

STEWARDSHIP

The NSF Strategic Plan for FY 2006-2011 defines Stewardship, the Foundation's fourth strategic goal along with the other strategic goals (Discovery, Learning, and Research Infrastructure), as supporting excellence in science and engineering research and education through a capable and responsible organization. Excellence in NSF's stewardship is essential to achieving the Foundation's mission and accomplishing its goals.

The activities that advance NSF's Stewardship goal are funded through five appropriations accounts. Additional details on each account are provided in the respective chapters.

Agency Operations and Award Management (AOAM) increases by \$24.37 million, or 8.3 percent, to \$318.37 million in FY 2010. These resources include funding for personnel compensation and benefits, information technology (IT) that supports administrative activities, staff travel, training, rent, and other operating expenses necessary for effective management of NSF's research and education activities.

Office of Inspector General (OIG) increases by \$2.0 million, or 16.7 percent, to \$14.0 million in FY 2010. These resources include funding for personnel compensation and benefits, contract audits, training and operational travel, office supplies, materials, and equipment.

National Science Board (NSB) increases \$310,000 over FY 2009, or 7.7 percent, to \$4.34 million in FY 2010. These resources include funding for personnel compensation and benefits, contracts, training and operational travel, office supplies, materials, and equipment.

Program Accounts - Research and Related Activities (R&RA) and Education and Human Resources (EHR) – Stewardship funding from program accounts increases \$9.58 million, or 9.5 percent, to \$110.95 million in FY 2010. Program funded Stewardship activities include Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) agreements and certain Foundation-wide activities such as major studies, evaluations, outreach efforts, information technology investments that are directly related to the mission of the Foundation, and NSF contributions to interagency e-Government activities.

Stewardship by Appropriations Account

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Current Plan	FY 2009 ARRA Estimate	FY 2010 Request	Change over FY 2009 Plan	
					Amount	Percent
Agency Operations and Award Management	\$282.04	\$294.00	-	\$318.37	\$24.37	8.3%
Office of Inspector General	11.83	12.00	2.00	14.00	2.00	16.7%
National Science Board	3.82	4.03	-	4.34	0.31	7.7%
Research & Related Activities	56.15	87.52	-	96.21	8.69	9.9%
Education and Human Resources	7.46	13.85	-	14.74	0.89	6.4%
Subtotal, Program Support	63.61	101.37	-	110.95	9.58	9.5%
Total	\$361.31	\$411.40	\$2.00	\$447.66	\$36.26	8.8%

Totals may not add due to rounding

NSF WORKFORCE

NSF Workforce Full-Time Equivalents (FTE)						
	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	Change over	
	Actual	Current	ARRA	Request	FY 2009 Plan	Percent
		Plan	Estimate		Amount	
<i>AOAM FTE Allocation</i>						
Regular	1,270	1,295	-	1,310	15	1.2%
Student	40	40	-	40	-	-
<i>Subtotal, AOAM FTE Allocation</i>	<i>1,310</i>	<i>1,335</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1,350</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1.1%</i>
AOAM FTE Usage (Actual/Projected)						
NSF Regular	1,224	1,260	-	1,305	45	3.6%
NSF Student	32	40	-	40	-	-
Subtotal, AOAM FTE ¹	1,256	1,300	-	1,345	45	3.5%
Office of the Inspector General ²	67	64	-	67	3	4.7%
National Science Board ³	16	16	-	17	1	6.3%
Arctic Research Commission ⁴	4	4	-	4	-	-
Total, Federal Employees	1,343	1,384	-	1,433	49	3.5%
IPAs	157	195	-	210	15	7.7%
Detailees to NSF	3	6	-	6	-	-
Contractors (est.)	609	553	-	598	45	8.1%
Total, Workforce	2,112	2,138	-	2,247	109	5.1%

¹Additional information regarding FTEs funded through the AOAM appropriation are available in the AOAM chapter.

²The Office of Inspector General is described in a separate chapter and is funded through a separate appropriation.

³The National Science Board is described in a separate chapter and is funded through a separate appropriation.

⁴The U.S. Arctic Research Commission is described in a separate chapter and is funded through the R&RA appropriation.

In FY 2010, NSF's total federal workforce will increase by 19 FTE and 15 IPAs over the FY 2009 level. The staffing profile in the table above shows that a small but significant percentage of the NSF workforce – 195-210 people or approximately 9 percent – consists of temporary employees hired through the authority provided by the Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA). IPAs do not count as federal FTE. A smaller number of visiting staff – roughly 40 people annually – are employed through NSF's own Visiting Scientist, Engineer, and Educator Program (VSEE). VSEEs count as federal FTE and are included in the *Federal Employees* total (see table above). The use of IPAs and VSEEs, commonly referred to as rotators, has been a defining characteristic of NSF since its inception in 1950.

IPAs are considered federal employees for many purposes during their time at NSF, even though they remain employees of their home institutions. They are not paid directly by NSF and are not subject to federal pay benefits and limitations. NSF reimburses the home institution for the IPA's salary and benefits using the traditional grant mechanism. IPAs are also eligible to receive *per diem*, relocation expenses, and reimbursement for any income foregone because of their assignment at NSF (i.e., lost consulting fees). VSEEs, by contrast, receive a salary directly from NSF (through the AOAM appropriation), although they continue to receive benefits through their home institutions, which are reimbursed by NSF. While at NSF, rotators function in a manner virtually identical to the Foundation's permanent staff – leading the merit review process, overseeing awards, and shaping future program directions.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENTS

Information Technology (IT) Investments by Appropriation

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010 Request	Change over	
		Current Plan	ARRA Estimate		FY 2009 Plan Amount	Percent
Agency Operations and Award Management	\$43.63	\$30.00	-	\$30.00	-	-
Program Related Technology	16.62	52.00	-	56.00	4.00	7.7%
<i>R&RA</i>	14.46	44.72	-	48.16	3.44	7.7%
<i>EHR</i>	2.16	7.28	-	7.84	0.56	7.7%
Total	\$60.25	\$82.00	-	\$86.00	\$4.00	4.9%

Totals may not add due to rounding

Information Technology (IT) Investments by Appropriation and Activity

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010 Request	Change over	
		Current Plan	ARRA Estimate		FY 2009 Plan Amount	Percent
Agency Operations and Award Management (AOAM)						
Administrative Applications Services and Support	\$17.09	\$11.39	-	\$13.40	\$2.01	17.6%
Associated Infrastructure Services and Support	24.72	15.98	-	13.70	-2.28	-14.3%
Security and Privacy Services and Support	1.82	2.63	-	2.90	0.27	10.3%
Subtotal, AOAM	\$43.63	\$30.00	-	\$30.00	-	-
Program Related Technology						
Mission-Support Applications Services	12.95	34.09	-	39.13	5.04	14.8%
Associated IT Operations and Infrastructure	0.45	15.29	-	14.02	-1.27	-8.3%
Related Security and Privacy Services	3.00	2.62	-	2.85	0.23	8.8%
Other	0.22	-	-	-	-	N/A
Subtotal, Program Related Technology	\$16.62	\$52.00	-	\$56.00	\$4.00	7.7%
Total, Information Technology Investments	\$60.25	\$82.00	-	\$86.00	\$4.00	4.9%

Totals may not add due to rounding

Total funding for NSF's Information Technology (IT) investments in FY 2010 is \$86.0 million, an increase of 4.9 percent over FY 2009. Of this amount, \$56.0 million is for Program Related Technology (PRT) activities and is funded with direct program resources from the R&RA and EHR accounts. PRT funds IT activities that relate directly to NSF's programmatic investments, such as Research.gov, eJacket, FastLane, and Reviewer Management. The remaining \$30.0 million in IT investments is funded with AOAM resources and will support routine administrative activities, such as human resources, financial statement preparation, procurement, etc. Further information on AOAM funded IT activities can be found in the Agency Operation Award Management chapter of this Request.

PROGRAM-FUNDED STEWARDSHIP

R&RA and EHR Program Support funds account for about a quarter of the total Stewardship portfolio. There are two activities that comprise Program-Funded Stewardship – IPA costs and Program Related Administration. More detailed information on these costs is shown in the tables below.

Summary of Program-Funded Stewardship

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010 Request	Change over	
		Current Plan	ARRA Estimate		FY 2009 Plan	Percent
IPA Costs	\$35.61	\$41.28	-	\$46.86	\$5.58	13.5%
Program Related Administration	28.01	60.09	-	64.09	4.00	6.7%
<i>Program Related Technology</i>	<i>16.62</i>	<i>52.00</i>	-	<i>56.00</i>	<i>4.00</i>	<i>7.7%</i>
<i>Other Program Related Administration</i>	<i>11.39</i>	<i>8.09</i>	-	<i>8.09</i>	-	-
Total, Program Funded Stewardship	\$63.62	\$101.37	-	\$110.95	\$9.58	9.5%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

IPA Costs

The following table breaks down the IPA costs by appropriation into basic compensation, travel, and other benefits.

IPA Costs by Appropriation

(Dollars in Millions)

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010 Request	Change over	
		Current Plan	ARRA Estimate		FY 2009 Plan	Percent
R&RA						
IPA Compensation	\$25.98	\$28.69	-	\$32.95	\$4.26	14.8%
IPA Lost Consultant & Per Diem	3.07	3.39	-	3.90	0.51	15.0%
IPA Travel	2.72	3.01	-	3.45	0.44	14.6%
Subtotal, R&RA Costs	31.77	35.09	-	40.30	5.21	14.8%
EHR						
IPA Compensation	3.05	4.90	-	5.20	0.30	6.1%
IPA Lost Consultant & Per Diem	0.54	0.88	-	0.93	0.05	5.7%
IPA Travel	0.25	0.41	-	0.43	0.02	4.9%
Subtotal, EHR Costs	3.84	6.19	-	6.56	0.37	6.0%
Total, IPA Costs	\$35.61	\$41.28	-	\$46.86	\$5.58	13.5%

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Program Related Administration

Program Related Administration includes funding for certain Foundation-wide activities such as major studies, evaluations, outreach efforts, NSF contributions to interagency e-Government activities, and grants management applications that benefit the research community, such as a reviewer management system to more effectively plan for and find the thousands of scientific experts required to support the merit review process.

Program Related Technology (PRT) (+\$4.0 million, to a total of \$56.0 million.)

PRT investments support NSF program staff as they formulate and announce program opportunities; accept proposals; conduct the merit review process; make awards to fund proposals that have been judged the most promising by the rigorous and objective merit-review process; monitor program performance and results; and disseminate results of NSF funded research. Major activities funded through PRT include Research.gov, Reviewer Management, eJacket, and FastLane. In FY 2010, NSF will complete the realignment begun in FY 2009 to tie mission-related IT investments more directly to NSF's programs. The FY 2010 program-related technology request includes funding to fulfill the accountability and transparency requirements of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) and to help ensure that ARRA funds are awarded in a timely manner. The request also includes the related support services necessary to operate mission-related investments (e.g. training, customer support, maintenance, security, and privacy).

Mission-Support Applications Services (+\$5.04 million, to a total of \$39.13 million).

- \$2.0 million to improve and add services to Research.gov based on feedback from NSF staff, the research community, and other partner research agencies. This includes adding more information and features in response to stakeholder needs and requests and to fulfill new legislative or government-wide requirements. Examples include:
 - Expand the Research Spending and Results service to provide greater transparency and more information on federally funded research.
 - Add services to support the day-to-day work of the NSF staff for the merit review process and proposal, award, post-award, and program management activities.
 - Implement new Government-wide standards for grant financial reporting and research project reports.
- \$3.04 million increase for critical mission applications and services such as eJacket and other tools for program staff to manage proposal and program portfolios. This includes improving capabilities for NSF staff to perform essential business functions related to proposal and award processing and management. Examples include:
 - Provide NSF program staff with better tools to plan and manage programs such as a Research.gov Desktop.
 - Enhance proposal processing capabilities such as implementing the ability to electronically recommend proposals for awards using eJacket.
 - Improve access to proposal, award, and related information and eliminating paper by electronically archiving records.

Related Security and Privacy Services (+\$230,000, to a total of \$2.85 million).

Continued investment to secure mission-related applications and to protect sensitive information.

Associated IT Operations and Infrastructure (-\$1.27 million, to a total of \$14.02 million).

Decrease reflects anticipated cost savings realized in FY 2010 from one-time FY 2009 investments in IT operations and infrastructure that are not required in FY 2010.

Other Program Related Administration (no change to a total of (\$8.09 million).

Other IT Program Related Administration includes funding for Foundation-wide activities such as major studies, evaluations, and NSF contributions to interagency e-Government activities. These activities include verification and validation of performance information; surveys of scientists, engineers, and educators who submit proposals for NSF awards; the Waterman Award which recognizes an outstanding young researcher in any field of science or engineering supported by NSF; AAAS fellowship program and internships; and external evaluations of major programs such as the Science and Technology Centers program and Major Research Instrumentation.

Mission-Critical IT-based Business Processes funded within Program Related Technology

The mission related functions and enabling technology described in this section are:

- Supporting Proposal Solicitation, Submission and Management
- Facilitating the Merit-Based Proposal Review and Evaluation Process
- Supporting Proposal Processing and Award Management
- Enabling Public Dissemination of Research Information and Results
- Enhancing Management of Program Operations

Supporting Proposal Solicitation, Submission and Management

Major Systems and Investments: FastLane, Research.gov

Capabilities and Users:

- Over 250,000 scientists, educators, technology experts, and administrators including the Nation's top researchers use FastLane to conduct business with NSF.
- Proposers use FastLane to prepare, view, modify, and submit proposals online. In FY 2008 alone, FastLane, NSF's web-based external grants management system, successfully supported the electronic submission and processing of more than 54,000 proposals.
- Research.gov provides a menu of services focused on the needs of research institutions.
 - For example, Research.gov provides the ability for Sponsored Projects Offices and Principal Investigators (PIs) to check the status of their proposals as they are received and reviewed by NSF including the history of their submissions and panel summaries and reviews (PIs only).
 - Research.gov offers a grants policy library, research news and highlights section, and access to research grant award information for NSF and NASA in one place. Research.gov is also NSF's mechanism for implementing government-wide post-award reporting requirements.
 - Most recently, NSF implemented the new Federal Financial Report enabling NSF awardees to submit grant financial reports to NSF using the new government-wide standard.
 - Additional planned capabilities for FY 2009 and FY 2010 include new tools for NSF staff to manage programs and portfolios of proposals and awards and online capabilities for awardees to submit progress/project reports.

Facilitating the Merit-Based Proposal Review and Evaluation Process

Major Systems and Investments: Reviewer management capabilities

Capabilities and Users:

- Reviewer management capabilities will enhance the Foundation's capability to support the merit review process by providing better information and tools that support each stage of the reviewer management lifecycle.

- Currently, there is limited capability to support the identification, selection, assignment, and tracking of individuals who serve as reviewers. FY 2010 funding will provide tools that enable NSF program officers to quickly find reviewers based on field of expertise and other important criteria, and easily identify potential conflicts of interest.
- These capabilities will be made available to NSF staff through Research.gov. Future reviewer management capabilities include improving reviewer capability for collaborative proposals and large interdisciplinary and cross-cutting panels; improving panel setup and coordination; streamlining travel, scheduling, and financial reimbursement; and providing a post-review collaborative environment.

Supporting Proposal Processing and Award Management

Major Systems and Investments: Research.gov, eJacket, resource management systems

Capabilities and Users:

- FY 2010 funding will support current plans to provide a new Research.gov Desktop for NSF staff. The Research.gov Desktop will offer staff additional tools to help them manage their portfolios of proposals and awards.
- In FY 2008, eJacket successfully supported 206,000 electronic reviews and 340,000 items of electronic correspondence. One of NSF's performance goals is to inform 70 percent of proposal applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months of deadline or target date or receipt date, whichever is later. In support of this goal, FY 2010 funding will enable the Foundation to fully automate the recommend phase by adding the capability to electronically recommend proposals for award using eJacket.
- FY 2010 funding will be used to plan for the modernization of NSF's financial management and property systems. NSF is currently in the planning phases of a financial management and property modernization project. The goal is to move NSF from its current and aging legacy financial, grant financial, budget formulation, and property support systems toward a consolidated and fully integrated system.

Enabling Public Dissemination of Research Information and Results

Major Systems and Investments: Research.gov, FastLane

Capabilities and Users:

- The Public Access to Research Results project directly links information on NSF-funded awards to citations of journal articles that have been published as a result of the award. These results are provided in the form of citations entered by PIs into FastLane and made available to members of the public via the Award Search feature of the NSF web site and the Research.gov web portal.
- Along with publication citations, the public can view detailed award information and award abstracts through Research.gov Research Spending and Results. NASA joined NSF in this effort so the public can now find award information for NSF and NASA in one place on Research.gov.
- FY 2010 funding will be used to enhance the Research.gov Research Spending and Results service. The goal is to fully disclose research grant award data in support of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 and the E-Government Act of 2002 which requires federal agencies to make information accessible and searchable by the public for free. The expanded service adds information for awards made prior to the Transparency Act and includes capabilities to easily search for awards made with ARRA funding.

Enhancing Management of Program Operations

Major Systems and Investments: Program operation capabilities

Capabilities and Users:

- In FY 2010 and beyond, NSF is committed to developing comprehensive information technology systems, with an emphasis on tools for assisting personnel performing mission-support functions.
- To ensure critical mission-related processes are conducted efficiently, effectively, and with integrity; NSF seeks to design, recruit, hire, train, and retain a diverse, capable, and motivated science and engineering workforce
- NSF organizations now conduct annual workforce and staff planning efforts to align near-term workforce plans with NSF strategic objectives and to identify strategic program positions to be filled in the upcoming year. NSF staff conducts extensive outreach to the community to identify candidates for NSF program positions.

NSF's business cases can be found at: www.nsf.gov/policies/foia.jsp.

E-Government Activities

NSF is providing funding contributions in FY 2009 and FY 2010 to these E-Government Activities:

NSF FY 2009 Funding for E-Government Initiatives

Initiative	FY 2009	FY 2009	NSF Total	Appropriations Account		
	Agency Contributions	Agency Svc. Fees		AOAM	R&RA	EHR
Grants.gov	\$757,094	-	\$757,094	-	\$651,101	\$105,993
Grants Management LoB	174,360	-	174,360	-	149,950	24,410
E-Authentication	-	-	-	-	-	-
E-Travel	-	150,038	150,038	150,038	-	-
Geospatial LoB	15,000	-	15,000	-	12,900	2,100
E-Training	-	370,000	370,000	370,000	-	-
E-Rulemaking	-	5,100	5,100	5,100	-	-
Business Gateway	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recruitment One-Stop (USA Jobs)	-	4,871	4,871	4,871	-	-
E-HRI	-	48,724	48,724	48,724	-	-
Integrated Acquisition Environment	-	18,866	18,866	18,866	-	-
Human Resources Mgmt. LoB	65,217	-	65,217	-	56,087	9,130
Financial Management LoB	44,444	-	44,444	-	38,222	6,222
Budget Formulation/Execution LoB	95,000	-	95,000	-	81,700	13,300
IAE-Loans and Grants	89,973	-	89,973	-	77,377	12,596
E-Payroll (incl. Shared Services)	-	304,704	304,704	304,704	-	-
Total	\$1,241,088	\$902,303	\$2,143,391	\$902,303	\$1,067,337	\$173,751

Totals may not add due to rounding.

NSF FY 2010 Funding for E-Government Initiatives

Initiative	FY 2010	FY 2010	NSF Total	Appropriations Account		
	Agency Contributions	Agency Svc. Fees		AOAM	R&RA	EHR
Grants.gov	\$757,094	-	\$757,094	-	\$651,101	\$105,993
Grants Management LoB	174,360	-	174,360	-	149,950	24,410
E-Travel	-	150,038	150,038	150,038	-	-
Geospatial LoB	15,000	-	15,000	-	12,900	2,100
E-Training	-	370,000	370,000	370,000	-	-
E-Rulemaking	-	5,100	5,100	5,100	-	-
Business Gateway	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recruitment One-Stop (USA Jobs)	-	4,871	4,871	4,871	-	-
E-HRI	-	48,724	48,724	48,724	-	-
Integrated Acquisition Environment	-	18,866	18,866	18,866	-	-
Human Resources Management LoB	65,217	-	65,217	-	56,087	9,130
Financial Management LoB	44,444	-	44,444	-	38,222	6,222
Budget Formulation/Execution LoB	95,000	-	95,000	-	81,700	13,300
IAE-Loans and Grants	89,973	-	89,973	-	77,377	12,596
E-Payroll (incl. Shared Services)	-	304,704	304,704	304,704	-	-
Total	\$1,241,088	\$902,303	\$2,143,391	\$902,303	\$1,067,337	\$173,751

Totals may not add due to rounding.

The total for all NSF FY 2010 inter-agency E-Government and Line of Business contributions for the initiative funding levels reported, and including any new development items, is not currently projected by the Federal CIO Council to change significantly from the FY 2009 aggregate level. Specific levels presented here are subject to change, as redistributions to meet changes in resource demands are assessed.

Benefits realized through the use of these activities are:

- *Grants.gov*

The Grants.gov project was conceived as a single source to search and apply for funding opportunities from all Federal grant-making agencies using common forms, processes, and systems. Consistent with previous OMB guidance, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has been posting all funding opportunities and associated application packages to Grants.gov. With NSF's full implementation of Grants.gov, the research community can now find all NSF funding opportunities on Grants.gov. In addition, the community has been afforded the ability to use either Grants.gov or NSF's long-established capabilities through our FastLane web site, for proposal submission. In FY 2009, NSF published all of its funding opportunities on Grants.gov and published associated application packages for all of those opportunities. In FY 2009, NSF plans to allocate \$757,094 for Grants.Gov, an increase of \$239,331 over the previously planned amount of \$517,763. The additional funding is to invest in increased system and customer support capacities based on the anticipated surge in funding opportunities posted, and users accessing the system resulting from ARRA funding.

- *Grants Management Line of Business (GM LoB)*

NSF oversees active awards equaling over \$5 billion annually. NSF anticipates the key benefit of GM LoB to be common place for grantees to track the status of applications, find award information, and submit grant progress and financial reports. Automated business processes available through Consortia will decrease agency reliance on manual and paper-based processing. GM LoB will lead to a reduction in the number of systems of record for grants data across NSF and the government and will foster the development of common reporting standards, improving NSF's ability to provide agency- and government-wide reports on grant activities and results.

As a GM LoB Consortium lead, NSF has developed Research.gov, a Web portal containing government-wide resources and tools for research institutions to conduct grants business with federal research agencies. Research.gov aims to ease the grants administrative burden on applicants and awardees by providing a menu of services focused on the needs of research institutions.

Research.gov provides:

- Research Spending and Results Service enabling the general public to search for detailed research grant award information including Principal Investigator, Award Abstract, and Publication Citations;
- Research Headlines and Events highlighting research activities from NSF and partner agencies;
- Policy library providing access to federal and agency-specific policies, guidelines, and procedures;
- Grants Application Status Service enabling principal investigators and sponsored project office staff to check the status of grant applications submitted to participating agencies;
- Federal Financial Report Service enabling grant recipients to complete and submit grant financial reports using the new government-wide federal financial report standard; and
- Institutions and User Management Service allowing institution administrators to add users and managed their profiles.

By leading the GM LoB Consortium, NSF will receive the following benefits:

- Avoiding costs related to developing and implementing online grants management services;
- Supporting federal agencies' efforts to promote their common research mission;
- Fulfilling federal mandates (Public Law 106-107, E-Government Act, and the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act); and
- Organizing information into a single access point throughout the grants management business process.

Service to constituents will be improved through the standardization and streamlining of government-wide grants business processes. The public will receive time savings as a result of quicker notification and faster payments due to an automated system for grants processing. Furthermore, GM LoB will minimize complex and varying agency-specific requirements and increase grantee ease of use on federal grants management systems. Constituents will benefit from having fewer unique agency systems and processes to learn; grantees will benefit from ease in learning how to use the system and reduced need to rely on call center technical support.

- *Geospatial Line of Business*

Although NSF is not currently a provider of a geospatial data, it does consider proposals for support of fundamental research that utilize or enhance the value of geospatial information. NSF recognizes the importance of the LoB in establishing a more collaborative and performance-oriented culture within the Federal geospatial arena that should optimize investments in data and technology and yield many long-term benefits to the nation.

- *Business Gateway*

By creating a single portal for business information, such as regulatory compliance information, Business Gateway directly benefits NSF's "customers" (e.g., research firms, universities, etc.), many of whom are subject to complex regulatory requirements across multiple agencies. NSF's constituents could potentially receive significant benefits from Business Gateway including time and cost savings, assistance in compliance with the Small Business Paperwork Relief Act (SBPRA), and reduction in burden hours. Through increased outreach, more constituents will be able to realize these benefits.

NSF will also benefit in specific ways from participation in the Business Gateway activity. The web search technology on Business.gov will provide NSF with user statistics about information most sought by customers, which will enable the agency to improve the management of web content related to business compliance. By making forms available on Forms.gov, NSF saves agency time in forms management, and is expected to produce significant savings in paper and postage. Currently, NSF does not have any funding allocated as a contribution to the Business Gateway activity – the same contribution level as FY 2009. However, NSF's contribution is subject to change pending any changes in resource demands among the e-Government activities.

- *Human Resources Management Line of Business (HR LoB)*

The HR LoB services and activities provide NSF with best-in-class HR services and systems. Through NSF's adoption of an approved service provider, the agency can achieve the benefits of advanced HR solutions without the costs of developing and maintaining its own HR systems. NSF's involvement in the HR LoB allows NSF to help shape the government-wide solution and benefit from the best practices and lessons learned as developed by the HR LoB task force and other agencies.

- *Financial Management Line of Business*

The FM LoB uses a Shared Service Provider (SSP) to promote standard business processes and common system configurations. Reliance on SSPs helps keep capital investment and risk to a minimum. NSF's involvement with FM LoB will enable it to benefit from future system and internal control modernization efforts. In the short-term, key tools such as a Request for Proposal (RFP) framework and Service Level Agreement (SLA) guides will be provided to NSF.

- *Budget Formulation and Execution Line of Business*

NSF has realized benefits from the BFE LoB's leadership in encouraging best practices across all aspects of federal budgeting – from budget formulation and execution to performance to collaboration to human capital needs.

To help agencies assess, document, and communicate their budget systems requirements, BFE LoB created a decision matrix and recently evaluated nine budget systems against the matrix. This evaluation is available for all agencies to use and provides cost savings to agencies by eliminating the need for agencies to review these systems individually. NSF has used this matrix as a starting point in defining and prioritizing specific system needs.

- *Integrated Acquisition Environment- Loans and Grants*

All agencies participating in the posting and/or awarding of Loans & Grants are required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) to disclose award information on a publicly accessible website. Cross-government cooperation with OMB's Integrated Acquisition Environment activity allows NSF to meet the requirements of the FFATA by assigning a unique identifier, determining corporate hierarchy, and validating and cleaning up incorrect or incomplete data.

