General Programmatic Terms and Conditions (PTCs) for Developing a National Research Infrastructure for Neuroscience (NeuroNex) Cooperative Agreement(s) (NSF 16-569)

NSF 16-569: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf16569

1.   Key Personnel. Except for the Principal Investigator(s) (PIs) or Co-PIs identified in this award, requests to make any changes to senior personnel, organizations, and/or partnerships specifically named in the proposal that have been approved as part of this award shall be submitted in writing to the managing NSF Program Director for approval prior to any changes taking effect. Requests for prior approval of changes to the PI or Co-PI(s) must be submitted through FastLane for review by the managing NSF Program Director and approval by an NSF Grants Officer.

2.   Program Description. The primary goal of this program is to foster the development and dissemination of (1) innovative research resources, instrumentation, and neurotechnologies, and (2) theoretical frameworks for understanding brain function across organizational levels, scales of analysis, and/or a wider range of species, including humans. This interdisciplinary program is one element of NSF's broader effort directed at Understanding the Brain, a multiyear activity that includes NSFs participation in the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative (http://www.nsf.gov/brain/) and the phased approach to develop a national research infrastructure for neuroscience as outlined in the Dear Colleague Letter NSF16-047. NSF envisions a connected portfolio of transformative, integrative projects that create synergistic links across investigators and communities, yielding novel ways of tackling the challenges of understanding the brain.

3.   Project Governance. The Awardee will ensure that an efficient and effective project governing structure is in place throughout the award period to support all significant project activities. The specific governing components are listed in the Award-specific Terms and Conditions.

4.   Governing Responsibilities. The Awardee will ensure efficient and effective performance of all project responsibilities by the governing components throughout the award period. The PI will cooperate and coordinate with the managing NSF Program Director through activities listed under the Award-specific Terms and Conditions.

5.   Reporting Requirements. The Awardee will provide annual reports as designated by the NSF managing Program Director with content, format, and submission time line established by the NSF managing Program Director. The Awardee will submit all required reports via Research.gov using the appropriate reporting category. For any type of report not specifically mentioned in Research.gov, the Awardee will use the "Interim Reporting" function to submit reports. Additional specific reports are noted in the Award-specific Terms and Conditions.

6.   Ongoing Project Management and Oversight. The Awardee will ensure full commitment and cooperation among the governing structure components and all project staff during all ongoing NSF project management and oversight activities. The Awardee will ensure availability of key personnel during any on-site review as well as timely access to all project documentation. The Awardee will flow down this condition to all subawardees.

NSF may conduct site reviews as necessary to determine the effectiveness of the Neurotechnology Hub or Theory Team and its value to the scientific community. The site reviews will consider the quality of the Neurotechnology Hubs or Theory Team's activities in providing accessibility of neurotechnologies or theoretical approaches to the community; the quality of the contribution to the neurosciences; the effectiveness of the education and outreach activities; the effectiveness and accessibility of reliable data management systems; and the extent to which these activities have enabled community standards. Other project aspects subject to evaluation will include administration and management, cooperation with partner organizations, and participation by minorities and members of under-represented groups.

During each year of the project, the NSF will evaluate the project to determine whether the NSF will continue to support full operations or will provide decreased funding to phase out NSF support of this project. If a decision is made to phase-out NSF support of this project, the Awardee will negotiate a six-month phase-out plan with the NSF.

To continue the project beyond Year 2, the Awardee must submit a non-competitive renewal proposal that will be reviewed by the NSF.