U.S. National Science Foundation State and Regional Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure Hubs: NSF 26-513

Expanding Access to Compute for Scientific Discovery (AI Infrastructure Hubs)

Office Hours – Concept outlines and planning grants

AI Infrastructure Hubs - You may email us with proposal-specific inquiries

Office of Advanced Cyberinfrastructure (OAC)
Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering
Directorate for STEM Education
Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships
Q&A and Information Session : November 19, 2026 (every third Thursday thereafter until end)

Welcome to Office Hours

- This is an opportunity to discuss concept outlines and planning grants with NSF program staff
- No formal presentation. We will refer to a few visual aids during discussion, in subsequent slides

Agenda today

- The floor is yours!
- Focus - how the program goals in NSF 26-513 and requirements in NSF 24-1 (PAPPG) should inform planning concepts/proposals
- You may email us with proposal-specific inquiries. Note we cannot assist you with the substance of your proposal.

There is no deadline specified in the solicitation for COs or Planning proposals

- The following slides reinforce solicitation requirements and the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)
- We also provide advice for overcoming obstacles in planning proposal submission

What should go in a planning proposal?

- This is up to the proposer. We recommend that the proposed activities be clearly traceable to NSF 26-513's program goals and evaluation criteria
- Follow the requirements for Planning Proposals in the NSF PAPPG.
- Project Description is brief (max eight pages, per PAPPG)
  - Follow the proposal preparation instructions in NSF 26-513, including sections
  - It would be appropriate to adapt the scope of those sections to address how planning activities will address readiness for future submission of a responsive Full proposal to the program

Submitting your planning proposal

- Issue: Currently it is not possible to select “Planning” as a proposal type when submitting to NSF 26-513.

- How to submit
  - Please first try selecting NSF 26-513 and Planning (in case it’s fixed)
  - If the issue persists,
    - Select “Research” as your proposal type
    - Follow proposal instructions found in NSF 26-513 (including Title)

Concept outlines - Patterns of feedback

Successful concept outlines:

- ✓Propose an ambitious/realistic scope of planning activities.
- ✓ Clearly identify the state(s) envisioned as consortium members and the rationale for that vision
- ✓ Propose outcomes that in themselves would benefit the research ecosystem in that state/region
- ✓ Identify specific and measurable activities/outcomes, with a realistic schedule of milestones
- ✓ Establish conditions for a responsive Full proposal to NSF 26-513 addressing an unmet need in that region