NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
2415 EISENHOWER AVENUE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

NSF 23-077

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for the STEM Education Organizational Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (STEMEdOPRF) Solicitation (NSF 23-545)

ELIGIBILITY

1. How do I know if my organization and/or ideas are appropriate for a STEM Ed OPRF proposal?

2. Is there a limit on how many awards an organization can hold?

PROPOSAL BUDGETS

3. With a maximum budget of $1,250,000 and institutional indirect costs, my institution can't support four postdocs. What can I do?

4. Does the budget limit include both direct and indirect costs?

5. What if my institution does not have a negotiated indirect cost rate?

6. Does NSF have a limit or cap on the indirect cost rate for institutions?

7. Can PI, co-PI, or senior personnel salary support be requested?

8. Can I submit a proposal to the STEM Ed OPRF program if my institution has never had an NSF award?

9. The solicitation states that separately submitted collaborative proposals are not allowed. Is it acceptable to include a subaward in our budget?

ELIGIBILITY

1. **How do I know if my organization and/or ideas are appropriate for a STEM Ed OPRF proposal?**

Questions about ideas for possible proposals to the STEM Ed OPRF program may be addressed to the program email alias. Proposers should send a one-page outline of their project ideas including an overview of the institutional or organizational environment to the STEM Ed OPRF at STEMEdPRF@nsf.gov. Advice and guidance from the program may be provided via return email or through a scheduled telephone or video conversation.

2. **Is there a limit on how many awards an organization can hold?**

There is no limit to the number of STEM Ed OPRF awards an organization may have at any one time. However, prior awards to an organization may be considered by NSF during its portfolio balancing process.

PROPOSAL BUDGETS

3. **With a maximum budget of $1,250,000 and institutional indirect costs, my institution can't support four postdocs. What can I do?**

Consider structuring the budget in two phases:

Phase 1 (Year 1) could focus on laying the foundation to support the research and professional development of the postdoctoral fellows, including recruitment and selection and solidifying partnerships and collaborations. The budget should include justifiable costs associated with implementing this phase.

Phase 2 (Years 2 & 3) could focus on supporting a cohort of two to four postdoctoral fellows for 24 months. The budget must include a $70,000 annual salary for each fellow, salaries for senior and other project personnel, fringe benefits, costs associated with the professional development of each fellow and their research projects, an evaluation plan, and indirect costs. The cost estimates should align with the project implementation plan and strategy and must be fully justifiable. The roles and responsibilities of project personnel should be delineated and described clearly.

4. **Does the budget limit include both direct and indirect costs?**

Yes, both direct and indirect costs are included in the budget limit. Proposals that exceed the budget limit for a competition are subject to return without review.

5. **What if my institution does not have a negotiated indirect cost rate?**

Institutions that do not have a current US federally negotiated indirect cost rate(s) may use a de minimus indirect cost recovery rate of 10% of modified total direct costs. See PAPPG Chapter II.D.2.f(viii) for additional information.

6. **Does NSF have a limit or cap on the indirect cost rate for institutions?**

   Except where identified in an NSF program solicitation, institutions must use their applicable US federally negotiated indirect cost rate(s) for a proposal. See PAPPG Chapter II.D.2.f(viii) for additional information. Indirect cost rates are not subject to negotiation with the National Science Foundation.

7. **Can PI, co-PI, or senior personnel salary support be requested?**

   Yes, reasonable and justified costs for PI, co-PI, and senior personnel support may be included in the budget request.

8. **Can I submit a proposal to the STEM Ed OPRF program if my institution has never had an NSF award?**

   Yes, the STEM Ed OPRF program welcomes proposals from institutions with no prior history of NSF awards.

9. **The solicitation states that separately submitted collaborative proposals are not allowed. Is it acceptable to include a subaward in our budget?**

   Yes, you may include subawards in your budget so long as the total requested amount of the proposal does not exceed $1,250,000.

PRIOR AWARDS

During the fiscal year 2022 which was the inaugural year of the program, the following awards were made. The initial solicitation contained tracks for institutional and individual awards.

Prior Awards

Proposal	Proposal Title	Institution	PI Name	Institutional or Individual Track
2222499	Institute for Measurement Methodology in Rural STEM Education Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (IMMERSE-PRF)	University of South Carolina at Columbia	Irvin, Mattew	Institutional
2222148	Mentoring a Diverse Cohort of Postdoctoral Scholars in Data Science Education Research	North Carolina State University	Levy, Rachel	Institutional

2222061	Postdoctoral Training in STEM Education	Purdue University	Purpura, David J.	Institutional
2222018	Research on Educational Equity and Diversity in STEM	University of Arizona	Haeger, Heather	Institutional
2222147	STEM Education Postdoctoral Research Fellows in Participatory and Community-Engaged Research	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry	Drew, Joshua A.	Institutional
2222234	STEM Education Postdoctoral Research Fellows in Participatory and Community-Engaged Research	Michigan State University	Libarkin, Julie C.	Institutional
2221912	The Alliance for Identity-Inclusive Computing Education-Postdoctoral Research Fellowship (AIICE-PRF)	Duke University	Washington, Alicia N.	Institutional
2222337	The Science and Mathematics Education Research Collaborative Postdoctoral Program	Rochester Institute of Tech.	Newman, Dina L.	Institutional
2222208	Advancing the Cognitive Science of Active Learning: Pinpointing Instructional Features that Maximize Equity, Self-Efficacy, and Student Learning in STEM	University of California - Santa Barbara	Martella, Amedee M.	Individual
2222482	Engineering Societies and the Lived Experiences of Marginalized Aspirants: (Re)imaging Inclusion	Drexel University	Maxey, Kayla R.	Individual
2222218	Examining and Promoting Math Engagement for Families with Young	Boston	DePascale,	Individual

	Children	College	Mary	
2222278	Examining Undergraduate Research Experiences of Latinx STEM Students in Research Intensive HSIs and Emerging-HSIs	University of California - Irvine	Garcia, Katherine A.	Individual
2222255	Justice-Centered Climate Change Pedagogy Through Placed-Based, Student-Driven Action Projects	University of California - Berkeley	Fitzmaurice, Helen L.	Individual
2222293	Learning through Failure: Exploring how Setbacks in Science in the Context of Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences can Lead to Self-knowledge and Resilience	University of Colorado at Boulder	Krishnan, Sandhya	Individual
2222586	Modeling Tree-Thinking: Measuring Evolutionary Relatedness Understanding and Examining the Interaction of Factors that Influence Tree-Thinking	Texas State University - San Marcos	Marcroft, Tina A.	Individual
2222530	Professional Informatics in Support of Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Practices	Carnegie-Mellon University	Ngoon, Tricia	Individual
2222289	Reimagining Grading to Support Nontraditional and Rural Students in High Enrollment, Gateway STEM Courses	North Dakota State University Fargo	Slominski, Tara	Individual
2222381	Social Psychological Intervention to Increase Gender Diversity in Tech Companies	University of Washington	Muragishi, Gregg A.	Individual

2222228	STEM Ed PRF: Understanding and Improving Undergraduate Computer Science Regulation, Performance, and Motivation Using Digital Traces and Technologies	University of Delaware	Lee, Hye Rin	Individual
2222509	The Young Black Girl: Influencing Science Interest and Commitment to STEM through the Merging of Lived Experiences of Learners in an Out-of-School Program	University of Georgia Research Foundation Inc.	Lavender, Heather	Individual
2222546	Toward more Inclusive Undergraduate Research Experiences for Low Socioeconomic Students	Arizona State University	Goodwin, Emma C.	Individual