



NSF PROPOSAL & AWARD POLICY UPDATE



GRC Meeting – November 12, 2020

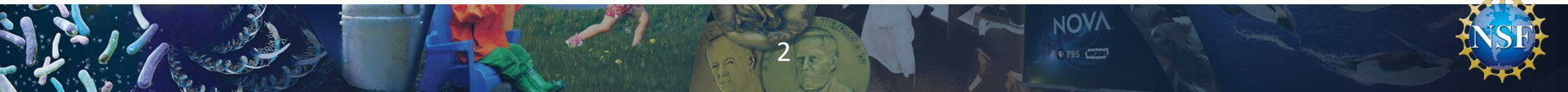
Speakers

Beth Strausser

- Senior Policy Specialist, Policy Office
- Division of Institution & Award Support
- Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
- policy@nsf.gov

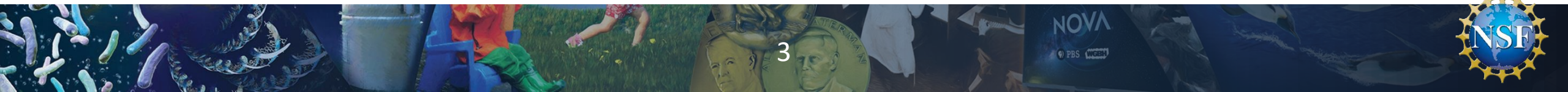
Paularie N. Knox

- Grants Policy Specialist, Policy Office
- Division of Institution & Award Support
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- policy@nsf.gov



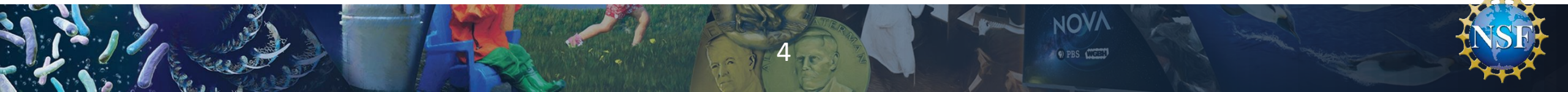
Topics

- Biographical Sketch & Current and Pending Support Implementation
- Improvements to SciENCv
- Term and Condition on Post-Award Disclosure
- COVID-19 Flexibilities Update
- Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Updates
- 2021 PAPPG Implementation Cycle
- NSF Implementation of Revised 2 CFR 200
- Research.gov Updates
- Virtual NSF Grants Conference



Biographical Sketch

- NSF uses the biographical sketch to assess the capability of the individual to carry out the research as proposed.
- NSF-approved format now required. Must use SciENCv or an NSF fillable PDF.
- Appointments section must include any titled academic, professional, or institutional position whether or not payment is received.
- Senior personnel must identify all current domestic or foreign “professional appointments” outside of the individual’s academic, professional, or institutional appointments at the proposing organization.
- Synergistic Activities must be specific and may not include multiple examples to describe a single activity.
- See PAPPG (NSF 20-1), Chapter II.C.2.f



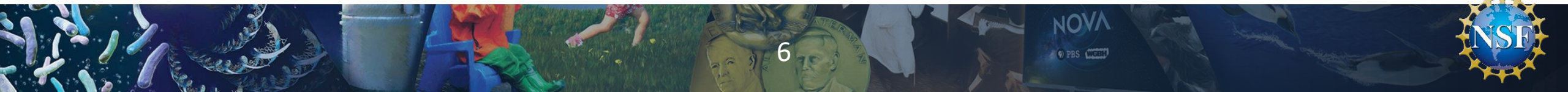
Current and Pending Support

- NSF uses the information to assess the capacity of the individual to carry out the research as proposed as well as to help assess any potential overlap/duplication.
- NSF-approved format now required. Must use SciENcv or an NSF fillable PDF.
- Information must be provided for all current and pending support irrespective of whether such support is provided through the proposing organization or directly to the individual.
- Situations where no salary is being requested and no effort will be expended are not required to be reported in Current and Pending Support.
- See PAPPG, Chapter II.C.2.h



Current and Pending Support

- Information contained in current and pending support is separate and distinct from the information provided in the budget.
- In-kind contributions that are intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF must be included as part of the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal.
- In-kind contributions that are not intended for use on the project and have no associated time commitment should not be reported in current and pending support.



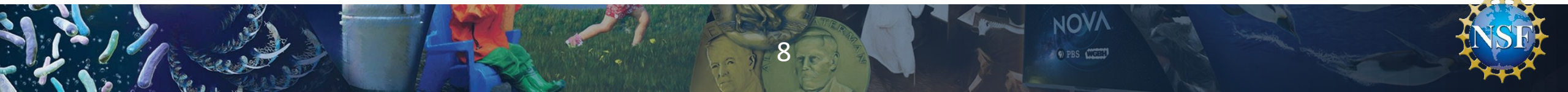
Current and Pending Support

- Mentoring activities that take place as part of an individual's regular appointment at the proposing organization need not be reported.
- Consulting or professional service arrangements as defined in 2 CFR 200.459 are not identified as an example of a source of support in PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.h. that must be reported, as the type of work conducted is not typically considered to be at the same level of a proposal/project or in-kind contribution.



Biographical Sketch & Current and Pending Support – Frequently Asked Questions

- Recent FAQs have focused on the following:
 - The difference between what is included on the budget and how to report effort on current and pending support;
 - How to report in-kind contributions without an associated time commitment;
 - The use of “et al.” in the biographical sketch;
 - Whether outside consulting activities must be reported in current and pending support; and
 - Whether it’s allowable to delete blank pages from the current and pending support fillable format.
- FAQs available at: <https://nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/>
- Questions may be submitted to policy@nsf.gov



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NSF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Trawick, Bart

ORCID: 0000-0002-3635-3508

POSITION TITLE & INSTITUTION: Staff Scientist, National Institutes of Health

(a) PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	MAJOR / AREA OF STUDY	DEGREE (if applicable)	YEAR YYYY
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Houston, TX	Immunology	Ph.D.	2000
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston	Houston, TX	Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	M.S.	1996
Texas A&M University	College Station, TX	Chemistry	BA	1992

(b) APPOINTMENTS

2000 - Staff Scientist, National Institutes of Health, National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, MD

(c) PRODUCTS

Products Most Closely Related to the Proposed Project

1. Database resources of the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Nucleic Acids Research. 2012 November 26; 41(D1):D8-D20.
2. Stepkowski SM, Kirken RA, Trawick BW, Wang M, Tejpal N, Wang ME, Tian L, Clark J, Kahan BD. Allochimeric class I MHC protein-induced tolerance by partial TCR engagement requires activation of both CTL4- and common gamma-chain-dependent cytokine signals. Transplantation. 2002 Apr 27;73(8):1227-35. PubMed PMID: [11981413](#).
3. Perez J, Stepkowski SM, Song P, Trawick B, Wang ME, Janczewska S, Kahan BD. Selection of lowly immunogenic and highly tolerogenic donor and recipient allochimeric class I major histocompatibility complex proteins. Transplantation. 2003 Oct 27;76(8):1201-7. PubMed PMID: [14578754](#).

Other Significant Products, Whether or Not Related to the Proposed Project

1. Database resources of the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Nucleic Acids Res. 2015 Jan;43(Database issue):D6-17. PubMed PMID: [25398906](#); PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC4383943](#).
2. Kmetiuk LB, Krawczak FS, Machado FP, Paploski IAD, Martins TF, Teider-Junior PI, Serpa MCA, Barbieri ARM, Bach RVW, Barros-Filho IR, Lipinski LC, P Dos Santos A, Labruna MB, Biondo AW. Ticks and serosurvey of anti-Rickettsia spp. antibodies in wild boars (Sus scrofa), hunting dogs and hunters of Brazil. PLoS Negl Trop Dis. 2019 May;13(5):e0007405. PubMed PMID: [31145746](#); PubMed Central PMCID: [PMC6542515](#).

(d) SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

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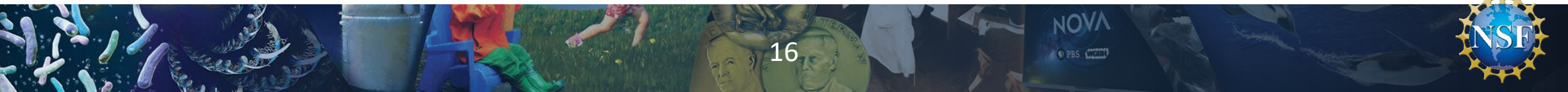
Science & Security: Post-Award Disclosure of Project Support Information

- The AOR must submit the following information:
 - PI/co-PI Name
 - Project Title
 - Award Number (if available)
 - Source of Support
 - Primary Place of Performance
 - Project Start and End Date
 - Total Award Amount (including Indirect Costs)
 - Brief Description of the Major Goals of the Project
 - Description of any Overlap/Duplication of the project with the NSF award
 - Impact on the ability of the PI/co-PI to carry out the NSF award
 - Person-Month(s) (or Partial Person-Months) Per Year Committed to the Project



Science & Security: Post-Award Disclosure of In-Kind Contribution Information

- The AOR must submit the following information:
 - PI/co-PI Name
 - Source of Support
 - Primary Place of Performance
 - Summary of In-Kind Contributions
 - Description of any Overlap/Duplication of the project with the NSF award
 - Impact on the ability of the PI/co-PI to carry out the NSF award
 - Person-Month(s) (or Partial Person-Months) Per Year Committed to the Project



Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR) Updates

- The RPPR is a uniform format for reporting progress on Federally-funded research.
- NSF awardees use the RPPR for the preparation and submission of annual and final project reports in Research.gov.
- On October 5th, NSF implemented the revised RPPR format from the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), which aims to reduce administrative burden for researchers.



RPPR: New Requirements in Annual and Final Project Reports

- PIs and co-PIs must notify NSF when active other support has changed since the award was made, or since the most recent annual report.
 - An NSF-approved format for Current and Pending Support must be used to notify NSF in annual and final reports.
- Additional new questions from the approved RPPR. Awardees must:
 - Indicate the percentage of the award's budget that was spent in a foreign country;
 - Indicate if there's been a change in primary performance site location from that originally proposed; and
 - Provide details about the impact on teaching and educational experiences.
- All RPPR instructions have been harmonized with the Federal-wide standards approved by the NSTC.
- NSF-specific instructions have been clarified and fine-tuned throughout.
- Where possible, data entry fields have been consolidated to reduce burden.



Adding Current and Pending Support to a Project Report

1. Has there been a change to the active other support since the last reporting period?
2. If you select, “Yes” you will be required to upload your most up-to-date Current and Pending Support document.
3. The Current and Pending Support document must be submitted in an NSF-approved format.

Edit Participant ⓘ
< Back to Participants

* Required fields

* First Name:
Middle Name:
* Last Name:
* E-mail Address:
* Most Senior Project Role:
* Nearest Person Month Worked: A person month equals approximately 160 hours of effort, regardless of funding source.
* Contribution to the Project:
* Funding Support: ⓘ

* Has there been a change in the active other support of the PI/PD(s) since the last reporting period? Yes No
*If you select Yes, you are required to upload your most updated Current and Pending Support document which includes other support since the last reporting period.
Please note: Current & Pending Support document must be submitted in an NSF-Approved Format. Failure to submit this document in an NSF-Approved Format will prevent your project report from being approved. Please see NSF Approved Format to complete the form.*

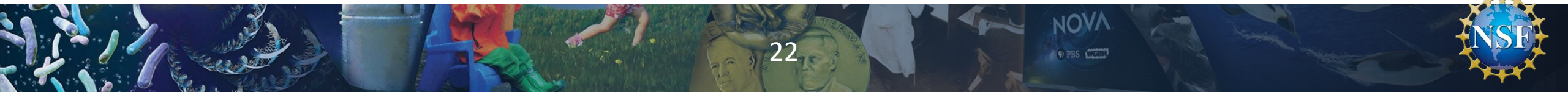
Browse for file to upload ⓘ NSF Specific

* Identify whether this person is collaborating internationally on this project: Yes No
Country(ies) of foreign collaborator: ⓘ Required if yes
AFGHANISTAN
ALAND ISLANDS
ALBANIA
ALGERIA

* Traveled internationally for this award: Yes No

2021 Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Implementation Schedule

- NSF typically announces a new PAPPG in the fall with implementation in the new year
- For 2021, the PAPPG will be released on a new schedule
 - Fall/Winter 2020 – Public Comment in the Federal Register
 - Spring 2021 release date
 - October 2021 effective date



NSF Implementation of Revised 2 CFR 200

- Revised Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements effective November 12, 2020
- NSF has already implemented two terms and conditions that OMB made effective August 13, 2020
 - §200.216 *Prohibition on Certain Telecommunications and Video Surveillance Services or Equipment*
 - §200.340 *Termination*
- NSF Implementation Plan
 - Revised *Research Terms and Conditions (RTCs)* and *NSF Agency Specific Requirements*
 - Suite of NSF terms and conditions updated

Research.gov – Important Notice No. 147

- NSF is taking proactive steps to incrementally move the preparation and submission of all proposals to Research.gov by 2022
- Some funding opportunities will require the use of Research.gov

Important Notice No. 147

Research.gov Implementation Update

Important Notice to Presidents of Universities and Colleges and Heads of Other National Science Foundation Grantee Organizations

September 22, 2020

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has been at the forefront in the development of Federal agency electronic systems designed to prepare and submit proposals for Federal financial assistance. From the introduction of FastLane in 1994, to the incremental development of Research.gov as its eventual replacement, NSF has led the way with modern, agile systems tailored to meet the needs of the research community.

While NSF's FastLane system has been a resounding success story, it is now an aging, antiquated system that has become increasingly expensive to maintain and even harder to improve. Over the past few years, NSF has partnered with and received valuable input from the research community, resulting in the development of a modern, flexible Research.gov system that reduces administrative burden to meet the current and future needs of researchers, administrators and organizations. As a result, NSF has successfully migrated important research functions from FastLane to Research.gov including the preparation and submission of annual and final project and outcomes reports, most notifications and requests and award payments. NSF is now taking proactive steps to incrementally move the preparation and submission of all proposals from FastLane to Research.gov with a tentative target date for completion by 2022.

In support of this effort, in the coming weeks and months, NSF will begin making changes to specific funding opportunities to require the use of Research.gov for the preparation and submission of proposals to NSF.¹ The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) will soon require the use of Research.gov for the preparation and submission of proposals in response to its core programs that do not have deadline dates. NSF funding opportunities will clearly specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required.

To ensure that researchers and administrators are prepared for these changes, NSF is developing additional training materials to meet the needs of the community. This includes video tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions, step-by-step guides and a demonstration site. Current training materials are available on the [About Research.gov site](#).

NSF encourages the community to become familiar with Research.gov and to begin using it for the preparation and submission of proposals, as well as to provide NSF with valuable feedback. For additional information, FAQs, opportunities for training and to provide feedback, please visit [Research.gov](#).

Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director

¹During this time, NSF will continue to permit proposals to be prepared and submitted via Grants.gov.

Research.gov – Directorate for Biological Sciences

- Core BIO program solicitations without deadline dates will require submission via Research.gov
- Visit the BIO website for specific details and to register for virtual office hours

NSF 20-129

Dear Colleague Letter: Implementation of Full Proposal Submission through Research.gov for "No Deadline" Program Solicitations in the Directorate for Biological Sciences

September 29, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) is notifying members of the research communities of an important change to the program solicitations noted below, effective in calendar year 2020.

Innovating and migrating proposal preparation and submission capabilities from FastLane to [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) is part of the ongoing NSF IT modernization effort and is intended to provide the next generation of grants management capabilities for the research community, as described in [Important Notice No. 147](#). The Research.gov Proposal Submission System improves the user experience while also reducing administrative burden through an intuitive interface and is built on flexible system architecture with the ability to meet both users' changing needs and emerging government requirements.

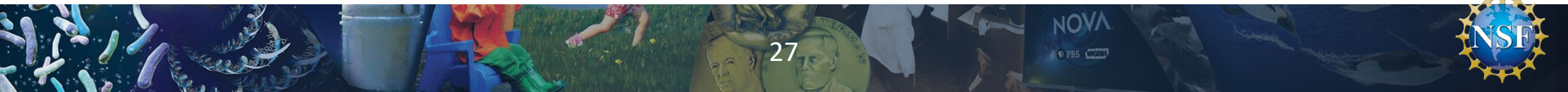
In accordance with the modernization effort, BIO will implement a requirement for submission of full proposals via Research.gov or Grants.gov for the program solicitations listed below in the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB), the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS), the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB), and in the Research Resources Cluster of the Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI). These represent the set of BIO solicitations that accept proposal submission at any time (i.e., have no deadlines). This is the first phase in an eventual shift to require all proposals be submitted via Research.gov or Grants.gov.

By using a phased approach and starting with the no-deadlines solicitations, BIO hopes to provide researchers with sufficient time to adjust to submissions through Research.gov and the sunsetting of FastLane. We do not anticipate that the change to Research.gov will have significant impacts on the submission process, and this migration will not affect the merit review process in any way. Additional technical support is available for those who are new to Research.gov and to those who encounter any issues with proposal preparation and submission.

Revised solicitations for the below impacted programs will be published in the coming weeks. After a 90-day grace period, during which submissions will still be allowed through FastLane, the new solicitations will no longer be available in FastLane, and any new proposals must be submitted through [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

Research.gov – Font Warnings Changes Effective November 23

- The compliance checks and associated compliance warnings for font type and font size will be removed in Research.gov to align with FastLane
- PAPPG (NSF 20-1) [Chapter II.B.2.a.](#) proposal font requirements must be followed
- Proposals may be Returned Without Review if the font type or font size are not compliant with the PAPPG
- NSF is making these changes per feedback from the research community



Research.gov Demo Site

Proposal Preparation Demo Site

- Demo site is now available for use by the research community
- All users will be able to perform the proposal **preparation** functions that can be executed by a Principal Investigator (PI) in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System. Proposal submission capability will be disabled
- All users must sign in to Research.gov to access the demo site, and each user will have the role of PI for demo site purposes. No other user roles (e.g., Sponsored Projects Officer or Authorized Organizational Representative) are available at this time

Research.gov Demo Site Screenshot: Proposal Preparation Homepage

The screenshot displays the Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the text "Proposal Preparation Demo Site" highlighted in a red box. Below this, the Research.gov logo and "ONLINE GRANTS MANAGEMENT FOR THE NSF COMMUNITY" are visible. A large "DEMO" watermark is overlaid on the page. In the top right corner, a "Demo user:" box shows the user is logged in as "Nan Alphaman, Principal Investigator (PI)". Below the header, the main content area is titled "Proposal Preparation" and asks "What would you like to work on?". There are three main sections: "Prepare New Proposal", "In Progress Proposals", and "Submitted Proposals". The "Submitted Proposals" section is marked with a large red X, indicating that submission capabilities are disabled. The "Prepare New Proposal" section includes a "Prepare Proposal" button and a link to "What information will need to be provided?". The "In Progress Proposals" section includes a "Work on an In Progress Proposal" button. The "Submitted Proposals" section includes a "View/Update" button and a link to "View, download, or perform a Proposal File Update/Budget Revision on proposals that have previously been submitted to NSF."



Research.gov Proposal Types

- Rapid Response Research (RAPID), EARly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER), and Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) proposal types will be available in Research.gov
- New associated [automated compliance checks](#) also will be added

Research.gov Proposal Screenshot: Proposal Type Options

Prepare New Proposal

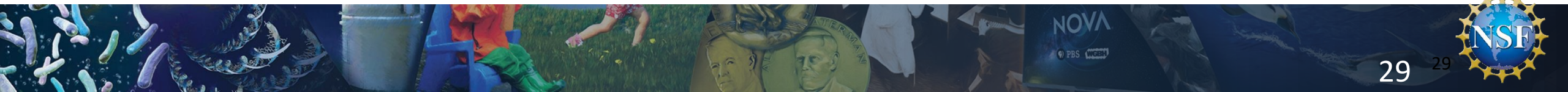
1. Funding Opportunity ✓ 2. Where to Apply ✓ 3. Proposal Type ✓ 4. Submission Type 5. Proposal Details

Select Proposal Type

What type of proposal will be used? ⓘ

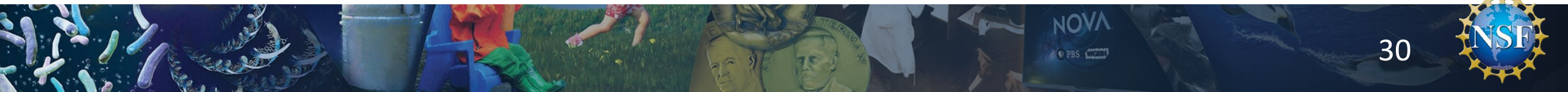
- Research **Available now**
- Rapid Response Research (RAPID) Proposals **Available November 23, 2020**
- Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) **Available November 23, 2020**
- Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Research and Engineering (RAISE) **Available November 23, 2020**
- Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)
- Ideas Lab
- Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED)
- Conferences **Future releases**
- Equipment **Future releases**
- Travel
- Center
- Research Infrastructure
- Fellowship

Note: All Proposal Types are listed in Research.gov but only those currently supported will be available for selection (i.e., unavailable selections are greyed out).



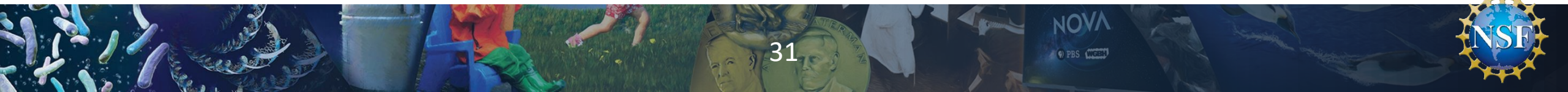
Research.gov Proposals: Capabilities Overview

Current Capabilities	Upcoming Capabilities	Future Capabilities
<p><u>Proposal Types</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Research: Single Submissions from One Organization (<i>April 2018</i>) ✓ Research: Single Submission Collaborative Proposals with Subawards (<i>June 2019</i>) ✓ Research: Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals from Multiple Organizations (<i>March 2020</i>) <p><u>Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site <p><i>Note: Since July 2020, Research.gov is able to support all Full Research proposals that conform to <u>standard</u> PAPPG requirements for formatting and document content.</i></p>	<p><u>Proposal Types</u></p> <p><i>Available November 23, 2020:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Response Research (RAPID) • EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) • Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) <p><u>Proposal Features</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Withdrawal of Single and Collaborative Submissions 	<p><u>Proposal Types</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference • Equipment • Travel • Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) • Ideas Lab • Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) • Center • Research Infrastructure • Fellowship • SBIR and STTR Phases I/II <p><u>Submission Types</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter of Intent (LOI) • Preliminary Proposal • Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal • Renewal Proposal • Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal



Research.gov information

- Listserv to receive updates on Research.gov and FastLane. Sign up by sending a blank email to: system_updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
- [Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals webpage](#)
- Redesigned [Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission webpage](#) with new and updated FAQs organized by topic and links to video tutorials (*new information is being added on an ongoing basis, so please check frequently....*)
- [Research.gov About Account Management webpage](#)
- [NSF Electronic Research Administration \(ERA\) Forum webpage](#)
- Listserv to receive updates on ERA Forum activities. Sign up by sending a blank email to: NSF-ERA-FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov



NSF Virtual Grants Conference

- No cost registration opened on October 29th
- Conference to be held during the weeks of November 16th and November 30th
- Sessions will be recorded and available on-demand

NSF POLICY OFFICE OUTREACH

HOME **UPCOMING EVENTS** RESOURCE CENTER NSF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES STAY INFORMED

Fall 2020 Virtual Grants Conference

This virtual conference is designed to give new faculty, researchers and administrators key insights into a wide range of current issues at NSF. NSF program officers will be providing up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and answering attendee questions.

Registration will be free of charge and opens on **Thursday, October 29 at 12 p.m. EST**. Each conference session will have its own Zoom registration page. Please sign up only for sessions that you are able to attend. For those who cannot attend the live conference, **all recorded conference sessions will be available on-demand** shortly after the event.

[SESSION DETAILS](#)

[GET NOTIFIED](#)

