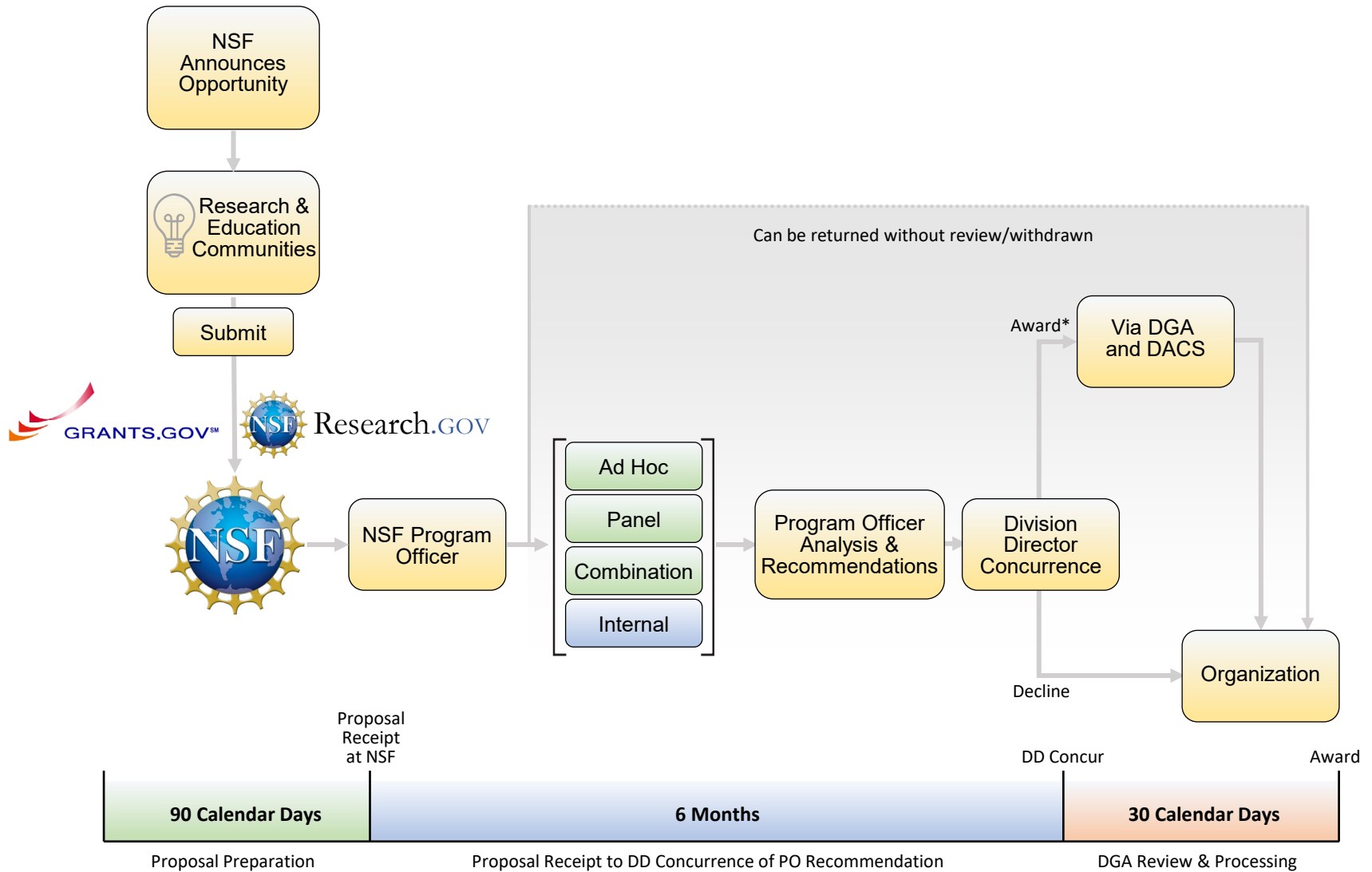


Exhibit III-1: NSF Proposal & Award Process & Timeline



* In accordance with Chapter III.F. the Division of Grants and Agreements (DGA) or the Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support (DACs) may decline a proposal recommended for award after conducting a review of business, financial and policy implications.

Text Description for Exhibit III-1: NSF Proposal & Award Process & Timeline

This diagram shows the entire NSF proposal & award process timeline. The process is divided into three stages depicting proposal preparation, proposal receipt to division director concurrence of program officer recommendation, and DGA/DACS review and processing.

Proposal Preparation:

Proposers have a minimum of 90 days from NSF's announcement of a funding opportunity to prepare and submit a proposal. Proposal must be submitted in either Research.gov or Grants.gov.

Proposal Receipt to DD Concurrence of PO Recommendation

Proposals received by NSF are assigned to the appropriate NSF program for review. Proposals are reviewed either by ad hoc reviewers, panelists, or both. Some proposals may be reviewed internally.

After review and consideration, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be awarded or declined. The Division Director will either concur or not concur with the Program Officer's recommendation.

NSF strives to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months.

DGA/DACS Review & Processing *

After programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements or the Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support for review of business, financial, and policy implications. After administrative review, Grants and Agreements Officers perform the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement to the organization.

The interval between Division Director Concurrence and the issuance of a grant or other agreement is generally up to 30 days.