

Historically Black  
Colleges and  
Universities  
Excellence in  
Research  
(HBCU-EiR)



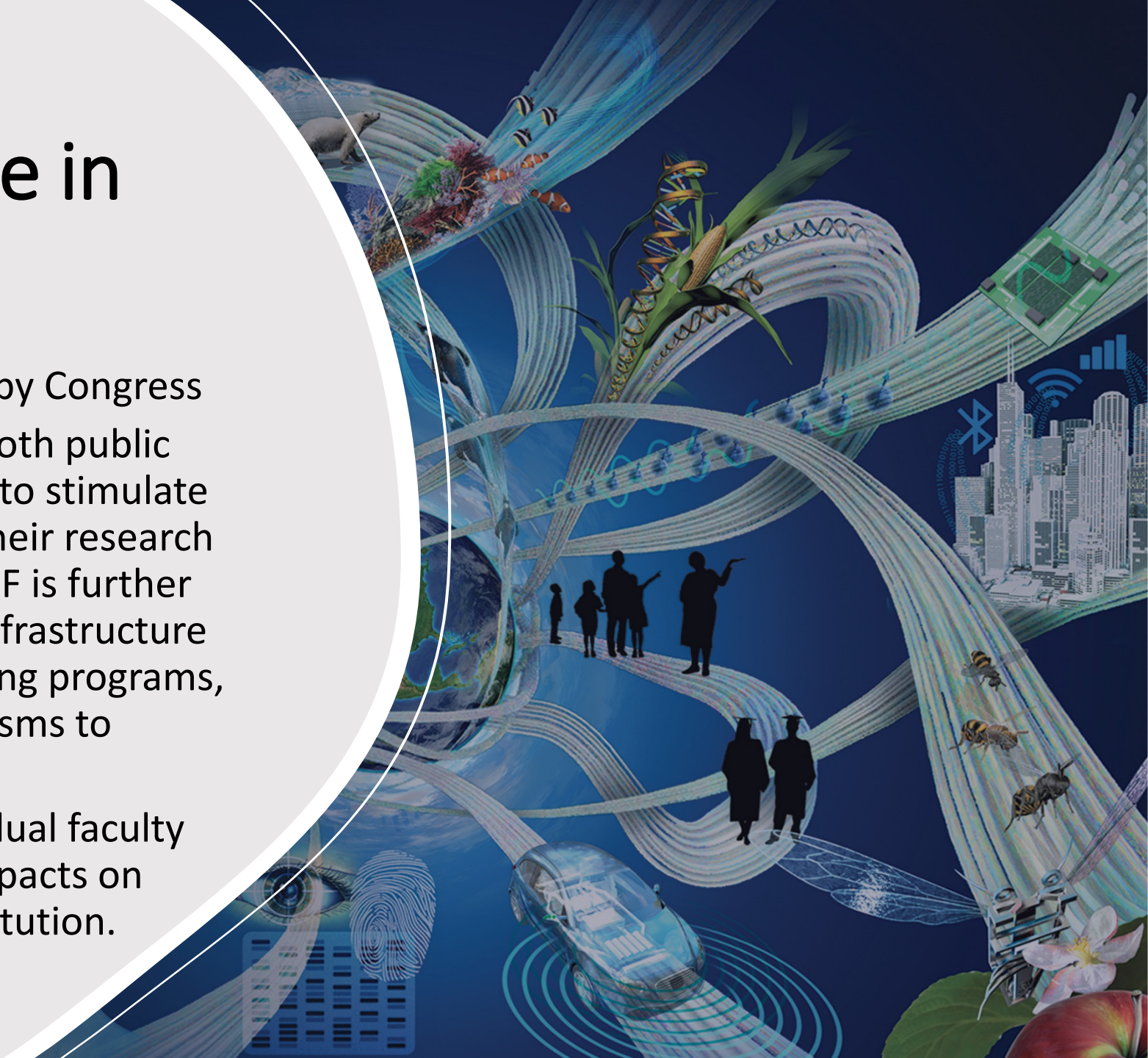
Dina Myers Stroud  
Casonya Johnson

OIA/EPSCoR  
April 3, 2023

# Planning Grants to Support Preparation for Future Submissions to HBCU-EiR

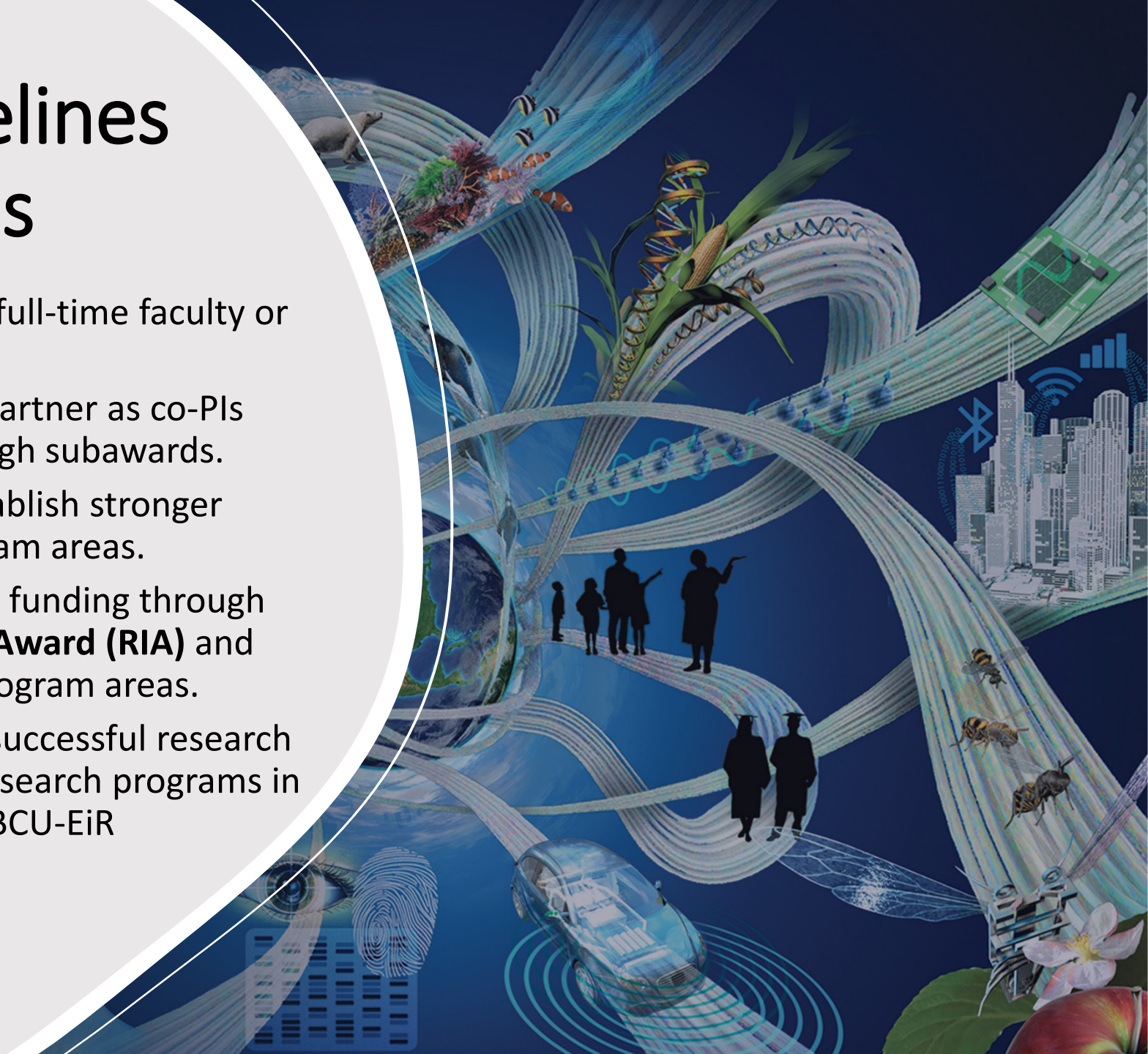
# HBCU-Excellence in Research

- Recommended and appropriated by Congress
  - “...provide opportunities for both public and private HBCUs,... in order to stimulate sustainable improvement in their research and development capacity. NSF is further encouraged to use research infrastructure improvement grants, co-funding programs, and other innovative mechanisms to achieve these goals.”
- Provides research grants to individual faculty with an eye towards long-term impacts on research infrastructure at the institution.



# Eligibility and Timelines for EiR Submissions

- Lead PIs on these awards must have a full-time faculty or research appointment at an HBCU.
  - Faculty at other institutions may partner as co-PIs but can only receive funding through subawards.
- Primary goal is for HBCU faculty to establish stronger connections with NSF's research program areas.
  - Ideally serves as a bridge between funding through the **HBCU-UP Research Initiation Award (RIA)** and funding through NSF's research program areas.
  - PIs with an established history of successful research funding should apply directly to research programs in NSF directorates and not to the HBCU-EiR mechanism.
- Letter of Intent due July 27th, 2023
- Full proposals due October 3rd, 2023



# HBCU-EiR Proposal Review Process

Time to decision varies based on program that reviews the proposal

Letter of Intent in July, Full Proposals in October

Come into OIA

- Compliance
- Program Alignment
- Distribute to Liaison Group

Liaisons

- Find Final Program Home
- Ensure Proposals are Reviewed
- Reflect and Inform Process

Cognizant POs

- Manage Review
- Make Funding Recommendation

# More Information about EiR

- There are no limits on the total budget.
- Up to 20% of the total budget can be allocated for equipment.
- Additional information about the EiR program can be found here:
  - <https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/historically-black-colleges-universities-2>
- **We will be holding webinars for the upcoming submission cycles in May and August.**
  - Check this site:  
([https://beta.nsf.gov/events?f%5B0%5D=event\\_type%3A31342](https://beta.nsf.gov/events?f%5B0%5D=event_type%3A31342)) for news and events



# More Information about EiR

Submitting an EiR proposal this year?

- Please reach out to OIA or members of the Liaison Group prior to submission.

BIO- Anna Allen – [akallen@nsf.gov](mailto:akallen@nsf.gov)

CISE- Subrata Acharya – [acharyas@nsf.gov](mailto:acharyas@nsf.gov)

EDU- Carleitta Paige-Anderson – [cpaigean@nsf.gov](mailto:cpaigean@nsf.gov)

ENG- Christine Grant – [cgrant@nsf.gov](mailto:cgrant@nsf.gov)

GEO- Brandon Jones – [mbjones@nsf.gov](mailto:mbjones@nsf.gov)

MPS- Kathy McCloud – [kmcccloud@nsf.gov](mailto:kmcccloud@nsf.gov)


SBE- Enrique Pumar – [epumar@nsf.gov](mailto:epumar@nsf.gov)

TIP- Nina Muang-Goana – [nmuangga@nsf.gov](mailto:nmuangga@nsf.gov)

# Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Excellence in Research (HBCU - EIR)

View guidelines

20-542

 [View image credit](#)

[← Search for more funding opportunities](#)

 [Print](#)

## Important Information for Proposers

Any proposal submitted in response to this funding opportunity should be submitted in accordance

Supports research at public and private historically Black colleges and universities to stimulate sustainable improvement in their research and development capacity.

## Synopsis

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities - Excellence in Research (HBCU-EiR) program was established in response to direction provided in the Senate Commerce and Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Report (Senate Report 115-139), and is built on prior and continuing efforts by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to strengthen research capacity at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). This report provided guidance to NSF to establish the HBCU Excellence in Research program "to provide opportunities for both public and private HBCUs, particularly for those who have not been successful in larger NSF Research & Related Activities competitions, in order to stimulate sustainable improvement in their research and development capacity" (<https://congress.gov/congressional-report/115th-congress/senate-report/139/1>). EiR supports such capacity building by funding research projects aligned with NSF's research programs. The program aims to establish stronger connections between researchers at HBCUs and NSF's research programs.

## Updates and announcements

### **NSF 23-067: Dear Colleague Letter: Planning Grants for the HBCU-EiR Program**

March 29, 2023

### **Video posted from July 12, 2022, HBCUs-Excellence in Research and Build and Broaden funding opportunity webinar**

August 18, 2022


## Upcoming due dates

Letter of intent required  
Due July 27, 2023

## Full proposal

2023

**October 3 2023** - Deadline date

 First Tuesday in October, Annually Thereafter

Excellence in Research proposals are evaluated by ad hoc reviews, panel reviews, or both.

## Program guidelines

**Estimated number of awards**

25

**Review full program guidelines and learn how to submit a proposal in the latest solicitation.**

[Read the Solicitation 20-542](#)

Share



# NSF 23-067: Dear Colleague Letter: Planning Grants for the HBCU-EiR Program

March 29, 2023

This DCL invites planning grant proposals from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to support initial conceptualization, planning and collaboration activities that will formulate solid plans for a future submission to the HBCU-EiR program.

Please click the link below to learn more.

<https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/planning-grants-historically-black-college>



## PLANNING GRANT PURPOSE:

HBCU-EiR planning grants support initial conceptualization, planning, and collaboration activities (see below for examples) that aim to formulate solid plans for a future submission to the HBCU-EiR program. These planning grants are intended to provide eligible investigators with the time and resources needed to generate an HBCU-EiR proposal focusing on research that is well-aligned with an existing funding program within NSF's directorates.

HBCU-EiR planning grants are not intended to fund preliminary research activities and such proposals will be returned without review. Prior to submission of a proposal in response to this DCL, prospective investigators must submit a Concept Outline to the point of contact below, as described in Chapter I.D.1 of the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG). The Concept Outline should be a concise summary (not to exceed two pages) of the project idea and must contain information about the prospective PI(s), identification of the NSF directorate most appropriate for potential review of the project, and a brief description of the project idea. The lead program director will respond to the prospective investigator by email if invited to submit a full planning proposal.

## ELIGIBILITY:

Proposals may only be submitted by accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities that have faculty members who conduct research in a STEM and/or STEM Education discipline supported by NSF. The Principal Investigator must be a full-time faculty member or researcher at the HBCU from which the proposal is submitted.





## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Planning grant proposals should be prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in Chapter II.F of the [NSF PAPPG](#). For HBCU-EiR planning grant proposals, requests may be for up to \$100,000, with up to one year in duration. The proposed budget must be consistent with the scope of the proposed planning activities. HBCU-EiR planning grant proposals can be submitted anytime but should be submitted no later than May 30th, 2023, for consideration during Fiscal Year 2023.

Planning grant submissions do not constitute any commitment on behalf of the PI/co-PI(s) or their organizations to submit a future proposal or carry out a project, nor do they imply any commitment on the part of NSF to support a future proposed project beyond the planning grant.

## EXAMPLES OF APPROPRIATE HBCU-EiR PLANNING GRANT ACTIVITIES

A non-inclusive list of possible activities appropriate for a planning grant are provided below.

- Exploration of collaborative relationships that enhance the intellectual merit or broader impacts of the planned research and/or promote building research capacity at the home institution;
- Identify and define metrics for project success and assessment plans, if typically required in the research discipline of interest;
- Small workshops to develop research collaborations between faculty members at different HBCUs;
- Communicate with administration on needs for institutional support and on how the project advances institutional goals;
- Development of a research plan;
- Develop research program sustainability plans; and
- Consult with subject matter experts on development and communication of research.



## PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

HBCU-EiR planning grant proposals must be prepared and submitted in Research.gov. In [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov/):

- Select the current NSF PAPPG as the Funding Opportunity
- In the "Where to Apply" section, select "Office of the Director" as the Directorate, "EPSCoR Section (OIA)" as the Division and "HBCU-Excellence in Research" as the Program. IMPORTANT NOTE: This opportunity is open to all HBCUs, regardless of whether or not they are located in an EPSCoR jurisdiction.
- On the Select Proposal Type screen, select "Planning" as the proposal type

The project description of the planning grant proposal must not exceed eight pages and should follow the guidance in Chapter II.F.1 of the [NSF PAPPG](#). In the project description, PIs should provide:

- A summary of the purpose of the planning grant
- A description of goals and activities for the planning grant, including the basis for their inclusion and their relevance for a future HBCU-EiR proposal submission
- A description of the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the planning grant
- A strategy for establishing alignment with an interdisciplinary or discipline-specific NSF research funding program
- A plan to develop a three-year HBCU-EiR research project

The email confirming approval to submit a planning proposal must be uploaded as a document entitled "HBCU-EiR Planning - Program Director Concurrence Email" in the Supplementary Documentation section of [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov/).




# KEY POINTS

---

- Does not fund research activities.
- Release time is an allowable cost.
- **Pre-approval is required** via a Concept Outline.
- \$100,000 is total budget, 1 year award.



# What about the Concept Outline?



Two pages MAX, with subheadings to highlight pertinent information.

Information about prospective PI and any collaborators, including affiliated institutions.

Brief description ( up to one page) of the project idea

Identification of NSF directorate most appropriate for review

Outline of potential planning grant activities

# Submit the Concept Outline by:

Direct email to Dina Stroud  
(dstroud@nsf.gov)

OR using the Program  
Suitability and Proposal  
Concept Tool (ProSPCT)

<https://suitability.nsf.gov/s/>



<https://suitability.nsf.gov/s/>

Login

[Home](#)

## Program Suitability & Proposal Concept Tool

The Program Suitability & Proposal Concept Tool (ProSPCT) is for prospective Principal Investigators (PIs) to contact National Science Foundation (NSF) to determine suitability of a project idea prior to submission of a proposal.

Log in to ProSPCT via Login.gov, above, then click "Submissions" to get started.

Do not use this site for general correspondence with NSF. Questions about proposals or awards should be sent directly to the cognizant Program Officer or Grants and Agreements Officer.

Submissions made via this form will be routed within NSF for initial review by relevant program staff and made available to other NSF units with expertise germane to the project topic. An assigned cognizant Program Officer will respond to your submission. Please note, these are not full proposals and need only convey sufficient information for a Program Officer to determine whether submission of a full proposal is warranted.

To complete the submission, you will be asked to select a proposal type and then provide information about the prospective PI(s), relevant NSF unit(s), and the project idea. This information will aid in determining the appropriateness of the work for consideration under the selected proposal type.

ProSPCT uses Login.gov for authentication.



Please refer to [Login.gov Help](#) for authentication details, account creation and logging in.

# Planning Proposal Preparation

- Planning proposals can be submitted at any time after receiving approval but *must be submitted* by May 30, 2023.
- Follow guidance in the NSF PAPPG, chapter 2, Part F.1 (<https://beta.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1/ch-2-proposal-preparation#2F1>).
- The entire proposal must not exceed 8 pages; it can be shorter.
- All proposals at NSF are evaluated based on two review criteria: intellectual merit and broader impacts. Be sure to address both in your project description.



# Planning Proposal Preparation

- The Project Description must provide:
  - A summary of why this project is appropriate for a planning grant.
  - A summary of the purpose of the planning grant.
  - A description of goals and activities for the planning grant, including the basis for their inclusion and their relevance for a future HBCU-EiR proposal submission
  - A description of the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the planning grant
  - A strategy for establishing alignment with an interdisciplinary or discipline-specific NSF research funding program
  - A plan to develop a three-year HBCU-EiR research project
  - Results from prior NSF support for any PI or co-PI who has received NSF support in the last five years.
- Include other components that would be included in a research proposal:
  - NSF formatted biosketch for PIs, collaborators, and senior personnel
  - Proposal budget and justification
- **Include approval to submit planning proposal as a supplemental document.**





# QUESTIONS?

## Contact Us!

Dina Stroud  
([dstroud@nsf.gov](mailto:dstroud@nsf.gov))

Casonya Johnson  
([casjohns@nsf.gov](mailto:casjohns@nsf.gov))