nsfpolicyoutreach.com/fall-21-virtual-conf

FALL 2021 VIRTUAL GRANTS
C O N F E R E N C E

October 4 – 8, 2021

National Science Foundation

Welcome Letter

Welcome to the Fall 2021 National Science Foundation Virtual Grants Conference. We hope that you find the virtual conference sessions to be both be useful and productive.

All the live sessions will be recorded and made available shortly after the conference. You will be able to access them on our Resource Center.

Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to help make the conference a better learning experience. We appreciate any comments that you may have to help improve future events of this kind, Evaluation surveys will be distributed by e-mail. We also encourage you to send additional feedback by e-mail to grants_ conference@nsf.gov.

Sincerely,

Jean Feldman
Head, Policy Office
Division of Institution & Award Support
Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This artist's rendering shows the universe's first, massive, blue stars embedded in gaseous filaments, with the cosmic microwave background just visible at the edges. Judd Bowman; Alan Rogers; MIT; Arizona State University; EDGES Project.

Agenda

Monday, October 4, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 PM EST   **Introduction and NSF Overview**
This session will cover the National Science Foundation's purpose, mandate, organizational structure, program and budget highlights (including current budget status).

2:30 – 4:00 PM EST   **Proposal Preparation**
NSF staff will review how and when to prepare a proposal, including discussion of what constitutes a project and a proposal of high quality. Presenters will discuss do's and don'ts, recent procedural changes, as well as the various sources of NSF programmatic opportunities.
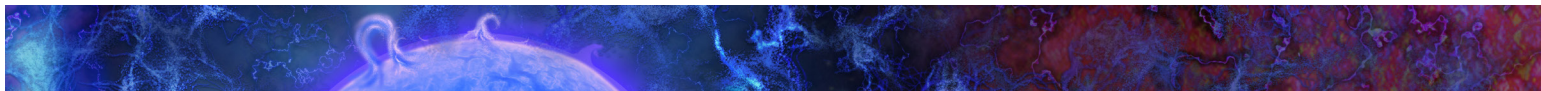
Tuesday, October 5, 2021

1:00 – 2:15 PM EST   **Merit Review Process**
NSF Program Officers will discuss the philosophy of merit review and how it works, as well as ad hoc and multi-tiered reviews. Presenters will also cover the role of the Program Officer, timing of proposal submissions, reviewer selection, release of reviewer comments, and conflict-of-interest issues related to merit review.

3:00 – 4:15 PM EST   **Award Management**
This session will address award requirements and conditions and will outline the responsibilities of those involved in the award process–principal investigators, grantee institutions, Program Officers, research administrators, and agency grants officials.

Wednesday, October 6, 2021

1:00 – 2:00 PM EST   **Office of the Inspector General**
Staff from the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the OIG, as well as how it serves the NSF customer communities. Issues arising from current audits and investigations will also be covered.

3:00 – 4:15 PM EST   **NSF Proposal and Award Policy Update**
This session will provide an update to NSF policies and procedures that affect proposal preparation, merit review, and award administration.

Thursday, October 7, 2021

1:00 – 2:15 PM EST   **Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO)**
[Concurrent Session] The mission of the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) is to enable discoveries for understanding life. BIO-supported research advances the frontiers of biological knowledge, increases our understanding of complex systems, and provides a theoretical basis for original research in many other scientific disciplines.

1:00 – 2:15 PM EST   **Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)**
[Concurrent Session] NSF's Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences supports basic research on people and society. The SBE sciences focus on human behavior and social organizations and how social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental forces affect the lives of people from birth to old age and how people in turn shape those forces. SBE scientists develop and employ rigorous methods to discover fundamental principles of human behavior at levels ranging from cells to society, from neurons to neighborhoods, and across space and time. Such fundamental principles help us understand patterns of stability and change at the individual, group, organizational, and societal levels that can be applied to promote the progress of science and to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare. Through its various core disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs, as well as contributions to cross-directorate NSF investments, SBE supports approximately 5,000 scientists, educators, and students in a typical year. Understanding human behavior individually and in groups has far-reaching impacts from optimizing child development to safeguarding our troops; from exploring the origins of our species to finding our way with GPS; from understanding the state of the science and engineering enterprise to securing cyberspace.

3:00 – 4:15 PM EST   **Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)**
[Concurrent Session] The mission of EHR is to achieve excellence in U.S. science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education at all levels and in all settings (both formal and informal) to support the development of a diverse and well-prepared workforce of scientists, technicians, engineers, mathematicians, and educators and a well-informed citizenry that have access to the ideas and tools of science and engineering. The purpose of these activities is to enhance the quality of life of all citizens and the health, prosperity, welfare, and security of the nation.

3:00 – 4:15 PM EST **Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)**
[Concurrent Session] The mission of the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) is to enable the U.S. to uphold its leadership in computing, communications, and information science and engineering; promote understanding of the principles and uses of advanced computing, communications, and information systems in service to society; support advanced cyberinfrastructure that enables and accelerates discovery and innovation across all science and engineering disciplines; and contribute to universal, transparent, and affordable participation in an information-based society. To achieve this mission, CISE supports investigator-initiated research and education in all areas of computer and information science and engineering, fosters broad interdisciplinary collaboration, helps develop and maintain cutting-edge national cyberinfrastructure for research and education, and contributes to the development of a computer and information technology workforce with skills necessary for success in the increasingly competitive global market.

Friday, October 8, 2021

1:00 – 2:15 PM EST **Research.gov Update and Demonstration**
[Concurrent Session] Research.gov is the modernization of FastLane, providing the next generation of grants management capabilities for the research community. Research.gov currently provides easy access to research-related information and grants management services in one location. The modernization includes moving legacy FastLane capabilities to a new, modern portal platform. Programmatic and financial reporting services, notifications, and requests are already available on Research.gov. Come to this panel discussion to learn about these and future changes, ask questions about NSF's plans for electronic research administration, and share what you think the priorities should be so NSF can best serve the research community.

1:00 – 2:15 PM EST **Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)**
[Concurrent Session] The mission of MPS is to harness the collective efforts of the mathematical and physical sciences communities to address the most compelling scientific questions, educate the future advanced high-tech workforce, and promote discoveries to meet the needs of the Nation. The NSF Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences consists of the Divisions of Astronomical Sciences, Chemistry, Materials Research, Mathematical Sciences, and Physics, as well as the Office of Multidisciplinary Activities. These organizations comprise the basic structure for MPS support of research and education. The MPS Divisions support both disciplinary and interdisciplinary activities and partner with each other and with other NSF Directorates to effectively encourage basic research across the scientific disciplines.

3:00 – 4:15 PM EST **Directorate for Geosciences (GEO)**
[Concurrent Session] GEO supports basic research that advances the frontiers of knowledge and drives technological innovation while improving our understanding of the many processes that affect the global environment. These processes include the role of the atmosphere and oceans in climate, the planetary water cycle, and ocean acidification. Support is provided for interdisciplinary studies that contribute directly to national research priorities such as: understanding, adapting to, and mitigating the impacts of global change; developing and deploying integrated ocean observing capabilities to support ecosystem-based management; and understanding future availability of fresh water. Lives are saved and property is preserved through better prediction and understanding of natural environmental hazards such as earthquakes, tornados, hurricanes, tsunamis, drought, and solar storms. Basic research supported by GEO enables preparation for and subsequent mitigation of, or adaptation to, the effects of these and other disruptive natural events. GEO provides about 64 percent of the federal funding for basic research at academic institutions in the geosciences.

3:00 – 4:15 PM EST **Directorate for Engineering (ENG)**
[Concurrent Session] Research funded by the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Engineering (ENG) has enriched the understanding of natural systems, enhanced electronics, fortified the nation's infrastructure and introduced the exciting possibilities of engineering to the next generation. Investments in engineering research and education are critical building blocks for the nation's future prosperity. Engineering breakthroughs address national challenges, such as smart manufacturing, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable energy systems. Engineering also brings about new opportunities in areas ranging from advanced photonics to prosthetic devices.

Acronyms

Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition
ABR	Accomplishment Based Renewal	EO	Executive Order	OIA	Office of Integrative Activities
ACH	Automated Clearing House (US Treasury)	F&A	Financial & Administrative Costs	OIG	Office of Inspector General
ACM$	Award Cash Management Service	FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System	OLAW	Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare
AD	Assistant Director	FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
ADPE	Automatic Data Processing Equipment	FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation	ONR	Office of Naval Research
AOR	Authorized Organizational Representative	FDP	Federal Demonstration Partnership	PAPPG	Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide
BFA	Budget, Finance & Award Management	FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	PD	Project Director
CAAR	Cost Analysis & Audit Resolution Branch	FIRS	Federal Information Relay Service	PHS	Public Health Service
CAFATC	Cooperative Agreement Financial/Administrative Terms and Conditions	FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	PI	Principal Investigator
CAPTC	Cooperative Agreement Programmatic Terms and Conditions	FWA	Federal-wide Assurance	PNAG	Prospective New Awardee Guide
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	GC-1	Grant General Conditions	PO	Program Officer
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	GOALI	Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry	RAISE	Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering
CGI	Continuing Grant Increment	GOE	Government-Owned Equipment	RAPID	Rapid Response Research
CMIA	Cash Management Improvement Act	GPO	Government Printing Office	REU	Research Experiences for Undergraduates
COI	Conflict of Interest	GSA	General Services Administration	ROA	Research Opportunity Awards
Co-PD	Co-Project Director	IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	RTC	Research Terms and Conditions
Co-PI	Co-Principal Investigator	IBC	Institutional Biosafety Committee	RUI	Research in Undergraduate Institutions
DACS	Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support	IPA	Intergovernmental Personnel Act	SBA	Small Business Administration
DAS	Division of Administrative Services	IRB	Institutional Review Board	SBIR	Small Business Innovation Research Program
DCL	Dear Colleague Letter	IRS	Internal Revenue Service	SF	Standard Form
DD	Division Director	ISE	International Science & Engineering	SF LLL	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
DFM	Division of Financial Management	LOI	Letters of Intent	SPO	Sponsored Projects Office
DGA	Division of Grants and Agreements	MREFC	Major Research Equipment and Facilities	SSN	Social Security Number
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	STTR	Small Business Technology Transfer
DIAS	Division of Institution and Award Support	NIH	National Institutes of Health	TDD	Telephonic Device for the Deaf
DOC	Department of Commerce	NSB	National Science Board	TTY	Text Telephone
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System	NSF	National Science Foundation	URL	Universal Resource Locator
DURC	Dual Use Research of Concern	ODI	Office of Diversity and Inclusion	USC	United States Code
EAGER	EArly-Concept Grants for Exploratory Research	OGC	Office of the General Counsel	USDA	US Department of Agriculture
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer	OHRP	Office for Human Research Protections	VSEE	Visiting Scientist, Engineer or Educator

Resources

Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide

The Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) is comprised of documents relating to the Foundation's proposal and award process for the assistance programs of NSF. We recommend conference registrants unfamiliar with the PAPPG scan through the various chapters of the guide prior to attending the conference.

About NSF

How much do you already know about NSF? Visit the organization's About NSF webpage to fill-in any knowledge gaps on the basics.

NSF's Big Ideas

Since 2017, NSF has been building a foundation for the Big Ideas through pioneering research and pilot activities. In 2019, NSF will invest $30 million in each Big Idea and continue to identify and support emerging opportunities for U.S. leadership in Big Ideas that serve the Nation's future.

Proposal & Award Policy FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions on Proposal Preparation and Award Administration Related to NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 20-1)

NSF Budget Requests

The National Science Foundation's Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Request to Congress.

Submit Questions

NSF wants to know what you are interested in learning more about at the Virtual Grants Conference. Is there a program or funding opportunity of particular interest to you? Are there administrative questions that often come up at your organization? Is there additional information you would like to know about NSF?

Notes

Technical Tips

We will be using Zoom to host this year's virtual conference. We recommend that you verify the system requirements below prior to joining the virtual conference.

Zoom

- Ensure access to Zoom
- Most recent version of Chrome, Firefox, Edge or Safari
- Operating system: Windows 7+, Mac OS X 10.9+, or Ububtu 12.4+
- Zoom's Bandwidth Requirements are:
  o Mbps up and down for single screen
  o Mbps up 4.0 Mbps down for dual screen
  o For audio VoIP: 60-80kbps
  o For more information please visit Zoom.

Other Tips

- It can help to close other tabs, browsers and programs while streaming the live conference. It also may help to hardwire your Internet connection, instead of using a wireless network connection.
- If you are having trouble hearing the webcast audio, check the volume on your computer and on your video player.
- If your computer screen freezes, please refresh your browser.

If you lose access to the event, please try to log back in before contacting IT support. All presentations will be recorded and made available in the Resource Center on the Policy Outreach website.

On-demand videos will be made available shortly after the virtual conference.

QUESTIONS?

P: 571.685.5949
E: grants_conference@nsf.gov
W: nsfpolicyoutreach.com

National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22314