



**NSB Update:  
Impact of Proposal and Award  
Management Mechanisms  
(IPAMM) Working Group**



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# IPAMM Working Group

## ■ Charge:

- Identify best practices to achieve an appropriate balance between proposal success rates, award sizes and award duration
- Emphasis on individual, investigator-initiated grants.

## ■ Members from across NSF: EHR, R&RAs, OISE, OPP, and BFA

- Program Directors and Division Directors
- Rotators and Permanent Staff



## What Is the Issue?

- Success rate for research proposals was 20% in FY05, down from 30% in FY00
- Potential impact on merit review
  - Increased workload on reviewer community
  - Increased workload on NSF staff
- Potential loss of capacity





## Trends in Proposal Submissions and Success Rates (FY00-05)

- Research proposal success rates dropped from 30% to 20% (estimated at 21% in FY06)
- 37% increase in proposal submissions (leveled off in FY05-06)
  - Increased number of PIs submitting to NSF
  - PIs submitting increased numbers of proposals
- Have identified potential drivers affecting proposal submission rates

## Next steps

- Case studies of various practices related to proposal submissions
- Additional data analyses
- Obtain external input
  - Focus groups with new rotators
  - Visits with Advisory Committees
  - Applicant Survey to assess external drivers



# November Report Will Include...

- Findings related to PI success rates
- Findings related to beginning investigators
- Findings related to solicited research vs. investigator-initiated research
- Results of case studies

