Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP)
Informational Webinar

Program Solicitation: NSF 15-594

Division of Human Resource Development (HRD)

Note: These slides just highlight some of the content of the new solicitation; Please read the entire solicitation carefully.

Agenda for Informational Webinar

- Overview of LSAMP

- Changes to LSAMP Solicitation

- Description of Funding Tracks

- Award and Eligibility Guidelines

- Budget Information

- Required Sections of the Proposal & Project Description

- NSF Merit Review Criteria

- *Q & A*

Overview of LSAMP

The LSAMP program assists universities and colleges in their efforts to significantly increase the numbers of students matriculating into and successfully completing high quality degree programs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Particular emphasis is placed on transforming undergraduate STEM education through innovative, evidence-based recruitment and retention strategies, and relevant educational experiences in support of racial and ethnic groups historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders.

The LSAMP Program priorities are to:

- Increase individual student retention and progression to baccalaureate degrees for underrepresented racial and ethnic groups,

- Enable successful transfer of underrepresented students from 2-year to 4-year institutions in STEM programs,

- Increase access to high quality undergraduate research experiences, and

- Facilitate seamless transition of underrepresented students into STEM graduate programs.

Changes to LSAMP Solicitation

- **Broadening Participation Research in STEM Education (BPR)** is no longer a funding track in LSAMP.

- **Alliances (of different institutional types)** are no longer be referred to as "new", "mid-level" or "senior"; An alliance that has been receiving NSF LSAMP funding should indicate the number of years it has been in existence (e.g. *20-year State X LSAMP*).

- **Alliances funded 10+ years** are required to include an education/social science research study as part of their proposed activities.

- **Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B) Alliances** are now allowed to include other institutional types in their alliances, though the majority of the partners must still be community colleges or 2-year institutions.

- The maximum budget for **Bridge to the Doctorate (BD)** has increased to $1,075,000.

- New funding track: **Pre-Alliance Planning Grants**

LSAMP Alliance Award Types

Alliances (different institutional types)

- ❑ Multi-institutional partnerships that implement comprehensive, evidence-based, innovative, and sustained strategies to support students from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups at the baccalaureate level

- ❑ 5-year projects focused on undergraduate recruitment and retention activities

Bridge to the Doctorate (BD) Activity

- ❑ Eligible only to existing alliances funded more than 10 consecutive years to host a BD activity at one of its alliance institutions

- ❑ 2-year projects focused on providing post-baccalaureate fellowship support to a cohort of 12 LSAMP students for the first two years of their STEM graduate studies

Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B) Alliances

- ❑ Partnerships between primarily 2-year institutions with a community college as lead institution

- ❑ 3-year projects focused on activities that provide effective educational preparation of community college students for successful transfer to 4-year institutions in STEM.

Pre-Alliance Planning Grants

- ❑ Up to 18-month projects that undertake planning activities necessary to form new alliances or regional outreach and knowledge-diffusion centers of excellence

Alliances (different institutional types)

Alliance proposals are expected to:

- ❑ Provide a **rationale for the inclusion** of the different organizational partners and describe the unique contributions of each partner to the project.

- ❑ Demonstrate how the **alliance design is grounded in evidenced-based practices** and sound programmatic approaches that are clear and well-defined.

- ❑ **Commit to a significant increase** in baccalaureate production of underrepresented students in STEM fields within a five-year award period and justify the level of increase they define as significant.

- ❑ Provide a **review of the literature** that serves as a basis for the proposed activities.

- ❑ Describe in detail the **comprehensive plan** that will be implemented both alliance-wide and at the individual partner institutions.

- ❑ Include plans for **institutionalization and program sustainability** beyond NSF funding.

- ❑ Provide **evidence of buy-in and linkages** through the inclusion of letters of collaboration.
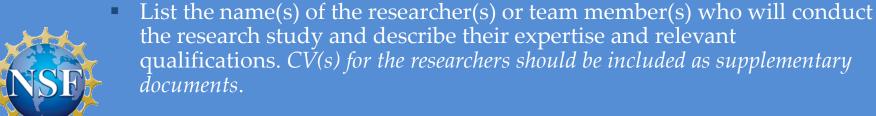
For Alliances funded 10+ Years

In addition to what was stated on previous slide, these proposals must also:

- Describe how the proposed innovative and enhanced strategies are **based on evaluation results** of previous awards.

- State the **progress** that has been made towards s**ustainability** and describe those components from previous alliance awards that have been **institutionalized**.

- Indicate **past institutional successes** in producing highly competitive students from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups in STEM disciplines.

- Include a **knowledge-generating (education/social science) research study** that rigorously investigates effective practices or innovations related to the proposed alliance strategies for recruiting, retaining, and graduating students historically underrepresented in STEM.

Knowledge-Generating Research Study

- Describe in detail the education/social science research study (five pages); For guidance on research studies, see the *Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development* (NSF 13-126)

- <u>The research study description must</u>:
  - Clearly state the research question(s) and/or testable hypotheses;

  - Explain the significance and importance of answering the proposed research question(s);

  - Discuss the conceptual/theoretical framework;

  - Describe the research plan (design, data collection, data analysis, etc.) that will be undertaken to answer the research question(s); and

  - List the name(s) of the researcher(s) or team member(s) who will conduct the research study and describe their expertise and relevant qualifications. *CV(s) for the researchers should be included as supplementary documents*.

Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B) Alliances

B2B alliance proposals are expected to:

- Have a **community college/2-year institution as the lead institution** and be comprised primarily of 2-year institutions, though there is the option to include other institutional types.

- Provide a **rationale for the inclusion** of the different institutional partners and describe the unique contributions of each partner to the project.

- **Commit to a significant increase in student transfer** into STEM fields at four-year institutions and justify the level of increase they define as significant.

- Describe the **comprehensive program** that will be designed for facilitating the successful transfer of STEM students from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups.

- Present **evidence of strong articulation and transfer agreements** with 4-year institutions through the inclusion of letters of collaboration.

- Describe **plans for tracking student progress** over the course of funding, particularly tracking the number of students who successfully transfer into 4-year STEM programs.

Bridge to the Doctorate (BD)

- ❑ ONLY alliances with 10+ years of funding from the NSF LSAMP program are eligible to apply; only <u>one</u> BD host site **per alliance** per year may be selected to apply

- ❑ <u>BD host (institutional) sites are expected to:</u>
    - ▪ Recruit a **cohort of (exactly) twelve** certified LSAMP students who have earned STEM baccalaureate degrees.
    - ▪ Provide participants the necessary **academic and research skills** that will enable them to successfully earn STEM doctoral degrees.
    - ▪ Describe the **evidence-based recruitment and retention strategies** in STEM graduate education that will be implemented.
    - ▪ Provide a **review of the literature** that serves as a basis for the proposed activities.
    - ▪ Clearly articulate the **recruitment plans and selection process** of BD Fellows.
    - ▪ Indicate how BD Fellows will be **paired** with research mentors.
    - ▪ Describe any **training** that will be provided to research mentors and BD Fellows.
    - ▪ Provide documentation of **past performance** at selected host site, if applicable.
    - ▪ Place an emphasis on designing structured student support strategies that will enable students to develop **competitive fellowship and/or STEM doctoral program applications.**
    - ▪ **Track their BD Fellows** that are admitted into and complete STEM doctoral degree programs.

Budget Guidelines for BD

- <u>Maximum request</u> per eligible alliance: **$1,075,000**

- <u>Graduate student stipends</u>: $32,000/year for two years for each of the required 12 BD Fellows *(must be listed as "Participant Support" in budget)*

- <u>Cost-of-education allowance</u>: up to $12,000/year for up to two years for each of the 12 BD Fellows *(must be listed as "Participant Support" in budget)*

- <u>Additional funds</u>: up to $19,000 TOTAL (for activities in other cost categories; *must be listed under appropriate budget categories*)

Pre-Alliance Planning Grants

- *Advised to speak with LSAMP Program Director prior to submission*

- For institutions new or returning to LSAMP, could be used to form **new alliances** (by establishing the partnerships, seeking commitment from institutional leaders and STEM faculty, creating a vision and/or theme for the alliance, and developing comprehensive plans for alliance activities)

- For institutions in mature, long-running alliances, could be used to begin planning **regional outreach and knowledge-diffusion centers of excellence** *(see the solicitation for examples of expected deliverables)*

Award and Eligibility Guidelines

AWARD

- Standard or continuing grants
- Estimate making 37 awards in FY16
- Funding amount is approximately $32,000,000 for new awards (Subject to availability of funds)

ELIGIBILITY

- PI for **Alliances** (including B2B) should be President, Chancellor, or Provost
- PI for **BD activity** should be listed on leadership team as co-PI at alliance's lead institution (*at least one co-PI should be from BD host site*)
- PI for **Pre-Alliance Planning grant** should be key personnel responsible for implementing planning activities

ELIGIBILITY (cont.)

- Limit on number of proposals per Organization:
  - Alliances* (including B2B): 1
  - BD: 1
  - Pre-Alliance Planning: 1

* Exception: Alliances funded 10+ years can submit both an alliance proposal and a BD proposal

- Limit on number of proposals per PI or co-PI:
  - Alliances (includingB2B): 1
  - BD: 1
  - Pre-Alliance Planning: 1

Budget Information for FY2016

Estimated Number of Awards to be Made:

- Alliances (different institutional types): 16

- B2B Alliances: 3

- BD grants: 10

- Pre-Alliance Planning grants: 8

Budget Maximums:

- Alliances (different institutional types): up to $1,000,000 per year for 5 years

- B2B alliances: up to $500,000 per year for 3 years

- BD grants: up to $1,075,000 total for 2 years

- Pre-Alliance planning grants: up to $125,000 for 18 months

Required Sections for LSAMP Proposals
(see the GPG/NSF 15-1 and solicitation)

- Cover Sheet
- Project Summary (one-page, 3 sections)
- Project Description (15-page limit except for alliances funded 10+ years)
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketches (2-pages for the PI, co-PI(s) and senior project personnel)
- Budget and Budget Justification (required for lead institution and all sub-awardees; 3-page limit for justifications)
- Current and Pending Support (required for the PI and co-PI(s))
- Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources
- Supplementary Documents
  - Data Management Plan
  - Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan, if applicable
  - **Letters of Collaboration**
  - **CV(s) for External Evaluator(s) and education/social science researcher(s)**
  - **Logic Model for Evaluation Plan**
  - **Data Tables**

Note: A proposal will be returned without review if unallowable documents are included.

Guidance on Cover Sheet and Title

❑ For the **COVER SHEET:** After selecting the LSAMP program solicitation number (NSF 15-594), under the "NSF Unit Consideration" please select the following:

– "HRD-Division of Human Resource Development" as the NSF division
– "Alliances for Minority Participation (AMP)" for the NSF program

❑ The **TITLE** should be prefaced with the type of LSAMP Activity being proposed:

– **Alliance** proposals (NOT including Bridge to the Baccalaureate):
• Please begin the project title with the <u>name of the alliance</u> (e.g. State X LSAMP)

– **Bridge to the Baccalaureate Alliance** proposals:
• Please begin the project title with <u>"Bridge to the Baccalaureate:"</u>

– **Bridge to the Doctorate** proposals:
• Please begin the project title with <u>"Bridge to the Doctorate:"</u>

– **Pre-Alliance Planning** proposals:
• Please begin the project title with <u>"Pre-Alliance Planning:"</u>

Guidance on Project Description
(See "Detailed Guidelines for Writing Project Descriptions" in Section V. A.)

➢ **For Alliance proposals including B2B (15-page limit):**

- – Background and Context

- – Alliance Structure

- – Proposed Activities, Goals, and Measurable Objectives

- – Results of Prior NSF Support, if applicable

- – Institutional Support and Sustainability Plan

- – Dissemination and Outreach Plans

- – Project Management Plan

- – Project Evaluation or External Review Plan

Project Description (continued)

- For proposals from Alliances funded 10+ years (20-page limit):
  - Background and Context
  - Alliance Structure
  - Proposed Activities, Goals, and Measurable Objectives
  - **Proposed Research Activities/Description of Education/Social Science Research Study** (5 pages)
  - Results of Prior NSF Support
  - Institutional Support and Sustainability Plan
  - Dissemination and Outreach Plans
  - Project Management Plan
  - Project Evaluation or External Review Plan

Project Description (continued)

- For Bridge to the Doctorate proposals (15-page limit):

    - Background and Context

    - Proposed Activities, Goals, and Measurable Objectives

    - Results of Prior NSF Support, if applicable

    - Dissemination and Outreach Plans

    - Project Management Plan

    - Project Evaluation or External Review Plan

NSF Merit Review Criteria

- **<u>Intellectual Merit</u>** – the potential to advance knowledge.

- **<u>Broader Impacts</u>** – the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

Both criteria, **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impacts**, will be given full consideration during the review and decision-making processes. Proposers must fully address **both** criteria.

Five Review Elements

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

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
   - **Advance knowledge** and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
   - **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 institution to conduct the proposed activities?

5. Are there **adequate resources** available to the PI (either at the home institution or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Additional Solicitation-Specific Review Criteria

- **For Alliance Proposals:** rationale for and coherence of alliance structure; description of evidence-based project activities; quality of the management plan; evidence of support from institutional leadership and STEM faculty; rigor of the project evaluation plan; evidence of institutionalization and sustainability for well-established alliances; results of prior NSF LSAMP support; potential to transform undergraduate STEM education; quality of dissemination plan; potential for adding to the body of knowledge on recruitment and retention of students historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines.

- **For BD proposals:** description of program activities; quality of recruitment plan and selection process; success and progress of previous cohorts through the STEM doctoral degree; evidence of institutional support of BD participants after the two years of NSF funding; evidence of formal connections and meaningful partnerships between STEM graduate programs; rigor of evaluation plan.

- **For Proposals from alliances funded more than 10 years (education/social science research component):** relevance and usefulness of the research study; rigor of the research design and methodology; potential for the findings and/or recommendations to provide educators with practical and effective strategies for broader integration within educational systems (departments, institutions, alliances).

Useful Resources

- NSF: www.nsf.gov

- **NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG):** NSF 15-1

- FastLane: www.fastlane.nsf.gov

- EHR Divisional Programs: http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=EHR

- Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13126/nsf13126.pdf; And FAQs: NSF 13-127

- Funding Opportunities: www.nsf.gov/funding/browse_all_funding.jsp

- Award Information: www.nsf.gov/awardsearch

- Broader Impacts: www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf

- Data Management Plan: www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp

Address inquiries to:
LSAMP_national@nsf.gov

LSAMP Program Page:
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13646

Important Dates/Deadlines: November 4th and 20th

DUE DATES
(*by 5p.m. proposer's local time*)

- <u>Pre-Alliance Planning Grants</u>: November 4, 2015

- <u>Bridge to the Doctorate</u>: November 4, 2015

- <u>LSAMP Alliance Proposals</u> (including B2B): November 20, 2015

Thank you!

LSAMP Program Team

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QUESTIONS ?