Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences at NSF

December 2023

NSF Virtual Grants Conference

Naomi M. Hall-Byers, PhD, MPH

NSF Supports Multiple STEM Fields

Biological Sciences

Computer & Information Science & Engineering

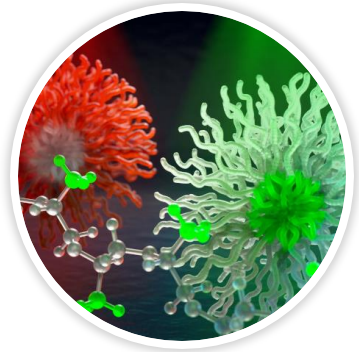
STEM Education

Engineering

Geosciences (including Polar Programs)

Integrative Activities

International Science and Engineering



Mathematical & Physical Sciences

Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences

Technology, Innovation & Partnerships

Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

Supports **basic research on people and society**.

- human behavior across the lifespan
- social organizations

  - How social, economic, political, cultural and environmental factors affect the lives and behavior of people

  - How people in turn shape those forces.

SBE- Structure of the Directorate

Office of the Assistant Director

Sylvia Butterfield
Acting Assistant Director

Evan Heit
Acting Deputy Assistant Director

Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

Joan Sereno
Division Director

Antoinette WinklerPrins
Deputy Division Director

Division of Social and Economic Sciences

Alam Tomkins
Acting Division Director

Lee Walker
Acting Deputy Division Director

National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics

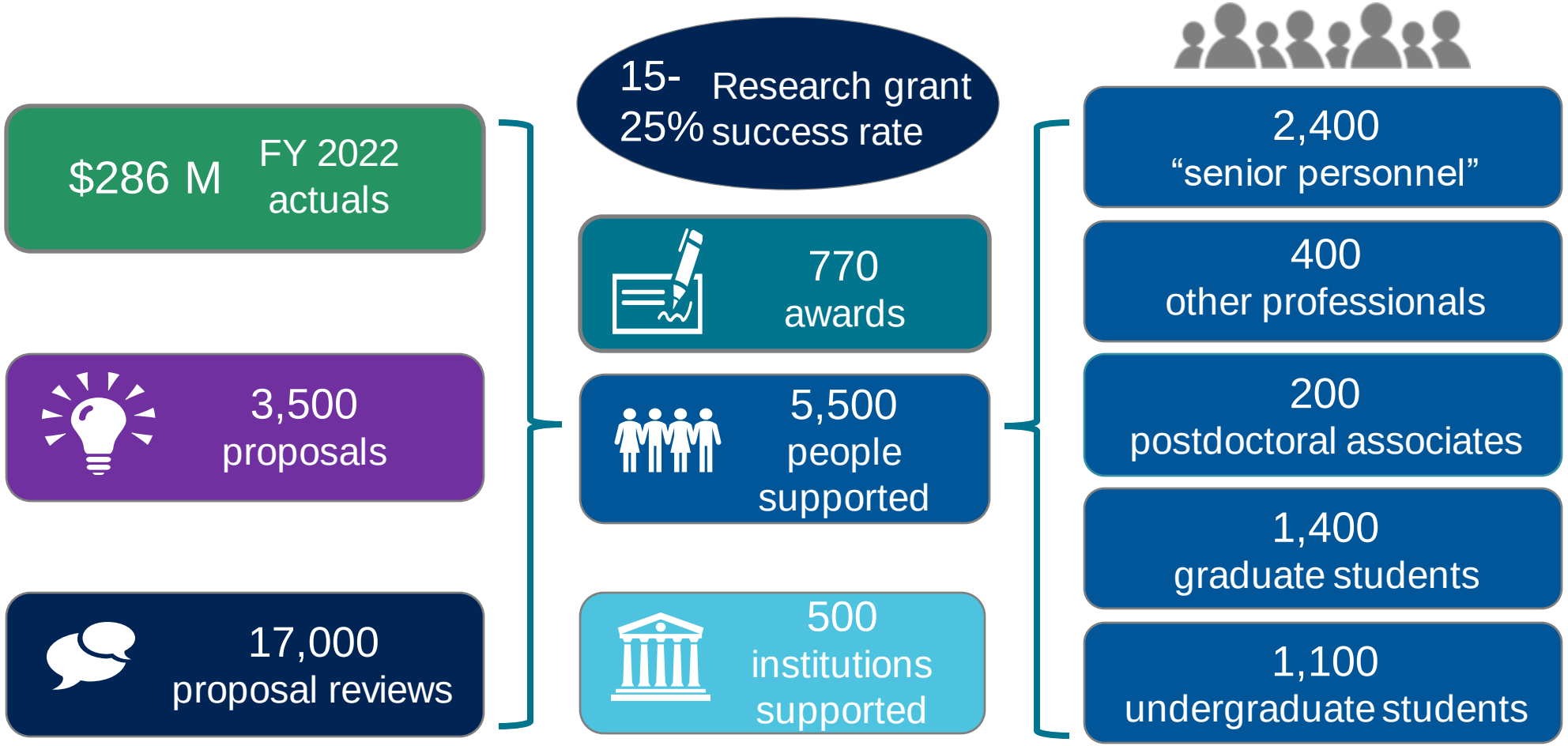
Emilda Rivers
Division Director

Christina Freyman
Deputy Division Director

SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities

Program Directors & Admin Staff

SBE by the Numbers: FY 2022



63% of federal funding for academic research in social and behavioral sciences

SBE Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)

BCS supports investigation within the psychological, linguistic, geographic, and anthropological sciences.

BCS Programs

Cognitive Neuroscience
Developmental Sciences
Linguistics and Dynamic Language Infrastructure*
Perception, Action and Cognition
Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence
Social Psychology

Human Environment and Geographical Sciences*
Human Networks and Data Science

Archaeology*
Biological Anthropology*
Cultural Anthropology*

* Programs that support Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) grants

Human Networks and Data Science (NSF 23-568)

Leveraging data and network science, including geospatial data and infrastructure

- Two tracks – both with budgetary maximums of $1.2 million

  - HNDS-Infrastructure – development of data resources, software, and analytic methods
  - HNDS-Research – advance theory/modeling in a core SBE discipline by the application of data and network science methods.

    - "The HNDS-R program will co-review and co-fund projects with other SBE programs."

https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/human-networks-and-data-science-hnds

SBE Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES)

SES invests in studies of how societies, organizations and economies function, including how decisions are made, how institutions function and how scientific and technological progress are pursued.

SES Programs

Accountable Institutions and Behavior
Decision, Risk and Management Sciences*
Economics*
Law and Science
Methodology, Measurement and Statistics*
Security and Preparedness
Science of Organizations
Science and Technology Studies*
Science of Science
Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace
Sociology

* Programs that support Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement (DDRI) grants

Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (NSF 24-504)

Fragility and vulnerabilities of cyberspace

- Achieving a truly secure cyberspace requires addressing both challenging scientific and engineering problems involving many components of a system, and vulnerabilities that stem from human behaviors and choices.

- Social and behavioral sciences (SBE), communication and information sciences (CISE); engineering (ENG); education (EDU); mathematics and physical sciences (MPS).

https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/secure-trustworthy-cyberspace-satc

SBE - Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA)

SMA promotes undergraduate and postdoctoral training in the social, behavioral and economic sciences, including capacity-building at minority-serving institutions and the ethical conduct of scientific research.

SMA Programs

Build and Broaden
Centers for Research and Innovation in Science, the Environment and Society (CRISES)
Ethical and Responsible Research
SBE Research Experiences for Undergraduates Sites
SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships
Science of Broadening Participation

Build and Broaden

- The Build and Broaden (NSF 22-638) supports fundamental research in the SBE sciences by scholars at minority-serving institutions (MSIs).
- Proposals are invited from:
  - Single principal investigators (PIs) based at MSIs
  - Multiple co-investigators from one or more MSIs
  - Principal Investigators not affiliated with MSIs, but who collaborate with PIs, co-PIs, or senior personnel from MSIs. A primary goal of the proposed work *must* be how the project will enhance research partnerships or capacity-building with at least one MSI.

https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/build-broaden-enhancing-social-behavioral-economic

SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

- The program (NSF 23-500) supports supervised postdoctoral opportunities for recent doctoral graduates – must have a host-sponsor but the funds are for the postdoctoral fellow

- The program has two tracks:

  (I) Fundamental Research in the SBE Sciences (SPRF-FR) and

  (II) Broadening Participation in the SBE Sciences (SPRF-BP)

https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/sbe-postdoctoral-research-fellowships-sprf

SBE - National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

NCSES collects and reports data on the science and engineering workforce, U.S. competitiveness in science and technology and the progress of education in these fields.

One of 13 principal federal statistical agencies

Overseen by the U.S. Chief Statistician within the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

SBE – NCSES Surveys

FFRDC Research and Development Survey
Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development
Survey of Federal Science and Engineering Support to Universities, Colleges, and Nonprofits
Survey of State Government Research and Development
Higher Education Research and Development Survey
Survey of Science and Engineering Research Facilities
Annual Business Survey
Business Enterprise Research and Development Survey
Nonprofit Research Activities Survey
Early Career Doctorates Survey
National Survey of College Graduates
National Training, Education, and Workforce Survey
Survey of Doctorate Recipients
Survey of Postdocs at Federally Funded Research and Development Centers
Survey of Earned Doctorates
Survey of Graduate Students and Post-doctorates in Science and Engineering

SBE – Cross-Directorate Programs

- Centers for Research and Innovation in Science, the Environment and Society (CRISES)
- Strengthening American Infrastructure (SAI)
- Incorporating Human Behavior in Epidemiological Models
- Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems (NCS)
- Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems (DISES)
- Accelerating Research Translation (ART)

Centers for Research and Innovation in Science, Environment, and Society (CRISES)

The CRISES Program seeks to:

- Build research capacity and infrastructure to address complex and compounding national and global crises whose solutions require a human-centered approach.

- Support interdisciplinary research to develop evidence-based solutions that address fundamental quality-of-life issues, such as those involving the environment, extreme weather and sustainability; workforce and the economy; equity and access to opportunities; and well-being.

https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/centers-research-innovation-science-environment

Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Economic Systems (DISES)

Studies the processes and interactions between human and environmental components of a system (NSF 23-609)

- Replaces the Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems program
- Budget maximum: $1.6 million
- Commonly funded projects are composed of interdisciplinary teams that focus on complex interactions
- Also funds Research Coordination Networks (RCN)

https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/dynamics-integrated-socio-environmental-systems-dises

SBE – Cross-Agency Programs

- Collaborative Research in Computational Neuroscience (NSF 20-609). NSF-NIH-DOE
  - Opportunities for ***parallel international funding*** (Germany, France, Israel, Japan, Spain, and multilateral). http://nsf.gov/crcns
  - Many approaches and goals; related to biological processes; disease and normal function; theory, modeling, and analysis; implications for biological and engineered systems (SBE; CISE; BIO; MPS; ENG)
  - Research proposals and Data Sharing

- Smart Health and Biomedical Research in the Era of Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Data Science (NSF 21-530). NSF-NIH.
  - supports the development of high-risk, high-reward approaches to pressing questions in the biomedical and public health communities (SBE; CISE;ENG; MPS)

Kinds of Awards, aka “Mechanisms”

- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (DDRIGs)
- EAGER (EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research)
- RAPID
- Conference awards
- Research Coordination Networks (RCN)
- CAREER (Faculty Early Career Development Program)
- Mid-Career Advancement (MCA)
- Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions

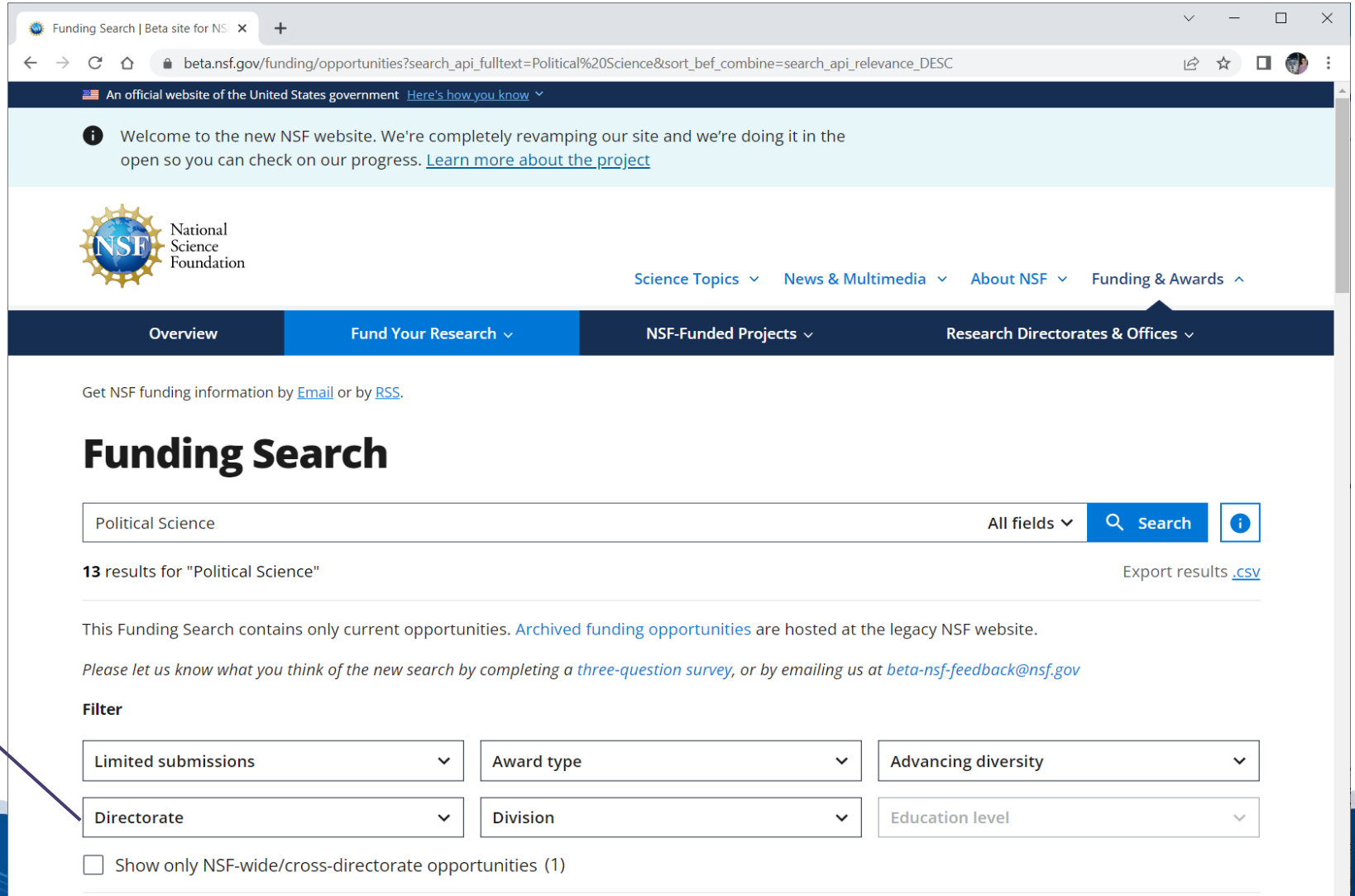
Other Useful Terms:

- Dear Colleague Letter
- Deadline vs. Target date vs. Target window
- Program Solicitation/Program Announcement
- Program Description (webpage)

How to Find Programs

- **NSF Funding Search** to look for programs and their past awards. https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities
- **NSF Award Search** (Simple and Advanced) to see what program funded a particular researcher and/or to search award titles and abstracts by keywords. https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/
- **Subscribe to NSF Announcements and Newsletters** to get information on programs and their outreach efforts like webinars. https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNSF/subscriber/new?qsp=823

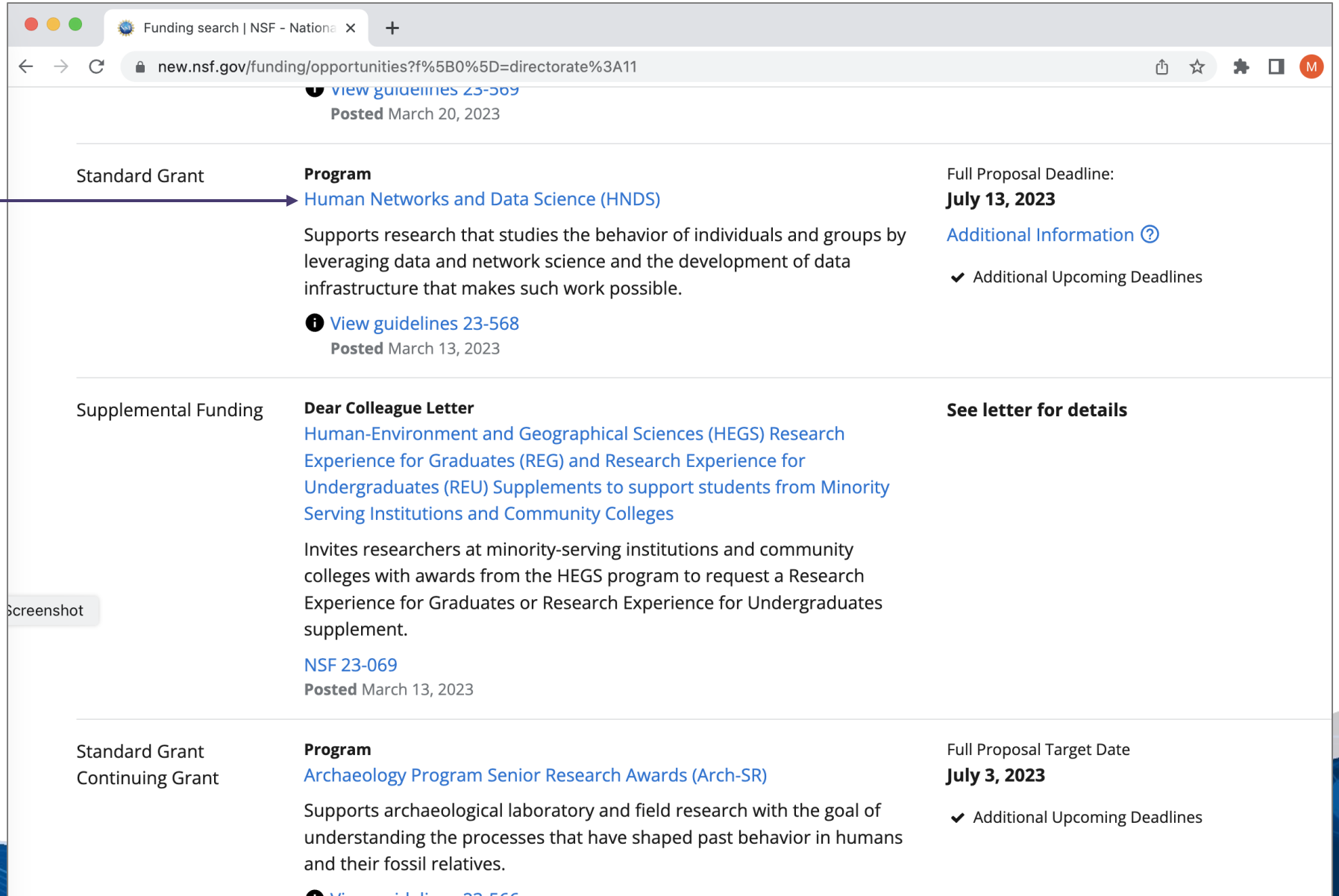
Using NSF's Funding Search Tool : beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities



Filter for SBE

The Results Include:

Click Here!

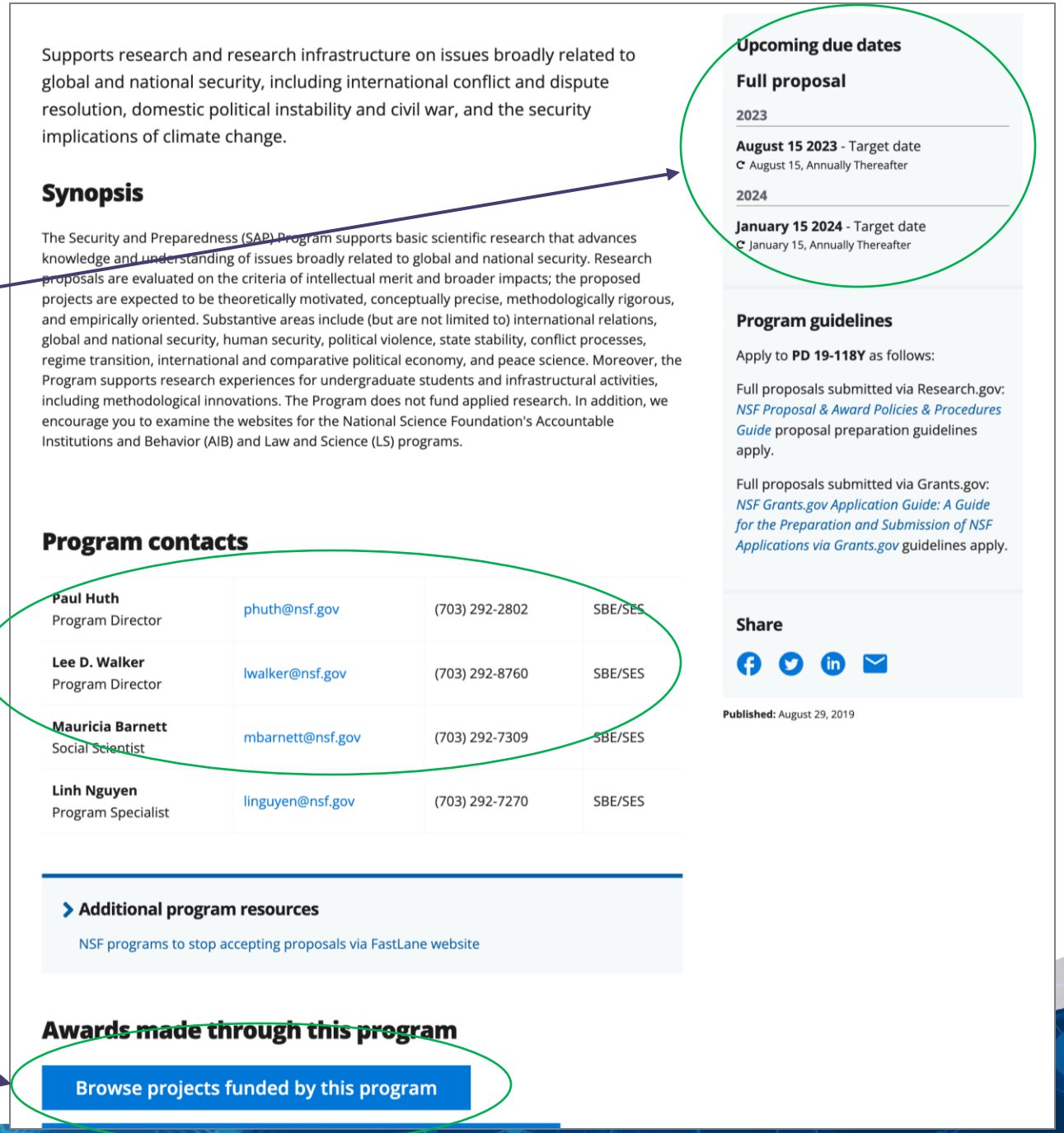


Using the Program Page

When is the proposal due?

Who are the program directors?

Click Here!



Supports research and research infrastructure on issues broadly related to global and national security, including international conflict and dispute resolution, domestic political instability and civil war, and the security implications of climate change.

Synopsis

The Security and Preparedness (SAP) Program supports basic scientific research that advances knowledge and understanding of issues broadly related to global and national security. Research proposals are evaluated on the criteria of intellectual merit and broader impacts; the proposed projects are expected to be theoretically motivated, conceptually precise, methodologically rigorous, and empirically oriented. Substantive areas include (but are not limited to) international relations, global and national security, human security, political violence, state stability, conflict processes, regime transition, international and comparative political economy, and peace science. Moreover, the Program supports research experiences for undergraduate students and infrastructural activities, including methodological innovations. The Program does not fund applied research. In addition, we encourage you to examine the websites for the National Science Foundation's Accountable Institutions and Behavior (AIB) and Law and Science (LS) programs.

Program contacts

Paul Huth Program Director	phuth@nsf.gov	(703) 292-2802	SBE/SES
Lee D. Walker Program Director	lwalker@nsf.gov	(703) 292-8760	SBE/SES
Mauricia Barnett Social Scientist	mbarnett@nsf.gov	(703) 292-7309	SBE/SES
Linh Nguyen Program Specialist	linguyen@nsf.gov	(703) 292-7270	SBE/SES

Additional program resources

NSF programs to stop accepting proposals via FastLane website

Awards made through this program

Browse projects funded by this program

Upcoming due dates

Full proposal

2023

August 15 2023 - Target date
August 15, Annually Thereafter

2024

January 15 2024 - Target date
January 15, Annually Thereafter

Program guidelines

Apply to **PD 19-118Y** as follows:

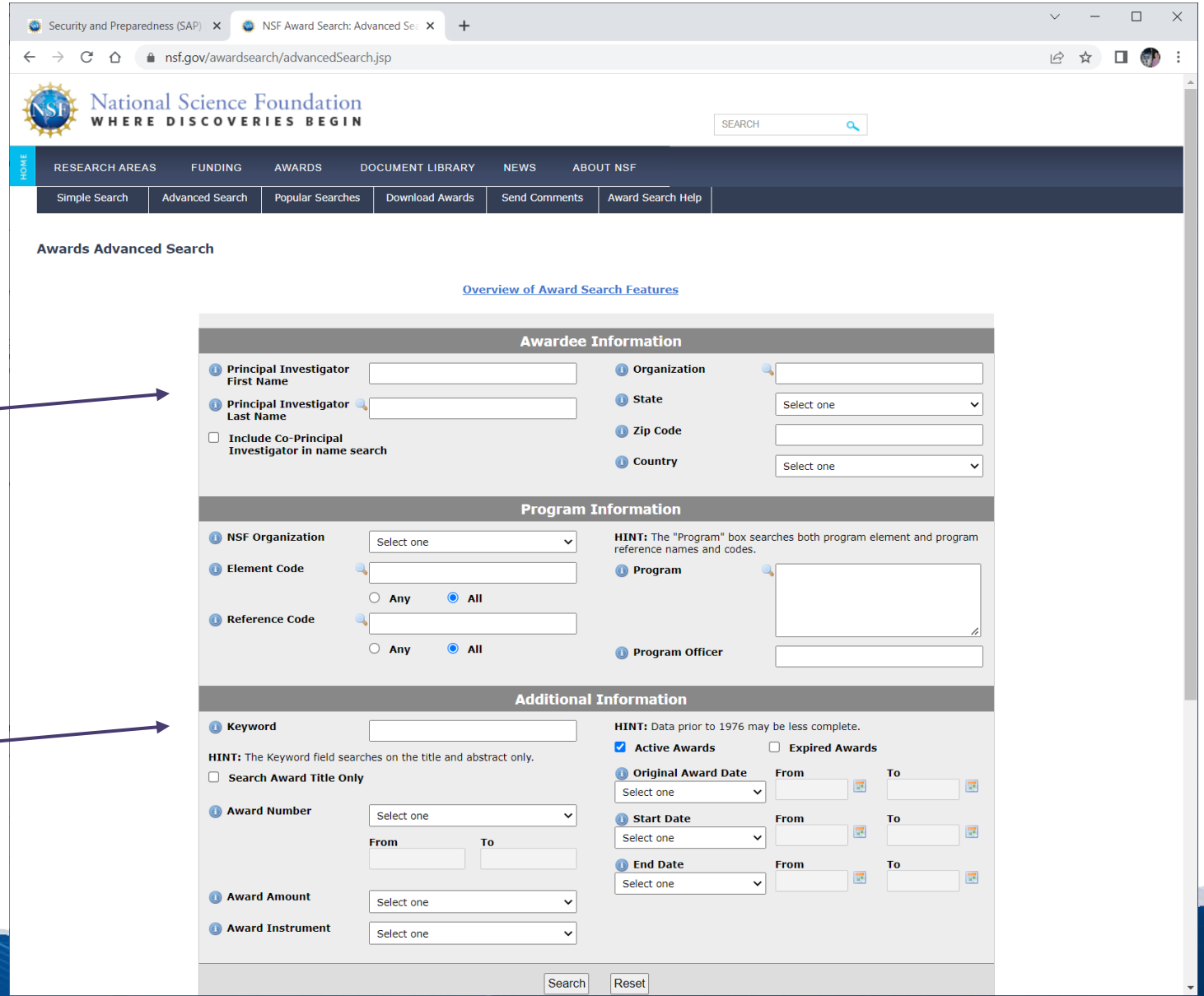
Full proposals submitted via Research.gov: *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* proposal preparation guidelines apply.

Full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov* guidelines apply.

Share

Published: August 29, 2019

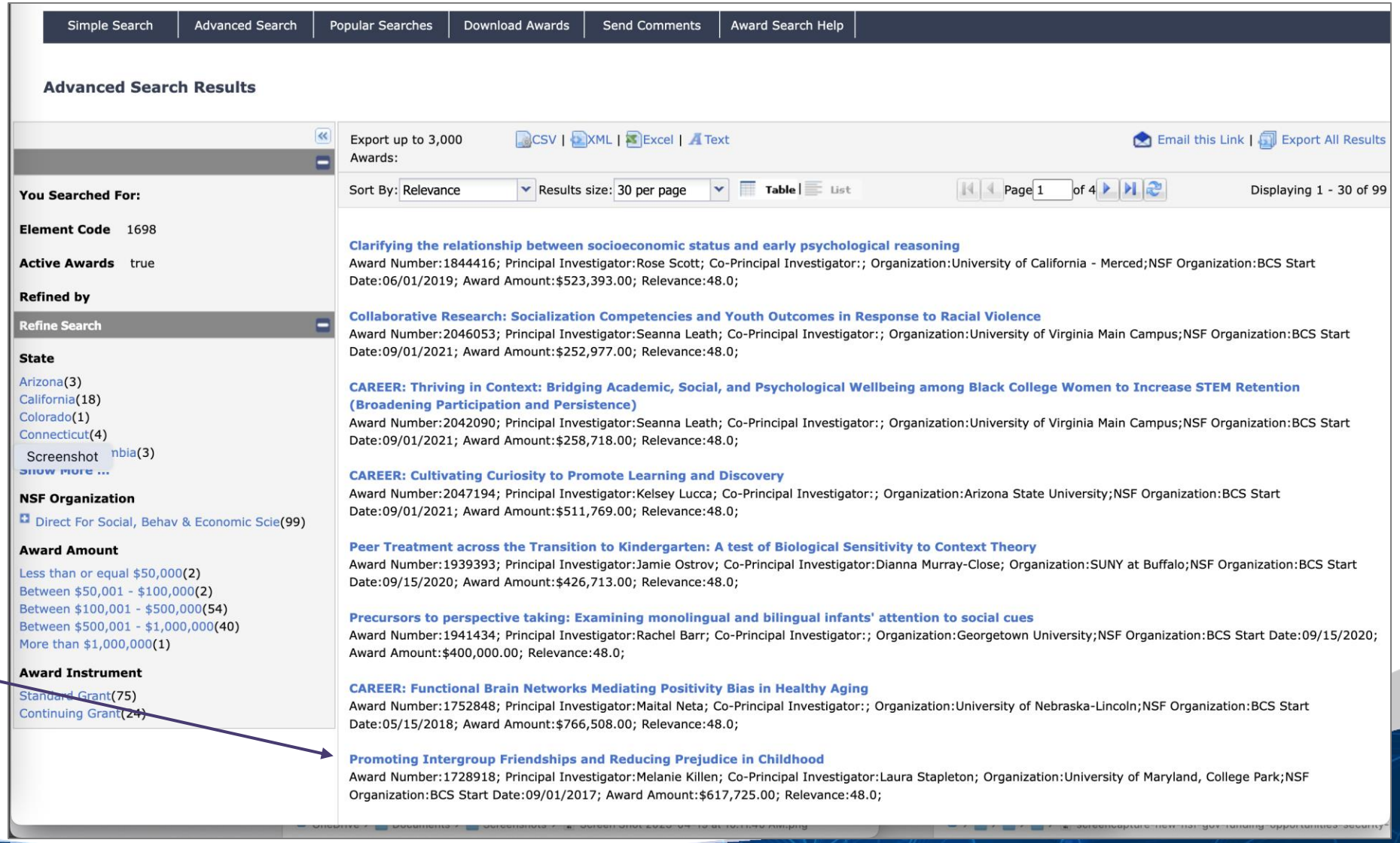
Advanced Award Search



Award Search Results

What has been funded through a particular program?

Click on a title to get the abstract



Abstract

Award Abstract # 1844416
Clarifying the relationship between socioeconomic status and early psychological reasoning

NSF Org:	BCS Division Of Behavioral and Cognitive Sci
Recipient:	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED FOUNDATION
Initial Amendment Date:	February 5, 2019
Latest Amendment Date:	February 5, 2019
Award Number:	1844416
Award Instrument:	Standard Grant
Program Manager:	Pamela Davis-Kean pdaviske@nsf.gov (703)292-2243 BCS Division Of Behavioral and Cognitive Sci SBE Direct For Social, Behav & Economic Scie
Start Date:	June 1, 2019
End Date:	May 31, 2024 (Estimated)
Total Intended Award Amount:	$523,393.00
Total Awarded Amount to Date:	$523,393.00
Funds Obligated to Date:	FY 2019 = $523,393.00
History of Investigator:	Rose Scott (Principal Investigator) rscott@ucmerced.edu
Recipient Sponsored Research Office:	University of California - Merced 5200 N LAKE RD MERCED CA US 95343-5001 (209)201-2039
Sponsor Congressional District:	13
Primary Place of Performance:	University of California - Merced 5200 North Lake Road Merced CA US 95343-5001
Primary Place of Performance Congressional District:	13
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):	FFM7VPAG8P92
Parent UEI:	
NSF Program(s):	DS -Developmental Sciences
Primary Program Source:	040100 NSF RESEARCH & RELATED ACTIVIT

Note:

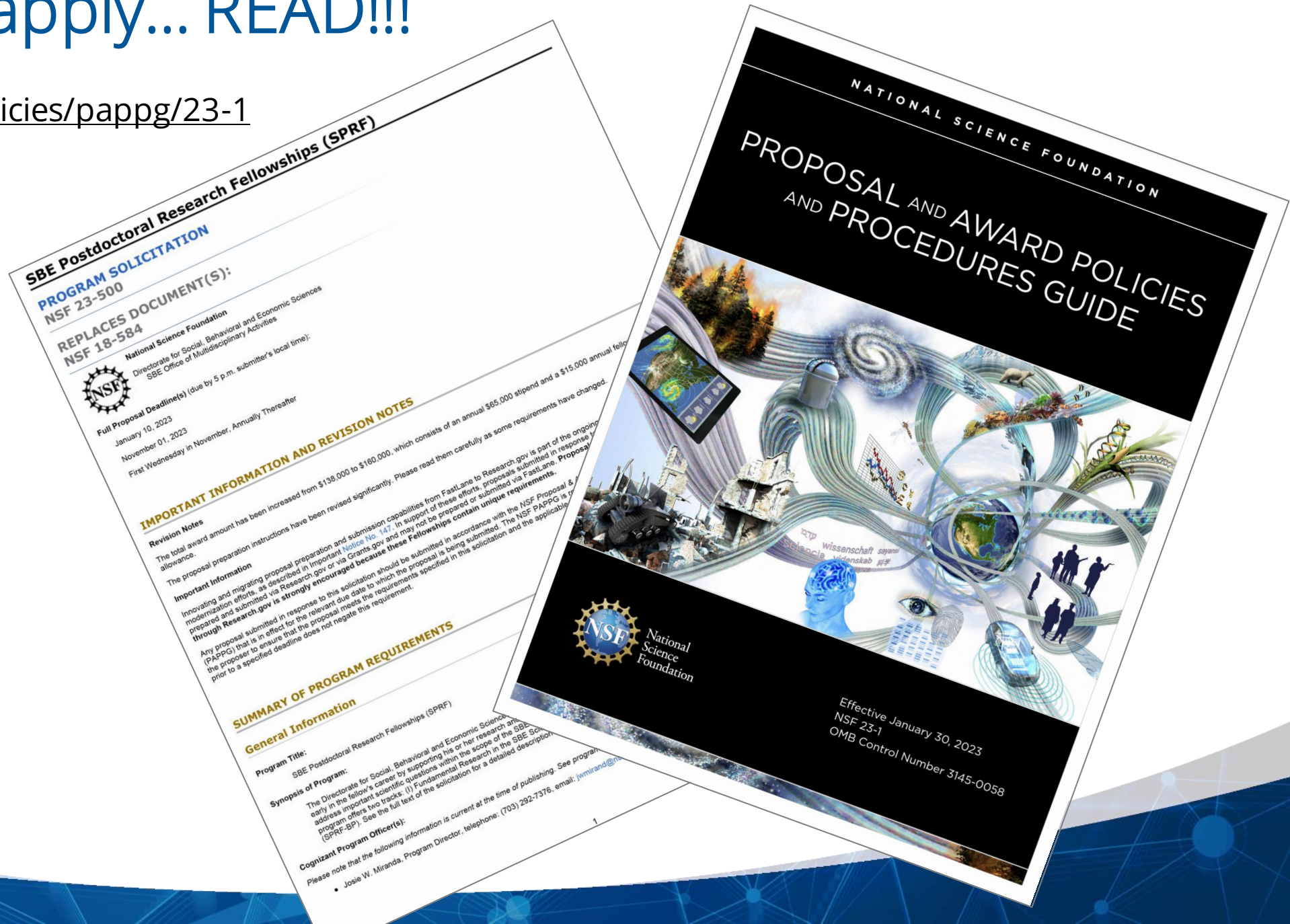
- Topic area
- Program Director
- Duration
- Awarded amount
- Co-funded?

Co-Review?

- Submit one proposal and *request* review by multiple programs (Note: some programs do not co-review)
- Choose programs on the Cover Page (Units of Interest in research.gov)
- Program Directors can identify candidates for co-review
- Possible outcomes:
  - Both programs fund
  - Neither program funds
  - One program funds
- Reviews from multiple perspectives lead to better science.

Before you apply… READ!!!

https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/23-1



Next Steps: Tips for Contact

After you have narrowed down to programs that match your area of research and you have read the program page (and solicitation, if applicable):

- Reach out to the Program Director by EMAILING a 1- or 2-page summary of your planned research project (IM and BI). Get feedback about project fit with program goals and ask any specific questions you have.
- Email ALL relevant programs and program directors in a SINGLE email. This is common for correspondence with NSF programs.
- Follow up if you haven't heard back in a week or two.
- Programs may offer Zoom appointments, office hours, or webinars as well.

Common Pitfalls in Proposals

Overlook key aspects of the program announcement and requirements.
Rely on advice from people who work only with other Directorates or from historical knowledge
Lack specificity about methods and/or data analysis plan.
Unclear how hypotheses and potential results relate to relevant theory.
Disconnect between framing/motivation and proposed activity.
Failure to consider alternative results/hypotheses
Failure to establish feasibility.
Not tailoring your proposal to the appropriate audience (disciplinary vs. multidisciplinary panel).
Broader Impacts? Why should the taxpayer care?

NSF Merit Review Criteria

NSF 21-059

Dear Colleague Letter: A Broader Impacts Framework for Proposals Submitted to NSF's Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences Directorate

March 18, 2021

Dear Colleagues:

The National Science Foundation (NSF) supports fundamental research in the social, behavioral, and economic (SBE) sciences. This research empowers our Nation to address great challenges and seize transformative opportunities. Through scientific advances and subsequent applications of these advances, SBE-supported research strengthens security and preparedness, creates jobs, spurs innovation, and improves quality of life for people across the country and around the world.

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21059/nsf21059.jsp

Thank You! Questions?

- It may be helpful if you start by telling me who you are and what your role is:
  - Political science faculty member at xxxxx.
  - Ph.D. student in Business Information Systems at xxxx.
  - I work in the Economics Department at zzzz and I help the faculty with grants.
  - I'm in the sponsored research office at yyyy.
  - I'm an Associate Provost for Research.

- Email address for follow-up correspondence: nhallbye@nsf.gov

NSF