

Sponsored Programs Administration Buzz Session

August 27, 2025

12:10 – 1:00 PM CT



Agenda

- Intro to NSF Grants
- Federal Updates
- Q&A



Introduction to NSF Grants



Intro to NSF Grants

Resources

About NSF

Mission

Innovations

Organization

Review

NSF Application Components

Required documents

Budget

ScienCV

Award Stage

Post Award



Intro to NSF Grants

Resources	
NSF Website	https://www.nsf.gov/
Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)	https://www.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1
ScienCV	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/
NSF Electronic Application System	Research.gov



National Science Foundation's Mission:

- Promote the progress of science.
- Advance the national health, prosperity and welfare.
- Secure the national defense.

To fulfill their mission, NSF
Primarily funds grants. NSF
accounts for ~ 25% of federal
support to US colleges and
Universities for basic research.



<https://www.nsf.gov/about#who-we-are-ff8>



Intro to NSF Grants - About

Common Innovations Discovered with NSF Support

3D Printing	American Sign Language
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	CRISPR
DNA Amplification	Doppler Radar
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)	The Internet
LASIK Eye Surgery	Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)
Semiconductors	Super Computers
Smartphones	



Intro to NSF Grants - About

NSF Organization: Directorates and Offices

NSF Directorates and Offices	
Office of the Director	National Science Board
Directorate for Biological Sciences	Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Directorate for Engineering	Directorate for Geosciences
Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences	Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences
Directorate for STEM Education	Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships
Office of Budget, Finance and Award Management	Office of the Chief Information Officer
Office of Information and Resources Management	Office of Inspector General



Intro to NSF Grants - About

NSF Peer Review Process

1. **Preliminary Review:** Program Officer conducts a preliminary review to ensure the application meets the funding opportunity requirements
2. **Identify Reviewers:** Program Officer identifies at least three external experts to review the proposal
3. **Review Criteria:** Reviewers evaluate the proposal based on intellectual merit and broader impacts.
4. **Funding Decision:** Awards are based on reviewers' input and other factors by the NSF.

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/merit-review>



Intro to NSF Grants – Application Process

Research.gov

UNMC's Registration: University of Nebraska Medical Center

NSF ID/Research.gov Individual Registration

- Principal Investigator: PI/Co PI Role
- Admins: Other Authorized User (OAU)
- SPA: Admin and AOR

Dual Authentication Process

Validations: Research.gov has automated compliance checks to validate the proposal is compliant with the funding opportunity

https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/rgovcompliancechecks-jan2023r_0.pdf?VersionId=jTiNu.YAIBUjzJq7J.06cFPkdQcQM R4J



Intro to NSF Grants – Application Process

NSF Submission Type	Description	Who Submits
Concept Outline	Concise outline to ensure a project is appropriate for the funding opportunity	Principal Investigator (PI)
Letter of Intent (LOI)	Helps NSF determine size and range of the competition to help with selection of reviewers and to avoid conflicts of interest	Principal Investigator (PI)
Preliminary Proposals	Reduces proposer's unnecessary effort to prepare a full proposal; increases quality of proposals; assists NSF in managing review	Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA)
Full Proposals	Sufficient information should be provided to enable reviewers to evaluate the proposal in accordance with the two merit review criteria	Sponsored Programs Administration (SPA)

Intro to NSF Grants – Application Process

Font, Spacing, and Margin Requirements

Font

- Arial, Courier New or Palatino Linotype at 10pt font or larger
- Times New Roman or Computer Modern family of fonts at 11pt font or larger
- Font less than 10pt may be used for figures, tables, captions, and mathematical formulas or equations

No more than six lines of text within a vertical space of one inch

Margins of at least one inch

Standard letter paper size (8 ½ by 11)



Project Summary

Contents

- Overview
- Statement on intellectual merit
- Statement on broader impacts
- Description of activity that will take place if funded, objectives, and methods

Informative to persons in the same or similar fields and understandable to a broad audience within the scientific community

One page limit



Project Description

Content

- Clear statement of the work including objectives and significance
- Relationship of work to the present state of knowledge in the field
- Should address what, why, how, success measures, and benefits
- “Broader Impacts” section
- Results from prior NSF Support

15 page limit

URLs are not allowed



References Cited

No page limit, but must include bibliographic citations only

Each citation should include the following: Name of all authors, article and journal title, book title, volume number, page numbers, and year of publication

Website information should be included if available



Budget and Budget Justification

Salaries and Wages

- NSF limits the amount of compensation requested for senior/key personnel to no more than 2 months of their regular salary in one year. Any individual requesting more effort must be justified in the budget justification
- No salary cap – full IBS

Fringe Benefits

Equipment - \$5,000 or more and useful life of at least one year

Travel

Participant Support Costs

Other Direct Costs: supplies, publication, consultants, computer service, subawards, other



Budget and Budget Justification

Indirect costs: Unless stated in the funding opportunity, the institution should use the indirect cost rate according to their federally negotiated indirect cost rate

Cost Share

- Voluntary – Prohibited
- Mandatory – Only when explicitly authorized by the NSF Director, National Science Board (NSB), or legislation

Budget Justification

- The amounts for each budget line item requested must be documented and justified
- 5 page limit



Intro to NSF Grants – Application Documents

NSF Unallowable Costs	
Entertainment (unless necessary to the project, must be included in proposal budget)	Meals and Coffee Breaks
Alcoholic Beverages	Home Office Workspace
Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment	



Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources

Description of resources directly applicable to the project

- Internal/External resources, physical or personnel, that will be made available to the project should it be awarded
- Narrative – should not include financial information



Senior/Key Personnel Documents

Biosketch

- Each senior/key personnel must provide a Biosketch using ScienCV

Format

1. Identifying Information
2. Organization and Location
3. Professional Preparation
4. Appointments and Positions
5. Products

Up to 5 products most closely related to the project

Up to 5 products, can relate or not relate to the project, that demonstrate the individuals qualifications

Products examples: publications, conference papers, presentations, websites, technologies, inventions, data sets etc.

6. Certification



Senior/Key Personnel Documents

Current and Pending (Other) Support

- Each senior/key personnel must provide a Biosketch using ScienCV
- Pending Proposals and Active Projects, as well as In Kind Support
- No page limit



Senior/Key Personnel Documents

Collaborators & Other Affiliations Information (COA)

Use COA template:

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/senior-personnel-documents#collaborators-and-other-affiliations-2b3>

COA Tables

Table 1	List individual's name and org affiliation
Table 2	List names for whom a personal, family or business relationship precludes their service as a reviewer
Table 3	List names and org affiliations of individual's PhD advisors and PhD Thesis advisees
Table 4	List names and org affiliations of co-authors and project collaborators in the past 48 months
Table 5	List editorial board, editor-in chief, and co-editors with whom the individual interacts in past 24 months.

Senior/Key Personnel Documents

Synergistic Activities

One page limit

List up to five examples that demonstrates the broader impact of the individual's scholarly and professional activities

Examples:

- Innovations in teaching and training
- Contributions to the science of learning
- Development of research tools
- Service to the scientific/engineering community outside of the individual's organization



Special Information and Supplementary Documentation

Mentoring Plan – postdoc and grad students

Data Management and Sharing Plan – must be included; 2 page limit

Letters of Collaboration – Letters of Support not allowed, LOCs should be limited to stating the intent to collaborate

- "If the proposal submitted by Dr. [insert the full name of the Principal Investigator] entitled [insert the proposal title] is selected for funding by NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal."



Collaborative Proposals

Definition: A collaborative proposal is one in which investigators from two or more organizations wish to collaborate on a unified research project.

Submission via one organization

- Subawards

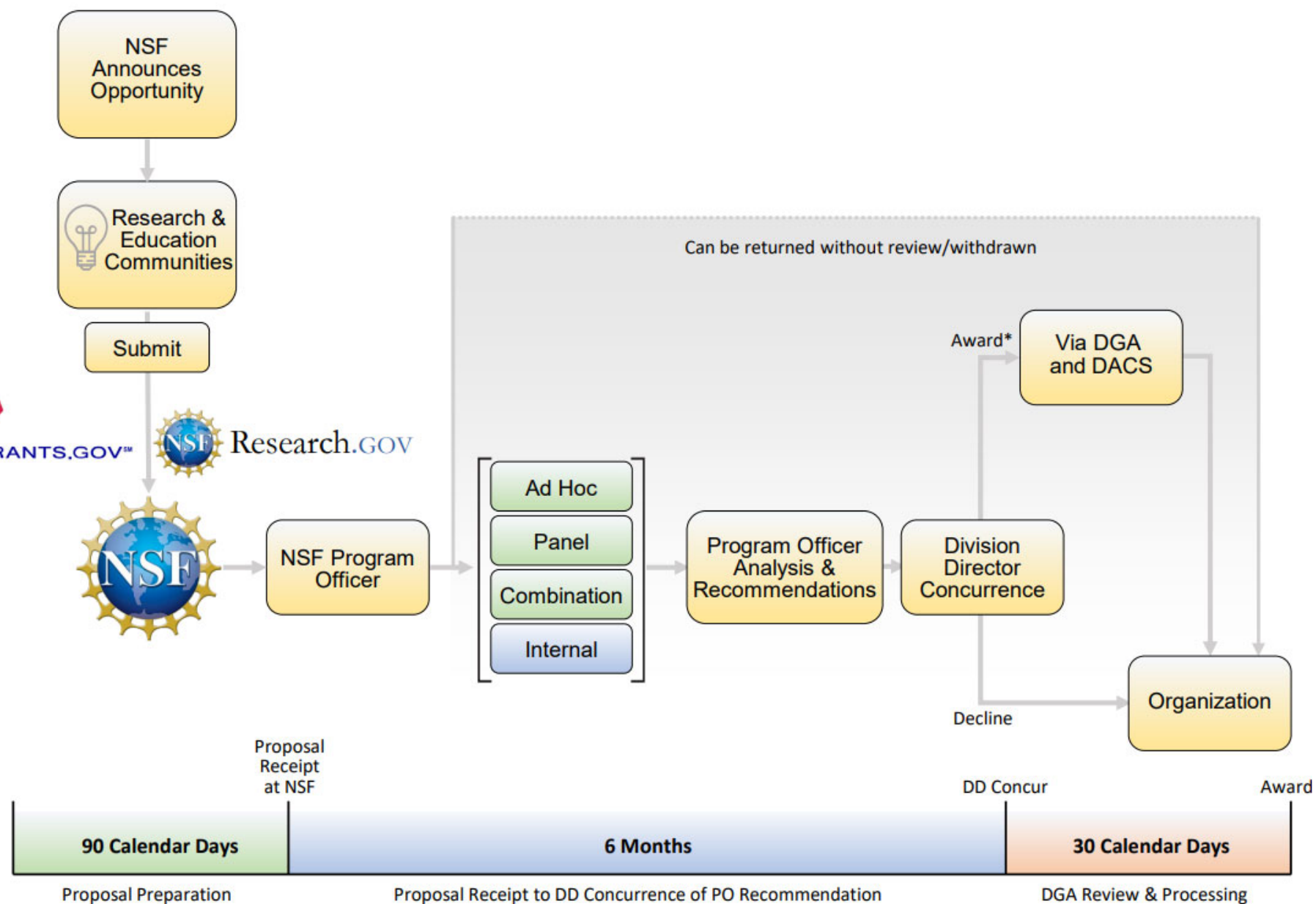
Submission via two or more organizations

- Separate proposals



Lead Organization	Non-Lead Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover Sheet • Project Summary • Table of Contents (automatically generated) • Project Description • References Cited • Budget and Budget Justification • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Biographical Sketch(es) • Current and Pending (Other) Support • Collaborators & Other Affiliations Information • Synergistic Activities • Data Management and Sharing Plan • Mentoring Plan (if applicable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover Sheet • Table of Contents (automatically generated) • Budget and Budget Justification • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Biographical Sketch(es) • Current and Pending (Other) Support • Collaborators & Other Affiliations Information • Synergistic Activities





NSF Award Stage

Request to draw down funds constitutes acceptance of the award.

Composition of NSF Awards

- Award notice – includes any special conditions
- General Federal award information per Uniform Guidance
- Budget
- NSF general award conditions
- Proposal referenced in the award
- NSF program announcement, solicitation incorporated



Intro to NSF Grants: Post Award

NSF Post Award

No Cost Extension

- One-time extension of the grant end date up to 12 months
- Notify NSF and provide supporting reasons for the extension
- Submit at least 10 calendar days prior to end date
- Signed and Submitted by AOR
- No amendment will be issued
- Revised end date will appear in Research.gov



Intro to NSF Grants: Post Award

NSF Prior Approval

Changes in Objectives, Scope, or Methods/Procedures

Changes in PI, co-PI

- PI/Co-PI disengagement greater than 3 months
- Effort changes: reduction of 25% or more

Addition of Subaward

- Description of work to be performed by sub
- Sub Budget and Budget Justification
- Mentoring Plan if adding a postdoc researcher

Addition of Postdoc or Grad Students

- Mentoring Plan if not included in original proposal



NSF Reporting Requirements

- **Annual Project Reports**
 - RPPR (Research Performance Project Report)
 - Accomplishments
 - Products
 - Participants/Organizations
 - Impact
 - Changes/Problems
 - Special Reporting Requirements (if applicable)
 - Due 90 days prior to the end of the current budget period
- **Final Annual Project Reports – due 120 days after the end of the Project Period**
- **Project Outcomes Report for the General Public (POR)**
 - Brief summary prepared for the public to disclose the nature and outcomes of the project
 - Will appear online exactly as submitted
 - Due 120 days after Project Period ends



Federal Updates



NIH Publishes Plan to Drive Gold Standard Science (08/22/2025)

<https://www.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2025-08/2025-gss.pdf>

- Reproducible
- Transparent
- Communicative of Error and Uncertainty
- Collaborative and Interdisciplinary
- Skeptical of Its Findings and Assumptions
- Structured for Falsifiability of Hypotheses
- Subject to Unbiased Peer Review
- Accepting of Negative Results as Positive Outcomes
- Without Conflicts of Interest



EXECUTIVE ORDER: Improving Oversight of Federal Grant Making (08/07/2025)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/improving-oversight-of-federal-grantmaking/>

Termination

- OMB is instructed to amend Uniform Guidance to require all discretionary grants to permit termination for convenience, including when the award no longer advances agency priorities or the national interest
- Agencies are instructed to
 - Review standard terms and confirm inclusion of priority- or interest-based termination authority
 - Revise terms to permit immediate termination for convenience



EXECUTIVE ORDER: Improving Oversight of Federal Grant Making (08/07/2025)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/improving-oversight-of-federal-grantmaking/>

Drawdowns

- Agencies are instructed to incorporate new terms into all future and amended awards that
 - Prohibit direct drawdowns of general grant funds without explicit agency authorization
 - Require grantees to provide written, specific justification for each drawdown request



EXECUTIVE ORDER: Improving Oversight of Federal Grant Making (08/07/2025)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/08/improving-oversight-of-federal-grantmaking/>

F&A

- Agencies are instructed to give preference to applicants with lower institutionally negotiated indirect cost rates, all else being equal
- OMB is instructed to amend Uniform Guidance to appropriately limit the use of grant funds for costs related to facilities and administration by the grantee



F&A: NOAs – DOD

This award is subject to the policies outlined in the DoD 15% Indirect Cost Rate Cap memo dated June 12, 2025 (<https://www.cto.mil/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Indirect-Costs-Memo.pdf>). Should there be a court decision permitting application of this policy, the indirect cost rate cap of 15% will apply for the entirety of the award.

Within 30 days of receiving written notice that the 15% Indirect Cost Cap Policy has been re-implemented, a revised award budget must be submitted that caps indirect costs for the entirety of this award at 15% in accordance with the Policy. USG prior approval is not required for implementation of the revised budget unless it results in a change in scope.



F&A: NOAs – NSF

On June 20, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, in No. 1:25-cv-11231-IT, vacated NSF's Indirect Cost Rate policy (NSF 25-034). If a subsequent court decision permits application of a policy imposing a maximum indirect cost rate reimbursement, NSF may unilaterally modify the terms and conditions of this award to impose the Award Specific FATC set forth below, which shall be applicable to the entire duration of the award. NSF may take such unilateral action by notifying the recipient via email or other written communication. In no event shall NSF unilaterally modify this award to impose an indirect cost rate limitation of less than 15 percent of the modified total direct cost base (MTDC).

If a court decision permits application of such policy, reimbursement of indirect costs for this award must not exceed 15 percent of the modified total direct cost base (MTDC), regardless of whether the recipient has a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate. The recipient must use a rate no greater than 15 percent of MTDC, as defined in 2 CFR § 200.1, for the life of the award, including the award period prior to notification of the application of this term. Excess indirect costs charged to an NSF grant due to use of an incorrect rate will be disallowed. This term and condition supersedes any previously submitted and/or approved budget.

NIH Will Stop Posting Notices of Funding Opportunities in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts in FY2026 (NOT-OD-25-143)

08/14/2025

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-143.html>

Effective October 1, 2025

- Grants.gov will serve as NIH's single official source for funding opportunities
- NIH Guide will continue to be used for policy and informational notices

<https://grants.nih.gov/policy-and-compliance/implementation-of-new-initiatives-and-policies/updates-to-finding-nih-funding-opportunities-and-information>

- Intent is to reduce the number of NOFOs, not number of applications (under parent announcements or other broad opportunity)



FAQ: The Supporting Fairness and Originality in NIH Research Applications policy (NOT-OD-25-132) is effective for applications submitted to the September 25, 2025 receipt date and beyond. How are applications counted going forward?

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/use-of-generative-ai-in-peer-review.htm?anchor=57510>

- Application limit will be counted based on calendar year of Advisory Council date when application is scheduled to be reviewed
- Effective with Cycle II
 - Scientific review dates in October to November 2025
 - Advisory Council in January 2026
- Application limit resets for applications scheduled to be reviewed at the Advisory Council in January 2027
 - Applications submitted for the May 25, 2026, receipt date or later
 - Scientific review dates in October to November 2026
- Applications submitted to receipt dates **before September 25, 2025, will not be counted** toward 2026 calendar year limit
- Applications submitted to the **September 25, 2025 receipt date or later will be counted** toward 2026 calendar year limit



Updated Implementation Guidance of NIH Policy on Foreign Subawards for Active Projects (NOT-OD-25-130) 07/18/2025

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-130.html>

NIH will not issue awards that include a subaward to a foreign entity.

Options

- Renegotiate with primary recipient to move activities to a domestic organization
- Remove scope of foreign component from overall project scope
- Bilaterally terminate award
- **New; temporary:** Renegotiate award structure so foreign subawards are financially removed from the primary award and awarded as administrative supplement
- **Stay tuned:** Another new award structure



FAQ: How will NIH handle applications that were submitted prior to the issuance of the Updated Foreign Subaward Policy? What about applications submitted after the policy change?

<https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/Foreign-Subaward-Policy?anchor=57495>

Due dates before September 25, 2025

- Will be reviewed as submitted
- If considered for funding, IC will negotiate with recipient

Due dates on or after September 25, 2025

- Application that propose foreign subawards will not be accepted and will be administratively withdrawn



Questions?



UNMC

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