
Revisions to the NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance

July 2026

Agenda

Presentation at a glance

01

Overview of the NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance (GFA) (formally the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG))

02

How to Submit Public Comments

Please note:

This informational presentation is a recording.



NSF Financial Assistance Policy and Procedure Transformation

Overview

A Phased Approach

NSF Grant Policy and Procedure Transformation

The *why* behind the work

WHY ARE WE TRANSFORMING THE PAPPG?

User research

We've heard from you to understand what works, what doesn't, and where users get stuck.

WHY NOW?

Procedural requirement

NSF Financial Assistance Policy and Procedures goes through a process with public comment at least every three years to meet Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) requirements. NSF is going through this process now.

WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE?

Make NSF financial assistance policies:

Easy to find

Topic-based navigation

Easy to understand

Plain language rewrites

Up to date

Comprehensive coverage



What have we done?

Five focus areas of the transformation

01

Baseline

Built from the draft PAPPG (on which NSF sought comment in December 2024) and incorporated some 2 CFR 200 proposed revisions.

02

Policy vs. procedure

The GFA Guides will replace the PAPPG manual, separating procedural guidance from policy.

03

Content review

Removed non-policy language, restructured sections linking related content, and assessed each topic for appropriateness and readability.

04

Plain language

Simplified the language for clarity and ease of use.

05

PDF format

A PDF format of the guides will be available to download.



Implementation Strategy

NSF has revised the PAPPG content to produce the draft Guidance on Financial Assistance (GFA)

- NSF is now soliciting feedback on the guides - **this is a critical step**
- Next, NSF will review feedback and continue to refine the GFA
- One additional 30-day comment period will be available before the GFA is finalized

Once the GFA is finalized, NSF will engage with stakeholders for outreach and communications

NSF's goal is to issue the updated GFA for use in early to mid FY2027



NSF wants to hear from you!

Comments are open to the public. Everyone is welcome to participate.

You don't need to be a researcher; anyone interested in NSF financial assistance policies may submit comments.

Sources of comments include but are not limited to the following stakeholders:

- Frequent user of NSF's PAPPG (<https://www.nsf.gov/policies/pappg>)
- Researchers, Faculty, and Staff
- Students
- STEM Professionals
- Professional Associations
- For-profit and non-profit entities
- Federal or state employees



Tips for Drafting Comments

- Individuals may submit comments on behalf of themselves and/or organizations.
- Comments may be submitted anonymously.
- Comments should be relevant to the draft GFA for consideration.
- Cite any relevant GFA procedures or policies in your comments when possible.
- There are no limits on the number of comments; however, submitters are encouraged to submit comments based on topic area.
- When drafting your comment, consider ways in which your feedback could be implemented.
- NSF welcomes suggestions for new policies or ways to enhance existing GFA policies.



Federal Register Notice and Opportunity for Public Comment

How to Submit Public Comments

Share your feedback.

60-Day Request for Public Comment

NSF has published a Federal Register notice (<https://www.federalregister.gov/>) (91 FR 38030) seeking public comment on the NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance from June 24 through August 24, 2026.

The notice provides a link to access the draft Guides for public review, as well as instructions for submitting public comment.



How do I view the GFA and Submit a Comment?

There are two ways to access the GFA and submit a comment:

1. Regulations.gov docket (Direct Method):
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/NSF-2026-OTR-0001-0003>
2. Federal Register Notice: [Federal Register :: Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information-NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance](#)



How to find the Draft GFA – from the Federal Register

to this collection. To confirm receipt of your comment(s), please check regulations.gov, approximately one to three business days after submission to verify posting. In general, all in-scope comments received will be included in the public docket without change including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes threats. Please do not include any confidential business information or sensitive personal privacy information in your comments.

ENHANCED CONTENT - REGULATIONS.GOV DATA

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National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information – NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance

Comment Due Date: 08/24/2026

Docket ID: NSF-2026-OTR-0001

Supporting Documents:

- 20260624 NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance_Draft_For Public Comment
- NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance- Draft-For public comment

Assistance (GFA), to incorporate plain language, clarify language, separate policies from procedures, remove policies no longer relevant, incorporate mandated statutory, regulatory, Executive Order, and policy-related changes. The GFA directs users to originating statutes, guidance, and regulations, where practicable. The draft NSF GFA is available in the docket no. NSF-2026-OTR-0001.

Title of Collection: "U.S. National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information—NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance."

This will take you to the Regulations.gov docket

This will take you to the draft GFA



How to find the Draft GFA and Submit a Comment– from Regulations.gov

We want to hear from you!

National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information – NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance
Created by the National Science Foundation

[Open for Comments](#)

[Docket Details](#) [Docket Documents 3](#) [All Comments on Docket 14](#)

REFINE RESULTS

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NOTICE
Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals: National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information Guidance on Financial Assistance
Agency National Science Foundation | Posted Jun 24, 2026 | ID NSF-2026-OTR-0001-0002
[Open for Comments](#)
Comment Period Ends: Aug 24, 2026 at 11:59 PM EDT [Comment](#)

SUPPORTING & RELATED MATERIAL **Withdrawn**
NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance- Draft-For public comment
Agency National Science Foundation | Posted Jun 23, 2026 | ID NSF-2026-OTR-0001-0001

SUPPORTING & RELATED MATERIAL
20260624 NSF Guidance on Financial Assistance_Draft_For Public Comment
Agency National Science Foundation | Posted Jun 24, 2026 | ID NSF-2026-OTR-0001-0003

Displaying 1 - 3 of 3 results

Click here to submit a comment

Access the draft GFA through the Regulations.gov docket



How do I submit comments?

We want to hear from you!

Comment*

Start typing comment here...

5000

Attach Files

You can attach up to 20 files, but each file cannot exceed 10MB. Valid file types include: bmp, docx, gif, jpg, jpeg, pdf, png, pptx, rtf, sgml, tif, tiff, txt, wpd, xlsx, xml.

Drop files here or [Browse...](#)

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associated with the comment

Note: If you choose to identify as Anonymous, the option to enter your email address for submission confirmation is not available.



How are my comments adjudicated?

- NSF will receive and review all relevant comments received through the Regulations.gov or the Federal Register Notice.
- NSF will revise the draft GFA taking into account relevant issues raised in the comments.
- NSF will issue an additional Federal Register Notice before the GFA is finalized.

Submit your comments by August 24, 2026 for consideration.



Thank you

We appreciate your feedback.

FAFRQuestions@nsf.gov