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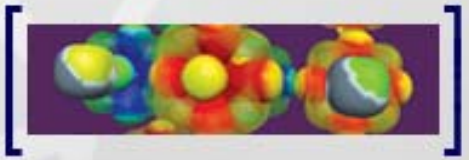

NSF Regional Grants Conference

Proposal Preparation

October 20-21, 2008

Hosted by: The University of Nebraska Lincoln
Omaha, NE

Ask Early, Ask Often!

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Coverage

- **Finding Funding**
- **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide**
  - Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)
- **Sections of an NSF Proposal**
- **Proposal Development Strategies**
- **Budgetary Guidelines**
- **Support for Proposal Writing**
- **Grants for Rapid Response Research (RAPID) & EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)**

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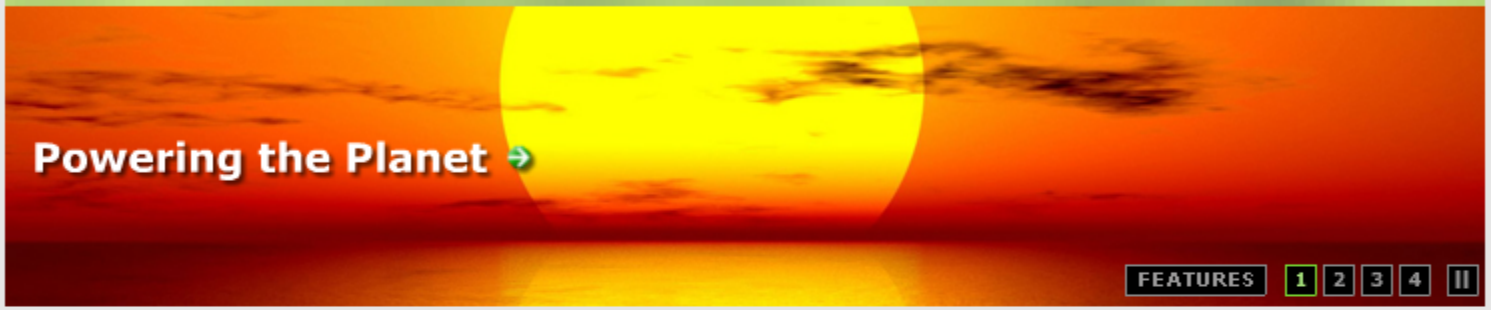

Looking for Funding?

- For the Research & Education Community
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- Upcoming Due Dates
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Universities Detail Declines in Federal R&D Funding for Science and Engineering Fields
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Released August 19, 2008

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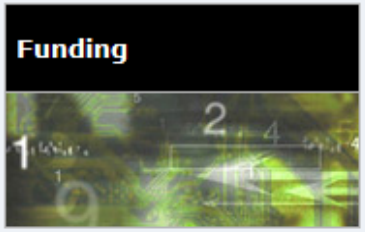

Funding
About Funding
A-Z Index of Funding Opportunities
Advanced Funding Search
Guide to Programs/Browse Funding Opportunities
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How to Prepare Your Proposal
Grant Proposal Guide
Frequently Asked Questions
Other Types of Proposals
Regional Grants Conferences

How to Manage Your Award
Grant Policy Manual
Grant General Conditions
Cooperative Agreement Conditions
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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. MORE

A-Z INDEX OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

A | B | C | D | E | F | G-H | I | J-M | N | O-P | Q-R | S | T-Z

FUNDING SEARCH

Full Text:

NSF Organization:

Any
BIO: Biological Sciences
--BIO/DBI: Biological Infrastructure
--BIO/DEB: Environmental Biology
--BIO/EF: Emerging Frontiers

Program Status:

- (•) Active Funding Opportunities
- ( ) Currently Funded Programs
- ( ) Archived Programs

Search Reset

Advanced Funding Search

GUIDE TO PROGRAMS/ BROWSE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Program Areas

Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)

- Provides guidance for preparation and submission of proposals to NSF
- Describes process – and criteria – by which proposals will be reviewed
- Outlines reasons why a proposal may be returned without review
- Describes process for withdrawals, returns & declinations

Types of Funding Opportunities

NSF uses the following types of funding opportunities

- **Program Description**
  - Follows GPG instructions
- **Program Announcement**
  - Follows GPG instructions
- **Program Solicitation**
  - Deviates/supplements GPG instructions
- **Dear Colleague Letter**
  - Not used to generate new proposals, however, can be used to generate funding requests to supplement an existing award

What to Look for in a Program Announcement/Solicitation

- Goal of program
- Eligibility
- Special proposal preparation and/or award requirements

Types of Proposal Submission

- No deadlines
- Deadlines
- Target dates
- Submission Windows
- Preliminary proposals
- Letters of Intent

Sections of an NSF Proposal

- Cover Sheet
- Project Summary
- Table of Contents
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget
- Current & Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources
- Special Information & Supplementary Documentation

Proposal Development

- **Key Questions for Prospective Investigator**
  - What do you intend to do?
  - Why is the work important?
  - What has already been done?
  - How are you going to do the work?

Proposal Development Strategies: Individual Investigator

- **Determine your long-term research/education goals or plan**
- **Develop your bright idea**
  - Survey the literature
  - Contact Investigators currently working on the topic
  - Prepare a brief concept paper
  - Discuss with colleagues/mentors
- **Read solicitation instructions carefully**

Proposal Development Strategies Individual Investigator (cont'd)

- **Prepare to do the project**
  - Determine available resources
  - Realistically assess needs
  - Develop preliminary data
  - Present to colleagues/mentors/students
- **Determine possible funding sources**
- **Understand the ground rules**

Mentoring for Postdoctoral Researchers

- **Beginning January 5, 2009, proposals that include funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals.**
- **Mentoring activities may include:**
  - Career counseling;
  - Training in preparation of grant proposals;
  - Publications and presentations;
  - Guidance on ways to improve teaching and mentoring skills;
  - Guidance on how to effectively collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary areas; and
  - Training in responsible professional practices.

Mentoring for Postdoctoral Researchers (Cont'd)

- Proposed mentoring activities will be evaluated as part of the merit review process under the Foundation's broader impacts merit review criterion.
- Proposals that do not include a separate section on mentoring activities within the Project Description will be returned without review.

Budgetary Guidelines

- **Amounts**
  - Reasonable for work – Realistic
  - Well Justified – Need established
  - In-line with program guidelines
- **Eligible costs**
  - Personnel
  - Equipment
  - Travel
  - Participant Support
  - Other Direct Costs (including subawards, consultant services, computer services, publication costs)

Getting Support in Proposal Writing

- **NSF Publications**
  - Program Announcements/ Solicitations
  - Grant Proposal Guide
  - Web Pages
  - Funded Project Abstracts
  - Reports, Special Publications
- **Targeted Workshops**
- **Program Officers**
  - Incumbent
  - Former "Rotators"
- **Mentors on Campus**
- **Previous Panelists**
- **Serve As Reviewer**
- **Sponsored Research Office**
- **Successful Proposals**

Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER)

- Novel untested ideas
- New research areas
- Urgency
- Abbreviated proposal
- limited award amount
- Expedited review

- SGER available through December 2008.

- Will be replaced by two new mechanisms: RAPID and EAGER. More information about these opportunities later today!