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NSF for Group Research

NSF Goals in Supporting the Social, Behavioral And Economic Sciences

- Increase fundamental understanding of human behavior and society by supporting basic research, infrastructure, and education in the SBE sciences
- Provide understanding relevant to critical national problems such as education, globalization, economic well being, risk mitigation, and diversity

Presentation Coverage

- **Basic Types of NSF Grants**
 - Unsolicited
 - Solicited
 - Programs for special categories of researchers
 - RAPIDs and EAGERs
 - Hints on Getting Funded

SES Target Dates

January 18 & August 18

Decision, Risk, & Management Science

Economics

Law and Social Science

Methodology, Measurement & Statistics

Political Science

Sociology

February 1 & August 1

Societal Dimensions of Eng., Science, & Tech.

Science & Technology Studies

Innovation and Organizational Change

BCS Target Dates

December 1 & July 1

Archaeology & Archaeometry
Physical Anthropology

January 1 & August 1

Cultural Anthropology

January 15 & July 15

Cognitive Neuroscience
Developmental & Learning Sciences
Perception, Action, & Cognition
Linguistics
Social Psychology

January 15 & August 15

Geography & Regional Science

Particularly Important for INGroup

- Innovation and Organizational Sciences
- VOSS (Office of Cyberinfrastructure)
- Science of Science and Innovation Policy
- Social Psychology

Special Solicitations

- **Cyberenabled Discovery and Innovation (VO)**
 - Inquire of Susan Winter (swinter@nsf.gov)
- **ADVANCE (EHR)**
 - Inquire of Kelly Mack (kmack@nsf.gov)

Grants For Particular Types of Researchers

- Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- Faculty Early CAREER Development Program
- Minority Post-Doctoral Fellowships
- Dissertation Improvement Grants
- RUI's
- REU's
- Supplements for Accomodation to Disabilities

RAPIDs and EAGERs

- RAPIDs: ephemeral
- EAGERs: too groundbreaking for review
- Internal Review Only
 - RAPIDs: Ephemeral / Time Sensitivity
 - EAGERs: Too Groundbreaking for Review
- Can be submitted at any time,
 - But need PO permission to submit

NSF Standard Merit Criteria

- **Intellectual merit**
 - Importance
 - Creativity and originality
 - Conception and organization
 - Achievability (access to resources, record of achievement)
- **Broader impacts**
 - Training
 - Diversity
 - Infrastructure
 - Dissemination/Public Awareness
 - Societal Benefits (of the findings themselves)

Types of Review

- ‘Mail’ Reviewers plus Panel Review
- Panel Review
- Internal Review Only
- Sources of Reviewers:
 - Program Officer’s knowledge
 - References in proposal
 - Web of science; SSRN; Google Scholar, etc.
 - Reviewer recommendations
 - Investigator’s suggestions
 - Volunteers

Caution: We are a Bureaucracy

- Do not violate the 15-page rule (without PO approval)
- Do not violate typeface, other GPG strictures (some programs will give you no second chance)
- Get permission if need to submit late
- Do not submit the same proposal to two programs (instead: ask for co-reviews)
- Post-doctoral Mentoring Plans Required
- Coming Soon: Data Management Plans



Myths about NSF

- Only funds scholars at elite graduate institutions
- Only funds “famous” academics
- Once declined, you are likely always to be declined
- Only funds “normal science”
- Advisory committees make funding decisions

Common Reasons for Declinations

- “Trust-me” proposals
- Little theory
- Little specificity about methods
- Weak link between theory and methods
- Not feasible
 - Expertise gaps
 - Insufficient funding for program success
 - Too ambitious
- Incremental contribution
- “Bad luck”
 - Not enough money in the fiscal year
 - Portfolio objectives in a given fiscal year



Advice



- Learn to love rejection
- Team up
- E-mail Program Officer with specific questions
 - 1-2 pages
 - Hypotheses, Theory, Methods, Major Citations