



# Electronic Systems: FastLane & Grants.gov

NSF Workshop for Sponsored Project Administrators  
at Hispanic Serving Institutions

April 13, 2007 - Miami, FL

April 20, 2007 – Albuquerque, NM

**NSF – HSI Workshop**





# Ask Early, Ask Often!!

Name	Title	Contact
Jean Feldman	Head, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support (DIAS)	<a href="mailto:jfeldman@nsf.gov">jfeldman@nsf.gov</a> (703) 292-8243
Jeremy Leffler	Outreach Specialist, Policy Office, Division of Institution & Award Support (DIAS)	<a href="mailto:jleffler@nsf.gov">jleffler@nsf.gov</a> (703) 292-8075
Policy Office	Division of Institution & Award Support	<a href="mailto:policy@nsf.gov">policy@nsf.gov</a> (703) 292-8243



# Coverage

- FastLane 
  - Overview
  - Enhancements
- Grants.gov 
  - Overview
  - NSF Implementation
  - SF424 & the R&R Subcommittee



# NSF FastLane

- FastLane is over 40 externally facing interactive web-based systems used by scientists, engineers, educators, research and financial administrators to conduct business with NSF electronically.
- Began twelve years ago as experimental project
- Electronic Proposal Submission through FastLane became required in October 2000.
- [www.fastlane.nsf.gov](http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov)



FastLane is an interactive real-time system used to conduct NSF business over the Internet. FastLane is for official NSF use only. [More About FastLane...](#)

**FastLane  
User  
Support**

(7 AM to 9 PM Eastern Time • M-F)  
**1-800-673-6188**  
FastLane Availability (recording):  
**1-800-437-7408**

[Proposals, Awards and Status](#) | [Proposal Review](#) | [Panelist Functions](#) | [Research Administration](#) | [Financial Functions](#)

[Honorary Awards](#) | [Graduate Research Fellowship Program](#) | [Postdoctoral Fellowships and Other Programs](#)

## Quick Link

- ▶ [Registration Information](#)
- ▶ [Award Search and Funding Trends](#)
- ▶ [FastLane FAQs \(Opens new Browser Window\)](#)
- ▶ [DEMONSTRATION SITE](#)

## Advisories

- [04/02/07 - Project Reports System Frequently Asked Questions and Answers!](#)
- [01/08/07 - FastLane Frequently Asked Questions and Answers!](#)
- [01/08/07 - Need help using FastLane?](#)
- [11/30/06 - Programs Required to be Submitted through Grants.gov in FY 2007 \(Opens new browser window\)](#)
- [09/29/06 - Public Affairs Support For PIs Via PIOs \(Opens new browser window\)](#)
- [07/24/06 - New Laptop Screening Process](#)
- [01/23/06 - FAQs for Proposals Submitted to NSF through Grants.gov](#)
- [11/16/05 - FastLane Web Browser Compatibility \(Opens new browser window\)](#)

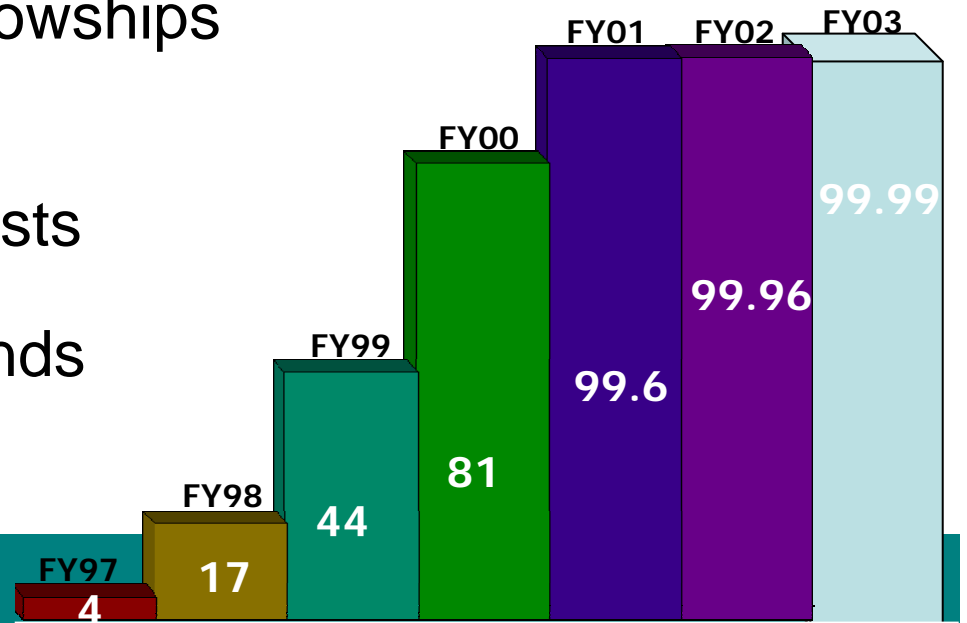
✿ [Recent Advisories](#)



# An eGovernment Success Story



- Over 42,000 Electronic Proposals Received
- 250,000 Reviews Submitted
- 26,000 Electronic Grantee Progress Reports
- 9,000 Graduate Research Fellowships Submissions
- 15,000 Electronic Cash Requests
- \$4.22 Billion Distribution of Funds





# FastLane Users

- 7,000 registered FastLane organizations
  - Universities and Colleges including Community Colleges and Minority Serving Institutions
  - Large and Small Businesses
  - Non-profits
  - State and Local Governments
- 270,000 registered FastLane users
  - Principal Investigators (PIs) & Co-PIs
  - Reviewers
  - Sponsored Projects Offices (SPO)
  - Financial Offices



# Enhancements

- Redesign Project Reports System
  - Combine Activities and Findings Categories
  - Provide New Method for Adding Journal/Book Entries
- Enhance Guest Travel and Reimbursement System
- Implement Sophisticated Help Functionality and Training Materials
- Continue Converting All Screens to the Look of the FastLane Home Screen
- Journal Publications Enhancements





**Grants.gov**



**NSF – HSI Workshop**



# Grants.gov

- Coverage
  - Government wide Policy and Implementation Governing Structures for e-Grants Initiatives
  - Grants.gov's Purpose and Goals
  - Current and Future Status
  - How NSF has Implemented Grants.gov



# Grants.gov – Purpose & Goals

- A single source for finding grant opportunities
- A standardized manner of locating and learning more about funding opportunities
- A single, secure and reliable source for applying for Federal grants online
- A simplified grant application process with reduction of paperwork
- A unified interface for all agencies to announce their grant opportunities, and for all grant applicants to find and apply for those opportunities



# Grants.gov Current Status & Next Steps

- All 26 grant-making agencies are required to post all discretionary grant programs in the Grants.gov Find
- OMB has directed agencies to post in Grants.gov Apply:
  - 75% of their funding opportunities in FY 2006;
  - 100% of their funding opportunities in FY 2007.





# NSF Grants.gov Lessons Learned in FY 06

- Since June 2005, 1,038 proposals submitted via Grants.gov
  - 565 successfully submitted (54% success rate)
  - 473 required correction and resubmission (46%)
- Of the eight programs requiring submission, 444 proposals were submitted
- Of the 214 programs with optional submission, 594 proposals were submitted using Grants.gov
- When submission through Grants.gov was an option, 1% of the applicants chose to submit through Grants.gov.



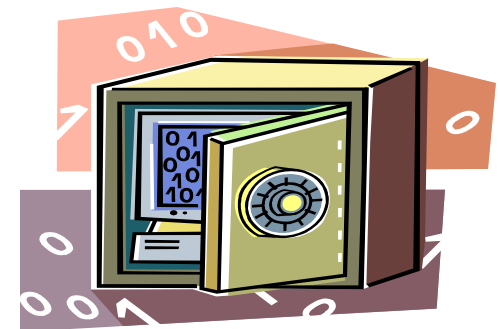
# Major Problems Encountered

- Applicants submitting applications with attachments that are not in PDF.
- The PI or Co-PI typed their name differently in various portions of the application and the software could not tell if this was the same or another individual.
- Problems with registration
- Applicants had varying success in submitting proposals, some taking as many as four attempts before successful insertion into FastLane.



# NSF Implementation in 2007

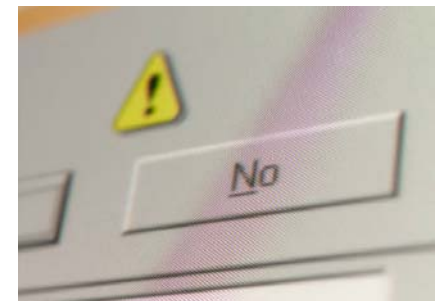
- By close of FY 2006, 79% of NSF funding opportunities had been posted in Grants.gov Apply
- Those programs designated required in FY 06 will remain required in FY 07
- Unless otherwise specified, optional submission for the vast majority of NSF programs





## NSF Implementation in 2007 (Cont'd)

- Will not be used until a Grants.gov solution has been developed, for:
  - Separately submitted collaborative proposals
  - Fellowship programs that require submission of reference letters







## And, please don't forget....

- NSF also does not accept applications through Grants.gov for:
  - Letters of Intent
  - Preliminary Proposals
  - Changed/Corrected Applications
  - Continuations
  - Supplemental Funding Requests





# NSF Grants.gov Required in 2007

- Antarctic Artists and Writers (OPP)
- Scientific Computing Research Environments for the Mathematical Sciences (MPS)
- Living Stock Collections (BIO)
- Advanced Learning Technologies (CISE)
- CEDAR, GEM, and SHINE Postdoctoral Research (GEO)
- Research in Disability Education (EHR)
- Infrastructure Materials Applications and Structural Mechanics (ENG)
- Geography and Regional Science (SBE)



## Words to Live By....



- File attachments must be in pdf
- Check to ensure the program does not require mandatory submission!!
- Check the institutional names used!
- Use the Checklist!
- Read the Grants.gov Application Guide
- Follow any special instruction in the funding opportunity
- Allow extra time for editing!!!



# SF 424 (R&R) & the R&R Subcommittee



GRANTS.GOV<sup>SM</sup>



**NSF – HSI Workshop**



## What is the R&R?

- A group of agency representatives (both technical & policy) from agencies that sponsor research who provide guidance and feedback to the Grants.gov PMO on issues related to the SF 424 (R&R)
  - The R&R was originally formed to provide agency feedback and comments on the SF 424 (R&R)



# Which agencies participate in the R&R subcommittee?

- NSF (Chair)
- NOAA
- NIH
- DOT/FAA
- DOE
- Grants.gov
- USDA/CSREES
- DoED
- ONR
- HRSA
- AFOSR
- DoD
- NASA
- OMB
- EPA



# What is the R&R role in Forms Development?

- Agency specific forms – each agency must bring forward to the R&R any new agency specific forms prior to sending the Grants.gov for development
  - Goal is to create a streamlined process for agency use of previously approved forms by another agency



## What is the R&R role in Forms Development? (Cont'd)

- The R&R must approve any new forms for cross-agency use prior to their being added to the SF 424 forms family
- Examples:
  - *Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants* (for Faith-based programs)
  - SF 424 B – Assurances for non-construction programs





## On the To-Do List

- Develop a listing of types of programs that are not supported by Grants.gov:
  - Collaboratives
  - Fellowships (specifically no support for Reference Letters)
  - Multi-project proposals
  - Multi-component solicitations
  - Preliminary proposals that need parsed sections

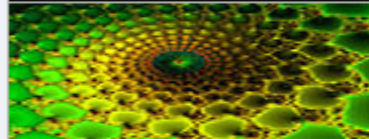


## On the To-Do List (Cont'd)

- Collaborative proposal development component of Grants.gov
  - Requirements team has been formed and is just about finished with requirements development process
- Application File Update for Grants.gov
- Improved Versioning Control of forms in Grants.gov
- Streamlining of process for use of cross-agency forms



## Office of Budget, Finance and Award Management (BFA)



[DIAS Home](#)

[CAAR Branch](#)

**Policy Office**

[Systems Office](#)

[View DIAS Staff](#)

Search DIAS Staff



### BFA Organization

[Office of Budget, Finance, &  
Award Management](#)

[Budget Division](#)

[Division of Contracts & Complex  
Agreements](#)

[Division of Financial  
Management](#)

[Division of Grants &  
Agreements](#)

[Division of Institution & Award  
Support](#)

## Policy Office

**HEAD: Jean Feldman**

### [Policy Office Overview:](#)

The Policy Office is responsible for developing, implementing and issuing proposal and award policy for the programs of the National Science Foundation and is available to assist you with questions involving policy related issues. Questions related to specific awards should be directed to the [Division of Grants and Agreements](#).

### Grants & Cooperative Agreements:

- [NSF's Response to the Community Regarding Hurricane Katrina](#)
- [Policy & Guidance](#) (including the [Grant Proposal Guide \(GPG\)](#), and [Grant Policy Manual \(GPM\)](#))
- [Examples of Activities that Demonstrate Broader Impacts](#)
- [FAQs: Proposal Preparation and Award Administration](#)
- [FAQs: Payments to Consultants under NSF Awards](#)
  - [Archived Consultant Rates](#)
- [FAQs regarding Electronic Signatures](#)
- [Revision of the NSF Cost Sharing Policy](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
  - [NSF FY 2006 Grants.gov Implementation Strategy](#)
  - [Listing of FY 2006 NSF Programs Authorizing or Requiring Use of](#)



**QUESTIONS????**



**NSF – HSI Workshop**