



# **Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) Virtual Office Hour**

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

# **IOS Virtual Office Hour**

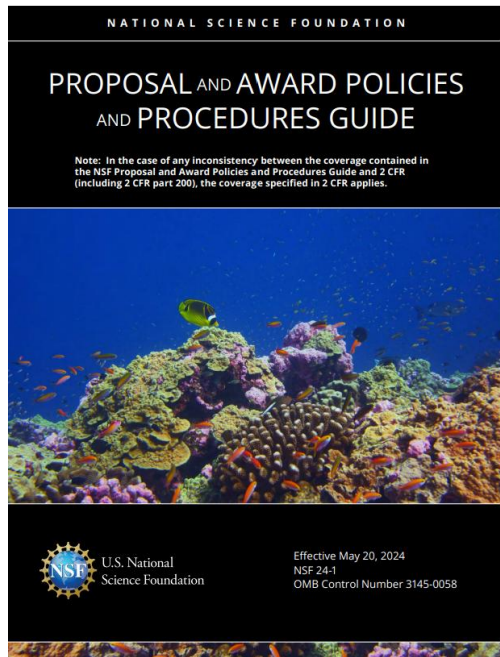
## **Today's Topics**

- Updates and Reminders
- Recent Solicitations
- Proposal Life Cycle: The panel review process and mock panel
- Q&A with Program Directors



# Reminders: General

## Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)



- Current version is NSF 24-1
- Latest version can always be found at: [https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/nsf24\\_1.pdf](https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/nsf24_1.pdf)

## Implementation of Executive Orders

- Updates on NSF Priorities can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/updates-on-priorities>
- Updates on NSF's Implementation of Executive Orders can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/executive-orders>





# Reminders: Solicitations

**DBI:** Infrastructure Innovation (NSF 23-578)

**DBI:** Infrastructure Capacity (NSF 23-580)

**DEB:** Core solicitation (NSF 24-543)

**IOS:** Core solicitation (NSF 24-546)

**IOS:** Plant Biotic Interactions (NSF 20-576)

**IOS:** Plant Genome Research Program (NSF 24-547)

**MCB:** Core solicitation (NSF 24-539)

Be sure you refer to the most up to date PAPPG and most recent solicitation.

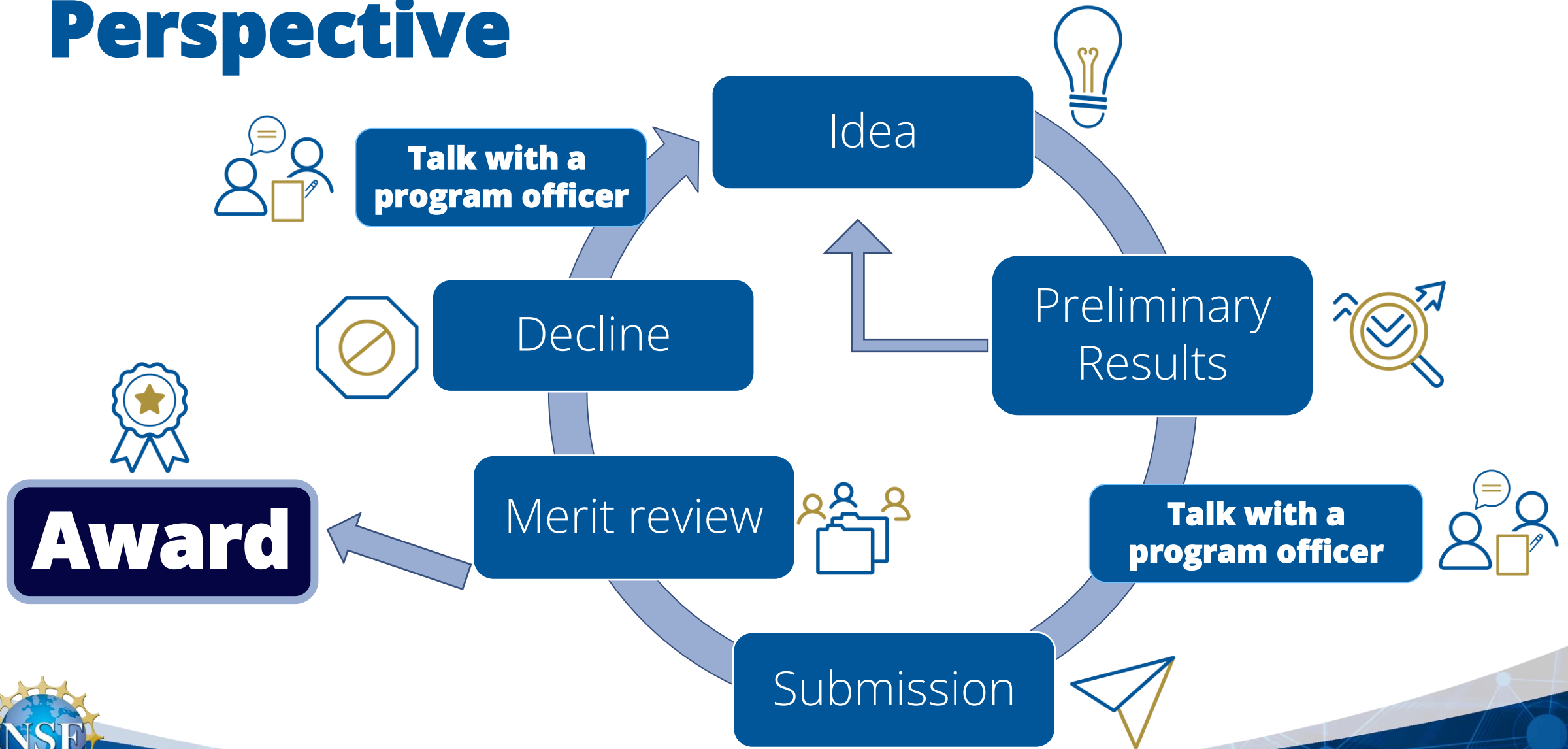


# Proposal Life Cycle

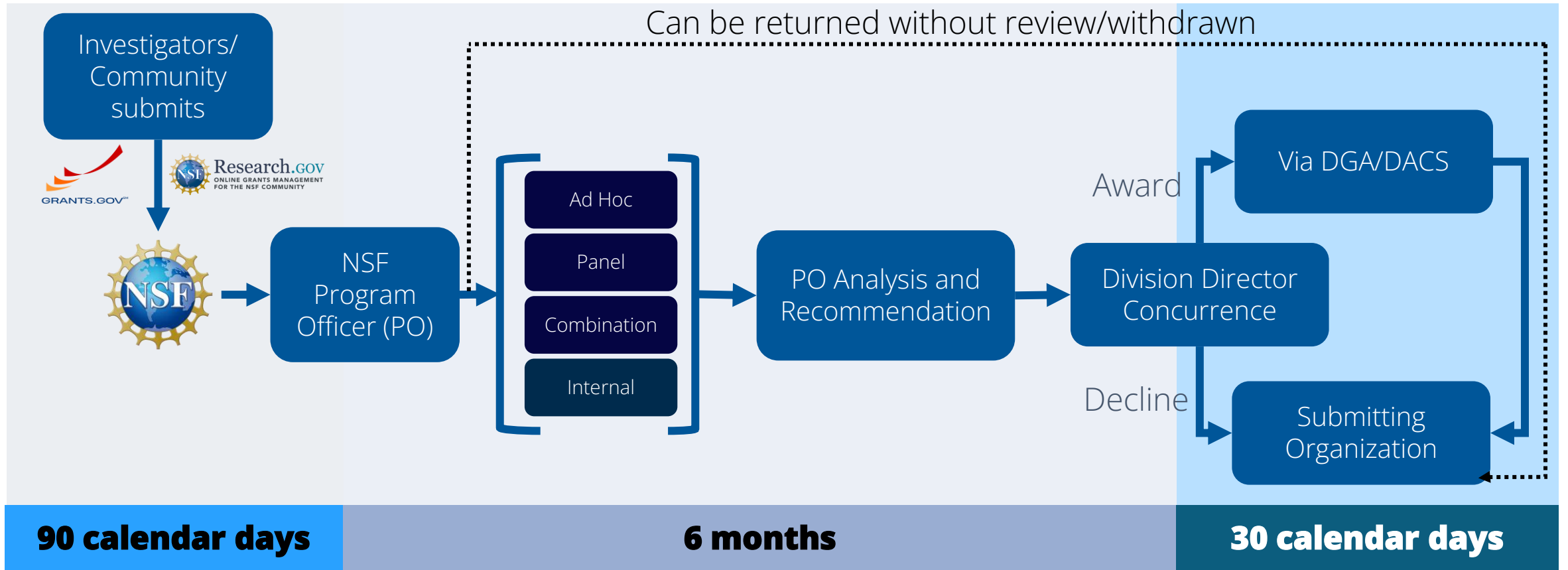
I'm just a  
Proposal



# Proposal Submission Process: PI Perspective



# NSF Proposal & Award Process Timeline



Funding  
Opportunity  
Issued

Proposal  
Receipt at  
NSF

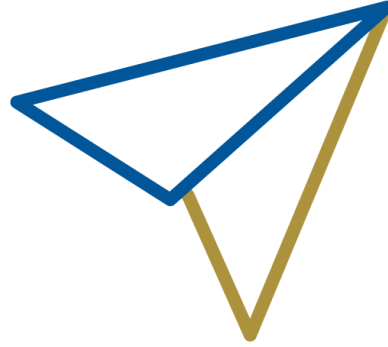
DD Concur

Award





# Submission → [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)



## Key Take-Aways:

1. Either [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) can be used to submit to NSF.
2. If you have problems submitting through either site, please contact their respective Support Centers.

[Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) Support → 1-800-381-1532 or [rgov@nsf.gov](mailto:rgov@nsf.gov)

[Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) Support → 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

3. Plan ahead!





# Merit Review ....



Ad Hoc

Panel

Internal

Combination

## Key Take-Aways:

1. Upload a “List of Suggested Reviewers” as one of your Single Copy Documents.

This can also include a list of reviewers not to include.

2. Internal NSF review can be used if approved by Leadership.  
Typically for proposals under \$50,000 (conference/workshop requests, supplement requests, etc.).



# Panel

- Convened to discuss the **strengths** and **weaknesses** of the proposed **intellectual merit** and **broader impact** activities
- Reviewers provide input and information that helps program officers make informed decisions
- Review panels tend to be topically broad given the variety of research topics submitted to programs
- NSF panels are not standing, long-term panels



# Example Panel Timeline (15 min/proposal)

## Primary Reviewer (~6 minutes)

1. Brief description of overall proposal (2 minutes max) (some programs have all read the proposal summary)
2. Critique the Proposal (4 min max)
  - a. Research Plan → Strengths and weaknesses
  - b. Broader Impacts → Strengths and weaknesses
3. Comment on solicitation specific assessment & other documents  
(e.g., RUI, Post-doc mentoring, Prior Support, Data Management, International Collaboration)

## Secondary Reviewer (~4 minutes)

1. Add additional information/critique – if you agree with the primary, say so - don't repeat.
2. FOCUS on any ad hoc reviews that have discrepancies from the prior comments.
3. Evaluate the arguments made by those reviewers and attempt to reconcile the discrepancy.

## Tertiary Reviewer/Scribe (~3 minutes)

1. Add your critique, if you have new points to make.
2. Ask for any information still needed for the panel summary.
3. Write first draft of panel summary.

## Open Discussion and Ranking (~ 2 min)

1. The entire panel discusses the proposal & someone suggests a position on the ranking board

*Note: there is flexibility here & specific Programs might divide the roles up differently*



# Decision → Award



# or

# Decline



## What are “Cognizant Program Officer Comments” and where can you find them at Research.gov?

### Application Status History

Status	Status Date
Declined	01/01/0000

### Cognizant Program Officer Comments

All reviewers agreed that this is an interesting biological problem to study. However, concerns about rationale for some experiments, the need for additional preliminary data and the narrow focus of the proposed research were significant and dampened the enthusiasm. Two reviewers indicated that the data presented in Table 2 lowers the value of the preliminary data. Some technical concerns such as the suitability of the fluorescence assays to distinguish small differences were also noted by the reviewers. Therefore, the PI is strongly encouraged to contact the Program Director for feedback and advice on future proposal preparation.

Review Information

Please note: The Sponsored Projects Office (or equivalent) at the submitting organization is NOT given the capability to read the below review information.

### Panel Summary

Panel Summary	Release Date
Panel Summary #1	01/01/0000

### Proposal Review Summary of All Reviews

Review	Release Date
Proposal Review #4	01/01/0000
Proposal Review #3	01/01/0000
Proposal Review #2	01/01/0000
Proposal Review #1	01/01/0000

\*\*\*Note- These are fictitious PO comments that are just shown here as an example. \*\*\*





# Decision → Decline



## Suggestions:

- Read the Panel Summary before the reviews!
- Take a couple of days to process the information
- Email the managing Program Officer and ask for a time to discuss your recently declined proposal
  - Figure out what were really the panel's concerns and what is just "noise"

**Talk with a Program Officer ....**



# 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.

