



National Science Foundation (NSF)
National Academy of Sciences (NAS)
Master Agreement for Submission, Evaluation and Administration of
Proposals for General Support of Standing Committees of the National
Academies General Conditions (MASC-GC)
April 2012

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Article 1. Introduction

a. The National Academy of Sciences is a private, nonprofit organization, incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1863, which is empowered to create its own organization and by-laws. The National Academy of Sciences' Act of Incorporation requires that it and its sister organizations collectively known as the National Academies "shall, whenever called upon by any department of the Government, investigate, examine, experiment and report upon any subject of science or art..." The National Academies and the NSF have had a long and mutually satisfactory relationship since the formation of the NSF in 1950. In recognition of the unique status of the National Academies and the mutual interest of the Government and the National Academies in matters of scientific importance to the nation, the parties under Master Agreement for Unsolicited Proposals and Master Agreement for Standing Committees have for the past years jointly formulated procedures and practices which have permitted the National Academies to bring the forces of its offices to bear on national scientific and technological questions.

b. The Director of the National Science Foundation and the President of the National Academy of Sciences appointed separate task forces to investigate and recommend procedures, mechanisms, and techniques whereby the two organizations could further improve working relationships and maximize the contributions of the National Academies to the Nation's scientific and technological activities. One result of these deliberations was a decision to divide the National Academies' proposals into two categories according to their origin or the procedures applicable to these two categories. The parties have therefore negotiated this agreement which will supersede Master Agreement for Standing Committee Proposals General Condition (MASC-GC) January 2006. Efforts which are in process as of that date will continue until their expiration date, but renewals and any new awards made after April 1, 2012 will be covered by this Master Agreement for Standing Committee Proposals General Conditions (MASC-GC).

This Master Agreement Grant General Conditions are effective for five years and will expire April 30, 2017.

Article 2. Applicability

All proposals for general support of a National Academies standing committee listed in Article 12. of this agreement, or which propose the addition of a new committee to that list, and only those proposals, will be submitted and evaluated according to this agreement.

Any awards made as a result of evaluation of proposals for general support of standing committees will also be administered according to this agreement.

Article 3. Definitions

The following words used in this agreement will have the meanings defined in this paragraph throughout the agreement.

a. Procurement: An action by the Federal Government to acquire by purchase or lease, supplies or services for the direct benefit or use of the Government.

b. Request for Proposals: A written solicitation for proposals to satisfy a Government procurement objective. Such a solicitation is generally issued under the authority of and is

governed by the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). All NSF requests for proposals are signed by a duly authorized NSF Contracting Officer.

c. Standing Committee: Any National Academies committee that is either listed as such in Article 12 of this agreement or that is identified as a proposed new committee in a National Academies request for initial general support.

d. General Support. Funds provided to support the basic operation of a National Academies standing committee to enable it to carry out the activities stipulated in an award made under this agreement.

e. Unsolicited Proposal: Any written request for funds submitted by the National Academies to the NSF other than (1) a proposal submitted in response to a request for proposals, or (2) a proposal requesting general support for a National Academies standing committee.

f. Program Description: The term "program description" includes broad, general descriptions of programs and activities in NSF Directorates and Divisions. Program descriptions are often posted on Directorate/Division websites to encourage the submission of proposals in specific program areas of interest to NSF. Program descriptions, like program announcements, utilize the generic eligibility and proposal preparation instructions specified in the Grant Proposal Guide, as well as the National Science Board (NSB) approved merit review criteria. See [GPG Chapter III](#) for additional information.

g. Program Announcement: The term "program announcement" refers to formal NSF publications that announce NSF programs. Program announcements and program descriptions (see 3.f. above) are the primary mechanisms used by NSF to communicate opportunities for research and education support, as well as to generate proposals. Program announcements utilize the generic eligibility and proposal preparation guidelines specified in the GPG and incorporate the National Science Board (NSB) approved merit review criteria.

h. Program Solicitation: The term "program solicitation" refers to formal NSF publications that encourage the submission of proposals in specific program areas of interest to NSF. They generally are more focused than program announcements, and normally apply for a limited period of time. Competition among proposals is more precisely defined than with program announcements. Program solicitations are issued when the funding opportunity has one or more of the following features:

- Provides supplemental proposal preparation guidance or deviates from the guidelines established in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide;
- Contains additional specially crafted review criteria relevant to the program;
- Requires submission of a letter of intent or preliminary proposal
- Deviates from (or restricts) the standard categories of proposers specified in NSF Grant Proposal Guide;
- Limits the number of proposals that may be submitted by any organization and/or researcher/educator;

- Specifies additional award conditions or reporting requirements;
- Anticipates use of a cooperative agreement; or
- Permits inclusion of the payment of fees to awardees, when appropriate.

Not all of the definitions given in this section are used in this agreement; however, they are essential in distinguishing among the types of activities funded under the two master agreements. Therefore, all the definitions are included in each of the agreements.

Article 4. Policy

a. This is an agreement to set forth the general policies and procedures applicable to proposals for general support of the National Academies standing committees and any resulting awards. It may be amended only by mutual agreement of the parties and may be terminated in its entirety upon thirty (30) days written notice to the other party, except that this agreement may be terminated at any time if the parties fail to agree upon any deletion, amendment or addition to this agreement which is required by a statute or regulation that is binding on the NSF. No deletion, modification, addition to or termination of this agreement shall affect any awards made by the NSF to the National Academies under the authority of the agreement which have an effective date prior to the deletion, modification, addition to or termination.

b. In case of a conflict among the various documents listed below in this subparagraph, the order of precedence shall be as follows: (1) the specific provisions of an award made under this agreement, (2) this agreement and (3) the current NSF guidelines or program announcement that covers the particular program under which funding is requested by the National Academies. In the event that such changes affect the substantive aspects of the work undertaken, the parties will seek a mutually agreeable solution.

c. Awards made under the authority of this agreement will be issued to the National Academy of Sciences in the form of a grant or a cooperative agreement.

d. This agreement is in effect for a period of five years, expiring April 30, 2017. Based on mutual agreement of the parties concerned, the agreement may be renewed for succeeding periods.

Article 5. Submission, Evaluation and Award Procedures

a. Except as described in this agreement, proposals for support of a standing committee will be submitted, evaluated and awarded in accordance with the procedures contained in the documents listed in Article 4.b. above [except Article 4.b (1)]. All proposals will include a statement that they are being submitted in accordance with this agreement.

b. All proposals will be submitted in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Proposals to NSF must be submitted electronically via the FastLane system. Proposals will not be sent directly to the Director, NSF.

2. All proposals must be signed by an authorized representative of the National Academies Office of Contracts and Grants and the National Academies' representative responsible for scientific aspects of the proposed activity.

3. All proposals shall set forth: the background leading up to the proposals submitted under this Master Agreement; the reasons for submitting the proposals in terms of objectives; the specific work which the National Academies proposes to undertake; the final products or reports which will result from the work; and the final products or reports which will be delivered to NSF. NSF may request additional or clarifying information.

4. If funding is anticipated from more than one government agency, the proposal shall specify the amount of funds expected from each agency. In addition, if NSF is to act as Executive Agent for the Government in supporting and monitoring the activity on behalf of several agencies, the National Academies will include in their proposal the names, if known, of the individuals in the other agencies who may be contacted in regard to the proposal.

5. All proposals must contain a budget for each year of support requested, unless a particular program solicitation stipulates otherwise. The amounts requested for each budget line item should be documented and justified in the budget justification. The budget justification should be no more than three pages. The proposal may request funds under any of the categories listed so long as the item and amount are considered necessary, reasonable, allocable, and allowable under the applicable cost principles, NSF policy, and/or the program solicitation. Amounts and expenses budgeted also must be consistent with the proposing organization's policies and procedures and cost accounting practices used in accumulating and reporting costs.

6. If the National Academies has received an NSF award in the past 5 years for a similar project, the following documentation will be required in the "Results from Prior NSF Support" section of the proposal:

- the NSF award number, amount and period of support;
- the title of the project;
- summary of results of the completed work, including, accomplishments related to Broader Impact activities supported by the award and, for a research project, any contribution to the development of human resources in science and engineering;
- publications resulting from the NSF award;
- evidence of research products and their availability, including, but not limited to: data, publications, samples, physical collections, software, and models, as described in the Data Management Plan; and
- if the proposal is for renewed support, a description of the relation of the completed work to the proposed work.

Reviewers will be asked to comment on the quality of the prior work described in this section of the proposal. The proposal may contain up to five pages to describe the results. Results may be summarized in fewer than five pages, which would give the balance of the 15 pages for the Project Description.

c. If approved, an award will generally be made in the form of a continuing grant or a cooperative agreement, normally for a period of two to five years with funding increments provided each year. To obtain each funding increment (called “continued support”), the National Academies will submit via FastLane an annual project report to the cognizant NSF Program Officer at least three months prior to the end of the current funding period.

d. The National Academies is required to use the NSF FastLane Project Report System for preparation and submission of annual and final project reports. Such reports provide information on project participants (individual and organizational); activities and findings; publications; and, other specific products and contributions. Submission of the report via FastLane constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete.

e. Proposals for renewal of awards previously made under this agreement will be submitted and evaluated along with all other pending proposals. The renewal proposals must be submitted at least six months before additional funding is required, or consistent with an established deadline, target date or submission window. In preparing a renewal proposal, proposer should assume that reviewers will not have access to previous proposals.

f. The National Academies may authorize a one-time extension of the expiration date of the grant up to 12 months if additional time beyond the established expiration date is required to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work using the funds already made available. This one-time extension may not be exercised merely for the purpose of using the unliquidated balances. The National Academies shall notify NSF, providing supporting reasons for the extension and the revised expiration date, at least ten days prior to the expiration date specified in the grant to ensure the accuracy of NSF’s grant data. All National Academies authorized extension notifications must be submitted via the FastLane system. For extensions provided by the National Academies, no amendments will be issued.

g. In unusual circumstances, small amounts of supplemental funding and up to six months of additional support may be requested to assure adequate completion of the original scope of work. Such requests for supplemental funding support should be submitted to the cognizant NSF Program Officer at least two months prior to the need for the additional funds and must be adequately justified. Program officers may make decisions regarding whether or not to recommend a small supplement without merit review of the supplemental request. Requests for larger supplements may require external merit review.

NSF will not approve requests for supplemental support for such purposes as defraying the costs of increases in salaries, wages or staff benefits or for additional indirect cost reimbursement, whether caused by a change in the indirect cost rate or by changes in direct cost expenditures which affect the indirect cost base. (See [AAG Chapter V.A.2a](#) and [Chapter V.D.3.](#))

Only in exceptional cases will more than one supplement be approved.

Article 6. Cost Principles and Indirect Costs

The Cost Principles contained in CFR Part 230 Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations as prescribed in Subpart 31.7 of the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR), or the applicable subpart if the FAR changes in such a way that a different subpart is applicable to the National Academies, will be the governing set of principles for expenditures incurred under this agreement. The National Academies’ authorized indirect cost rates shall apply to all awards

made under this agreement. The National Academies' cognizant auditor, the Office of Naval Research (ONR), has reviewed and approved the use of these rates for the period January 1, 2010 until amended. ONR has approved, and NSF agrees to the use of Facilities Capital Cost of Money as an allowable cost. The National Academies' rates are generally fixed and negotiated annually (but not always) with carry forward provisions. NSF agrees to the National Academies' use of the approved ONR indirect rates at the time of proposal submission and/or invoicing.

Conferences and Workshops: In accordance with the current Negotiated Indirect Rate Agreement negotiated with and agreed to by ONR and in accordance with the National Academies' long-standing accounting practices, all travel in connection with conference and workshop awards may be assessed the National Academies' G&A and applicable cost of money rate for the general administration of this type of project.

Article 7. Payments to International Organization:

The following provisions shall apply to the payment of dues and contributions to international organizations included in awards funded under this agreement:

The National Academies shall request permission from the U.S. Department of State (State Department) for reimbursements made to such organizations. Once the National Academies receive approval from the State Department, they will send a copy of the approval to the cognizant NSF Program Official.

When it is desired to make a payment to an international organization on behalf of the United States, the National Academies shall include the following information in their request to the State Department:

1. The name of the recipient and a brief description, including the aims, of the particular international organization;
2. The amount of proposed payments;
3. The type of payment, e.g., dues or contributions;
4. The period for which the payment would be made; and
5. The use(s) for which the money is intended.

Article 8. Automated Clearing House Payment System (ACH)

The NSF has determined that the National Academies meet the requirements stipulated for an organization to be issued advance funds by electronic funds transfer (EFT). Therefore, all actions to be taken under this agreement will be funded through the Automated Clearing House Payment System (ACH).

Article 9. Financial Management System

It is agreed that the National Academies will maintain a financial management system which meets the requirements of Section .21 of OMB Circular A-110, 2 CFR 215.21. It is understood that this requirement implies that the National Academies will maintain an accounting system for awards made under this agreement sufficient to ensure accurate completion of the Federal Financial Report (FFR).

Article 10. Federal Advisory Committee Act

Section 15 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (5 U.S.C. App.), which was added to FACA by the Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 1997, Public Law No. 105-153, includes certain requirements regarding public access and conflicts of interest that are applicable to agreements under which the National Academies, using a committee, provides advice or recommendations to a Federal agency. In accordance with Section 15 of FACA, the National Academies shall submit to government sponsor(s), following delivery of each applicable report, a certification that the policies and procedures of the National Academies that implement Section 15 of FACA have been substantially complied with in the performance of the grant or cooperative agreement with respect to the applicable report.

Article 11. General Conditions, GC-1 Applies

- a. Unless changed by the specific provisions of an award made under this agreement and with the exceptions described in this section, the following Articles of Grant General Conditions GC-1, <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/gc1/feb12.pdf> (dated February 1, 2012) are applicable to this agreement.
- b. With respect to Article 8.b., Change in Objectives or Scope, NSF Grant General Conditions (GC-1), it is understood that the changes referred to will be significant changes in the objectives or scope of the project and that any such changes should be communicated to NSF via use of the FastLane notification and request module at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>. NSF approval of such changes will be by an amendment to the award signed by the NSF Grants Officer.
- c. With respect to Article 8.c., Absence or Change of Principal Investigator, NSF Grant General Conditions (GC-1), it is understood that the NSF will identify a principal investigator under an award only when it is mutually agreed that such an identification is essential to the success of the project since the National Academies studies are conducted by volunteer, non-staff committee members.
- d. With respect to Article 23, Publications and Article 41, Sharing of Findings, Data, and other Research Product in NSF Grant General Conditions (GC-1), it is understood that, unless otherwise stated in a proposal or in a letter to the NSF Grants Officer, the National Academies will apply their customary publication policy to any awards made under the authority of this agreement, which is to publicize to the maximum extent possible.
- e. In reference to Article 25, Cost Sharing and Cost Sharing Records of NSF Grant General Conditions (GC-1), it is understood that the National Academies in their normal practices conduct their activities with the substantial contributions of donated or volunteer services of distinguished scientists or engineers. These contributions adequately meet the requirements for cost sharing on an institutional basis. The NSF will be notified of any variations in this practice in the National Academies' proposal.

Article 12. List of National Academies Standing Committees

Division of Earth and Life Sciences

Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources (BANR)
Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate (BASC)

International Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Research (SCOSTEP) [flow-through dues]

Climate Research Committee

Board on Chemical Sciences and Technology (BCST):

Chemical Sciences Roundtable

Board on Earth Sciences and Resources (BESR):

Geographical Sciences Committee

Committee on Seismology & Geodynamics

Committee on Geological and Geotechnical Engineering

Board on Environmental Studies and Toxicology (BEST):

Board on Life Sciences (BLS):

U.S. National Committee for the Interactional Brain Research Organization

U.S. National Committee for International Union Against Cancer

Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board (NRSB):

Institute for Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR)

Ocean Studies Board (OSB):

U.S. National Committee for Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)

Polar Research Board (PRB):

U.S. National Committee to the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR)

U.S. National Committee to the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC)

Water Science and Technology Board (WSTB):

Committee on USGS Water Resources Research

Committee on Hydrologic Science

Disasters Roundtable (DR)

Division on Engineering and Physical Sciences

Committee on Astronomy & Astrophysics (shared by two units SSB & BPA; BPA recently submitted a proposal for this Committee. It has been reinstated because SSB received funds from NASA.)

Committee on Atomic Molecular & Optical Sciences CAMOS

Condensed Matter and Materials Research Committee (formerly called Solid State Science Committee)

Committee on Radio Frequencies CORF

Roundtable on Biomedical Engineering Mats & Applications BEMA (has received NSF funding in the past, but not currently.)

Committee on Applied & Theoretical Statistics CATS

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

Board on Children, Youth, and Families (BCYF) – (joint with the Institute of Medicine)
Committee on National Statistics (CNSTAT)
Committee on Social Science Evidence for Use (EVIDENCE)
Committee on Law and Justice (CLAJ)
Committee on the Human Dimensions of Global Change (CHDGC)
Committee on Population (CPOP)
Board on Science Education (BOSE)
Board on Testing and Assessment (BOTA)
Teacher Advisory Council (TAC)
Board on Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sensory Sciences (BBCSS)
Board on Human-Systems Integration (BOHSI)

Division of Policy and Global Affairs

Policy and Global Affairs Advisory Committee
Board on African Science Academy Development
Board on Global Science and Technology
Board on Higher Education and the Workforce
Board on International Scientific Organizations –
 International Council for Science (ICSU)
 U.S. National Committee for CODATA
 U.S. National Committee for Crystallography
 U.S. National Committee for DIVERSITAS
 U.S. National Committee for the International Astronomical Union
 U.S. National Committee for the International Mathematical Union
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular
 Biology
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Geological Sciences
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Microbiological Societies
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Physiological Sciences
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Psychological Science
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics
 (IUPAP)
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Quaternary Research
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Radio Science
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Soil Sciences
 U.S. National Committee for the International Union of Theoretical and Applied
 Mechanics
 U.S. National Committee for the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction
 (ICMI) (Commission of IMU)
 U.S. National Committee for the International Commission on Optics (ICO) (Affiliated
 Commission of IUPAP)
 U.S. National Committee for the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
 (IIASA)
 U.S. National Committee for the Pacific Science Association

Board on Research Data and Information
Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy
Committee on Human Rights
Committee on International Security and Arms Control
Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy
Committee on Science, Technology, and Law
Committee on Women in Science, Engineering, and Medicine
Development, Security and Cooperation
Fellowships Office Advisory Committee
Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable
Science and Technology for Sustainability Program

Institute of Medicine

Board on Children, Youth, and Families (BCYF) – (joint with DBASSE)

National Academy of Engineering

Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on Engineering Education (CASEE)
Committee on Engineering Education

Transportation Research Board

None

Article 13. F.L. 26 – Administration of NSF Conference or Group Travel Award Special Conditions, http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/fl26/fl26_212.pdf

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed these general conditions as of the April 1, 2012.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

(Signature)

Jamie French
Director of Operations
Division of Grants and Agreements

(Signature)

David P. Westbrook
Director
Office of Contracts and Grants

Date

Date