TIPS FOR PREPARING A COMPETITIVE INCLUDES PROPOSAL

Clearly identify the focus population(s).
The population of focus is the community(ies) that the proposed project's broadening participation challenge addresses. The INCLUDES Initiative is especially interested in broadening participation for populations historically and currently excluded and/or underserved in STEM.

Establish an independent "backbone" or support organization.
INCLUDES Alliances must identify a "backbone" organization that provides an objective framework for communication, networking, measurement, reporting, support, visibility and expansion for the Alliance and its partners. The backbone also collaborates with the INCLUDES Coordination Hub.

Utilize lessons learned from prior NSF support.
Proposed projects that have prior NSF funding for related work should reflect on the results of those project(s), how those results inform the proposed activities, and how scale of previous activities is warranted based on evidence of success.

Incorporate rigorous and innovative research.
Proposals should include a plan to contribute to the knowledge base on broadening participation in STEM through research, evaluations, data, new scientific findings/discoveries, and/or promising practices. In addition, INCLUDES Alliances and Collaborative Change Consortia must contribute rigorous and innovative broadening participation or implementation research.

Have robust data management plans.
A rigorous model of data management is expected for INCLUDES projects, including coordination of metrics and feedback measures across partners and with the ongoing work of the INCLUDES Coordination Hub.

Engage in meaningful evaluation focused on improvement.
A robust evaluation plan includes benchmarks, indicators, logic models, roadmaps, or other evaluative methods to document progress toward goals, objectives, and outcomes defined for the project as a whole, as well as for each of the partners.

Collaborate with the INCLUDES Coordination Hub.
Projects should connect and contribute to the INCLUDES National Network, working collaboratively with the INCLUDES Coordination Hub to promote success and elevate expertise through shared models, measurement practices, tools, and resources.

Make substantive connection between project activities and achievement of broader impacts.
Projects should clearly identify how the proposed activities address the identified broadening participation challenge, engage the focus population(s), and achieve broader impacts.

Tailor postdoctoral mentoring plans.
If applicable, the plan should include specifics regarding how, in alignment with project goals, the scholar would engage in broadening participation and ethical research training and how the mentoring plan would be implemented and assessed to ensure the scholar's success.

Have a well-articulated broad dissemination plan.
Projects should have a clear communications strategy to share knowledge and promising practices across project partners and with the INCLUDES National Network and Coordination Hub.

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Project Types

NSF's Eddie Bernice Johnson INCLUDES Initiative supports five types of projects. The following four key principles apply to all five project types: 1. Broaden participation in STEM; 2. Enable sustainable change in systems; 3. Scale up outcomes in ways that advance equity; 4. Build collaborative infrastructure.

	Criteria	Project Type				
		Design and Development Launch Pilots	Collaborative Change Consortia	Alliances	Network Connectors	Conferences
1	Specific broadening participation challenge to address measurable objectives	x	x	x	x	x
2	Facilitate innovative partnerships, networks, and theories of action.	x	x	x	x	x
3	Multi- sector partnerships and plans to build collaborative infrastructure to achieve progress on the project's goals	x	x	x	x	x
4	Shared vision and strategy for an identified focus population(s) in STEM, along with relevant metrics of progress and key milestones/goals	x	x	x	x	x
5	Plan for contributing project evaluations, data, new scientific findings or discoveries, and promising practices to the INCLUDES National Network	x	x	x	x	x
6	Connections and contributions to the National Network online community and the INCLUDES Coordination Hub	x	x	x	x	x
7	Build connections to other organizations and/or broadening participation stakeholders	x	x	x	x	x
8	Test and deliver models that enable new collaborative efforts or approaches	x				
9	Goal: Establish future alliances, centers, or other large-scale networks.	x				
10	Explore and build capacity for the development of collaborative infrastructure.	x				
11	Plan for contributing rigorous and innovative research to the knowledge base on broadening participation		x	x		
12	Logic model or other heuristic that identifies outcomes reflecting the implementation of systemic change at scale and progress toward developing an inclusive STEM enterprise		x	x		
13	Establish a "backbone" (i.e., support) organization that provides a framework for continuous communication, data management, capacity building, networking, expansion, sustainability, and visibility beyond a single city, state, or region			x		
14	Participate in network of peer alliances			x		
15	New collaborations and novel ideas that connect existing projects to the INCLUDES National Network				x	
16	Communicate findings from the research community to the INCLUDES National Network, especially new efforts to translate basic research into practice				x	

Deadlines
- Design and Development Launch Pilots – 4th Tuesday of October, every even year
- Collaborative Change Consortia – 4th Tuesday of October, every even year
- Alliances – 4th Tuesday of October, every odd year
- Network Connectors – 4th Tuesday of October, every year
- Conferences – accepted anytime (Target Date: 2nd Tuesday in May, annually)