



# Welcome to NSF-BIO Virtual Office Hour

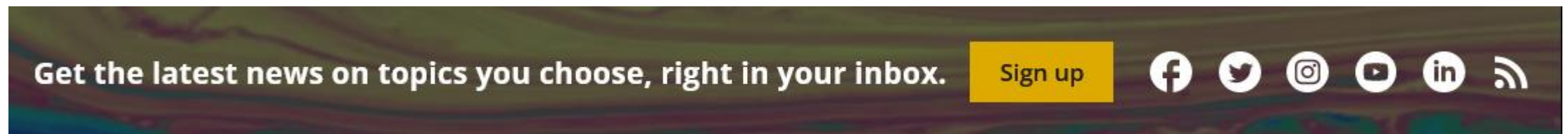
Welcome! We will begin the Virtual Office Hour soon. Please submit questions in the Zoom Q&A box.

Susan Marqusee, Assistant Director (Biological Sciences)  
[smarqusee@nsf.gov](mailto:smarqusee@nsf.gov)

*December 18, 2025*

# BIO News and Updates

Sign up for emails on new solicitations; events; due date reminders; and BIO's quarterly newsletter, including information on new priorities and solicitations, highlights from the community, and more!



Visit [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov) and scroll down until you see the Sign up and social media banner, click on the yellow box, and follow the prompts.

Visit [www.nsf.gov/events](http://www.nsf.gov/events) to find other virtual office hours and events across the agency.



# What we will cover today

- NSF-BIO's operating status
- Some changes you may have heard about
- How the changes will impact (or not) submission and review of your proposals



# Operating Status

- **NSF is open!**
- Review panels are in process.
- NSF is committed to maintaining our traditional high standard of merit review.
- Please keep submitting proposals with your best science ideas.



# Changes you may have heard about or observed

NSF is reorganizing and doing away with Divisions. *True.*

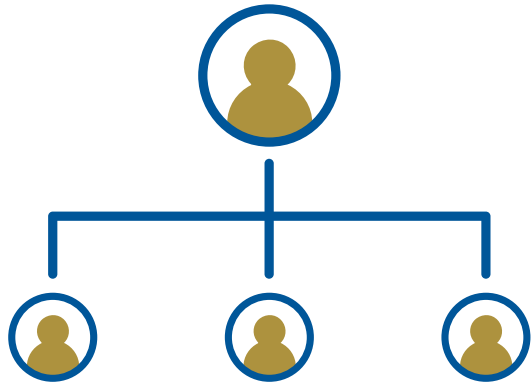
NSF is not reviewing proposals in the same way. *True.*

It is taking longer than usual for PI's to receive decisions. There are fewer reviews. The panel summary is shorter. *All true.*

NSF is relocating to a new building. *True.*



# Changes at NSF

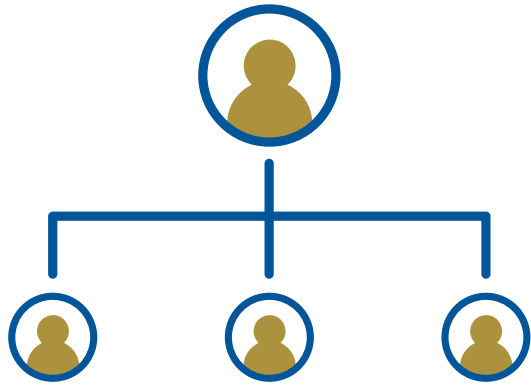


NSF Reorganization



Merit Review Reform

# Changes at NSF



**NSF Reorganization**



Merit Review Reform



# BIO Reorganization

- **Driven initially by personnel needs**
  - OPM mandate for change
  - Current roster of fewer staff
- **Opportunities**
  - Take advantage of the change to reorganize proposal review across scientific topics
  - Leverage the existing cross-disciplinary overlaps among many of our traditional programs
  - Create agile structures and processes that will serve the science of today and into the future





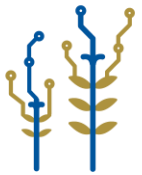
# BIO Reorganization – Three Thematic Areas



**Foundations of Life:** Exploring molecules, cells and physiology that build living things



**Living Systems:** Understanding how species evolve, interact, and shape Earth's ecosystems



**Bioinnovation & Infrastructure:** Developing the tools, data, technologies, and infrastructure to support biological sciences research



# BIO Reorganization



**Foundations of  
Life**

bio-fl@nsf.gov

**Bioinnovation  
&  
Infrastructure**

bio-bi@nsf.gov

**Living  
Systems**

bio-ls@nsf.gov



# BIO Reorganization



# How does the Reorganization affect where PIs submit their proposals?

- **Today**

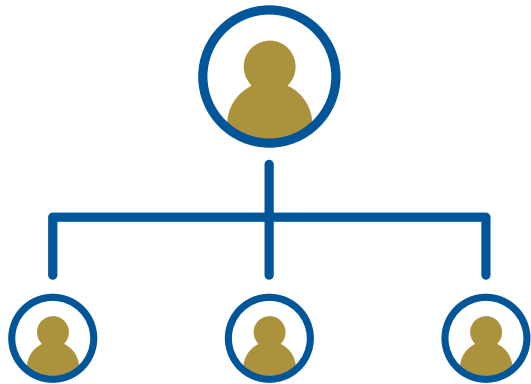
- Current solicitations and programs still exist
- For input on your project idea, contact us

- **Looking Forward**

- Fewer and broader solicitations
- Leverage cross-disciplinary overlaps among many of our traditional programs and new areas of science
- Welcome science of today and science of tomorrow



# Changes at NSF



NSF Reorganization



**Merit Review Reform**



# Merit Review Reform

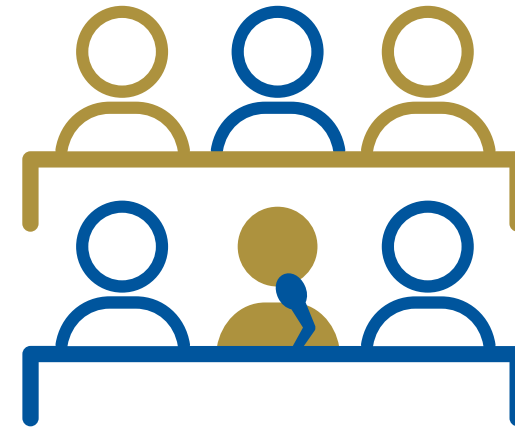
Overarching principle: Maintain agency's historical high standard and Merit Review Criteria remain

- Increase efficiency, consistency & transparency
  - More automation of routine tasks to save time
  - Less program-to-program variability across the agency
- At least two reviews per proposal
  - BIO will continue to seek external review from the research community
  - Merit Review Criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts) remain
- More use of return without review for inappropriate or insufficiently revised proposals



# Panel Updates

- More effective use of panel discussion time
  - Less discussion for proposals with uniformly high or low review scores
  - More discussion of proposals with divergent scores
- More succinct panel summaries



# Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 24-1, Supplement 1

Policies and Procedures

## Policy Notice: Implementation of Policy Changes to Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 24-1, Supplement 1

The information set out in this notice takes precedence over existing policies and procedures in PAPPG 24-1. It applies for all financial assistance awarded on or after Dec. 8, 2025.

### Issuance date

Dec. 8, 2025

### Effective date

Dec. 8, 2025

### Applies to

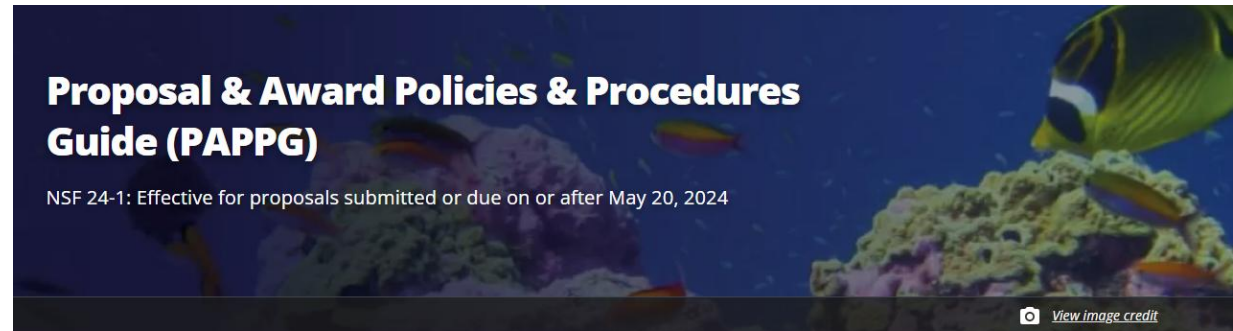
U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) grants and cooperative agreements

### Subject

Implementation of Policy Changes to Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) 24-1, Supplement 1

### Purpose

This notice serves as a supplement to implement several revisions to NSF's Policy Changes for the Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG). It takes precedence over existing policies and procedures set forth in the [24-1 version of the PAPPG](#) for all financial assistance awarded on or after the effective date of this notice or the respective dates set in notices cited in this notice.



[Home](#) / [Policies](#) / [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) / [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\) \(NSF 24-1\)](#)

**Important policy update:** NSF has issued a [supplemental Policy Notice](#) that applies to all financial assistance awarded by the agency on or after Dec. 8, 2025. The notice supplements the 2024...

In the case of any inconsistency between the coverage contained in the *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* and 2 CFR (including 2 CFR part 200), the coverage specified in 2 CFR...

[Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures](#) [PAPPG \(NSF 24-1\) dated January 22, 2024 \(PDF 438 MB\)](#)





# Questions?

Submit your questions via the Q&A box on your screen and set to "Send anonymously."



Upvote questions by clicking the thumbs up icon next to the question you most want answered.

# Contact Information

- **F**oundations of **L**ife: [bio-fl@nsf.gov](mailto:bio-fl@nsf.gov)
- **L**iving **S**ystems: [bio-ls@nsf.gov](mailto:bio-ls@nsf.gov)
- **B**ioinnovation and **I**nfrastructure: [bio-bi@nsf.gov](mailto:bio-bi@nsf.gov)

Or contact your cognizant Program Officer, whose name can be found in your proposal portal ([Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)).



# Upcoming Opportunity:

Provide advice to NSF on implementation of its new Strategic Plan for FY2026-2030

- Dear Colleague Letter (to be released mid-January) soliciting public comment on the following questions
  - What challenges/opportunities may influence NSF progress towards its goals and how might these be addressed?
  - Which organizations could NSF partner with to implement its strategies?
  - What existing data/evidence should NSF consider in developing mechanisms to evaluate progress/measure success in meeting its goals?
  - What other information would assist NSF in achieving the goals and objectives laid out in the draft Strategic Plan?



