with the investigators and/or assist in the conduct of the project in ways that have been outlined in the Project Description. Such letters should not argue for support of the project by articulating in greater detail what activities the collaborator will undertake and/or by elaborating reasons for supporting the project. Such additional text may be included in the eleven pages of the Project Description of the proposal but is not permitted in a Supplementary Document.

**GSS program directors strongly encourage the use of a template like the following for letters of collaboration. If this template or very similar text is not used, the text provided by the letter's author must be equally brief and to-the-point.** Inclusion of longer letters may result in the PIs being forced to remove such letters (with no other changes to the proposal permitted), or NSF may return the proposal without review. If proposers want to ascertain whether alternate text will be acceptable, they should send a draft of any questionable letters to the GSS program directors for comment at least one week prior to the submission of the proposal.

#### **Suggested template for a letter of collaboration:**

To: NSF Geography and Spatial Sciences (GSS) Program

From: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert the name of the individual collaborator or the name of the organization and name and position of the official submitting this letter]

By signing below or by transmitting this message electronically, I acknowledge that my organization and/or I [Select appropriate words] will collaborate with the investigator on this project and/or will provide assistance for the project described in the proposal titled " \_\_\_\_\_." [Insert proposal title] This project constitutes the doctoral dissertation research of \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert the doctoral student's name]

My organization and/or I will be involved in the manner described in the project description of this proposal.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert the signature or name of the author of this letter]

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert the name of the organization the letter's author is representing or with which the author is associated]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ [Insert the date when the letter is signed or transmitted]

### **IRB and/or IACUC Certifications**

If the submitting organization's Institutional Review Board (IRB) has approved plans for research involving human subjects or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) has approved research involving vertebrate animals, certification of IRB and/or IACUC approval may be included in appropriate sections of the cover sheet. Documentation of the certification may be included as a supplementary document, but that is not required if sufficient information is provided by the sponsored research office on the cover sheet of the proposal.



If the IRB and/or IACUC have not approved the research plans when the proposal is submitted, the appropriate box(es) should be checked on the cover sheet and "Pending" should be listed on the line that follows. If IRB or IACUC approval is granted while the proposal is under review at NSF, certification of the approval should be sent to the GSS program directors. If the IRB or IACUC asks that plans be forwarded to it only when the investigators have received word that their project may be supported, the investigators should have the application ready for prompt submission, because notification from the NSF program directors that they would like to recommend the proposal for an award may come with a very brief time period during which necessary materials (including the IRB or IACUC certification) must be obtained. If the required certifications cannot be supplied quickly, GSS program directors may have to turn their attention to other meritorious projects that can be funded right away.

Most IRB or IACUC approvals are valid for specific time periods. If the expiration of the current approval will occur before or soon after the possible start date for an award, investigators should seek renewal of the approval so that they have an active certification if they are informed the proposal will be recommended for funding. Once the investigators receive written certification that the renewal has been approved, it should be forwarded to the managing NSF program officer for the proposal.

#### **Other Supplementary Documents**

Unless authorized here or in the PAPPG or the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide, no other materials should be included in as supplementary documents. Survey or interview protocols are not permitted in this section, nor are reprints of articles previously published by the investigators. Letters of recommendation, letters of support, transcripts, and other such materials should not be included as supplementary documents. Proposals that include materials in this section that belong in the project description may be returned without review.

Investigators who have questions regarding the appropriateness of submitting specific items as supplementary documents should contact the GSS program officers well in advance of the time when they plan to submit the proposal to obtain guidance regarding how to proceed.

#### **Appendices**

No appendices are permitted.

## **B. Budgetary Information**

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#### **Cost Sharing:**

Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

#### **Other Budgetary Limitations:**

Project budgets should be developed at scales appropriate for the work to be conducted.

DDRI awards supported by GSS may not exceed \$18,000, a total that must include both allowable direct costs and appropriate indirect costs for the entire duration of the award.

The direct costs requested in a DDRI proposal must be allowable costs that will improve the conduct of dissertation research. Student stipends, tuition expenses, assistantships, and the doctoral advisor's travel expenses are **NOT** eligible for support. Travel to conferences to disseminate the results of research and obtain constructive feedback prior to completion of the dissertation may be included in the proposal, but DDRI awards recommended by GSS should not have direct conference travel costs that exceed \$1,000 for one conference or a total of \$1,500 for two conferences. GSS will not recommend funding of DDRI awards solely to support travel to conferences to disseminate research results.

## **C. Due Dates**

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- **Full Proposal Deadline(s):**

Proposals Accepted Anytime

Effective July 1, 2017, there are no proposal-submission deadlines. Investigators should submit a proposal when they believe it is ready for submission. A doctoral student may submit a DDRI proposal to GSS only two times.

## **D. FastLane/Research.gov/Grants.gov Requirement**

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#### **For Proposals Submitted Via FastLane or Research.gov:**

To prepare and submit a proposal via FastLane, see detailed technical instructions available at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. To prepare and submit a proposal via Research.gov, see detailed technical instructions available at: [https://www.research.gov/research-portal/appmanager/base/desktop?\\_nfpb=true&\\_pageLabel=research\\_node\\_display&\\_nodePath=/researchGov/Service/Desktop/ProposalPreparationandSubmission.html](https://www.research.gov/research-portal/appmanager/base/desktop?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=research_node_display&_nodePath=/researchGov/Service/Desktop/ProposalPreparationandSubmission.html). For FastLane or Research.gov user support, call the FastLane and Research.gov Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov) or [rgov@nsf.gov](mailto:rgov@nsf.gov). The FastLane and Research.gov Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane and Research.gov systems. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this funding opportunity.

#### **For Proposals Submitted Via Grants.gov:**

Before using Grants.gov for the first time, each organization must register to create an institutional profile. Once registered, the applicant's organization can then apply for any federal grant on the Grants.gov website. Comprehensive information about using Grants.gov is available

on the Grants.gov Applicant Resources webpage: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html>. In addition, the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide (see link in Section V.A) provides instructions regarding the technical preparation of proposals via Grants.gov. For Grants.gov user support, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Grants.gov Contact Center answers general technical questions related to the use of Grants.gov. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this solicitation.

**Submitting the Proposal:** Once all documents have been completed, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must submit the application to Grants.gov and verify the desired funding opportunity and agency to which the application is submitted. The AOR must then sign and submit the application to Grants.gov. The completed application will be transferred to the NSF FastLane system for further processing.

Proposers that submitted via FastLane or Research.gov may use Research.gov to verify the status of their submission to NSF. For proposers that submitted via Grants.gov, until an application has been received and validated by NSF, the Authorized Organizational Representative may check the status of an application on Grants.gov. After proposers have received an e-mail notification from NSF, Research.gov should be used to check the status of an application.

## VI. NSF PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

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Proposals received by NSF are assigned to the appropriate NSF program for acknowledgement and, if they meet NSF requirements, for review. All proposals are carefully reviewed by a scientist, engineer, or educator serving as an NSF Program Officer, and usually by three to ten other persons outside NSF either as *ad hoc* reviewers, panelists, or both, who are experts in the particular fields represented by the proposal. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with oversight of the review process. Proposers are invited to suggest names of persons they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal and/or persons they would prefer not review the proposal. These suggestions may serve as one source in the reviewer selection process at the Program Officer's discretion. Submission of such names, however, is optional. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts of interest with the proposal. In addition, Program Officers may obtain comments from site visits before recommending final action on proposals. Senior NSF staff further review recommendations for awards. A flowchart that depicts the entire NSF proposal and award process (and associated timeline) is included in PAPPG Exhibit III-1.

A comprehensive description of the Foundation's merit review process is available on the NSF website at: [https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit\\_review/](https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/).

Proposers should also be aware of core strategies that are essential to the fulfillment of NSF's mission, as articulated in *Building the Future: Investing in Discovery and Innovation - NSF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2018 – 2022*. These strategies are integrated in the program planning and implementation process, of which proposal review is one part. NSF's mission is particularly well-implemented through the integration of research and education and broadening participation in NSF programs, projects, and activities.

One of the strategic objectives in support of NSF's mission is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions must recruit, train, and prepare a diverse STEM workforce to advance the frontiers of science and participate in the U.S. technology-based economy. NSF's contribution to the national innovation ecosystem is to provide cutting-edge research under the guidance of the Nation's most creative scientists and engineers. NSF also supports development of a strong science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce by investing in building the knowledge that informs improvements in STEM teaching and learning.

NSF's mission calls for the broadening of opportunities and expanding participation of groups, institutions, and geographic regions that are underrepresented in STEM disciplines, which 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.

### A. Merit Review Principles and Criteria

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The National Science Foundation strives to invest in a robust and diverse portfolio of projects that creates new knowledge and enables breakthroughs in understanding across all areas of science and engineering research and education. To identify which projects to support, NSF relies on a merit review process that incorporates consideration of both the technical aspects of a proposed project and its potential to contribute more broadly to advancing NSF's mission "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes." NSF makes every effort to conduct a fair, competitive, transparent merit review process for the selection of projects.

#### 1. Merit Review Principles

These principles are to be given due diligence by PIs and organizations when preparing proposals and managing projects, by reviewers when reading and evaluating proposals, and by NSF program staff when determining whether or not to recommend proposals for funding and while overseeing awards. Given that NSF is the primary federal agency charged with nurturing and supporting excellence in basic research and education, the following three principles apply:

- All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
- NSF projects, in the aggregate, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals. These "Broader Impacts" may be accomplished through the research itself, through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. The project activities may be based on previously established and/or innovative methods and approaches, but in either case must be well justified.
- Meaningful assessment and evaluation of NSF funded projects should be based on appropriate metrics, keeping in mind the likely correlation between the effect of broader impacts and the resources provided to implement projects. If the size of the activity is limited, evaluation of that activity in isolation is not likely to be meaningful. Thus, assessing the effectiveness of these activities may best be done at a higher, more aggregated, level than the individual project.

With respect to the third principle, even if assessment of Broader Impacts outcomes for particular projects is done at an aggregated level, PIs are expected to be accountable for carrying out the activities described in the funded project. Thus, individual projects should include clearly stated goals, specific descriptions of the activities that the PI intends to do, and a plan in place to document the outputs of those activities.

These three merit review principles provide the basis for the merit review criteria, as well as a context within which the users of the criteria can better understand their intent.

## 2. Merit Review Criteria

All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board approved merit review criteria. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

The two merit review criteria are listed below. **Both** criteria are to be given **full consideration** during the review and decision-making processes; each criterion is necessary but neither, by itself, is sufficient. Therefore, proposers must fully address both criteria. (PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.d(i). contains additional information for use by proposers in development of the Project Description section of the proposal). Reviewers are strongly encouraged to review the criteria, including PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.d(i), prior to the review of a proposal.

When evaluating NSF proposals, reviewers will be asked to consider what the proposers want to do, why they want to do it, how they plan to do it, how they will know if they succeed, and what benefits could accrue if the project is successful. These issues apply both to the technical aspects of the proposal and the way in which the project may make broader contributions. To that end, reviewers will be asked to evaluate all proposals against two criteria:

- **Intellectual Merit:** The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and
- **Broader Impacts:** The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

The following elements should be considered in the review for both criteria:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to
  - a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
  - b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through the activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. NSF values the advancement of scientific knowledge and activities that contribute to achievement of societally relevant outcomes. Such outcomes include, but are not limited to: full participation of women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); improved STEM education and educator development at any level; increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology; improved well-being of individuals in society; development of a diverse, globally competitive STEM workforce; increased partnerships between academia, industry, and others; improved national security; increased economic competitiveness of the United States; and enhanced infrastructure for research and education.

Proposers are reminded that reviewers will also be asked to review the Data Management Plan and the Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan, as appropriate.

### Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

As noted in the [GSS strategic plan](#), GSS encourages and supports potentially transformative research that has potential larger-scope, longer-term significance for both basic understanding and for societal benefit. To help identify research projects that may potentially transform geography, other spatial sciences, and related fields, GSS seeks to assess the longer-term potential as well as the more immediate significance of research projects. As a complement to assessing the intellectual merit and the potential broader impacts of a proposed project, members of GSS advisory panels and other reviewers will be asked to provide responses to two questions:

- **As described in the proposal, what is the expected larger-scope, longer-term significance of the project if the project is conducted successfully?**
- **As described in the proposal, what is the likelihood that the project will be conducted successfully?**

Reviewers and GSS advisory panel members will be asked to assign scores in response to each of these questions using a 5-point scale:

*As described in the proposal, what is the expected larger-scope, longer-term significance of the project if the project is conducted successfully?*

- 5 Extremely significant
- 4 Very significant
- 3 Moderately significant
- 2 Mildly significant
- 1 Not significant

*As described in the proposal, what is the likelihood that the project will be conducted successfully?*

- 5 Extremely likely to succeed
- 4 Very likely to succeed
- 3 Moderate chances of success
- 2 Minimal chances of success
- 1 Unlikely to succeed

Proposals generally will be most competitive if both scores assessing potential significance and likelihood of success are high.

## B. Review and Selection Process

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Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by Ad hoc Review and/or Panel Review.

Reviewers will be asked to evaluate proposals using two National Science Board approved merit review criteria and, if applicable, additional program specific criteria. A summary rating and accompanying narrative will generally be completed and submitted by each reviewer and/or panel. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for award. NSF strives to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. Large or particularly complex proposals or proposals from new awardees may require additional review and processing time. The time interval begins on the deadline or target date, or receipt date, whichever is later. The interval ends when the Division Director acts upon the Program Officer's recommendation.

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. After an administrative review has occurred, Grants and Agreements Officers perform 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 their own risk.

Once an award or declination decision has been made, Principal Investigators are provided feedback about their proposals. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers or any reviewer-identifying information, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

## VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

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### A. Notification of the Award

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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 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.B. for additional information on the review process).

### B. Award Conditions

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An NSF award consists of: (1) the award notice, 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 notice; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (GC-1)\*; or Research Terms and Conditions\* and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award notice. Cooperative agreements also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organization via e-mail.

\*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at [https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award\\_conditions.jsp?org=NSF](https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award_conditions.jsp?org=NSF). Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from [nsfpubs@nsf.gov](mailto:nsfpubs@nsf.gov).

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) Chapter VII, available electronically on the NSF Website at [https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=pappg](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg).

### C. Reporting Requirements

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For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the Principal Investigator must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer no later than 90 days prior to the end of the current budget period. (Some programs or awards require submission of more frequent project reports). No later than 120 days following expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final project report, and a project outcomes report for the general public.

Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports, or the project outcomes report, will delay NSF review and processing of any future funding increments as well as any pending proposals for all identified PIs and co-PIs on a given award. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

PIs are required to use NSF's electronic project-reporting system, available through [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov), for preparation and submission of annual and final project reports. Such reports provide information on accomplishments, project participants (individual and organizational), publications, and other specific products and impacts of the project. Submission of the report via [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete. The project outcomes report also must be prepared and submitted using [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov). This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. This report will be posted on the NSF website exactly as it is submitted by the PI.

More comprehensive information on NSF Reporting Requirements and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) Chapter VII, available electronically on the NSF Website at [https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=pappg](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg).

## VIII. AGENCY CONTACTS

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Please note that the program contact information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Scott M. Freundsuh-Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-7076, email: [sfreunds@nsf.gov](mailto:sfreunds@nsf.gov)
- Jacqueline Vadjunec-Program Director, telephone: (703) 292-7064, email: [jmvdjun@nsf.gov](mailto:jmvdjun@nsf.gov)
- Cori Jacildone-Program Specialist, telephone: (703) 292-8740, email: [cjacildo@nsf.gov](mailto:cjacildo@nsf.gov)

For questions related to the use of FastLane or Research.gov, contact:

- FastLane and Research.gov Help Desk: 1-800-673-6188  
FastLane Help Desk e-mail: [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov)  
Research.gov Help Desk e-mail: [rgov@nsf.gov](mailto:rgov@nsf.gov)

For questions relating to Grants.gov contact:

- Grants.gov Contact Center: If the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AOR) has not received a confirmation message from Grants.gov within 48 hours of submission of application, please contact via telephone: 1-800-518-4726; e-mail: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

**For all general inquiries to the GSS program, please email [gss-info@nsf.gov](mailto:gss-info@nsf.gov). This email will reach all current GSS program officers and one of them will reply to you.**

## IX. OTHER INFORMATION

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The NSF website provides the most comprehensive source of information on NSF Directorates (including contact information), programs and funding opportunities. Use of this website by potential proposers is strongly encouraged. In addition, "NSF Update" is an information-delivery system designed to keep potential proposers and other interested parties apprised of new NSF funding opportunities and publications, important changes in proposal and award policies and procedures, and upcoming NSF [Grants Conferences](#). Subscribers are informed through e-mail or the user's Web browser each time new publications are issued that match their identified interests. "NSF Update" also is available on [NSF's website](#).

Grants.gov provides an additional electronic capability to search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities. NSF funding opportunities may be accessed via this mechanism. Further information on Grants.gov may be obtained at <https://www.grants.gov>.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

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The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the US. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF receives approximately 55,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects, of which approximately 11,000 are funded. In addition, the Foundation receives several thousand applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. The agency operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, user facilities, certain oceanographic vessels and Arctic and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry, US participation in international scientific and engineering efforts, and educational activities at every academic level.

*Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED)* provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities to work on NSF-supported projects. See the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* Chapter II.E.6 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

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 and (800) 281-8749, FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

The National Science Foundation Information Center may be reached at (703) 292-5111.

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding

grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

To get the latest information about program deadlines, to download copies of NSF publications, and to access abstracts of awards, visit the NSF Website at <https://www.nsf.gov>

- **Location:** 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314
- **For General Information** (NSF Information Center): (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**  
Send an e-mail to: [nsfpubs@nsf.gov](mailto:nsfpubs@nsf.gov)  
or telephone: (703) 292-7827
- **To Locate NSF Employees:** (703) 292-5111

## 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; and 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 proposer 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 or other entities needing information regarding applicants or nominees as part of a joint application review process, or in order to coordinate programs or policy; 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 [System of Record Notices](#), NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records." Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (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 the burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Suzanne H. Plimpton  
Reports Clearance Officer  
Office of the General Counsel  
National Science Foundation  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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