

# Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF): Core Programs

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## Program Solicitation

NSF 08-577

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*Replaces Document(s):*

NSF 07-587, NSF 08-517, NSF 08-518

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### National Science Foundation

Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering  
Division of Computing and Communication Foundations

**Submission Window Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Medium Projects:

October 1, 2008 - October 31, 2008

August 1 - August 30 Annually Thereafter

Large Projects:

November 1, 2008 - November 28, 2008

November 1 - November 28 Annually Thereafter

Small Projects:

December 1, 2008 - December 17, 2008

December 1 - December 17 Annually Thereafter

## REVISION NOTES

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The following revisions have been made:

- This solicitation covers all core programs in the Division of Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF), programs that represent long-term research interests of the computing community.
- In this document, the total of the *Computing and Communication Foundations: Core Programs*, the *Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs*, and the *Computer and Network Systems (CNS): Core Programs* solicitations are hereafter referred to as the “*coordinated solicitation*”.
- The simultaneous release of the *coordinated solicitation* and the *CISE Cross-cutting Programs: FY 2009 and FY 2010* solicitation is intended to simplify the presentation of CISE funding opportunities to the computing community.
- This is a multi-year *coordinated solicitation*, with proposal submission windows identified for FY2009 and beyond so that PIs can plan their proposal submissions in this and future years.
- The *coordinated solicitation* seeks proposals in three project classes: Small, Medium, and Large.

Other CISE and NSF programs of possible interest to PIs are listed in Section IX of this solicitation.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

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### General Information

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#### Program Title:

Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF): Core Programs

#### Synopsis of Program:

CISE's Division of Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF) supports research and education projects that develop new knowledge in three core programs:

- The Algorithmic Foundations program;
- The Communications and Information Foundations program; and
- The Software and Hardware Foundations program.

Proposers are invited to submit proposals in three project classes, which are defined as follows:

- Small Projects - up to \$500,000 total budget with durations up to three years;
- Medium Projects - \$500,001 to \$1,200,000 total budget with durations up to four years; and
- Large Projects - \$1,200,001 to \$3,000,000 total budget with durations up to five years.

A more complete description of the three project classes can be found in section *II. Program Description* of this document.

CISE investments in Small, Medium and Large projects complement the directorate's investments in the Expeditions in Computing program, [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=503169&org=CISE&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503169&org=CISE&from=home), where projects are funded at levels of up to \$10,000,000 total for durations up to 5 years.

#### Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Richard Beigel, Point of Contact, Algorithmic Foundations, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: [rbeigel@nsf.gov](mailto:rbeigel@nsf.gov)
- John H. Cozzens, Point of Contact, Communications and Information Foundations, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: [jcozzens@nsf.gov](mailto:jcozzens@nsf.gov)
- Sol Greenspan, Point of Contact, Software and Hardware Foundations, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: [sgreensp@nsf.gov](mailto:sgreensp@nsf.gov)

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

- 47.070 --- Computer and Information Science and Engineering

### Award Information

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**Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard Grant or Continuing Grant

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 120 to 160 - It is anticipated that up to 160 awards will be made each year.

**Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$80,000,000 Approximately \$80 million each year, dependent upon the availability of funds.

### Eligibility Information

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**Organization Limit:**

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities.
- Universities and Colleges: Universities and two- and four-year colleges (including community colleges) located and accredited in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members. Such organizations also are referred to as academic institutions.

**PI Limit:**

None Specified

**Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:**

None Specified

**Limit on Number of Proposals per PI: 2**

In any contiguous August through December period, an individual may participate as PI, Co-PI or Senior Personnel in no more than **two** proposals submitted in response to the *coordinated solicitation* (where *coordinated solicitation* is defined to include the *Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs*, the *Computer and Network Systems (CNS): Core Programs* and the *Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF): Core Programs* solicitations). For example, between August 2009 and December 2009, an individual may participate as PI, co-PI or Senior Personnel in one proposal submitted to a core program in CCF and in a second proposal submitted to a core program in CNS, or an individual may participate as PI, co-PI or Senior Personnel in two proposals submitted to an IIS core program, etc.

**These eligibility constraints will be strictly enforced in order to treat everyone fairly and consistently.** In the event that an individual exceeds this limit, proposals received within the limit will be accepted based on earliest date and time of proposal submission (i.e. the first two proposals received will be accepted and the remainder will be returned without review). **No exceptions will be made.**

The limit on the number of proposals per PI, co-PI or Senior Personnel applies only to the *coordinated solicitation*.

## Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

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### A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Not Applicable
- **Preliminary Proposal Submission:** Not Applicable
- **Full Proposals:**
  - Full Proposals submitted via FastLane: NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide, Part I: Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) Guidelines apply. The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg).
  - Full Proposals submitted via Grants.gov: NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov Guidelines apply (Note: The NSF Grants.gov Application Guide is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/docs/grantsgovguide.pdf>)

### B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required under this solicitation.

- . **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable
- . **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Not Applicable

### C. Due Dates

- . **Submission Window Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Medium Projects:

October 1, 2008 - October 31, 2008

August 1 - August 30 Annually Thereafter

Large Projects:

November 1, 2008 - November 28, 2008

November 1 - November 28 Annually Thereafter

Small Projects:

December 1, 2008 - December 17, 2008

December 1 - December 17 Annually Thereafter

### Proposal Review Information Criteria

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**Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review considerations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

### Award Administration Information

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**Award Conditions:** Standard NSF award conditions apply.

**Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

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The Division of Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF) supports research and education projects that explore the foundations of computing and communication devices and their usage. The Division seeks advances in computing and communication theory, algorithms for computer and computational sciences, and architecture and design of computers and software. CCF-supported projects also investigate revolutionary computing models and technologies based on emerging scientific ideas and integrate research and education activities to prepare future generations of computer science and engineering workers.

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## II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

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### CCF CORE PROGRAMS

CCF supports three core programs as described below.

#### 1. *Algorithmic Foundations*

The Algorithmic Foundations program supports research characterized by algorithmic thinking accompanied by rigorous mathematical analysis. The goal is to understand the fundamental limits of resource-bounded computation and to obtain optimal solutions within those limits. Specifically, the time and space complexity of finding exact and approximate solutions in deterministic and randomized models of computation are the central concern of the program. Resources other than time and space, such as communication, heat, power, etc., are also of interest. In addition to the traditional, sequential computing paradigm, research on models such as the streaming model, parallel, distributed and hybrid models and the quantum-computing model are welcomed. Such research includes optimizations across complex processor/memory hierarchies as well as measurement of the performance of algorithms by correct, reproducible computational experiments. Theories that exploit algorithmic scalability and portability are especially welcome.

The program also supports research in algorithms that is applicable to other areas both within and outside computer science. Especially welcome are algorithmic applications in databases, networks, operating systems, languages and compilers and machine abstractions. New techniques for the design and analysis of algorithms in areas such as cryptography, computational geometry, computational biology, numerical, symbolic, algebraic, and scientific computing are appropriate for the program. In computational geometry, research can range from theoretical problems to algorithms for applications that arise in computational biology and computer graphics. Numerical methods include recent algorithmic innovations such as smoothed analysis and convergence of geometric algorithms. They also include hybrid numeric-symbolic-algebraic methods in support of multi-scale, multi-grid methods and computation on peta-scale machines. An emerging area of interest lies at the interface of computer science and economics. This program supports research on computing economic equilibria, mechanism design, graphical economic models and other topics in computational game theory and economics. Relevance to the application areas is important and collaborations with researchers in these areas are encouraged. However, research funded by this program must advance the study of algorithms.

In general, research on algorithms for problems that are central to computer science, as well as new techniques for the rigorous mathematical analysis of such algorithms, are solicited. Moreover, there is an interest in theoretical work to bound the intrinsic difficulty of problems to determine the measures of complexity in formal models of computation, classical or new.

More information on topics of interest within the program is available at: [http://www.nsf.gov/cise/ccf/af\\_pgm](http://www.nsf.gov/cise/ccf/af_pgm).

## 2. **Communications and Information Foundations (CIF)**

The Communications and Information Foundations (CIF) program supports transformative research that addresses the theoretical underpinnings and current and future enabling technologies for information acquisition, transmission, and processing in communication and information networks. As a result, CIF research and education projects strengthen the intellectual foundations of communications and information theory and signal processing in a variety of types of networks such as sensor networks, wireless and multimedia networks, biological networks, and networks of quantum devices. Research outcomes can lead to more secure and reliable communications and advanced mathematical capabilities that are applicable throughout science and engineering.

This program continues to seek advances in theory of and techniques for secure and efficient representation, transmission and reception of digital and analog information over a variety of channels, e.g., wired line, mobile multi-antenna wireless, optical, quantum and biological channels. Research that involves cooperation at different layers is especially welcome. Notions of mobility, location, belief propagation, negotiation, gossip, and other information distribution and flow are vital to the program.

Research that advances network information theory, network coding, multi-user communications is sought. Applications of information-theoretic concepts to secure communications that protect against attacks on the privacy and integrity of information are also welcome. Recent advances that have resulted in simultaneous breakthroughs in both biology and in communications and information theory promise to continue offering a rich area for research, especially in coding and networking.

In addition to the contemporary signal processing topics that have enabled the IT revolution, there is growing interest within the program in new paradigms that enlarge the scope of signal and information processing from the domain of the linear to the realm of the nonlinear - from linear algebra to algebra, from Euclidean to curved spaces, from uniform to highly non-uniform time and space sampling, to signal processing on graphs. Research that will develop efficient power aware and hardware-friendly algorithms and research on signal/information processing algorithms for the new network science of distributed, decentralized, and cooperative algorithms that avoid global communications is encouraged. The exploration of new approaches to manage massive datasets, such as compressive sampling, also promises advances in the field.

This program is particularly interested in the application of signal/information processing in complex systems. Examples include exciting new applications, including monitoring the Nation's critical infrastructures, bioinformatics, and biomedical signal and image processing. These and other emerging application domains pose new constraints and challenges, leading to the reexamination of old questions and assumptions.

More information on topics of interest within this program is available at: [http://www.nsf.gov/cise/ccf/cif\\_pgm.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/cise/ccf/cif_pgm.jsp).

## 3. **Software and Hardware Foundations (SHF)**

The Software and Hardware Foundations program supports foundational research essential to advance the capability of computing systems. The combined power of the software and hardware of these systems enables new, possibly unforeseen application. At the same time, new and emerging technologies require continued advances in software and hardware foundations. The focus of this program is on reasoning, comparing and establishing properties of existing and newly-conceived software and hardware components, systems, and other artifacts.

Foundational advances are sought in formal semantics, models, methods, logics, languages, architectures, and tools for specifying, designing, programming, analyzing (statically and at run-time), evaluating, and reasoning about the software and hardware of current and future computing systems. Especially welcome are collaborations with researchers in theoretical computer science, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the social sciences that provide new perspectives on these problems. Advances should be driven by the need to address desired system functional and performance behavior, including properties such as correctness; efficiency in time, space, and energy; composability; predictability and provability; maintainability and usability; and adaptability to changing requirements or dynamic environments. Innovative engineering methods for developing software and hardware through synthesis, optimization, transformation, or design-time verification, are welcome.

Especially challenging for the future is the need to develop new software and hardware foundations for

heterogeneous computing systems, where components in a single system may be diverse in one or more dimensions. Examples of these dimensions of a system are: size of component, from molecular machines to nano-computers to mobile devices to desktops to supercomputers; number of components, from single processor to multi-/many-core processors to networks (clusters) of servers; substrate type, from traditional silicon to biological to nanotechnology to quantum; and software type, from legacy code to applets and web services to open source to domain- or device-specific. Adding to the challenge of heterogeneity is that of managing complexity due to interactions across multiple system layers, from high-level application features to low-level technology-driven circuit characteristics.

Numerous challenges must be addressed to harness the full computing power of multi-core architectures. The SHF program supports projects whose research outcomes promise advances in parallel programming models, abstractions, languages and algorithms; software development, compilation, debugging and visualization tools and platforms for parallel architectures and scientific computing; frameworks for automatic parallelization, optimized code generation and dynamic run-time execution; scalable mechanisms for concurrency control and synchronization in heterogeneous environments; virtualization for optimized performance; and power-aware scheduling algorithms and load balancing schemes.

Software research for compute-intensive applications and hardware is welcome; projects focused on data-intensive applications and hardware should be submitted to the Data-intensive Computing program described in the CISE Cross-Cutting Programs solicitation. Investigators interested in the Software and Hardware Foundations program may also have interest in the Computer Systems Research program. The emphasis here is on reasoning about software and hardware components while the emphasis in Computer Systems Research is in the engineering of complex systems. More information on topics of interest within the Software and Hardware Foundations program is available at: [http://www.nsf.gov/cise/ccf/shf\\_pgm.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/cise/ccf/shf_pgm.jsp).

## PROJECT CLASSES

Proposals submitted to this solicitation must be consistent with one of three project classes defined below. Proposals will be considered for funding within their project classes.

- **Small Projects, with total budgets up to \$500,000 for durations of up to three years**, are well suited to one or two investigators (PI and one co-PI or other Senior Personnel) and at least one student and/or postdoc.
- **Medium Projects, with total budgets ranging from \$500,001 to \$1,200,000 for durations up to four years**, are well-suited to one or more investigators (PI, co-PI and/or other Senior Personnel) and several students and/or postdocs. Medium project descriptions must be comprehensive and well-integrated, and should make a convincing case that the collaborative contributions of the project team will be greater than the sum of each of their individual contributions. Rationale must be provided to explain why a budget of this size is required to carry out the proposed work. Since the success of collaborative research efforts are known to depend on thoughtful coordination mechanisms that regularly bring together the various participants of the project, a Collaboration Plan is **required** for all Medium proposals. The length of and level of detail provided in the Collaboration Plan should be commensurate with the complexity of the proposed project. Please see *Proposal Preparation Instructions* Section V.A for additional submission guidelines.
- **Large Projects, with total budgets ranging from \$1,200,001 to \$3,000,000 for durations of up to five years**, are well-suited to two or more investigators (PI, co-PI(s), or other Senior Personnel), and a team of students and/or postdocs. Large project descriptions must be comprehensive and well-integrated, and should make a convincing case that the collaborative contributions of the project team will be greater than the sum of each of their individual contributions. Rationale must be provided to explain why a budget of this size is required to carry out the proposed work. Since the success of collaborative research efforts are known to depend on thoughtful coordination mechanisms that regularly bring together the various participants of the project, a Collaboration Plan is **required** for all Large proposals. The length of and degree of detail provided in the Collaboration Plan should be commensurate with the complexity of the proposed project. Please see *Proposal Preparation Instructions* Section V.A for additional submission guidelines.

CISE investments in Small, Medium and Large projects complement the directorate's investments in the Expeditions in Computing program, where projects are funded at levels of up to \$10,000,000 total for durations of up to 5 years. The Expeditions solicitation can be accessed at [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=503169&org=CISE&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503169&org=CISE&from=home).

## IMPORTANT PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The submission of far-reaching, creative research and education projects is encouraged. Funds will be used to support potentially transformative research with high-impact potential. In this way, CISE will catalyze exciting new research activities with the potential to make significant advances in the state-of-the-art.

Interdisciplinary, international and/or academic-industry collaborations that promise to result in major science or engineering advances are welcome. The directorate hopes to attract proposals from faculty at a broad range of academic institutions, including faculty at minority-serving and predominantly undergraduate institutions.

Proposals submitted should demonstrate that enriching learning experiences will be provided for a diverse population of students, and may describe the development of innovative curricula or educational materials that advance literacy about and expertise in areas supported by CISE.

Proposals that extend beyond the scope of one CISE core program are welcome. In such cases, PIs should identify the most relevant program(s) in the proposal submission process (see *Proposal Preparation Instructions* later in this document). CISE Program Officers will work with their NSF colleagues to ensure that these proposals are appropriately co-reviewed and considered for funding.

### III. AWARD INFORMATION

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Approximately \$80 million will be available each year to support up to 160 awards, pending the availability of funds.

### IV. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

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#### Organization Limit:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities.
- Universities and Colleges: Universities and two- and four-year colleges (including community colleges) located and accredited in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members. Such organizations also are referred to as academic institutions.

#### PI Limit:

None Specified

#### Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

None Specified

#### Limit on Number of Proposals per PI: 2

In any contiguous August through December period, an individual may participate as PI, Co-PI or Senior Personnel in no more than **two** proposals submitted in response to the *coordinated solicitation* (where *coordinated solicitation* is defined to include the *Information and Intelligent Systems (IIS): Core Programs*, the *Computer and Network Systems (CNS): Core Programs* and the *Computing and Communication Foundations (CCF): Core Programs* solicitations). For example, between August 2009 and December 2009, an individual may participate as PI, co-PI or Senior Personnel in one proposal submitted to a core program in CCF and in a second proposal submitted to a core program in CNS, or an individual may participate as PI, co-PI or Senior Personnel in two proposals submitted to an IIS core program, etc.

**These eligibility constraints will be strictly enforced in order to treat everyone fairly and consistently.** In the event that an individual exceeds this limit, proposals received within the limit will be accepted based on earliest date and time of proposal submission (i.e. the first two proposals received will be accepted and the remainder will be returned without review). **No exceptions will be made.**

The limit on the number of proposals per PI, co-PI or Senior Personnel applies only to the *coordinated solicitation*.



## Additional Eligibility Info:

## V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

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### A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

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**Full Proposal Preparation Instructions:** Proposers may opt to submit proposals in response to this Program Solicitation via Grants.gov or via the NSF FastLane system.

- Full proposals submitted via FastLane: Proposals submitted in response to this program 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 website at: [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg). Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov). Proposers are reminded to identify this program solicitation number in the program solicitation block on the NSF Cover Sheet For Proposal to the National Science Foundation. Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.
- Full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation via Grants.gov should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov. The complete text of the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: (<http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/docs/grantsgovguide.pdf>). To obtain copies of the Application Guide and Application Forms Package, click on the Apply tab on the Grants.gov site, then click on the Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions link and enter the funding opportunity number, (the program solicitation number without the NSF prefix) and press the Download Package button. Paper copies of the Grants.gov Application Guide also may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

Collaborative Proposals. All collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via the NSF FastLane system. Chapter II, Section D.3 of the Grant Proposal Guide provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

The following information SUPPLEMENTS (not replaces) the guidelines provided in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) and the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide.

**Proposal Titles:** Proposal titles must begin with an acronym that indicates the most relevant core program. Select an acronym from the following list:

- Algorithmic Foundations - AF
- Communications and Information Foundations - CIF
- Software and Hardware Foundations - SHF

The acronym should be followed with a colon, then the project class followed by a colon, then the title of your project. For example, if you are submitting a medium proposal to the Communications and Information Foundations core program, then your title would be **CIF:Medium:Title**. If you submit a proposal as part of a set of collaborative proposals, the title of the proposal should begin with the acronym that indicates the most relevant core program followed by a colon, then the project class followed by a colon, then "Collaborative Research" followed by a colon, and the title. For example, if you are submitting a collaborative set of proposals to the Software and Hardware Foundations core program for a Large project, the title of each would be **SHF:Large:Collaborative Research: Title**. Proposals from PIs in institutions that have RUI (Research in Undergraduate Institutions) eligibility should begin their proposal title with the acronym that indicates the most relevant core program, followed by a colon then the project class, followed by a colon then "RUI", followed by a colon and then the title, for example, **AF:Small:RUI:Title**.

Proposals that extend beyond the scope of one CISE core program are welcome. In such cases, PIs should identify the acronym for the **most relevant** core program, followed by any other relevant program acronym(s) separated by colons (for example, **SHF:CSR:Medium:Title**). CISE Program Officers will work with their NSF colleagues to ensure that these proposals are appropriately co-reviewed and considered for funding.

**Project Summary:** All proposals must provide up to 6 sets of key words at the end of the Project Summary. These key words should describe the main scientific/engineering areas explored in the proposal. Key words should be prefaced with "Key Words" followed by a colon and each key word separated by semi-colons. Key words should be of the type used to describe research in a journal submission. They should be put at the end of the project summary and might appear, for example, as Key Words: formal logic; multi-modal interfaces; computer graphics; sensor networks; information visualization; privacy.

**Project Description:** Since the success of collaborative research efforts are known to depend on thoughtful coordination mechanisms that regularly bring together the various participants of the project, all Medium and Large proposals must include a Collaboration Plan. **Medium and Large proposals that fail to include a Collaboration Plan will be returned without review.** While the length of the Project Description for Small proposals is limited to 15 pages, for Medium and Large proposals up to 3 additional pages are allowed for Collaboration Plans. The length of and degree of detail provided in the Collaboration Plan should be commensurate with the complexity of the proposed project. Where appropriate, the Collaboration Plan might include: 1) the specific roles of the project participants in all organizations involved; 2) information on how the project will be managed across all the investigators, institutions, and/or disciplines; 3) identification of the specific coordination mechanisms that will enable multi-investigator, cross-institution, and/or cross-discipline scientific integration (e. g., yearly workshops, graduate student exchange, project meetings at conferences, use of the grid for videoconferences, software repositories, etc.), and 4) specific references to the budget line items that support collaboration and coordination mechanisms.

Proposals that incorporate curriculum development activities should describe the curriculum development activities in a separate section of the Project Description entitled "Curriculum Development Activities."

**Supplementary Documents:** In the Supplementary Documents Section, include a list of all PIs, Co-PIs, Senior Personnel, paid Consultants, Collaborators and Postdocs to be involved in the project. This list should be numbered and include (in this order) Full name, Organization(s), and Role in the project, with each item separated by a semi-colon. Each person listed should start a new numbered line. For example:

1. Mary Smith; XYZ University; PI
2. John Jones; University of PQR; Senior Personnel
3. Jane Brown; XYZ University; Postdoc
4. Bob Adams; ABC Inc.; Paid Consultant

PIs from predominantly undergraduate institutions should also include a Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) Impact Statement and Certification of RUI Eligibility in this Section.

## B. Budgetary Information

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**Cost Sharing:** Cost sharing is not required under this solicitation.

## C. Due Dates

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- **Submission Window Date(s)** (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time):

Medium Projects:

October 1, 2008 - October 31, 2008

August 1 - August 30 Annually Thereafter

Large Projects:

November 1, 2008 - November 28, 2008

November 1 - November 28 Annually Thereafter

Small Projects:

## D. FastLane/Grants.gov Requirements

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### . For Proposals Submitted Via FastLane:

Detailed technical instructions regarding the technical aspects of preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. For FastLane user support, call the FastLane Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov). The FastLane Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the FastLane system. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this funding opportunity.

**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 electronic certifications within five working days following the electronic submission of the proposal. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane Website at: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/fastlane.jsp>.

### . For Proposals Submitted Via Grants.gov:

Before using Grants.gov for the first time, each organization must register to create an institutional profile. Once registered, the applicant's organization can then apply for any federal grant on the Grants.gov website. The Grants.gov's Grant Community User Guide is a comprehensive reference document that provides technical information about Grants.gov. Proposers can download the User Guide as a Microsoft Word document or as a PDF document. The Grants.gov User Guide is available at: <http://www.grants.gov/CustomerSupport>. In addition, the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide provides additional technical guidance regarding preparation of proposals via Grants.gov. For Grants.gov user support, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov). The Grants.gov Contact Center answers general technical questions related to the use of Grants.gov. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this solicitation.

**Submitting the Proposal:** Once all documents have been completed, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must submit the application to Grants.gov and verify the desired funding opportunity and agency to which the application is submitted. The AOR must then sign and submit the application to Grants.gov. The completed application will be transferred to the NSF FastLane system for further processing.

## VI. NSF PROPOSAL PROCESSING AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

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Proposals received by NSF are assigned to the appropriate NSF program where they will be reviewed if they meet NSF proposal preparation requirements. All proposals are carefully reviewed by a scientist, engineer, or educator serving as an NSF Program Officer, and usually by three to ten other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular fields represented by the proposal. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. Proposers are invited to suggest names of persons they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal and/or persons they would prefer not review the proposal. These suggestions may serve as one source in the reviewer selection process at the Program Officer's discretion. Submission of such names, however, is optional. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts of interest with the proposal.

### A. NSF Merit Review Criteria

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All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board (NSB)-approved merit review criteria: intellectual merit and the broader impacts of the proposed effort. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

The two NSB-approved 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 the reviewer 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, original, or potentially transformative 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?

Examples illustrating activities likely to demonstrate broader impacts are available electronically on the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf>.

NSF staff also 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:**

For Medium and Large proposals only, reviewers will be asked to:

- Comment on the extent to which the project scope justifies the level of investment requested, and the degree to which the participating investigators will work synergistically to accomplish the project objectives.
- Comment on the Collaboration Plan.

**B. Review and Selection Process**

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Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by Ad hoc Review 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.

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for award. 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 deadline or target date, or receipt date, whichever is later. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

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 names of the reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

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 their own risk.

## VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

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### A. Notification of the Award

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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 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.B. for additional information on the review process.)

### B. Award Conditions

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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 (GC-1); \* or Research Terms and Conditions \* and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreements also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organization via e-mail.

\*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at [http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award\\_conditions.jsp?org=NSF](http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award_conditions.jsp?org=NSF). Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Award & Administration Guide* (AAG) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Website at [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=aag](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=aag).

### C. Reporting Requirements

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For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the Principal Investigator must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period. (Some programs or awards require more frequent project reports). Within 90 days after expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final project report.

Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports will delay NSF review and processing of any future funding increments as well as any pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

PIs are required to use NSF's electronic project-reporting system, available through FastLane, for preparation and submission of annual and final project reports. Such reports provide information on activities and findings, project participants (individual and organizational) 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. Submission of the report via FastLane constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete.

## VIII. AGENCY CONTACTS

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General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Richard Beigel, Point of Contact, Algorithmic Foundations, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: [rbeigel@nsf.gov](mailto:rbeigel@nsf.gov)
- John H. Cozzens, Point of Contact, Communications and Information Foundations, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: [jcozzens@nsf.gov](mailto:jcozzens@nsf.gov)
- Sol Greenspan, Point of Contact, Software and Hardware Foundations, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: [sgreensp@nsf.gov](mailto:sgreensp@nsf.gov)

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- FastLane Help Desk, telephone: 1-800-673-6188; e-mail: [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov).
- Velma Lawson, Integrative Activities Specialist, telephone: (703) 292-8910, email: [vlawson@nsf.gov](mailto:vlawson@nsf.gov)

For questions relating to Grants.gov contact:

- Grants.gov Contact Center: If the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AOR) has not received a confirmation message from Grants.gov within 48 hours of submission of application, please contact via telephone: 1-800-518-4726; e-mail: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

In addition to the Program Officers identified as program points of contact above, the following CCF Program Officers also support CCF core programs as indicated below:

#### Algorithmic Foundations (AF)

- Robert Grafton, (703) 292-8910, [rgrafton@nsf.gov](mailto:rgrafton@nsf.gov)
- Lenore Mullin, (703) 292-8910, [lmullin@nsf.gov](mailto:lmullin@nsf.gov)
- Lawrence Rosenblum, (703) 292-8910, [lrosenbl@nsf.gov](mailto:lrosenbl@nsf.gov)

#### Communications and Information Foundations (CIF)

- Eun Park, (703) 292-8910, [epark@nsf.gov](mailto:epark@nsf.gov)
- Sirin Tekinay, (703) 292-8910, [stekinay@nsf.gov](mailto:stekinay@nsf.gov)

#### Software and Hardware Foundations (SHF)

- Sankar Basu, (703) 292-8910, [sbasu@nsf.gov](mailto:sbasu@nsf.gov)
- Almadena Chtchelkanova, (703) 292-8910, [achtchel@nsf.gov](mailto:achtchel@nsf.gov)
- Chitaranjan Das, (703) 292-8910, [cdas@nsf.gov](mailto:cdas@nsf.gov)
- Pinaki Mazumder, (703) 292-8910, [pmazumde@nsf.gov](mailto:pmazumde@nsf.gov)
- Tatsuya Suda, (703) 292-8910, [suda@nsf.gov](mailto:suda@nsf.gov)

## IX. OTHER INFORMATION

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The NSF Website provides the most comprehensive source of information on NSF Directorates (including contact information), programs and funding opportunities. Use of this Website by potential proposers is strongly encouraged. In addition, MyNSF (formerly the Custom News Service) is an information-delivery system designed to keep potential proposers and other interested parties apprised of new NSF funding opportunities and publications, important changes in proposal and award policies and procedures, and upcoming NSF Regional Grants Conferences. Subscribers are informed through e-mail or the user's Web browser each time new publications are issued that match their identified interests. MyNSF also is available on NSF's Website at <http://www.nsf.gov/mynsf/>.

Grants.gov provides an additional electronic capability to search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities. NSF funding opportunities may be accessed via this new mechanism. Further information on Grants.gov may be obtained at <http://www.grants.gov>.

In addition to the *coordinated solicitation* discussed in this document, NSF provides funding opportunities for

the computing community via the following programs and their solicitations:

### **Discovery Research Programs**

Advanced Learning Technologies (ALT), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12834&org=NSF&sel\\_org=NSF&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12834&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund)

CAREER: Faculty Early Career Development, [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5262](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5262)

CISE Cross-Cutting Programs: FY 2009 and FY 2010, [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13451](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13451)

Cluster Exploratory (CluE), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=503270&org=IIS&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503270&org=IIS&from=home)

Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience (CRCNS), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5147](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5147)

Community-Based Data Interoperability Networks (Interop) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=502112&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=502112&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

CreativeIT, [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=501096](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=501096)

Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation (CDI), <http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/cdi/>

Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS), coming soon, <http://www.nsf.gov/attachments/111601/public/cps-summit.ppt>

Engineering Research Centers (ERCs)

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5502&org=NSF&sel\\_org=NSF&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5502&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund)

Expeditions in Computing, [http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf07592](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf07592)

Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13706&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13706&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers Program (I/UCRC)

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5501&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5501&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12819&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12819&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5518&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5518&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Science of Learning Centers (SLCs)

[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5567&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5567&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Science and Technology Centers (STCs) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5541&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5541&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Small Grant for Exploratory Research (SGER)  
<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsf05053/nsf05053.jsp>

Sustainable Digital Data Preservation and Access Network Partners (DataNet) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=503141&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503141&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

## **Education and Workforce Development Programs**

ADVANCE: Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers, [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5383&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5383&from=fund)

Advanced Technological Education (ATE)  
[http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5464](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5464)

Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13510&org=NSF&sel\\_org=NSF&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13510&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund)

CISE Pathways to Revitalized Education in Computing (CPATH), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=500025&org=NSF&sel\\_org=NSF&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=500025&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund)

Computational Science Training for Undergraduates in the Mathematical Sciences (CSUMS) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=13655&org=EHR&sel\\_org=EHR&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13655&org=EHR&sel_org=EHR&from=fund)

Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5741&org=EHR&sel\\_org=EHR&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5741&org=EHR&sel_org=EHR&from=fund)

Developing Global Scientists and Engineers [International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) and Doctoral Dissertation Enhancement Projects (DDEP)] [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12831&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12831&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Discovery Research K-12 (DR-K12) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=500047&org=EHR&sel\\_org=EHR&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=500047&org=EHR&sel_org=EHR&from=fund)

Federal Cyber Service: Scholarship for Service (SFS) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5228](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5228)

Graduate Research Fellowships (GRF), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=6201&org=DGE&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201&org=DGE&from=home)

Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12759](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12759)

International Research Fellowship Program (IRFP) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5179&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5179&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)



Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5467&org=EHR&sel\\_org=EHR&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5467&org=EHR&sel_org=EHR&from=fund)

NSF Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5472&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5472&from=fund)

NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5257&org=EHR&sel\\_org=EHR&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5257&org=EHR&sel_org=EHR&from=fund)

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites and Supplements, [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5517&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517&from=fund)

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP) [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5488&org=EHR&sel\\_org=EHR&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5488&org=EHR&sel_org=EHR&from=fund)

### **Research Infrastructure Programs**

Computing Research Infrastructure (CRI), [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=12810&org=NSF&sel\\_org=NSF&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=12810&org=NSF&sel_org=NSF&from=fund)

EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Grant Program [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5672&org=CISE&sel\\_org=CISE&from=fund](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5672&org=CISE&sel_org=CISE&from=fund)

Major Research Infrastructure (MRI), <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/mri/>

For more information on these programs, please consult the NSF web site.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

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The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the US. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF receives approximately 40,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects, of which approximately 11,000 are funded. In addition, the Foundation receives several thousand applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. The agency operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, user facilities, certain oceanographic vessels and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry, US participation in international scientific and engineering efforts, and educational activities at every academic level.

*Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities* provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities to work on NSF-supported projects. See Grant Proposal Guide Chapter II, Section D.2 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

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 and (800) 281-8749, FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

The National Science Foundation Information Center may be reached at (703) 292-5111.

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

To get the latest information about program deadlines, to download copies of NSF publications, and to access abstracts of awards, visit the NSF Website at <http://www.nsf.gov>

- **Location:** 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22230
- **For General Information** (NSF Information Center): (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**
  - Send an e-mail to: [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov)
  - or telephone: (703) 292-7827
- **To Locate NSF Employees:** (703) 292-5111

## 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; and 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 proposer 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 or other entities needing information regarding applicants or nominees as part of a joint application review process, or in order to coordinate programs or policy; 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," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (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 the burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Suzanne H. Plimpton  
Reports Clearance Officer  
Division of Administrative Services  
National Science Foundation  
Arlington, VA 22230

