

FALL 2020 VIRTUAL GRANTS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 16 – 19
NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 3



[NSFPOLICYOUTREACH.COM/
FALL-20-VIRTUAL-CONF](https://NSFPOLICYOUTREACH.COM/FALL-20-VIRTUAL-CONF)





Welcome Letter

Welcome to the Fall 2020 National Science Foundation Virtual Grants Conference. We hope that you find the virtual conference sessions to be both be useful and productive.

All the live sessions will be recorded and made available shortly after the conference. You will be able to access them on our [Resource Center](#).

Please let us know if there is anything that we can do to help make the conference a better learning experience. We appreciate any comments that you may have to help improve future events of this kind, Evaluation surveys will be distributed by e-mail. We also encourage you to send additional feedback by e-mail to grants_conference@nsf.gov.

Sincerely,

Jean Feldman

Head, Policy Office

Division of Institution & Award Support

Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management

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Agenda – Week One

November 16

1:00 – 2:00pm Introduction, Overview & Funding Types

This session will cover NSF's purpose, mandate, structure and budget highlights, as well as the various mechanisms NSF uses to fund proposals.

3:00 – 4:30pm Proposal Preparation

Learn how to prepare a proposal and what constitutes a proposal of high quality.

November 17

1:00 – 2:30pm Merit Review

Learn how the merit review system at NSF works, as well as types of reviews. Presenters will also cover the role of the NSF Program Officer, timing of proposal submissions, reviewer selection, release of reviewer comments and conflict of interest issues.

3:00 – 4:30pm Award Management

This session will address post-award requirements and conditions and will outline the responsibility of those involved in the award process.

November 18

1:00 – 2:00pm Crosscutting Programs: REU, RUI and RET

Each directorate participates in these popular Foundation-wide programs. Learn more about program requirements and eligibility for the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, the Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) program and the Research Experiences for Teachers Supplement Opportunity (RET).

3:00 – 4:00pm Office of International Science & Engineering

Presenters will discuss the role of the office in coordinating activities, as well as how to incorporate international components in NSF proposals.

November 19

1:00 – 2:00pm IT Modernization / Research.gov

Research.gov is the modernization of FastLane, providing the next generation of grants management capabilities for the research community. Research.gov currently provides easy access to research-related information and grants management services in one location. The modernization includes moving legacy FastLane capabilities to a new, modern portal platform. Programmatic and financial reporting services, notifications, and requests are already available on Research.gov. Come to this panel discussion to learn about these and future changes, ask questions about NSF's plans for electronic research administration, and share what you think the priorities should be so NSF can best serve the research community.

3:00 – 4:15pm Major Research Instrumentation

NSF's Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program catalyzes new knowledge and discoveries by empowering the nation's scientists and engineers with state-of-the-art research instruments that are, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. The program provides organizations with opportunities to acquire major instrumentation that supports the research and research training goals of the organization and that may be used by other researchers regionally or nationally. Come to this crosscutting session to learn more about what types of awards are made by the program, eligibility criteria, and cost sharing requirements.

Agenda — Week Two

November 30

1:00 – 2:00pm **Financial Reviews, Site Visits & Audit Resolution**

Representatives from the Cost Analysis & Audit Resolution (CAAR) Branch of DIAS will cover the oversight and monitoring of Federal awards. Topics will include the overall Federal context for oversight, stewardship of Federal funds, the “NSF Gold Standard” model for award portfolio monitoring and business assistance, compliance issues, and other common areas of concern.

3:00 – 4:00pm **Promoting & Protecting the U.S. Science & Engineering Enterprise**

Learn about science and security goals at NSF, NSF actions to ensure the integrity of federally funded research and next steps for NSF in research security.

December 1

1:00 – 2:00pm **Financial Reporting & the Award Cash Management Service (ACM\$)**

Representatives from the Division of Financial Management (DFM) will provide an overview of NSF’s grant payment and reporting processes. Topics will include ACM\$, monitoring activities, program income, grant accrual validation, improper payments, and cancelling appropriations.

3:00 – 4:00pm **Office of the Inspector General**

Presenters will discuss the roles and responsibilities of the office. Issues arising from current audits and investigations will be covered.

December 2

1:00 – 2:00pm **Proposal & Award Policy Update**

This session will provide an update to NSF policies and procedures that affect proposal preparation, merit review and award management.

3:00 – 4:00pm **Convergence Accelerator — A New Transition Model for Government**

NSF recently launched the NSF Convergence Accelerator — a new organizational structure to accelerate the transition of use-inspired convergence research into practice in areas of national importance. Convergence research is a critical mechanism for solving many vexing research problems, especially those stemming from complex social and/or scientific challenges. As a funder of research and education across all fields of science and engineering and as a strategic partner in ensuring this new knowledge benefits society, NSF is uniquely positioned to pilot this accelerated approach to discovery and innovation.

The guiding rationale of the NSF Convergence Accelerator is that to deliver progress on scientific and societal challenges it is necessary to take an approach at the highest level of interdisciplinarity and to involve multiple kinds of partners and stakeholders, including researchers and the ultimate users of research products. This session will include a description of the progress to date, including details of the first cohort of awardees, and provide the plan and strategy for the Convergence Accelerator. Most importantly the presenter will discuss how universities and industry can partner and can get involved.

December 3

1:00 – 2:00pm **Crosscutting Programs: CAREER**

The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers NSF’s most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization.

3:00 – 4:00pm **Harassment — NSF and Institutional Responsibilities**

NSF has taken steps to help ensure all NSF-funded research and learning environments are free from sexual harassment. Learn how organizations are required to notify NSF of any findings/determinations of sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault.

Acronyms

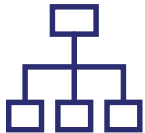
ABR	Accomplishment Based Renewal	EO	Executive Order	OIA	Office of Integrative Activities
ACH	Automated Clearing House (US Treasury)	F&A	Financial & Administrative Costs	OIG	Office of Inspector General
ACM\$	Award Cash Management Service	FAPIIS	Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System	OLAW	Office for Laboratory Animal Welfare
AD	Assistant Director	FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions	OMB	Office of Management and Budget
ADPE	Automatic Data Processing Equipment	FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation	ONR	Office of Naval Research
AOR	Authorized Organizational Representative	FDP	Federal Demonstration Partnership	PAPPG	Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide
BFA	Budget, Finance & Award Management	FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency	PD	Project Director
CAAR	Cost Analysis & Audit Resolution Branch	FIRS	Federal Information Relay Service	PHS	Public Health Service
CAFATC	Cooperative Agreement Financial/Administrative Terms and Conditions	FOIA	Freedom of Information Act	PI	Principal Investigator
CAPTC	Cooperative Agreement Programmatic Terms and Conditions	FWA	Federal-wide Assurance	PNAG	Prospective New Awardee Guide
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	GC-1	Grant General Conditions	PO	Program Officer
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations	GOALI	Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry	RAISE	Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering
CGI	Continuing Grant Increment	GOE	Government-Owned Equipment	RAPID	Rapid Response Research
CMIA	Cash Management Improvement Act	GPO	Government Printing Office	REU	Research Experiences for Undergraduates
COI	Conflict of Interest	GSA	General Services Administration	ROA	Research Opportunity Awards
Co-PD	Co-Project Director	IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee	RTC	Research Terms and Conditions
Co-PI	Co-Principal Investigator	IBC	Institutional Biosafety Committee	RUI	Research in Undergraduate Institutions
DACS	Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support	IPA	Intergovernmental Personnel Act	SBA	Small Business Administration
DAS	Division of Administrative Services	IRB	Institutional Review Board	SBIR	Small Business Innovation Research Program
DCL	Dear Colleague Letter	IRS	Internal Revenue Service	SF	Standard Form
DD	Division Director	ISE	International Science & Engineering	SF LLL	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
DFM	Division of Financial Management	LOI	Letters of Intent	SPO	Sponsored Projects Office
DGA	Division of Grants and Agreements	MREFC	Major Research Equipment and Facilities	SSN	Social Security Number
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act	STTR	Small Business Technology Transfer
DIAS	Division of Institution and Award Support	NIH	National Institutes of Health	TDD	Telephonic Device for the Deaf
DOC	Department of Commerce	NSB	National Science Board	TTY	Text Telephone
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System	NSF	National Science Foundation	URL	Universal Resource Locator
DURC	Dual Use Research of Concern	ODI	Office of Diversity and Inclusion	USC	United States Code
EAGER	EArly-Concept Grants for Exploratory Research	OGC	Office of the General Counsel	USDA	US Department of Agriculture
EFT	Electronic Funds Transfer	OHRP	Office for Human Research Protections	VSEE	Visiting Scientist, Engineer or Educator

Resources



Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide

The Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) is comprised of documents relating to the Foundation's proposal and award process for the assistance programs of NSF. We recommend conference registrants unfamiliar with the PAPPG scan through the various chapters of the guide prior to attending the conference.



About NSF

How much do you already know about NSF? Visit the organization's *About NSF* webpage to fill-in any knowledge gaps on the basics.



NSF's Big Ideas

Since 2017, NSF has been building a foundation for the Big Ideas through pioneering research and pilot activities. In 2019, NSF will invest \$30 million in each Big Idea and continue to identify and support emerging opportunities for U.S. leadership in Big Ideas that serve the Nation's future.



NSF's Merit Review Process

NSF receives about 50,000 research proposals every year. The Foundation's mission is to promote the progress of science, but it's able to support only a fraction of the proposed research with its limited resources. This video briefly explains how NSF determines which research has the greatest potential—which would be the most fruitful investment of taxpayer dollars and best align with the Foundation's mission to promote the progress of science.



CAREER Award Mock Panel

What really happens in a proposal review panel? Audiences will get a good sense from this mock review session as panelists discuss the strengths and weaknesses of a CAREER Award proposal.



Notes



Technical Tips

We will be using Zoom to host this year’s virtual conference. Zoom, along with other virtual meeting platforms, is experiencing unprecedented demand due to the coronavirus pandemic. We recommend that you verify the system requirements below prior to joining the virtual conference.

Zoom

- Ensure access to Zoom
- Most recent version of Google, Chrome, Firefox, MS Edge or Safari
- Operating system: Windows 7+, Mac OS X 10.7+, or Ubuntu 10+
- Zoom’s Bandwidth Requirements are:
 - o Mbps up and down for single screen
 - o Mbps up 4.0 Mbps down for dual screen
 - o For audio VoIP: 60-80kbps
 - o For more information please visit [Zoom](#).

Other Tips

- It can help to close other tabs, browsers and programs while streaming the live conference. It also may help to hardwire your Internet connection, instead of using a wireless network connection.
- If you are having trouble hearing the webcast audio, check the volume on your computer and on your video player.
- If your computer screen freezes, please refresh your browser.

If you lose access to the event, please try to log back in before contacting IT support. All presentations will be recorded and made available in the [Resource Center](#) on the Policy Outreach website. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

On-demand videos will be made available shortly after the virtual conference.

Notes



QUESTIONS?

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