

From: Joel M. Widder [mailto:jwidder@oldakergroup.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 03, 2009 8:50 AM
To: Meacham, Stephen P.
Cc: Scott Sudduth; Frank M. Cushing; Phelps, Randy L.
Subject: RE: Request to Meet on ARI-R2 and MRI-R2 Programs

Steve - the principals at the University of Chicago have been planning for some time now a major project that involves both renovation as well as replacement/new construction. They have some state funds that have recently been available to them to assist in this effort. With both NSF's ARI-R2 program now available as well as the program for science building construction funding at NIST – also the result of the recovery act – they now have some options to compete for federal funds that were not available before. Given the differences between the NSF and NIST programs, and given the complexity and options associated with the University of Chicago's research infrastructure needs, it would really help the Chicago officials to have a conversation with you about their plans and options and how they might go about structuring a proposal that would be appropriate for the NSF ARI-R2 program. They are planning on having the same conversation with the NIST officials – all in an effort to fully and appropriately respond to the programmatic opportunities now available at NSF and NIST. I believe that exploring the Chicago situation would probably more efficiently done in a conversation rather than email. So I would like to ask again about your availability to meet with the Chicago officials sometime within the next week to ten days. I know they are anxious to have these conversations and if you could provide two different days/times when you are available, they will make every effort to make the trip to DC for that discussion.

Thanks for your consideration,

Joel