

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



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OIA/EPSCoR  
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# HBCU-EiR General Information

## Updated Solicitation 23-598

# National Science Foundation

NSF is organized much like a research university

- Office of the Director : University leadership
- NSF Offices : University Offices
- Directorates : Colleges
- Divisions : Departments/Schools
- Programs : Research Programs/Projects

OIA is part of the Office of the Director

Programs that involves all directorates, such as HBCU-EiR, Graduate Fellowship Program, Major Research Instrumentation and Programs focused on specific topics

HBCU-EiR proposals are submitted through OIA and distributed to research programs for review

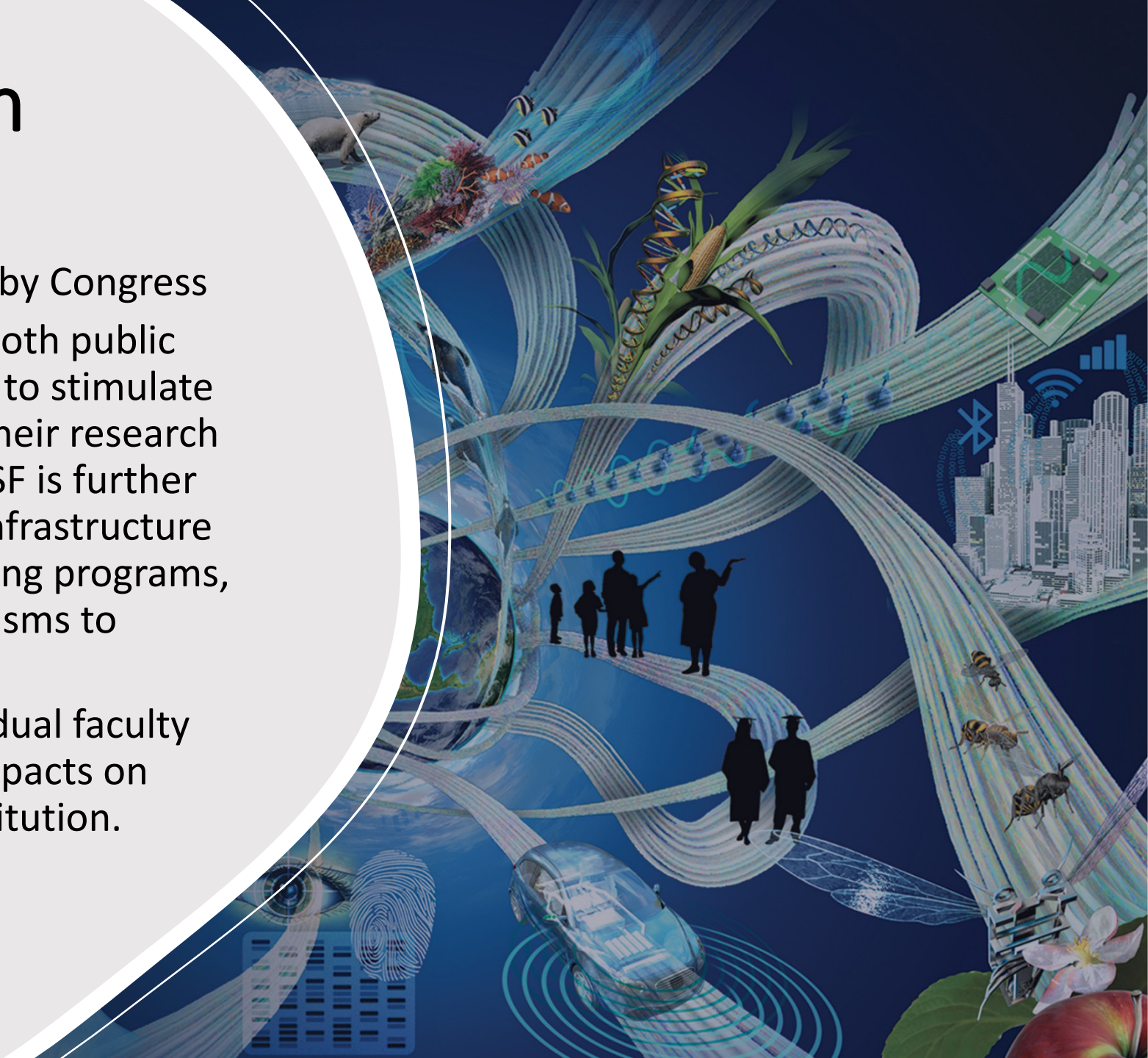
(Secondary unit of consideration)





# HBCU-Excellence in Research Purpose

- 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.







## Primary Goal

Primary goal is for HBCU faculty to establish stronger connections with NSF's research programs.

Ideally serves as a bridge between funding through the HBCU-UP Research Initiation Award (RIA, 23-563).

RIA is specifically for those that have never had NSF funding or not in the last 3 years

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23563/nsf23563.htm>

Not required to have an RIA before an EiR



# Eligibility for EiR

PIs must have a full-time faculty or research appointment at an HBCU

Non-HBCUs can be partners but can only receive funding through subawards

HBCUs can submit collaborative research proposals







# Important Changes

## Due Dates

- Letter of Intent- July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- Full Proposals-October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Estimated awards- 35**

**Anticipated Funding- \$28,000,000**

**Budget for Equipment can now be 30%**

**Can only be PI or Co-PI on One Submission per deadline**

**An individual can only serve as PI or Co-PI on a maximum of 2 HBCU-EiR Awards during the course of their career**

**Secondary Unit of Consideration must be included in the LOI and the Full Proposal**





**Removed from solicitation:** “PIs who have received significant funding through EiR or have an established history of successful research funding should apply to NSF’s programs directly, not through the EiR mechanism.”

**... NEW!!!**

**An individual can only serve as PI or Co-PI on a maximum of 2 HBCU-EiR Awards during the course of their career**

- **PI on two proposals- 2**
- **PI on one proposal, Co-PI on a different proposal- 2**
- **Co-PI on 2 proposal- 2**

**Not a limit on Senior Personnel**

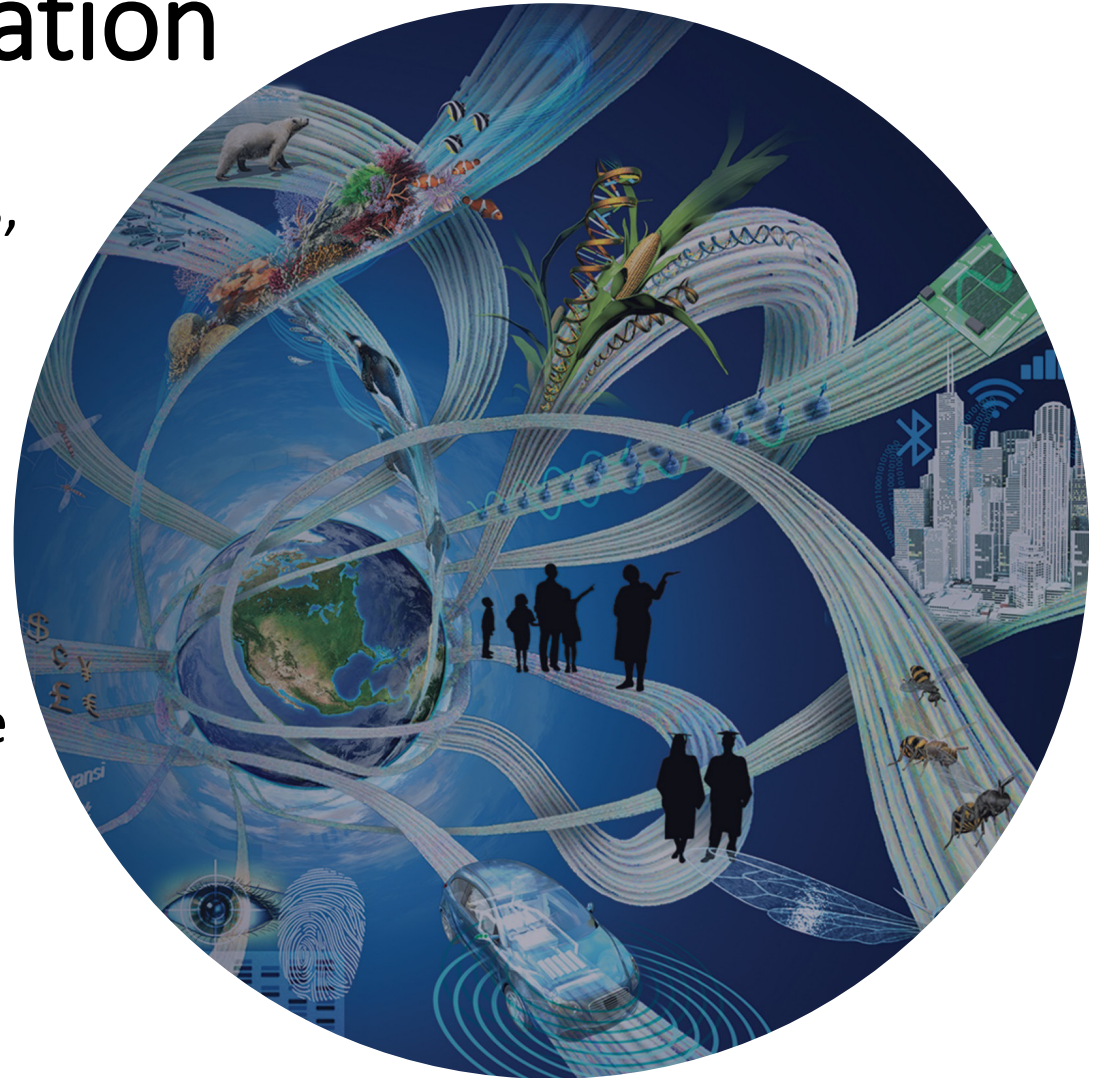
# Secondary Unit of Consideration

Proposals will be reviewed by research programs, the one that best aligns with your work in then referred to as the secondary unit of consideration.

- Directorate Biology (BIO), Division of Environmental Biology (DEB), Program-Ecosystems Science Cluster (ES)

Include on **both** the Letter of Intent (LOI) and the Full Proposal

- ❖ **The Secondary Unit may change between the submission of the LOI and the full proposal – as project develops or per discussion with program directors**





# Ways to identify secondary unit

NSF Award Search Tool (<https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/>)  
Keywords for your research

## ProSPCT Tool



 <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.

# Liaison Group

- Liaison Group can assist in determining which research program is the best fit for your work.

Office Hour

June 22<sup>nd</sup>

10am ET

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)



# HBCU-EiR Proposal Review Process

Letter of Intent in July, Full Proposals in October



# What is the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)?

- The Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) contains documents relating to NSF's proposal and award process. It consists of two parts:
- Part I: Proposal Preparation and Submission Guidelines
- Part II: Award, Administration and Monitoring of NSF Assistance Awards

<https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1>







# Letter of Intent

Required, non-binding used to help Liaisons aid and information as well as prepare for the review process

1. The project title, must begin with "Excellence in Research:" followed by the title.
2. The PI and Co-PI names, department(s), institution(s), phone number(s), and email address(es). The PI must be listed as the point of contact, not the institution's sponsored research representative.
3. The submitting institution's name.
4. A line that clearly identifies the secondary unit of consideration, which is the NSF research program(s), division(s) and the directorate(s) believed to be most appropriate for the review of the EiR project.
5. A project synopsis (no more than 2500 characters) that describes the proposed research activities.

# Proposal Preparation

See PAPPG for 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.

The entire proposal must not exceed 15 pages

All proposals at NSF are evaluated based on two review criteria: intellectual merit and broader impacts.

**Intellectual Merit:** The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge

**Broader Impacts:** The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.






# Proposal Preparation



After the proposal is created in Research.gov, click on the “Manage Where to Apply” link to select the NSF research program(s), division(s) and the directorate(s) believed to be most appropriate for the review of the EiR project.


## **Project Description**

- A brief description of the PI's overall research goals;
  - Information on the institutional context in which the work is being done (e.g. number of faculty engaged in research, faculty teaching loads, number of undergrads or/and graduate students);
  - An outline of the general plan of work, including the research questions or hypotheses, the broad design of activities to be undertaken, and, where appropriate, a description of experimental methods and procedures;
  - Background information that is firmly grounded in the literature with enough information to understand how the proposed work will advance the field;
- 

# Proposal Preparation



## Project Description (cont'd)

- Fully articulated research questions and rationale or clearly stated hypothesis the project will test;
  - Preliminary data or proof of concept work if available and appropriate;
  - Experimental strategy, if applicable, that includes enough detail to determine feasibility and scientific merit as well as a timeline of activities;
  - A sustainability plan that describes how the proposed work could lead to future submission to a current NSF core discipline specific research funding opportunity;
  - Details on how success of the project will be determined, including specific achievements or metrics; and
  - A plan for scholarly dissemination of this research
- 



# Additional Requirements

The proposal must include a letter by the chair, dean, or chief academic officer of the primary PI.

- The letter should convey:
  - how the PI's research and activities are supported by and advance research goals of the department and the institution,
  - that the institution is committed to the support, research progression, and professional development of the PI.
- The letter must not be more than 2 pages.



# General Advice

- Give your authorized representative or sponsored program advance notice you are planning to submit
- Read the solicitation in detail
- Communicate with program directors
- File Project Reports!
- Sign up to review in your program





# QUESTIONS?

## Contact Us!

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