Funding for Anthropologists: Common Myths and Tips for Prospective Applicants

NSF

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Cultural Anthropology
Program Officers

Presentation Outline

1. Common myths about NSF funding

2. Prospective PI Preparation Timeline

3. Review of the Program

Common myths about NSF funding

1. NSF only funds scholars at elite institutions

2. NSF only funds (students of) "famous" academics

3. Once declined, always declined

4. Advisory committees make funding decisions

5. NSF is only interested in quantitative approaches

6. Qualitative and quantitative approaches are mutually exclusive

7. NSF proposals must have hypotheses
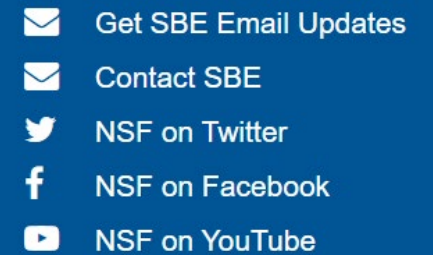
Preparation timeline for prospective students

1 year before applying	→	6 months before applying	→	3 months before applying

- Not exhaustive
- Not meant to be a rigid schedule

Get to know the "language of NSF"...

1. Find **copies of proposals** – both funded and unfunded

   - NSF cannot provide these
   - Read them alongside a relevant solicitation

2. Sign up for **SBE email updates**

- Get SBE Email Updates
- Contact SBE
- NSF on Twitter
- NSF on Facebook
- NSF on YouTube

| 1 year before applying | → | 6 months before applying | → | 3 months before applying |

While developing your research ideas…

1. Read the **NSF 101** blog series

2. Get to know your **SRO** & the process of submitting grants at your institution, including ethical approvals
   - Understand your institution's workflow process

3. Identify what makes your research idea **unique** and consider how to best convey this in your proposal

4. Read program descriptions to determine **best fit** for your research

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https://beta.nsf.gov/ funding/opportunities

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Filter:

| Limited Submissions ⌄ | Award Type ⌄ | Advancing Diversity ⌄ |
| Directorate ⌄ | Division ⌄ | Education Level ⌄ |

☐ Show only NSF-wide/cross-directorate opportunities (73)

Explore program page

Cultural Anthropology Program – Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (CA–DDRIG)

View Guidelines
19-560

← Search for more funding opportunities

Important Information for Proposers

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) (NSF 22-1), is effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after October 4, 2021. Please be advised that, depending on the specified

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Supports doctoral research aimed at understanding patterns, causes and consequences of human social and cultural variation, including research that has implications for confronting anthropogenic problems.

Synopsis

The primary objective of the Cultural Anthropology Program is to support basic scientific research on the causes, consequences, and complexities of human social and cultural variability.

Anthropological research spans a wide gamut, and contemporary cultural anthropology is an arena in which diverse research traditions and methodologies are valid. Recognizing the breadth of the field's contributions to science, the Cultural Anthropology Program welcomes proposals for empirically grounded, theoretically engaged, and methodologically sophisticated research in all sub-fields of cultural anthropology. Because the National Science Foundation's mandate is to support basic research, the NSF Cultural Anthropology Program does not fund

Expand +

Program Contacts

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Program Webinars

Cultural Anthropology Program Office Hour - January 18, 2022
Cultural Anthropology Program Office Hour - January 25, 2022
Cultural Anthropology Program Office Hour - February 1, 2022
Cultural Anthropology Program Office Hour - February 8, 2022
Cultural Anthropology Program Office Hour - February 15, 2022

Awards Made Through This Program

Browse projects funded by this program

> **Related programs**

Cultural Anthropology Scholars Awards

Upcoming Due Dates

Full Proposal

2022

August 15 - Target Date
↻ August 15, Annually Thereafter

2023

January 15 - Target Date
↻ January 15, Annually Thereafter

Program Guidelines

Award Information
Anticipated Funding Amount is $800,000 pending availability of funds. Project budgets should be developed at scales appropriate for the work to be conducted. The total direct costs for CA DDRIG awards may not exceed $20,000; applicable indirect costs are in addition to (that is, on top of) that amount.

The proposer may concurrently submit a doctoral dissertation proposal to other funding organizations. Please indicate this in the "Current and Pending Support" section of the NSF proposal, so that NSF may coordinate funding with the other organizations. The "Current and Pending Support" section of the NSF proposal should also list the proposal itself. The proposer may submit a DDRIG proposal to only one NSF Program although they may request that the proposal be co-reviewed with one or more other NSF Programs; actual co-review will be at the discretion of the relevant Program Officers.

Estimated Number of Awards
40 to 50 - During a fiscal year, Cultural Anthropology expects to

How do I know if my research is a good fit with the program?

Find funded projects and read abstracts

What has been funded through a particular program?

Doctoral Dissertation Research: Psychiatric Deinstitutionalization and Community Mental Health Transitions
Award Number:2116127; Principal Investigator:Jocelyn Chua; Co-Principal Investigator:Julio Villa-Palomino; Organization:University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;NSF Organization:BCS Start Date:08/01/2021; Award Amount:$16,075.00; Relevance:62.54;

Doctoral Dissertation Research: Networks of Support and Solidarity in Carceral Contexts
Award Number:2148008; Principal Investigator:Kaya Williams; Co-Principal Investigator:Jarrett Drake; Organization:Harvard University;NSF Organization:BCS Start Date:05/01/2022; Award Amount:$25,200.00; Relevance:61.69;

Doctoral Dissertation Research: Real Estate Speculation and its Impact on Agricultural Access to Water Resources in Contexts of Rapid Urbanization
Award Number:2049507; Principal Investigator:Donald Nonini; Co-Principal Investigator:Julio Gutierrez; Organization:University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill;NSF Organization:BCS Start Date:08/15/2021; Award Amount:$24,954.00; Relevance:61.69;

Doctoral Dissertation Research: Intersections of worldviews in the co-management of environmental resources
Award Number:2147716; Principal Investigator:Mark Moritz; Co-Principal Investigator:Chelsea Hunter; Organization:Ohio State University;NSF Organization:BCS Start Date:03/01/2022; Award Amount:$31,484.00; Relevance:61.28;

Doctoral Dissertation Research: Marine Conservation, Demography, and Family Planning
Award Number:2116661; Principal Investigator:Michael Dove; Co-Principal Investigator:Manon Lefevre; Organization:Yale University;NSF Organization:BCS Start Date:09/01/2021; Award Amount:$25,200.00; Relevance:61.28;

ABSTRACT

This award is funded in whole or in part under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2).

Psychiatric deinstitutionalization continues to pose challenges to local communities. These challenges encompass how to better provide care for the severely mentally ill at community mental health centers and within the community at large. In addition to providing funding for the training of a graduate student in anthropology in the methods of empirical data collection and analysis, this doctoral dissertation project provides a scientific analysis of the social effects of psychiatric deinstitutionalization in the everyday lives of community members, caregivers, and clients. By examining scientifically the effects of psychiatric deinstitutionalization, this dissertation project will provide greater understanding of its effects in the everyday lives of community residents. The project also broadens the participation of underrepresented groups in science.

This doctoral dissertation research project examines how community members become involved in caring for deinstitutionalized clients and their community. It asks three main questions: (1) How are community residents involved in the process of psychiatric deinstitutionalization? (2) How are practices of community care enacted? (3) Does psychiatric deinstitutionalization reshape the boundaries between the clinic and the community? The researcher will conduct ethnographic observation, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and archival research to explore the social effects of psychiatric deinstitutionalization in the community. Remote fieldwork methods such as virtual interviews, photovoice, and journaling, will also be used. Data will be thematically coded and analyzed carefully to explore how discourses around psychiatric deinstitutionalization, community mental health, and community care are developed and enacted by caregivers, clients, and community members. By scientifically investigating how community members participate in community care activities for deinstitutionalized clients, and by asking what happens to the boundaries between clinic and community, this dissertation project will make significant contributions to research on mental health care in the community setting.
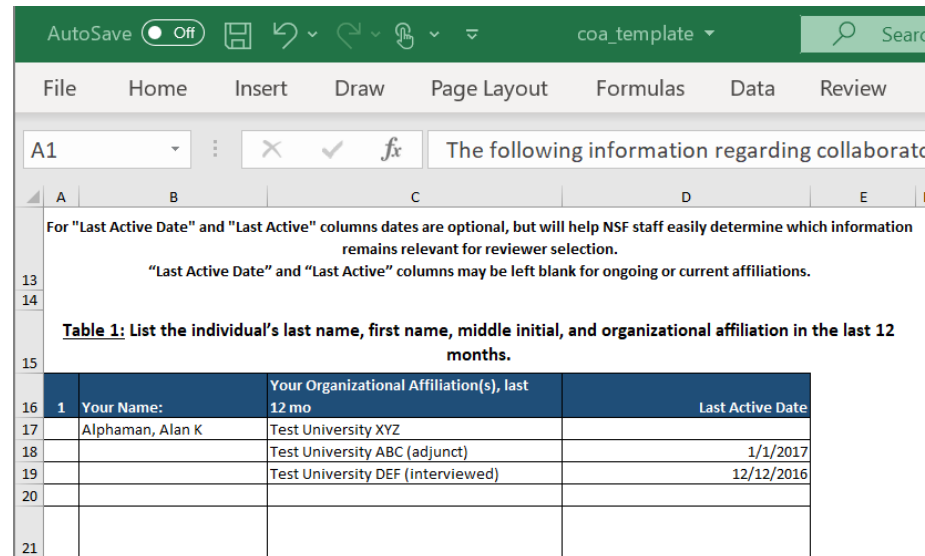
You can review the abstracts of awards made through a particular program.

Cover your bases…

1. Keep track of your **collaborators**

   - Prepare your Collaborators and Other Affiliations Information (COA) form early

6 months before applying → **3 months before applying**

Cover your bases….

1. Keep track of your **collaborators**

   - Prepare your Collaborators and Other Affiliations Information (COA) form early

2. Work with your IRB; work on your biographical sketch, data management plan, letters of support, budget, justification

1 year before applying		6 months before applying		3 months before applying

Cover your bases.....

1. Keep track of your **collaborators**

   - Prepare your Collaborators and Other Affiliations Information (COA) form early

2. **Work on ancillary documents**

3. Have a question? **Contact the program officer**

   - Prepare a one-page synopsis of your project and submit to program officers for feedback

| 1 year before applying | → | 6 months before applying | → | 3 months before applying |

Example One-Pager

1. Overview →
- Background/Situate your study
- Research questions/hypotheses

2. Intellectual Merit →
- Potential to advance knowledge
- Theoretical contribution to Cultural Anthropology

3. Broader Impacts →
- Potential to benefit society
- Contribution to achievement of specific societal outcomes

While polishing your proposal…

1. Read and re-read the **program solicitation**

- Identify solicitation-specific preparation instructions & review criteria

1 year before applying → **6 months before applying** → **3 months before applying**

While polishing your proposal…continued

2. Make sure **biosketch** is updated

3. Make sure all **ancillaries** are completed

   - Facilities, Equipment, & Other Resources (FER); Current & Pending Support, etc.

4. Make sure **ethical approvals** are in the works

   - You do not need to have approval at the time of proposal submission

5. Get any **letters of collaboration** in order

   - Follow directions in the solicitation and PAPPG

6. Work with your **research office** and pay attention to **internal deadlines**

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Of Note…

- If solicitation and PAPPG are in conflict, **go with solicitation**

- $20,000 in direct costs, max, DDRI

- Two-time submission rule

- Two "target dates" per year (1/15, and 8/15)

- Review is typically by **panel** (DDRI), combo panel/ad hoc/ internal (senior)

- Make project feasible in light of **COVID-19**

Good habits

- Case for *scientific* **generalizability** must be clear

- Make research design and data analysis plan work for *your* project

- Speak to your narrow audience *and* the broader CA audience

Bad habits

- Foregone conclusions/arguments

- "Laundry-list" research questions, literature reviews, methods

- Jargon

- Poor definitions/operationalization of variables

- Advocacy/activist objectives

- Subjectivity

Co-Review

- You suggest

- We suggest internally

- HEGS, Biological Anthropology, Archaeology, STS, Arctic Social Science

Odds and Ends

- Sign up to be a reviewer or panelist

- Consider sharing your demographic data

- Sign up for NSF notices: https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNSF/subscriber/new

- Ask us for outreach/meetings

Questions?

Contact information:

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