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# 2002 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (PAESMEM)

**Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics  
and Engineering Mentoring**

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*Program Announcement*

*NSF 02-063*

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES

**FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE(S): May 7, 2002**



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**



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# SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Program Title:** 2002 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (PAESMEM)

**Synopsis of Program:** The PAESMEM Program seeks to identify outstanding mentoring efforts that enhance the participation of groups (i.e., women, minorities and persons with disabilities) that are underrepresented in science, mathematics, and engineering. The awardees serve as leaders in the national effort to develop fully the Nation's human resources in science, mathematics, and engineering.

**Cognizant Program Officer(s):**

- Marilyn Suiter, Program Director, Education and Human Resources, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 292-8639, e-mail: [msuiter@nsf.gov](mailto:msuiter@nsf.gov).

**Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):**

- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Organization Limit:** None
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** None
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** Only one application per institution (or for an individual at that institution) per competition.

## AWARD INFORMATION

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** Approximately 10 Individual and 10 Institutional awards
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$200,000 for the FY 2002 awards pending the availability of funds

## PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

### *A. Proposal Preparation Instructions*

- **Full Proposals:** Supplemental Preparation Guidelines
  - The program announcement/solicitation contains supplements to the standard Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

### ***B. Budgetary Information***

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** No indirect costs are allowed.
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Not Applicable.

### ***C. Deadline/Target Dates***

- **Letters of Intent (*optional*):** None
- **Preliminary Proposals (*optional*):** None
- **Full Proposal Deadline Date(s):** May 7, 2002

### ***D. FastLane Requirements***

- **FastLane Submission:** Required
- **FastLane Contact(s):**
  - Ms. Victoria Smoot, Financial Operations Specialist, Education and Human Resources, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 292-4677, e-mail: [vsmoot@nsf.gov](mailto:vsmoot@nsf.gov).
  - Ms. Nicole Willis, Computer Specialist, Education and Human Resources, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 292-4679, e-mail: [nwillis@nsf.gov](mailto:nwillis@nsf.gov).
  - FastLane Help Desk, telephone: (800) 673-6188, e-mail: [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov).

## **PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION**

- **Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review considerations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

## **AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

- **Award Conditions:** Standard NSF award conditions apply.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The White House has established the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) program. The program, administered on behalf of the White House by the National Science Foundation, seeks to identify outstanding mentoring efforts or programs designed to enhance the participation of groups underrepresented in science, mathematics and engineering. The awardees serve as exemplars to their colleagues and are leaders in the national effort to more fully develop the Nation's human resources in science, mathematics and engineering. Nominations to honor individuals and institutions are invited for the 2002 competition of these annual awards.

It is expected that each award will be used to continue the recognized activities. The nominees must have served in such a mentoring role for at least five years. Beyond the grant award, each awardee will be invited to Washington, D.C., for an awards ceremony, recognition events, and meetings with leaders in Federal sector education and research, and focused workshops addressing effective mentoring of students from the underrepresented groups. The awardees will be honored at a White House ceremony.

## **II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The submission process requires that the individual, institution or organization be nominated by a colleague, administrator, institution, or student. Nominations may only be considered for one of the two categories of award, either individual or institutional, but not both. Only one award will be made to a single institution or an individual at that institution per annual competition. Nominations for the individual award must clearly delineate the achievements of the individual as separate from those of the institution or organization; nominations for institutions or organizations must reflect the organizational as different from individual achievements. The nomination packet should include:

### **INDIVIDUAL NOMINEES**

- A statement describing and documenting the mentoring activities that constitute the basis for the nomination, including a list of students mentored;
- A curriculum vita of the nominee; and
- Letters of support (a maximum of 5) from colleagues and students attesting to the nominee's demonstrable and sustained achievements in the mentoring of underrepresented students in science, mathematics and engineering. These letters will be available to nominees on request.

### **INSTITUTIONAL NOMINEES**

- A statement describing and documenting the mentoring activities that constitute the basis for the nomination, including a list of specific mentoring activities contributory to the success of the students mentored, and materials documenting the sustained achievements in mentoring underrepresented students;

A brief institutional or organizational description; and  
· Letters of support (a maximum of 5) from colleagues and students attesting to the nominee institution's demonstrable and sustained achievements in the mentoring of underrepresented students in science, mathematics and engineering. These letters will be available to nominees on request.

All nominees will be notified of their nomination prior to the selection process.

### **III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

An Individual Nominee must be a U.S. Citizen and must have affiliation with an organization eligible to be an NSF grantee. The Nominee may not be a federal government employee. The Nominee must have demonstrated outstanding and sustained mentoring and effective guidance to a significant number of students at the K-12, undergraduate, or graduate education levels for at least five years.

An Institutional Nominee must be eligible to be an NSF grantee. Institutional Nominees must be institutions with program activities that have enabled a substantial number of students drawn from populations underrepresented in science, mathematics and engineering (i.e., women, minorities and persons with disabilities) to successfully pursue and complete the relevant degree programs for at least five years. The specified efforts may be at the K-12, undergraduate, or graduate levels.

Nominations for the individual award must clearly delineate the achievements of the individual as separate from those of the institution or organization. Nominations for institutions or organizations must reflect the organizational achievements as different from those of a single individual. Federal government employees are not eligible for nomination.

### **IV. AWARD INFORMATION**

The number of awards is subject to the availability of funds; however, the estimated number of awards in fiscal year 2002 is approximately 10 Individual and 10 Institutional awards. The awards are standard grants in the amount of \$10,000 each. The grant is accompanied by a commemorative Presidential certificate. It is expected that each award will be used to continue the recognized activity. Only one award will be made to an institution or an individual at that institution per competition.

As in the past, it is anticipated that OSTP will contact nominees recommended for awards. The Program Director will contact all nominees that are recommended for declination.

### **V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **A. Proposal Preparation Instructions**

##### **Full Proposal:**

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement/solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF Web Site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

FastLane, NSF's System for conducting business over the Internet, must be used to prepare and submit nominations. Nominators who have not used FastLane before are asked to make sure that their institution is a registered FastLane institution and to contact the institution's Sponsored Research Office (which might also be known as the Office of Grants Administration, Office of Sponsored Research, Office of Research, etc.) to be registered as a FastLane user. (All Co-PIs listed in the proposal must also be FastLane registered users.) New FastLane users should acquaint themselves with the system as early as possible--well before the proposal deadline.

Please note that the nomination must be submitted by the nominee's organization .

Cover Sheet: The cover sheet should be completed with the submitter as principal investigator, and the nominee as the co-principal investigator. The nominator should enter the proposal into FastLane and add the nominee to the proposal as a Co-PI in the Co-PI section of the cover sheet.

If the nominator is not at the same institution as the nominee, the nominator should select the nominee's organization as the awardee organization on the cover sheet and the nominee's organization should submit the proposal to NSF via FastLane. It is the responsibility of the nominator to communicate with the Sponsored Research Office (or equivalent) officials at the nominee's organization. (The nominator can find those listed as the Sponsored Research Office (or equivalent) officials for the nominee's organization at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/n1/N1AddInst.html>).

Should the nomination be successful, the nominee will be identified as the principal investigator for the grant award, and the submitter will be removed from the nomination.

When filling out the cover sheet in FastLane, it is important to indicate the program announcement number. If necessary, you may also choose "HRD: Division of Human Resources Development" from the list of divisions, and " PRES AWDS FOR EXCELL IN SCI" from the list of programs in the "NSF Unit Consideration" section.

Project Summary: Summary of the work describing the activity cited in support of the nomination, and supported by the grant award, if funded (~250 words).

Project Description: A clear statement of the work cited in support of the nomination, including objectives of the mentoring program and long-term significance; mentoring methods and procedures (specific actions performed); documentation (quantitative and qualitative); and the plan to sustain the mentoring activity into the future. (15 pages)

References Cited: Reference information is required for citations identified in the nomination. Refer to the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), NSF 02-2 for guidelines.

Biographical Sketches: A curriculum vita of the individual nominee or a brief institutional or organizational description of the institutional nominee should be provided.

**Budget and Budget Justification:** This program provides a grant award of \$10,000 to successful nominees. Submitters should indicate the nominee as senior personnel in Line item A, and the requested grant amount in Line item G, Other Direct Costs. In addition to the required budget, a budget description of up to three pages may be used to provide the necessary detail and justification about budget line items. Refer to the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), NSF 02-2 for guidelines.

**Current and Pending Support:** This section calls for required information on all current and pending support for the nominee for ongoing projects and proposals, including subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. Refer to the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), NSF 02-2 for guidelines.

**Special Information and Supplementary Documentation:** Letters supporting the nomination should be placed in proposal section I. Refer to the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), NSF 02-2 for guidelines.

#### PAESMEM Information Form

The Nominee must submit a signed copy of the NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING MENTORING (PAESMEM) PROGRAM INFORMATION FORM (NSF FORM 1376 (4/96)) for White House Clearance. This form and specific instructions for submission can be found on <http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/EHR/HRD/PAESMEMFORM.html>. The review and administration of this form and information will be handled confidentially by the cognizant PAESMEM Program Director. These forms (originals only) must be received at NSF by May 10, 2002, COB. Send to:

Presidential Awards for Mentoring  
Proposal # 02-XXXXX (provide your proposal number)  
National Science Foundation  
Human Resource Development  
Room 815  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22230

Proposers are reminded to identify the program solicitation number (NSF 02-063) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the proposal Cover Sheet. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

#### **B. Budgetary Information**

Cost sharing is not required in proposals submitted under this Program Announcement.

***Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:*** No indirect costs are allowed.



### **C. Deadline/Target Dates**

Proposals must be submitted by the following date(s):

**Full Proposals by 5:00 PM local time:** May 7, 2002

PAESMEM Information Form

The NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING MENTORING (PAESMEM) PROGRAM INFORMATION FORM (NSF FORM 1376 (4/96)) for White House Clearance (found on <http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/EHR/HRD/PAESMEMFORM.html>) must be received at NSF by May 10, 2002, COB.

### **D. FastLane Requirements**

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this Program Announcement through the FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. For FastLane user support, call 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov).

*Submission of Electronically Signed Cover Sheets.* The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must electronically sign the proposal Cover Sheet to submit the required proposal certifications (see [Chapter II, Section C](#) of the Grant Proposal Guide for a listing of the certifications). The AOR must provide the required certifications within five working days following the electronic submission of the proposal. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane website at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>.

## **VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION**

### **A. NSF Proposal Review Process**

Reviews of proposals submitted to NSF are solicited from peers with expertise in the substantive area of the proposed research or education project. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. NSF invites the proposer to suggest, at the time of submission, the names of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer. Special efforts are made to recruit reviewers from non-academic institutions, minority-serving institutions, or adjacent disciplines to that principally addressed in the proposal.

The two merit review criteria are listed below. The criteria include considerations that help define them. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. While proposers must address both merit review criteria, reviewers will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the proposal being considered and for which he/she is qualified to make judgements.

**What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

**What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

NSF staff will give careful consideration to the following in making funding decisions:

***Integration of Research and Education***

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

***Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities***

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

**Additional Review Criteria**

Nominees will also be evaluated by the following:

**ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR INDIVIDUALS**

The number and diversity of students mentored to high school graduation, the baccalaureate, master's, or doctoral degree levels;

The success of students mentored in pursuit of degree objectives and attendant quality of academic performance;

Demonstrated achievement in assisting students to understand how the educational system works and promoting their advancement in the educational continuum in science, mathematics or engineering;

Affording students effective academic/research experience, sustained academic support systems, and strategies leading to successful matriculation and degree completion in science, mathematics and engineering fields;

Substantive achievements in changing the educational system to enable improved performance and advancement for underrepresented groups; and

Demonstrated innovation that is replicable.

#### ADDITIONAL CRITERIA FOR INSTITUTIONS

Demonstrated institutional sustainability in structural changes or special programs that have increased student retention and/or graduation rates;

Demonstrated quality of institutional life that fosters the establishment of viable networks that facilitate learning, contacts, and career development;

Demonstrated institutional or organizational distinctiveness in the advancement or promotion of the educational and career development of students in science, mathematics and engineering fields; and

Demonstrated distinctiveness in carrying out the institution's social responsibility to create a more positive learning environment by helping to provide an atmosphere that reflects valuing diversity among students, faculty, and administrators.

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and submitted by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the identities of reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

#### **B. Review Protocol and Associated Customer Service Standard**

All proposals are carefully reviewed by at least three other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular field represented by the proposal. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement/solicitation will be reviewed by Mail and/or Panel Review.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

NSF is striving to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. The time interval begins on the closing date of an announcement/solicitation or the date of proposal receipt (whichever is later). The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

In all cases, after programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at one's own risk.

## **VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **A. Notification of the Award**

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program Division administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See section VI.A. for additional information on the review process.)

### **B. Award Conditions**

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (NSF-GC-1)\* or Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Terms and Conditions;\* and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreement awards also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions (CA-1). Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF awards to organizations that have electronic mail capabilities and have requested such notification from the Division of Grants and Agreements.

\*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Web site at [http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants\\_gac.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants_gac.htm). Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions is contained in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* (GPM) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpm>. The GPM is also for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

## C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the PI must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period.

Within 90 days after the expiration of an award, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented an electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane. This system permits electronic submission and updating of project reports, including information on project participants (individual and organizational), activities and findings, publications, and other specific products and contributions. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

## VIII. CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General inquiries regarding 2002 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS should be made to:

- Marilyn Suiter, Program Director, Education and Human Resources, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 292-8639, e-mail: [msuiter@nsf.gov](mailto:msuiter@nsf.gov).

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Ms. Victoria Smoot, Financial Operations Specialist, Education and Human Resources, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 292-4677, e-mail: [vsmoot@nsf.gov](mailto:vsmoot@nsf.gov).
- Ms. Nicole Willis, Computer Specialist, Education and Human Resources, Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703) 292-4679, e-mail: [nwillis@nsf.gov](mailto:nwillis@nsf.gov).
- FastLane Help Desk, telephone: (800) 673-6188, e-mail: [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov).

## IX. OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF *Guide to Programs* is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. The NSF *Guide to Programs* is available electronically at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter.

Many NSF programs offer announcements or solicitations concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the *Guide to Programs* will be announced in the NSF [E-Bulletin](#), which is updated daily on the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin>, and in individual program announcements/solicitations. Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's [Custom News Service](#) (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm>) to be notified of new funding opportunities that become available.

The Division of Human Resource Development (HRD) within the Directorate for Education and Human Resources, serves as a focal point for NSF's agency-wide commitment to enhancing the quality and excellence of science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (STEM) education and research through broadening participation by underrepresented groups and institutions. The Division's programs aim to increase the participation and advancement of underrepresented minorities and minority-serving institutions, woman and girls, and persons with disabilities at every level of the science and engineering enterprise. In so doing, these programs contribute to attainment of the PEOPLE outcome goal of the NSF Strategic Plan FY 2000-2005: A diverse, internationally competitive and globally-engaged workforce of scientists, engineers, and well-prepared citizens. Programs within HRD have a strong focus on partnerships and collaborations in order to maximize the preparation of a well-trained scientific and instructional workforce for the new millennium.

The programs of the HRD are organized to align with our target populations:

- Minorities and Minority Serving Institutions
- Women and Girls
- Persons with Disabilities
- Crosscutting activities

Five themes are evident across the program targets:

- Education Research and Demonstration Projects on Access and Equity,
  - Institutional Educational Capacity Enhancement,
  - Large-scale Implementation,
  - Institutional Research Capacity Enhancement,
- and
- Recognition and Dissemination

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Awardees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement/solicitation for further information.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at [plainlanguage@nsf.gov](mailto:plainlanguage@nsf.gov).

## PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the proposal review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation (3145-0058), 725 17th Street, N.W. Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

*OMB control number: 3145-0058.*