U.S. National Science Foundation

Fostering Interdisciplinary Networks to Develop Emergent and Responsive Solutions Foundry

NSF 26-507

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Agenda

- Program Officer introductions
- Program overview
- Program steps and resources
- Planning proposal requirements
- Q & A

The webinar recording and slides will be available on the NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY webpage a few days after this event

NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY Program Officers

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Program Overview

- Collaboration between educators, students, technologists, families and researchers to co-design solutions grounded in real learning and workforce challenges.
- Community-driven design ensures innovation is relevant in context and viable at scale.
- The program prioritizes active participation, technical literacy and early engagement with emerging technologies such as AI, positioning learners to navigate and shape a rapidly evolving digital economy.

Team Requirements

Each team must include at least one (1) person from each category:

1. **K-12 educator:** Educators and learners in K-12 across formal and informal settings.
2. **Technologist**: Individuals with technical expertise to design, build, an implement the proposed technology.
3. **Researcher:** Experts in study, design, measurement, and analysis to rigorously evaluate learning outcomes.
4. **Parents or guardians:** Caregivers of students impacted by the selected challenge who are not otherwise represented in the former three roles.

Program Steps and Required Resources

Pre-Funding Crowdsource	Spring 2026	Crowdsource learning challenges from educators, learners and parents or guardians of learners
Interdisciplinary Teaming	Spring 2026	Team members connect via the NSF FINDERS Foundry Dashboard.
Planning Proposals ($50k)	Deadline: May 27, 2026	Interdisciplinary teams co-develop proposals covering innovation area, success metrics and team roles. ~50 teams.
Development Proposals ($300K)	Deadline: November 18, 2026	*Teams build and refine prototypes to achieve minimum viable product pilot deployment. ~20 teams.

*Only teams that receive Planning awards are eligible to submit Development proposals.

Pre-Funding Crowdsource Survey (*Still Live)*

Identifying Challenges

- Driven by K12 Educators, Students and Families
- SURVEY (link shared in chat)
  - https://airtable.com/appIWEuYz46jylgB1/shrqD7h5IjiLYg85B

Project Tracks

- Increase STEM Achievement
- Enhance AI Literacy
- Putting Learning Science into Practice
- Support Learning Differences
- Strengthen Career Pathways
- Unlocking Students' Boundless Creativity and Ambition: Learner facing tools
- Accelerating Learning with Fidelity to Practice: Teacher facing tools

The Survey

Learners, caregivers, educators, technologists, and researchers respond to the survey to identify education's most persistent challenges ripe for innovative technological solutions

Survey: Technology Solutions to Learning Challenges

The NSF is launching an initiative to bring learners, caregivers, educators, technologists, and researchers together to create innovative technological solutions to education's most persistent challenges.

NSF seeks the view of each stakeholder about their most aspirational approaches to solve persistent challenges in learning including how each approach might succeed.

Interdisciplinary Teaming: NSF FINDERS Foundry Dashboard

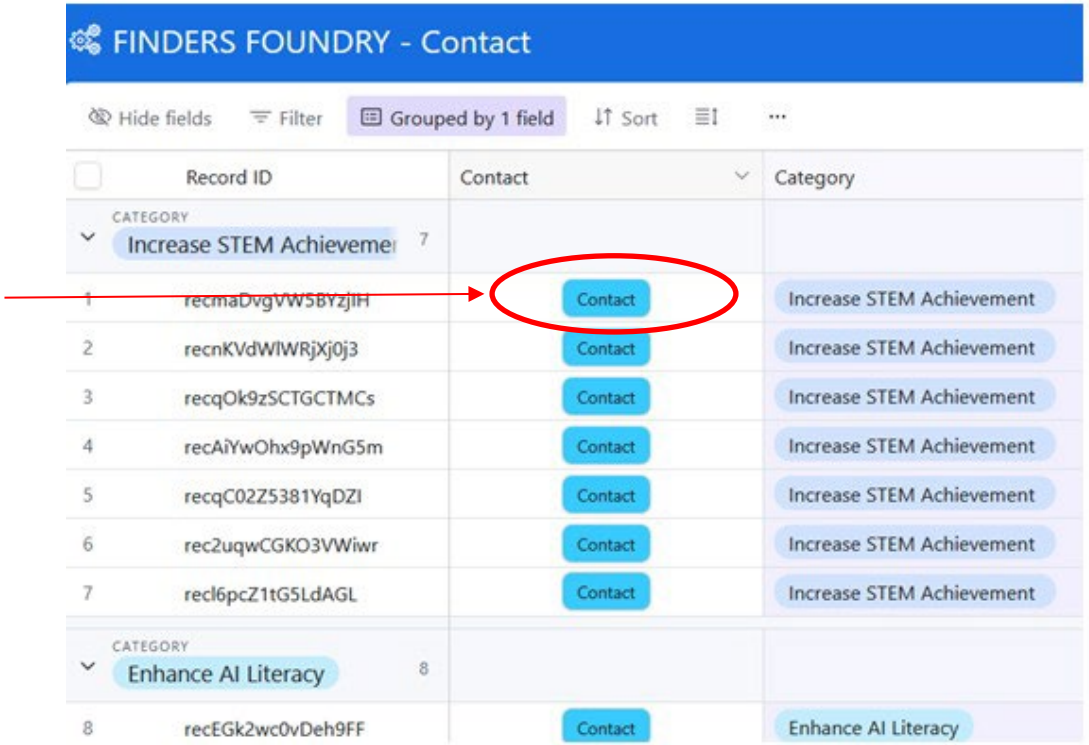
Educators, parents, technologists and researchers:

1. Access the dashboard of active teams (link shared in chat): https://airtable.com/appIWEuYz46jylgB1/shrXpC6eBHofznWAr/tblNAiOIipixz4fEa
2. Identify challenges you wish to help solve
3. Use the “contact” feature on the dashboard to submit your teaming request
4. Project team identifies key members and collaborates to draft the initial planning proposal

Projects **must** address **one (1)** track from the NSF FINDERS Foundry Dashboard

The Dashboard

Select "contact"
and share information which would help the team understand why you would be a great partner in co-creating this solution



Eligibility

- **Eligible institutions:**
  - Institutes of higher education
  - Non-profit, non-academic organizations that are directly associated with educational or research activities
  - Tribal nations
  - State or local governments
- An organization may only submit **one** proposal
- A PI or Co-PI may only submit **one** proposal

See additional eligibility information in Section IV of the solicitation NSF 26-507 (link in chat)

Planning Proposals

Support early-stage collaboration among interdisciplinary teams

- Due May 27, 2026
- Up to $50,000
- 2-month planning period

Planning Proposal Structure

- **Cover Page:** Proposal Title: Title should begin with "NSF FF: Planning: "
- **Project Summary:** Overview: Identify the one track from the NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY Dashboard and describe the potential outcome(s) of the proposed solution including the areas of application that are the initial target of the technology.
- **Project Description [Three (3) pages MAXIMUM].**
  - Team Composition: For the Leadership Team, list team members names, organization, their expertise, and the role they play on the project. The leadership team must include at least one (1) K-12 educator, one (1) technologist, one (1) researcher, and one (1) parent or guardian.
  - Provide an overview of the classroom setting.
  - Brief narrative describing the expertise of personnel and their specific roles, responsibilities, and contributions relative to the proposed effort, including those responsible for the pilot testing.
- **Budgets and Budget Justification.** The total budget MUST not exceed $50,000 for the Planning proposal.

Merit Review Principles

Intellectual Merit, which encompasses the potential to advance knowledge.

Broader Impacts, which encompass the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

- For each innovation, does the project describe the **intended population**, including the anticipated number of K-12 students reachable by the innovation, geography, content area of focus, and rationale for the proposed population?
- Does the project effectively articulate the **intended outcomes** of each innovation (e.g., learning gains) for the population and sub-populations if there are multiple potential benefits or outcomes of the innovation?
- To what extent does the project provide clear **alignment of the innovation to both the track and the core curricula required by the intended population**?
- For each innovation, does the project provide **appropriate success indicators** for measuring outcomes?
- How effectively does the project detail **concrete approaches to measuring each success metric**(s) at anticipated intervals?
- To what extent does the project clearly **articulate the go/no-go steps** where iteration is required on the design and implementation of the prototyped innovation?
- Does the project effectively **plan for initial measurements of success metrics** during a pilot of the MVP/prototype?
- Does the project provide ideas about **future development and innovation pathways** for the team and their innovation post- NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY support?

Q & A

Submit your questions via the Zoom Q & A feature

Thank You

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