

Research Development & Grant Writing Newsletter

Issue for October 15, 2023

Our Co-Publisher & Editors

Mike Cronan

[Mike Cronan](#), PE, has 23 years of experience developing and writing successful team proposals at Texas A&M University. He was named a Texas A&M University System Regents Fellow (2001-2010) for developing and writing A&M System-wide grants funded at over \$100 million by NSF and other funding agencies. He developed and directed two research development and grant writing offices, one for Texas A&M's VPR and the other for the Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (15 research divisions state-wide), including the Texas A&M College of Engineering.

Lucy Deckard

[Lucy Deckard](#) (BS/MS Materials) worked in research development and grant writing at Texas A&M University and across the A&M System for nine years. She directed A&M's New Faculty Research Initiative (2004-09), helping junior faculty System-wide jumpstart their research careers with federal agency funding. She served as associate director of two research development and grant writing offices. She founded [ARFS](#) in 2010.

Katherine E. Kelly

[Katherine E. Kelly](#), Ph.D., a retired English professor from Texas A&M University, is the author of several books and numerous articles supported by research grants and served as a contributing editor for an academic journal for five years. She provides ARFS clients editorial services on proposals, journal articles, and manuscripts and presents seminars on grant writing and funding in the humanities.

About Us

Research Development & Grant Writing News © has been published monthly since 2010 for faculty and research professionals by [Academic Research Funding Strategies, LLC](#)

Co-Publishers

[Mike Cronan](#) & [Lucy Deckard](#)

Humanities Editor

[Katherine E. Kelly](#)

Newsletter Design

Emily Creasy, head of [ELC Design](#), is our [graphics partner](#). In addition to redesigning our newsletter, she provides graphics services on proposals, presentations, books and papers. [Subscribe Online](#)

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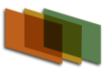


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[Rosa Belle Jordan's Moon](#), a novel by Mike Cronan, available on Amazon

[Mike Cronan Interview on Women and Justice Podcast](#)

By Dr. Shauntey James, PhD, JD, Professor, Pennsylvania State University - Harrisburg

Other Resources & Services

Lucy Deckard, BS/MS

For Webinars & Workshops

[Contact Here](#)

Katherine E. Kelly, PhD

Proposal Editing & Webinars in Humanities

[Contact Here](#)

ELC Designs

Graphics services for proposals, presentations, books and papers.

[Contact Here](#)

Have You Hired New Faculty?

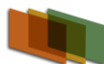
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Topics of Interest URLs

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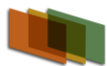
User Note: URL links are active on date of publication, but if a URL link breaks or changes a Google search on the key words or titles, as below, will typically take you to a working link.

FY2023 Federal Research Budget/Funding Agency & Miscellaneous

- [Women and Justice](#)
- [Embracing the Social in Social Science: Notes for a Technoscientific Future](#)
- [Long Range BAA for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology](#)
- [Defense Sciences Office \(DSO\) Office-wide BAA](#)

National Science Foundation & Related

- [Exploring Task-based Interactions between Human and Synthetic Actors](#)
- [Aligning Fundamental Research and Education in Advanced Manufacturing with the Objectives of the Manufacturing USA Institutes](#)
- [Cognitive Neuroscience \(CogNeuro\)](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Capacity Building to Catalyze Collaborations to Address Climate Change Impacts on Human Health \(C2H2\)](#)
- [Advice to the Community About Submitting Proposals to the GRANTED Program Description Funding Opportunity PD 23-221Y](#)
- [Organismal Response to Climate Change](#)
- [Inviting Proposals Related to Open-Source Software Security to the Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace Program](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology in Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Research](#)
- [Graduate Research Internships in Forensic Science and Criminal Justice Contexts \(NSF-NIJ INTERN\) Supplemental Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Dear Colleague Letter: Veterans Research Supplement \(VRS\) Program](#)
- [NSF Trailblazer Engineering Impact Award](#)
- [Mathematical and Physical Sciences Ascending Faculty Catalyst Awards](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) for Track 3 of the Major Research Instrumentation \(MRI\) Program Solicitation \(NSF 23-519\)](#)
- [Ideas Lab: Personalized Engineering Learning](#)
- [Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity](#)
- [Research on Innovative Technologies for Enhanced Learning](#)



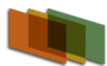
- [NSF-French National Research Agency \(ANR\) Quantum Information Science and Engineering Lead Agency Opportunity](#)
- [NSF ANR Chemistry Lead Agency Opportunity on Sustainable Chemistry: Catalysis with Earth-Abundant Elements](#)
- [Research Doctorate Conferrals Rebound, Leading to Record Number of U.S. Doctorate Recipients in 2022](#)
- [Research Infrastructure in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Program](#)

NIH Health Sciences & Related

- [Tips Before You Submit](#)
- [Prior Approval Requests for Revisions to an Approved Data Management and Sharing \(DMS\) Plan Must be Submitted Using the Prior Approval Module](#)
- [Notice of Availability: Draft Scientific Integrity Policy of the National Institutes of Health](#)
- [Rethinking Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Studies](#)
- [Eugenics: Its Origin and Development \(1883 - Present\)](#)
- [Population Descriptors](#)
- [Using Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Research: A New Framework for an Evolving Field | The National Academies Press](#)
- [Using Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Research \(PDF\)](#)
- [Using Population Descriptors in Genetics and Genomics Research \(Interactive\)](#)
- [Further Clarifying NIH's Foreign Subaward Agreement Policy: Community Feedback](#)
- [Addressing Rigor in Scientific Studies](#)
- [AHRQ Challenge on Designing the Optimal Future State of CDS Connect](#)
- [ARPA-H launches ARPANET-H: A nationwide health innovation network](#)
- [Reminders About When to Cite an NIH Grant in a Paper: Overcite Oversight](#)
- [Update on Improving NRSA Fellowship Review: Analysis of Comments from the RFI](#)
- [RFI for Development of Vaccine Candidates for Biodefense, Antimicrobial Resistant Infections, and Emerging Infectious Diseases](#)
- [RFI for National Heart Lung and Blood Institute \(NHLBI\) Strategic Vision Refresh](#)

USDA/NIFA & Related

- [Conservation Innovation Grants On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials for FY 2023](#)
- [Social Implications of Food and Agricultural Technologies](#)
- [Veterinary Shortage Situation Nominations Deadline](#)
- [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development](#)
- [NIFA Nutrition Security Webinar: Promoting Indigenous Food Sovereignty](#)



- [USDA Water & Waste Disposal Technical Assistance & Training Grants](#)
- [USDA Solid Waste Management Grants](#)

National Academies and Other Scientific Associations

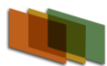
- [National Wastewater Surveillance System](#)
- [Accelerating Decarbonization in the United States: Technology, Policy, and Societal Dimensions: Report Release Webinar](#)
- [AAAS Science & Technology Fellowships](#)

Miscellaneous Federal Agency and Foundation News & Funding

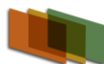
- [ARPA-H Biomedical Data Fabric Toolbox](#)
- [DOE Launches Critical Materials Collaborative to Harness Critical Materials Research Across America's Innovation Ecosystem](#)
- [Center for Enhancing Research Capacity \(CERC\) at Minority Serving Institutions \(MSIs\)](#)
- [Fiscal Year 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#)
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2023 Flood Mitigation Assistance](#)
- [Research for Understanding PFAS Uptake and Bioaccumulation in Plant and Animals in Agricultural, Rural, and Tribal Communities Request for Applications \(RFA\)](#)

Federal Agency Research Funding Links

- AFRL: <https://www.afrl.af.mil/AFOSR/>
- ARL: <https://www.arl.army.mil/>
- CDMRP: <https://cdmrp.army.mil/funding/prgdefault>
- DARPA: <https://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/opportunities>
- IARPA: <https://www.iarpa.gov/>
- ONR: <https://www.onr.navy.mil/en/work-with-us/funding-opportunities>
- DHS: <https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/find-and-apply-grants>
- DOJ: <https://www.justice.gov/grants>
- NASA: <https://nspires.nasaprs.com/external/>
- NEH: <https://www.neh.gov/>
- NEA: <https://www.arts.gov/>
- NIH: <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/index.htm>
- HHS: <http://www.hhs.gov/asrt/og/aboutog/grantsnet.html>
- NSF: <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/index.jsp>



- DOC: <https://www.commerce.gov/work-with-us/grants-and-contract-opportunities>
- NIST: <https://www.nist.gov/oaam/grants-management-division/nist-nofo-information>
- NOAA: <https://www.noaa.gov/organization/acquisition-grants>
- DoED: <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html?src=go>
- DOE/OS: <https://www.energy.gov/science/office-science-funding/office-science-funding-opportunities>
- EERE: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/funding/eere-funding>
- DOE: <https://www.energy.gov/energy-economy/funding-financing>
- USDA: <https://www.nal.usda.gov/waic/funding>
- NIFA: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants>
- EPA: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/competition/open_awards.htm
- NCER: <http://epa.gov/ncer/listserv/>
- FBO/BETA SAM: <https://fbohome.sam.gov/>
- Federal Register: <https://www.federalregister.gov/>
- Grants.gov: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html>
- CFDA: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/c/catalog-of-federal-domestic-assistance-cfda.asp>
- [ARPA-E Funding Opportunity Announcements](#)



October 2023 Select List of Humanities, HSS, and Arts Opportunities & News

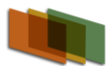
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by Katherine E. Kelly, PhD, Humanities Editor

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Check with organizations' websites for most current information

Due Date	Opportunity
10/25/2023 Luce/ACLS Dissertation Fellowships in American Art.	These awards support graduate students pursuing research on the history of art and visual culture of the United States, including all aspects of Native American art, and who are at any stage of PhD dissertation research or writing. ACLS believes that humanistic scholarship benefits from inclusivity of voices, perspectives, narratives, and subjects that have historically been underrepresented in academe. We encourage applications from PhD candidates from all degree-granting institutions in the United States. For more information on eligibility and award amounts, go to https://www.acls.org/competitions/luce-acls-dissertation-fellowships-in-american-art/
10/25/2023 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships.	This program will make awards to doctoral students who show promise of leading their fields in important new directions. The fellowships are designed to intervene at the formative stage of dissertation development, before writing is advanced, and provide time and support for emerging scholars' innovative approaches to dissertation research – practical, trans- or interdisciplinary, collaborative, critical, or methodological. The program seeks to expand the range of research methodologies, formats, and areas of inquiry traditionally considered suitable for the dissertation, with a particular focus on supporting scholars who can build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable academy. https://www.acls.org/programs/mellon-acls-dissertation-innovation-fellowships/
10/18/23 (anticipated deadline; optional Draft Review: Submit draft materials to spotlight@neh.gov by September 28, 2022 to receive feedback from program officers before the final	Check website for exact dates) NEH The Spotlight on Humanities in Higher Education program (for organizations) supports the exploration and development of small projects that would benefit underserved populations through the teaching and study of the humanities at small- to medium-size two- and four-year institutions of higher education. NEH especially welcomes applications from Native American and Indigenous institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, minority-serving institutions, community colleges, rural colleges and universities, schools that have a majority-minority undergraduate enrollment, and those that serve significant numbers of first-generation and nontraditional students. The Spotlight program supports activities such as



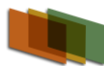
deadline. You do not need to have a fully developed program idea or near complete application to submit materials for review and feedback.

curricular or program development, expert consultations, speakers' series, student research, creation of teaching resources, and community engagement. Projects may benefit students, faculty, the institution or organization, and/or the community. The Spotlight program features a simplified application and streamlined application process. You may **request support at one of two levels: Exploration or Development**. For more information and to view a pre-recorded webinar about the program, go to: https://www.neh.gov/program/spotlight-humanities-higher-education?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

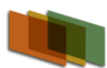
**10/25/2023 (1)
ACLS Luce/ACLS
Dissertation
Fellowships in
American Art and
(2) Mellon/ACLS
Dissertation
Innovation
Fellowships. (1)
ACLS Luce/ACLS
Dissertation
Fellowships in
American Art:**

These fellowships support graduate students pursuing research on the history of art and visual culture of the United States, including all aspects of Native American art, and who are at any stage of PhD dissertation research or writing. ACLS believes that humanistic scholarship benefits from inclusivity of voices, perspectives, narratives, and subjects that have historically been underrepresented in academe. We encourage applications from PhD candidates from all degree-granting institutions in the United States. The program offers seven fellowships for a non-renewable, continuous nine-to-twelve month term to be held between July 2024 and May 2026. The fellowships may be carried out in residence at the fellow's home institution or any other appropriate site for the research. The fellowships may not be used to defray tuition costs or be held concurrently with any other major fellowship or grant. The entire fellowship term must conclude before the fellow receives the PhD. <https://www.acls.org/competitions/luce-acls-dissertation-fellowships-in-american-art/>

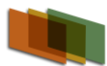
(2) Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowship. Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships support graduate students in the humanities and social sciences who show promise of leading their fields in important new directions. The fellowships are designed to intervene at the formative stage of dissertation development, before research and writing are advanced. The program seeks to expand the range of research methodologies, formats, and areas of inquiry traditionally considered suitable for the dissertation, with a particular focus on supporting scholars who can build a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable academy. ACLS especially welcomes applications from PhD candidates whose perspectives and/or research projects cultivate greater openness to new sources of knowledge, innovation in scholarly communication, and, above all, responsiveness to the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities, including (but not limited to) Black/African American, Hispanic/Latinx, and Indigenous communities from around the world; people with disabilities; queer, trans, and gender nonconforming people; and people of diverse socioeconomic backgrounds. We also encourage applications from doctoral students from all accredited institutions of higher education in the United States. <https://www.acls.org/competitions/mellon-acls-dissertation-innovation-fellowship/>



November 1, 2023 American Academy in Rome–The Rome Prize Fellowships.	The Rome Prize supports <u>innovative and cross-disciplinary work in the arts and humanities</u>. Fellowships are awarded in the disciplines of ancient studies, architecture, design, historic preservation & conservation, literature, medieval studies, modern Italian studies, musical composition, etc. Fellowships include a stipend, room and board, and an individual work space at AAR's eleven-acre campus in Rome. Prize recipients are invited to Rome to immerse themselves in the Academy community where they will enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity to expand their own professional, artistic, or scholarly pursuits. Fellowships are offered for full or half terms. https://aarome.org/apply
11/2/23 ACLS announces a new HBCU Faculty Fellowship and Grant Program.	This program supports the work of humanities and interpretive social sciences faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities by providing awards that attend to the specific teaching, research, and service contexts of their institutions. The program will offer two types of awards: (1) Grants of up to \$10,000 for research project development, with a grant term of 12 to 15 months, and (2) Fellowships of up to \$50,000 to support more sustained time and engagement with a significant research project, with an award term of 12 to 27 months. For more information, go to: https://www.acls.org/programs/acls-hbcu-faculty-fellowship-and-grants/
11/2/2023 ACLS Project Grants for HBCU Faculty.	These grants support early-stage project design as well as smaller-scale project development that can be completed within the 12 to 15-month award tenure. These grants may be used to complete exploratory research, advance an existing or established project to its next stage of development, and/or serve as a formative next step for future funding opportunities. In addition to the grant stipend, awardees will have access to networking and mentorship opportunities that align with their scholarly goals and institutional circumstances. This fellowship opportunity is part of the ACLS HBCU Faculty Fellowship and Grant Program, which offers both project grants and longer-term fellowships to HBCU faculty. Please review our program page (https://www.acls.org/programs/acls-hbcu-faculty-fellowship-and-grants/) for information about both award types and to determine which opportunity is right for your project. We encourage you to sign up to receive updates about informational webinars, opportunities to participate in proposal development workshops, and other program news. https://acls.us9.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=308a35b2c3e34e9b41bea422d&id=2e1297efb3
November 2, 2023 ACLS Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe (SISECSE).	The Summer Institute for the Study of East Central and Southeastern Europe is a two-week residential workshop that provides scholars of Eastern Europe time and space to dedicate to their own research and writing in a collaborative and interdisciplinary setting. ACLS in partnership with the Centre for Advanced Study Sofia (CAS) will convene leading scholars from Eastern Europe and North America for a two-week residency in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria from June 13, 2024 to June 29, 2024. SISECSE will also provide participating scholars with the opportunity to undertake local fieldwork, including archival research, work in museum collections, interviews, site

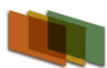


	surveys, or other forms of data collection. Fieldwork is not a requirement for participation. https://www.acls.org/competitions/summer-institute-east-central-southeastern-europe/
November 3, 2023 Harvard University's Loeb Classical Library Foundation	Awards fellowships to qualified scholars to support research, publication, and other projects in the area of classical studies. Fellowships will normally range from \$1,000 to \$35,000 and can be used for a variety of purposes, including research publication, enhancement of sabbaticals, travel to libraries or collections, dramatic productions, excavation expenses, or cost of research materials. <u>Applicants must have faculty or faculty emeritus status at a college or university at the time of application and during the entire time covered by the fellowship.</u> https://lclf.harvard.edu/
November 3, 2023 The Mellon Foundation's 2024 Advancement Program Adjunct Faculty Fellowship.	This award provides each Fellow with a six-month period during which to focus on the research and scholarship necessary to secure a tenure-track position. Up to two adjunct faculty are selected each year. https://citizensandscholars.org/fellowships/for-scholars-education-leaders/mellon-programs-grants/adjunct-faculty-fellowships/?utm_source=Woodrow.org+Web+Sign-up&utm_campaign=9efc6d26b7-2024+MMUF+Adjunct+Faculty+Application+Open&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_a5e043b254-9efc6d26b7-381071460
November 15, 2023 The Institute for Citizens and Scholars' Newcombe Fellowship.	Newcombe Fellows are late-stage Ph.D. students studying how ethical and religious values shape society, including political decisions, public life, culture, history, literature, and other areas. Projects must be explicit in their attention to some dimension of religious and ethical values. This award is funded by the Charlotte W. Newcombe Foundation. https://citizensandscholars.org/fellowships/for-scholars-education-leaders/charlotte-w-newcombe-fellowship/?utm_source=websignups&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=recruit
November 15, 2023 Huntington Library Fellowships.	Recipients of all fellowships are expected to be in continuous residence at The Huntington and to participate in, and make a contribution to, its intellectual life. Long-term fellows are expected to present at a two-day introductory symposium in September and to participate in weekly working group sessions from October to May. The Huntington is a collections-based research institute, which promotes humanities scholarship on the basis of its library holdings and art collections. Its diverse materials center on 14 intersecting collection strengths. In addition to reinterpreting the well-known highlights of our collections, thereby connecting them with new and broader audiences, we aim to inspire future generations of scholars and artists by providing greater access to all of our collections. https://huntington.org/fellowships



**November 16,
2023 ACLS (3)
Luce Fellowships
in China Studies.
(1) Luce/ACLS
Early Career
Fellowships in
China Studies -
Flexible (2)
Luce/ACLS Early
Career
Fellowships in
China Studies -
Long-Term, and (3)
Luce/ACLS Travel
Grants in China
Studies.**

- (1)** Early Career Fellowships in China Studies--Flexible will enable recent PhDs (without tenure and within eight years of the PhD) with heavy teaching and service responsibilities in all humanities and interpretive social science disciplines to carry out research and writing towards a significant scholarly product. Possible project outcomes include contributions to the development of: monographs, scholarly articles, conference papers, book chapters, or book on a topic in the humanities or interpretive social sciences. Also encouraged are projects that might contribute to: Pedagogical tools that make meaningful connections between a scholar's research and teaching; works that bridge scholarly and creative practice; and community-engaged projects grounded in scholarly research but geared toward a public audience. Research may be conducted on any topic related to the cultures, histories, and societies in China, and their influence and impact on communities, countries, and cultures around the world, as required by the research plan. Research on Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang is eligible. The study of non-traditional sites (e.g., sites in Africa or Latin America) is also permitted, so long as there is a clearly articulated rationale for the relationship to China or Chinese-language communities and cultures. There are no restrictions regarding time period or methodological approach. A working knowledge of Chinese is required, or knowledge of another language used in China studies (e.g., Tibetan, Uyghur). The fellowship period must begin between July 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025. For more information on eligibility and other details, go to: <https://www.acls.org/competitions/luce-acls-early-career-fellowships-in-china-studies-flexible/>
- (2)** Early Career Fellowships in China Studies--Long-Term. Long-term fellowships are financially supported by the Henry Luce Foundation, with additional funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy demands wisdom. Long-term research fellowships will enable recent PhDs (without tenure and within eight years of the PhD) to take leave from university responsibilities for four to nine months to carry out research and writing in any humanities or interpretive social science disciplines towards a significant scholarly product. Possible project outcomes include, but are not limited to: monographs, scholarly articles, conference papers, book chapters, or book on a topic in the humanities or interpretive social sciences. ACLS also encourages projects that have the potential to contribute to: Pedagogical tools that make meaningful connections between a scholar's research and post-secondary teaching; works that bridge scholarly and creative practice; community-engaged projects grounded in scholarly research but geared toward a public audience. Potential or actual community and/or student engagement with the research project is encouraged, as is the dissemination of the
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research to audiences across higher education. Research on Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang is eligible. The study of non-traditional sites (e.g., sites in Africa or Latin America) is also permitted, so long as there is a clearly articulated rationale for the relationship to Chinese or Chinese-language communities and cultures. There are no restrictions regarding time period or methodological approach.

- (3) Luce/ACLS Travel Grants in China Studies.** In partnership with the Henry Luce Foundation, ACLS is offering a new travel grant competition for graduate students in a PhD program and non-tenure track faculty at any career stage. The grant supports travel for conducting basic research in China or conducting China studies-related research in databases, collections, and archives anywhere in the world. Applications for projects in all disciplines of the humanities or interpretive social sciences are welcome. Research on Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Tibet, and Xinjiang is eligible. Diaspora studies projects with no connection to communities and cultures in China are unlikely to be funded (e.g., anglophone Chinese American literature). No restrictions regarding time period or methodological approach. For more information on evaluation criteria and application details, go to: <https://www.acls.org/competitions/luce-acls-travel-grants-in-china-studies/>

For information about ACLS Informational Webinars and Office Hours for 2023-24 Fellowships and Grants, go to: <https://www.acls.org/news/acls-announces-informational-webinars-and-office-hours-for-2023-24-fellowships-and-grants/>

November 22, 2023.

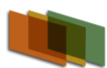
Luce/ACLS (Redesigned) Early Career Fellowships and Travel Grants in China Studies is now open for application. More details on the newly designed collaborative grants are available here: <https://www.acls.org/programs/luce-acls-program-in-china-studies/>

November 29, 2023 (Optional Draft Due; Final Draft Due January 11, 2024) (for institutions) NEH The Public Humanities Projects

Program supports projects that bring the ideas of the humanities to life for general audiences through public programming. Projects must engage humanities scholarship to analyze significant themes in disciplines such as history, literature, ethics, and art history. Awards support projects that are intended to reach broad and diverse public audiences in non-classroom settings in the United States. Projects should engage with ideas that are accessible to the general public and employ appealing interpretive formats. <https://www.neh.gov/grants/public/public-humanities-projects>

December 1, 2023 Mellon Emerging

Assistant professors in tenure-track appointments pursuing tenure are eligible. Applicants will have successfully passed the standard third-year/midpoint review or their institution's equivalent no later than January 31,



Faculty Leaders Award.

2024. Eligible applicants are typically in the fourth or fifth year of the tenure-track appointment and are still working to complete key items for the tenure dossier, which should not be scheduled for submission prior to the end of the award year (Summer 2025). Emerging Faculty Leaders may be working in any field of the humanities or social sciences—including, for example, history, sociology, anthropology, literature, art, gender studies, ethnic/diaspora studies, and related fields—with an emphasis on scholarly topics that relate to or provide context for the study of culture, equity, inclusion, civil rights, and education in the Americas. The award seeks to support progress toward tenure **for scholars who are also meaningfully engaged in building campus community**; therefore, applicants who are already effectively in a position to go up for tenure—for instance, those who have already submitted the dossier and/or who would be considered for tenure during the award year—will be ineligible. <https://citizensandscholars.org/fellowships/for-scholars-education-leaders/mellon-emerging-faculty-leaders-award/the-award-eligibility/>

December 15, 2023 The AVDF/ACLS Fellowships for Research on the Liberal Arts.

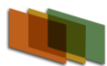
The American Council of Learned Societies invites applications for the inaugural AVDF/ACLS Fellowships for Research on the Liberal Arts, made possible by a generous grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations. This peer-reviewed fellowship program provides funding and data training for up to five scholarly projects that draw upon the newly available College and Beyond II (CBII) database. **About the CBII Database:** The College and Beyond II (CBII) database is a data resource for studying the impact and outcomes of higher education. It contains student record and transcript data on bachelor's-seeking undergraduates at 19 public colleges and universities that offer a liberal arts education. These data are linkable to qualitative data on course content and survey data on long-term life outcomes.

Proposals (from empirical social scientists, humanists, researchers working outside the arts and sciences, and researchers working outside the academy) should be suited to the methods of research that this unusual dataset can support. **Studies with a focus on workforce issues, physical or mental health policy, or civic participation are encouraged.** To learn about other eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria, go to:

<https://www.acls.org/programs/avdf-acls-fellowships-for-research-on-the-liberal-arts/> You may contact avd@acls.org with program inquiries; also, see News & Notes for Nov. 10.

12/15/2023 Mellon/ACLS Foundation Digital Justice Seed Grant.

The American Council of Learned Societies is pleased to invite applications for **Digital Justice Seed Grants**, which are made possible by The Mellon Foundation. Through both their content and methods, projects funded by **ACLS Digital Justice Seed Grants** pursue the following activities: • Engage with the interests and histories of people of color and other historically marginalized communities • Explore or experiment with new materials, methodologies, and research agendas by way of planning workshops, prototyping, and/or testing products. • Cultivate greater openness to new



sources of knowledge and strategic approaches to content building and knowledge dissemination. • Engage in capacity-building efforts (e.g., pedagogical projects that train students in digital humanities methods); publicly engaged projects that develop new technological infrastructure with community partners; trans-institutional projects that connect scholars across academic and cultural heritage institutions. This program addresses inequities in access to digital work among scholars across various fields, those working with under-utilized or understudied source materials, and those in institutions with less support for digital projects.

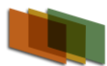
<https://www.acls.org/competitions/acls-digital-justice-seed-grants/>

News & Notes

-- November 10, 2023 12 noon, EST. ACLS Information sessions will be held for potential applicants with James Shulman, ACLS Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Allyson Flaster, Assistant Research Scientist, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Institute for Social Research. <https://www.acls.org/programs/avdf-acls-fellowships-for-research-on-the-liberal-arts/>

--NSF invests \$7.5 million in research to understand the human dimensions of improving American infrastructure. NSF's Strengthening American Infrastructure (SAI) program supports research that incorporates scientific insights about human behavior and social dynamics to better design, develop, rehabilitate and maintain strong and effective American infrastructure.

<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/strengthening-american-infrastructure-sai-1>



Conservation Innovation Grants, a Niche Funding Program by USDA

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By Mike Cronan, PE, co-publisher

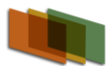
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USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service Conservation Innovation Grants ([CIG](#)) is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. [CIG partners](#) work to address water quality, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations. There are three annual CIG funding opportunities.

- **National competition** for projects that support the early-stage development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands.
- **State-level competitions** for projects that support early-stage development and piloting of new tools, practices and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. While the overall goal and approach match those of CIG Classic, CIG state competitions fund projects that target state-identified conservation priorities. Each year, NRCS state offices may elect to administer their own CIG competitions. State CIG competitions are announced separately from national competitions.
- **National competition** for projects that support more widespread adoption and evaluation of innovative conservation approaches in partnership with agricultural producers. On-Farm Trials Awardees provide technical assistance and incentive payments to producers to help compensate for risks associated with implementation of new conservation practices, systems and approaches. Awardees also evaluate the environmental, financial and social (to the extent possible) impacts of implementing innovative approaches. The Soil Health Demo Trial is a priority within the On-Farm Trials competition which focuses exclusively on implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health.

Most CIG grants go to universities, as noted in [CIG partners](#), including below examples:

- **Mississippi State University \$1,480,526** *Combining Cover Crops with Irrigation Water Management Technologies to Economically Reduce Pollutant Loss from Farm Fields, Transport of Agrochemicals in Streams, and Aquifer Decline States: AR; LA; MS; MO* Mississippi State University proposes to improve water quality and quantity by increasing the adoption of a novel production system based on scheduling and delivering water to cover crop production systems using state-of-the-art technologies.
- **University of Illinois \$1,112,730** *Innovating through barriers for bioreactors and saturated buffers States: IL; IA; MN* The University of Illinois proposes to design and evaluate bioreactors and saturated buffers that address variable flow, increase the volume of water treated, look at



how site factors may impact performance, and test innovative nitrogen monitoring methods that could lead to market-based water quality solutions.

- **Texas A&M AgriLife Research \$735,239 Biocarbon-Enhanced Dairy Manure Management Demonstration for Enhanced Water Quality States:** TX Texas A&M proposes to develop and demonstrate a biochar-assisted phytoremediation system for enhancing water quality during dairy manure application in three Texas counties. It will improve knowledge of field-applied calcium hydroxide-coated biochar and how, when used in conjunction with plants, it can help enhance water quality during dairy manure application.

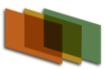
A CIG funding notice is announced each year. Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, are awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. Projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-state or nationwide in scope. The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through CIG are identified in the funding announcement and may change annually to focus on new and emerging, high-priority natural resource concerns. Apply via grants.gov, link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=350000>. The CIG state component emphasizes projects that benefit a limited geographical area. Participating states announce their funding availability for CIG competitions through their [state NRCS offices](#).

Up to \$50 million annually is available for On Farm Trials, which support more widespread adoption of innovative approaches, practices and systems on working lands. On-Farm Trials projects feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to implement on-the-ground conservation activities and then evaluate their impact. Incentive payments are provided to producers to offset the risk of implementing innovative approaches. Apply via grants.gov using the following link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349853>

Links to additional resources that may be helpful for CIG applicants include.

- [CIG and Historically Underserved Producers](#)
- [CIG Overview for Historically Underserved](#) (PDF)
- [Grantsmanship 101 for CIG Applicants](#) (PDF)
- [EDF Practitioner's Guide to Conducting Budget Analyses for Conservation Agriculture](#)
- [System for Awards Management \(SAM\)](#)
- [2 CFR Part 200: Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#)

CIG partners work to address issues of **water quality, water quantity, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations**. CIG contributes to USDA's efforts to address climate change through climate-smart agriculture. On-Farm Trials projects feature collaboration between NRCS and partners to **implement on-the-ground conservation activities** and then evaluate their impact. The Soil Health Demonstration (SHD) Trial component of On-Farm Trials focuses exclusively on **implementation of conservation practices and systems that improve soil health**. A critical element of each On-Farm Trials project is the **project evaluation**. Partners must propose robust scientific approaches to their On-Farm Trials, **resulting in data and analyses of the environmental, financial, and to the extent possible, social impacts of the trials**. NRCS uses the results of On-Farm Trials project evaluations and analyses to explore the development of new NRCS



conservation assistance, guidance documents, technical tools, and conservation practice standards or modifications to existing ones. Since 2004, CIG has invested \$411.8 million to fund 842 innovative projects and 435 partners (Two separate CIG funding opportunities are now available on grants.gov: \$50 million through [CIG On-Farm Trials](#) and \$15 million is available through [CIG Classic](#)).

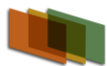
For CIG On-Farm Trials, this year's funding priorities are:

- Irrigation water management technologies
- Nutrient management
- Feeding management and enteric methane reduction
- Grazing lands
- Soil health demonstration trials

For CIG Classic, this year's funding priorities are:

- Forestry
- Habitat conservation and restoration for wildlife and invertebrates
- Managing agricultural lands to improve local water quality
- Energy conservation
- Economics
- Strengthening conservation through indigenous knowledge

While it might be considered a niche funding program, it is worth consideration by faculty in the agricultural and related sciences. See [Cig Fact Sheet](#); [Upcoming and past webinars](#); <https://conservationwebinars.net/>; <https://conservationwebinars.net/>.



Overview: Defense Sciences Office 2024 BAA

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By Mike Cronan, PE, co-publisher

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The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Defense Sciences Office (DSO) released its 34-page 2024 Office-wide Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) September 27. Below is a summary of that BAA.

Key Dates (All times listed herein are Eastern Time.)

- Posting Date: September 27, 2023
- Executive Summary Due Date and Time: Executive Summaries may be submitted on a rolling basis until September 26, **2024**, at 4:00 p.m.
- Proposal Abstract Due Date and Time: Abstracts may be submitted on a rolling basis until September 26, **2024**, at 4:00 p.m.
- FAQ Submission Deadline: September 12, **2024**, 4:00 p.m. See Section VII.A.
- Full Proposal Due Date and Time: ***Proposals may be submitted on a rolling basis until September 26, 2024***, at 4:00 p.m.

The DSO Office-wide BAA invites proposers to submit innovative basic or applied research concepts or studies and analysis proposals that address one or more of the following technical thrust areas:

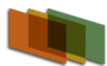
- Novel Materials & Structures,
- Sensing & Measurement,
- Computation & Processing,
- Enabling Operations,
- Collective Intelligence, and
- Emerging Threats.

Each of these thrust areas is described below and includes a list of example research topics that highlight several (but not all) potential areas of interest. ***Proposals must investigate innovative approaches that enable revolutionary advances. DSO is explicitly not interested in approaches or technologies that primarily result in evolutionary improvements to the existing state of practice.***

Technical Thrust Area Descriptions

DSO is interested in engaging with the R&D community to address complex challenges and develop impactful capabilities. DSO encourages any fundamental research concept, idea, or effort that addresses DARPA's mission to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies for national security.

- **Novel Materials & Structures:** This thrust includes, but is not limited to, science and technology in quantum devices, atomic scale systems, and functional and structural materials.



- **Sensing & Measurement:** This thrust includes, but is not limited to, science and technology in quantum sensing and metrology, seeing (sensing) the unseen, and novel light sources.
- **Computation & Processing:** This thrust includes, but is not limited to, science and technology of quantum computing, cryptography, and modeling of complex systems.
- **Enabling Operations:** This thrust includes, but is not limited to, technologies to support space- based operations, tactically remote environments, and resource assurance.
- **Collective Intelligence:** This thrust includes, but is not limited to, exploration of complex social systems, adaptable Artificial Intelligence (AI), and AI-accelerated learning.
- **Emerging Threats:** This thrust includes, but is not limited to, national security concerns related to global issues associated with raw material availability, environmental catastrophes, and digital societies.

Application and Submission Information

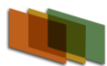
Prior to submitting a full proposal, proposers are **strongly encouraged** to first submit an executive summary and/or abstract as described below. This process allows a proposer to ascertain whether the proposed concept is (1) **applicable** to the DSO Office-wide BAA and (2) **currently of interest**. For the purposes of this BAA, applicability is defined as follows:

- The proposed concept is applicable to the technical areas described herein.
- The proposed concept is important to DSO's current investment portfolio.
- The proposed concept investigates an innovative approach that enables revolutionary advances, i.e., will not primarily result in evolutionary improvements to the existing state of practice.
- The proposed work has not already been completed (i.e., the research element is complete but manufacturing/fabrication funds are required).
- The proposer has not already received funding or a positive funding decision for the proposed concept (whether from DARPA or another Government agency).

Executive summaries, abstracts and full proposals that are not found to be applicable to the DSO Office-wide BAA as defined above **may be deemed non-conforming and removed from consideration**. All executive summaries, abstracts, and full proposals must provide sufficient information to **assess the validity/feasibility of their claims** as well as comply with the requirements outlined herein for submission formatting, content, and transmission to DARPA. Executive summaries, abstracts, and full proposals that fail to do so **may be deemed nonconforming and removed from consideration**.

Address to Request Application Package. This document contains all information required to submit a response to this solicitation. No additional forms, kits, or other materials are needed except as referenced herein. No request for proposal or additional solicitation regarding this opportunity will be issued, nor is additional information available except as provided at the SAM.gov website (<https://sam.gov/>), the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov/>), or referenced herein.

Content and Form of Application Submission. The executive summary provides a synopsis of the proposed project by **concisely** answering the following questions (Note: these questions are a subset



of the **Heilmeier Catechism**. Please view <http://www.darpa.mil/work-with-us/heilmeier-catechism> for more information.):

- What is the proposed work attempting to accomplish or do?
- How is the work performed today (what is the state of the art or practice), and what are the limitations?
- Who will care, and what will the impact be if the work is successful?
- What is new in your approach, and why do you think it will be successful?

DARPA will respond to executive summaries with a brief statement **either encouraging or discouraging submission** of a follow-on abstract or full proposal. In keeping with the intent of the executive summary, these responses will generally be limited to a statement of interest (or lack thereof), rather than providing detailed feedback. Regardless of DARPA's response to an executive summary, proposers may submit an abstract or full proposal. All proposers are **required** to use Attachment A: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY TEMPLATE provided as an attachment to the solicitation on <https://sam.gov> and <http://www.grants.gov>.

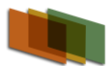
As stated above, proposers are **strongly encouraged** to submit an abstract in advance of a full proposal to minimize effort and reduce the potential expense of preparing an out of scope proposal. All proposers are **required** to use Attachment B: ABSTRACT SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE and Attachment C: ABSTRACT TEMPLATE provided with this solicitation on <https://sam.gov> and <http://www.grants.gov>. Attachment B: ABSTRACT SUMMARY SLIDE TEMPLATE described herein must be in .ppt, .pptx or .pdf format and should be attached as a separate file to this document.

The abstract provides a synopsis of the proposed project by **including the following information**:

- The proposed technical **approach**
- The technical **rationale** supporting the ability to achieve the metrics
- The technical and programmatic **risks**
- The makeup of the technical **team** (including the facilities and any proposed subcontractors)
- High level **cost and schedule**
- **Availability** of proposed staff

DARPA will respond to abstracts with a statement as to whether DARPA is interested in the idea. If DARPA does not recommend the proposer submit a full proposal, DARPA will provide feedback to the proposer regarding the rationale for this decision. Regardless of DARPA's response to an abstract, proposers may submit a full proposal. DARPA will review all conforming full proposals using the published evaluation criteria and without regard to any comments resulting from the review of an abstract.

Proposers should note that a favorable response to an abstract is not a guarantee that a proposal based on the abstract will ultimately be selected for award negotiation. While it is DARPA policy to attempt to reply to abstracts within thirty calendar days, **proposers to this solicitation may anticipate a response within approximately three weeks**. These official notifications will be sent via email to the Technical POC and/or Administrative POC identified on the abstract coversheet.



Checking in With ARPA-H

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By Lucy Deckard, co-publisher

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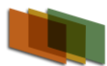
We've been excitedly tracking the birth of a new funding agency: the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health ([ARPA-H](#)). As we discussed in our October 2022 and April 2023 issues, the newly established ARPA-H follows the DARPA model but focuses on high-risk/high pay-off biomedical and health research. As we discussed in our previous articles, ARPA-H is officially under NIH, but the culture is radically different, with much more powerful program managers and a more nimble, risk-seeking approach. Well, it's been about a year now – a perfect time to check in and see how our baby funding agency is progressing.

True to their aspirations to work quickly, even though ARPA-H is still [staffing up](#), they have already run their first competitions and awarded funding for selected projects. One of the first steps to understanding any funder is to look at what they've funded in the past. Therefore, anyone seeking to understand ARPA-H and anticipate its future directions should pay special attention to what types of projects are being funded. Here's an overview of announced funded projects and links to more detailed information.

Open BAA Awardees

ARPA-H has issued its [Agency-wide Open BAA](#). This is a de facto mechanism to accept investigator-initiated proposals. For more information on this BAA, you can watch a recording of [ARPA-H's webinar](#) on this topic and [download the slides](#). Here are the [awardees](#) announced so far:

- **DARTS: Defeating Antibiotic Resistance through Transformative Solutions.** PI J. Paulsson, Harvard Medical School (Up to \$104M). Aims to address these challenges by advancing an ultra-high throughput imaging and culturing platform that can continuously track and test billions of bacteria one by one.
- **CDTR: Stem Cell-Derived Thymus Rejuvenation.** PIs B Lim and S. Wang, Thymune Therapeutics (Up to \$37M). Aims to restore immune and endocrine function in patients lacking a functional thymus by using engineered stem cell-derived treatment.
- **CODA: Mapping the Cancer and Organ Degradome Atlas to Unlock Synthetic Biomarkers for Multi-Cancer Early Detection.** PI G. Kwong, Georgia Institute of Technology (\$49.5 M). Use cutting-edge synthetic biology and cell engineering technologies to catalog cellular profiles unique to diseased cancer cells and leverages them to build bioengineered sensors that can be deployed inside the body to hunt for malignant cells.
- **Health Enabling Advancements through Regenerative Tissue Printing (HEART).** PI. M. Skylar-Scott. Stanford University (up to \$26M). The end result of this project will be the 3D printing of a human heart in one hour. HEART could create a world where a doctor could 3D print an organ for their patient instead of waiting for a donor, effectively ending waitlists for transplants.
- **SPIKEs: Programmable Scalable Therapeutics for Immune-directed Cancer-killing.** PI: P. de Figueiredo, University of Missouri (up to \$19.9M). Aims to develop a new class of living cancer immunotherapy that utilizes genetically programmable bacteria designed to sense



tumor-associated metabolites as an exquisitely precise homing mechanism and then deliver therapeutic payloads that activate immune-directed killing of solid tumor cells.

- **THOR: Targeted Hybrid Oncotherapeutic Regulation.** PI: O. Veisheh, Rice University (Up to \$45M). Aims to create a compact device designed to trigger the immune system against tumors that will be implanted in proximity of the tumor and will house specialized cells responsible for producing and delivering therapeutic molecules.
- **CUREIT: Curing the Uncurable via RNA-Encoded Immunogene Tuning.** PI: P. Santangelo, Emory University (Up to \$24M). Aims to address immune dysregulation by directly programming immune cell function using a disease-agnostic toolbox of methods and technologies.

DIGIHEALS (digital health security research) Awardees

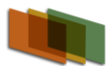
ARPA-H has announced six awardees for their DIGIHEALS program to protect the U.S. health care system's electronic infrastructure against hostile threats. The titles are listed below. For more information on these projects, to [here](#).

- **AMdP: Automated Medical device Patching**, PI: T. Sherman, Systems & Technology Research, LLC (Up to \$16M)
- **CHALO: Cognitive Health Assistant that Learns and Organizes**, PI: L. Briesemeister, SRI International (Up to \$9.8M)
- **H-R3P: Healthcare Ransomware Resiliency and Response Program**, PIs: C. Dameff and J. Tully, University of California San Diego (Up to \$9.5M)
- **RxCRS: Reliable and eXplainable Cyber Reasoning System for Digital Health Security**, PI: R. Wang, Arizona State University (Up to \$10M)
- **EHR-FIST: Digital Format Rehabilitation to Improve Interoperability of EHR Systems and Records**, PI: M. Locasto, Narf Industries, LLC (Up to \$1.8M)
- **Software Bill of Materials and Software Bills of Behaviors for Effective Cyber Risk Mitigation in Healthcare Systems Comparative Study**, PI: A. Hendela, Karambit.AI, Inc. (Up to \$3M)

Other Funding Opportunities

Note that there are also program-specific funding opportunities, including [APECx](#) (Antigens Predicted for Broad Viral Efficacy through Computational Experimentation) and [REACT](#) (Resilient Extended Automatic Cell Therapies), both of which have proposer's days coming up in November, as well as [NITRO](#) (Novel Innovations for Tissue Regeneration in Osteoarthritis) and [PSI](#) (Precision Surgical Interventions), whose current deadlines have passed, but will undoubtedly hold another competition.)

Any researchers considering applying to ARPA-H should keep an eye on their [website](#) as they announced more funded projects to help them develop a nuanced understanding of the types of projects ARPA-H is looking for.



NSF's Research Infrastructure in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Program

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By Mike Cronan, co-publisher

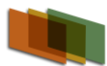
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NSF's newly created *Research Infrastructure in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Program* ([RISBS](#)) supports projects that create computational tools and data to facilitate **basic research in the social and behavioral sciences** that can lead to **improved health, prosperity and security**. Projects must **create computational tools and data** to enable research by social scientists, including data collection or assembly efforts that result in new resources for a community of researchers, or software platforms that facilitate data collection efforts by others. **RISBS does not support research by PIs except in service of creation of the infrastructure**. Innovation is especially encouraged. RISBS directly supports three key longitudinal surveys and panel studies that provide researchers with data on how American society functions and changes over time (see [Research infrastructure in the social, behavioral and economic sciences is focus of newly restructured NSF program](#)):

1. The [American National Election Study](#) which provides "gold standard" data on voting, public opinion, and political participation in U.S. national elections.
2. The [General Social Survey](#) collects data on a wide range of topics.
3. The [Panel Study of Income Dynamics](#) collects data on a wide array of economic, social and health factors.

The RISBS program administers separate solicitations for the American National Election Study (ANES), the General Social Survey (GSS) and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID). Prospective PIs may also be interested in the [Human Networks and Data Science Program – Infrastructure \(HNDS-I\)](#), which supports proposals addressing the development of data resources and relevant analytic techniques that support research in the social, behavioral and economic sciences. **Prospective PIs are strongly encouraged to contact the RISBS program officers and/or program officers** from other SBE programs that may be applicable to the proposal before submitting to RISBS and to refer to the NSF [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) policies on duplicate or substantially similar proposals.

Moreover, in terms of [new agency partnership directions in the social sciences](#), The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) recently partnered with the National Science Foundation (NSF) on the ["Building the Prototype Open Knowledge Network \(Proto-OKN\)"](#) solicitation. This solicitation aimed to stimulate research using knowledge graph (KG) databases. KGs provide a powerful approach for organizing, representing, integrating, reusing, and accessing data from multiple structured and unstructured sources using ontologies and ontology alignment. One of the **core components of the solicitation is to create open knowledge networks**, accessible to both government and non-government users, that meet existing federal government use cases. Each KG will address a specific **urgent societal challenge** as identified by a federal agency. NIJ contributed two use cases:



- **Data on Nonfatal Firearms Injuries.** The first case challenges applicants to develop better data describing nonfatal firearms injuries by integrating existing data sets from various sources.
- **Mining Criminal Justice Insights from Existing Data.** The second case, put forward in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), draws attention to the more than 3,300 data sets in the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) repository. Applicants are challenged to realize the potential insights to be gained from connecting data sets developed for individual research projects with one another or with one of the national data sets collected by BJS, such as the National Incident-Based Reporting System and the National Crime Victimization Survey.

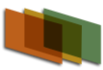
In collaboration with five other U.S. government agencies, including the National Institute of Justice, the U.S. National Science Foundation invested **\$26.7 million in 18 projects through the Proto-OKN program**. NIJ will be working with two of those NSF awardees.

- **A Knowledge Graph Warehouse for Neighborhood Information**
This award proposes to use novel cube-like data structures to integrate information on fatal and nonfatal firearms injuries and the contexts in which they occur. Additionally, the awardees plan to implement querying, mining, and visualization tools to allow for investigation of patterns and trends at a variety of levels.
- **DREAM-KG: Develop Dynamic, Responsive, Adaptive, and Multifaceted Knowledge Graphs to Address Homelessness with Explainable AI**
This award creates a KG system to increase understanding of the factors that contribute to homelessness and to improve the provision of services to people who are experiencing homelessness. The effort uses Topological Data Analysis tools and Artificial Intelligence model to gather and integrate data related to homelessness.

Also of note, the Bureau of Justice Statistics will be working with an NSF awardee on **An Integrated Platform to Connect Criminal Justice Data Across Data Silo**. This award builds the data infrastructure to connect data systems across the justice system. This effort focuses on creating a knowledge network to allow data produced by the criminal justice system to be used more easily and effectively. **[View a list of all awards made by NSF under this opportunity.](#)**

Finally, in overview, NSF's *Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic (SBE) Sciences* supports **basic research** on people and society. The SBE sciences focus on human behavior and social organizations and how social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental forces affect the lives of people from birth to old age and how people in turn shape those forces. SBE includes the following Divisions and Offices:

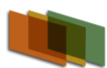
- **Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS):** The Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences supports basic research in the psychological, linguistic, anthropological, and geographical sciences.
- **Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES):** The Division of Social and Economic Sciences supports disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and methodological research and big data and survey infrastructure.



- **National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)**: The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics is the leading provider of statistical data and information on the U.S. science and engineering enterprise.
- **SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA)**: NSF's Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate's Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA) provides a focal point for programmatic activities that cut across NSF organizational boundaries.

Popular SBE Links

- [Advisory Committee Meetings](#)
- [Career Opportunities](#)
- [Funding Rates](#)
- [Budget Excerpt](#)
- [NSB Broader Impacts Website](#)
- [Research on Cognition and Behavior](#)
- [Research on Human Behavior in Time and Space](#)
- [Research on Cooperation and Conflict](#)
- [Exploring What Makes Us Human](#)



Editing the Proposal Introduction: What, Why, & How

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Mike Cronan

Reprinted from October 2022

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The most important part of a medical school education, including residency, is the acquisition of clinical skills that, in most cases, allow an assessment of a patient's health based on a brief diagnostic discussion and subtle observations by the physician. Over time, many research office staff develop a similar "clinical skills" capacity to quickly assess the health, i.e., **competitiveness for funding**, of a proposal based on a reading of the first few pages.

But instead of the blood pressure cuff, stethoscope, thermometer, and pulse oximeter used by medical practitioners, proposal review practitioners check the **answers to four key diagnostic questions most closely predictive of funding success**: (1) What research is proposed? (2) Why is it proposed? (3) How will it be accomplished? and (4) So-what?!

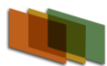
In keeping with the World Series starting next week, you might consider the proposer as the batter and the reviewers as the pitchers of these questions: The "*What research do you propose to do*" question is a bit of a softball question, but the "*Why did you chose to conduct this research*" question is like a brush back fastball, often resulting in reviewers calling strike 1. The question "*How will the proposed research, i.e., your research plan, be conducted to make success a likely outcome*" is definitely a curve ball swung at and missed by most authors, resulting in reviewers calling strike two.

At this point, the "batter" is down in the count 1 ball and 2 strikes and the reviewers throw their best pitch, a **knuckleball "so-what" pitch, asking** why your research is significant to the agency mission and where does your research fit in the context of similar research current in the field? Most batters swing at and miss this pitch completely for a called strike 3, followed by "You're Outta Here!"

How well a proposal answers these four questions in its first few pages **largely determines its success, even before reviewers read its remaining pages**. At this early stage, the compelling conceptual framework of the proposal is set; the remainder of the project description expands this foundational base with more convincing detail and specifics.

Conversely, if the clear conceptual framework of the research narrative is not set in the first few pages, **the proposal will likely be declined for funding**. Specifically, it often means the author(s) of the proposal are--

- **not themselves entirely clear** as to whether and how well their proposed research maps to these four core questions in a convincing way,
- or it may mean the proposal authors **are not sufficiently skilled writers** to communicate clearly to reviewers the answers to these questions,
- or it may mean the **proposal was poorly organized**,
- or it may mean **insufficient time was allocated for writing multiple drafts** of the proposal,



- or it may mean the proposal was submitted **without a thorough edit** by members of the research team or by an experienced editor in a research office,
- or it may mean, and this is most often the case, **the declined proposal's flaws result from a combination of the above.**

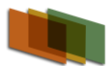
Moreover, if the core idea of the proposed research is not presented in these initial few pages and these four questions are left unanswered, partially answered, or vaguely answered, **reviewers will have little incentive to give a close reading to the remaining research narrative** in hopes of determining what the applicant actually proposes to do but fails to explain early in the narrative. **It is never the reviewer's job to search for reasons to fund an applicant's research**, whereas it is always the applicant's job to quickly make a compelling case for funding.

That said, the four questions noted above are always challenging to answer sufficiently well to result in a funding recommendation. Moreover, how well the remainder of the research narrative provides convincing details and specifics to result in a positive funding recommendation **depends entirely on the conceptual foundation underpinning the answers to these questions.**

The **"what you will do"** question is the easiest to write, and is often driven by the goals and objectives that motivate the funding solicitation, although there is often a lot of latitude in determining what you might do to respond fully to the project guidelines. However, because the **what question** is the easiest of the questions to answer, it is often overwritten and even belabored at the expense of the **why and how questions**. The **how question**, whose answer is expected to fully provide the specifics and details of the research plan and methodology, must convince reviewers that an investment in the proposed research is warranted based on the likelihood of success.

Failure to convincingly answer the final **so-what question**, however, is ultimately the **most common cause of a proposal declined for funding**. In many cases, the **so-what question** is answered vaguely, or, when it is addressed, is written as **generalized claims** made for the significance and novelty of the proposed research. Unfortunately, **entirely unsupported claims that fail to** describe how the research fits the agency's mission priorities or where the research fits in the current state of the field, will not demonstrate that the proposed research is cutting edge and impactful.

These are tough standards to meet for any funding request, but a review of the first few pages of a research proposal by an experienced member of a research office focused on how well these critical four questions are answered in the research narrative can significantly impact the quality of a proposal and, hence, its success.



Don't Let Your Proposal Wear a Disguise on Halloween

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Mike Cronan

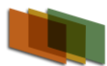
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There are many scary costumes your proposal might wear on Halloween, but it is best to forego the annual disguising festivities, not just on Halloween but on any day of the year. Otherwise, you might **inadvertently** disguise the identity of the great research idea put forward in your proposal, resulting in more tricks than treats when it comes to the success of your grant. Of course, the premise here **assumes that a fundable idea lies cloaked beneath a number of correctable grant writing mistakes** identified sufficiently before the due date to allow for their correction. Unlike Halloween, when scary costumes earn treats, program officers and reviewers will not reward ideas cloaked in ghoulish disguises. This is a particularly important point to make to new faculty who may just be planning their research career at the time Halloween comes around. **Research offices can assist them to make sure they don't send off their first proposal to a funding agency wearing an inappropriate costume.**

Unfortunately, a number of all too common scary costumes can so successfully **disguise a potentially fundable idea that the significance of the idea becomes unrecognizable to reviewers**. To avoid spooking reviewers, not just for proposals due this October 31, but every due date of the coming year, don't submit your proposal cloaked or masked, or wearing one of the more common scary costumes guaranteed to horrify reviewers and program officers alike. There are many **examples of all too common proposal disguises that will lead to a declined proposal, as detailed below**. In this regard, keep in mind former Deputy Director of NIH William Raub's comment: "There is no grantsmanship that will turn a bad idea into a good one, but there are many ways to disguise a good idea." **So don't disguise your great ideas with the following masks, costumes, or disguises.**

The Oblivious Mask Trio

Three common disguises worn by many proposals are *The Oblivious Mask Trio*, coming in three versions, but typically together, and unlike the movie *Three Amigos!* with Steve Martin, Chevy Chase, and Martin Short, providing **no amusement to reviewers whatsoever**: (1) The Oblivious Mask for the **Tentative Grasp of the Program Guidelines**, (2) The Oblivious Mask for the **Tenuous Grasp of the Review Criteria**, and (3) The Oblivious Mask for the **Feeble Grasp of the Agency Mission**. A proposal wearing **mask 1** may have several outcomes, none good. The most extreme of these is to find your proposal returned without review, but more often, it will just receive a poor review and be assigned a "do not fund" recommendation. Surprisingly, the failure of both new and more experienced investigators to carefully **read** and **reread** and **reread** and follow the program solicitation guidelines is one of the more common causes of a negatively reviewed proposal. In some cases, it comes from the mistaken belief that an RFP need not be read carefully because research agencies always fund good ideas. This belief unfortunately abbreviates the more accurate statement that research agencies fund good ideas that **advance the agency mission or research priorities** in the **specific ways defined in the solicitation guidelines**. Good ideas untethered to the research realities of the funding agency mission have little chance of success. A proposal wearing **mask 2** will clearly not be able to



incorporate responses in the research narrative that address the review criteria in a convincing way. Wearing mask 2 is somewhat like attempting to play a competitive game without understanding what does or does not constitute points or a winning score. A proposal wearing **mask 3** will prevent you from writing a persuasive research narrative that convinces the agency that your research advances its mission in a significant way, either at the project or program level, or, in some cases, at the level of strategic research priorities, and brings value-added benefits to the agency mission or the field. Regardless, it is difficult to make a compelling case for the relevance and value-added benefits of your research to the agency mission or research priorities if you understand little or nothing about the mission, culture, and funding priorities of the agency itself, or about the role the agency plays in advancing national research priorities.

The Wishful Thinking Mask: Blurred Distinction between Basic and Applied Research

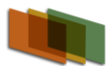
Too often in the search for research funding, the applicant makes an unrealistic assessment of whether the research proposed is truly fundamental research, e.g., to NSF, NIH, DOE, or DARPA, or amounts to applied research inappropriate for a basic research agency, or to basic research programs in mission agencies that fund both basic and applied. This critical distinction requires a very candid self-assessment prior to developing and writing a proposal to avoid the mistake of submitting an applied research proposal to a basic research agency. You must ask and answer the specific question: ***“At this particular agency, will my research be characterized as basic or applied?”*** Moreover, it can be a more challenging distinction to make on research solicitations that do not clearly spell out specific research objectives that assist the potential applicant in addressing key research questions or testable hypotheses. If you don’t know whether or not your research is appropriately basic for a specific agency, discuss it with a program officer or seek help from a senior colleague well-funded at the agency, or experienced as one of its reviewers. ***You need to get this distinction right.***

The Comedy of Errors in Grammar, Usage, and Syntax Mask

While mistaken identity, puns, and word play are charming in Shakespeare's play *The Comedy of Errors*, reviewers will not find them amusing in a research narrative. Inadvertent or careless errors in grammar, usage, and syntax might momentarily bemuse reviewers, or worse, ***provide them with comic relief***. They will also suggest to them that you are likely to tolerate errors in your research. Moreover, it is not the job of reviewers to reconstruct your true meaning out of a linguistic jumble of poorly structured sentences, jarring and disorderly syntax, and related grammatical errors. If it is possible for a proposal phoenix to rise out of the linguistic ashes of a poorly written research narrative, it will be as a consequence of the author’s recognition and correction of such problems. Authors can learn to recognize such writing errors themselves or they can seek the services of a colleague, research development professional, or editor who can help them ***make the proposal professionally presentable, i.e., free of errors***. While reviewers are not likely grammarians, they are likely successful authors of funded proposals, hence good writers, and the gold standard for successful proposals is nothing short of perfection, or as close to it as possible.

The Poor Writing Disguise

Poorly written proposals appear shrouded in a fog that ***introduces ambiguity and hence uncertainty*** into the reviewers’ understanding and evaluation of the project research description. ***Ambiguity in grant writing is always punished!*** Poor writing robs the research narrative of clarity, precision, and the persuasiveness needed to convince reviewers to recommend funding. A narrative fog leaves the



reviewers unable to see where the narrative argument is going or where it has been. Poor writing offers readers a meandering journey through a blurred landscape without clear waypoints or clear substance, significance, or focus. As H.L. Menken once observed, badly written sentences appear ***“like an army of words marching across the page in search of an idea.”***

The Cloak of Ambiguity

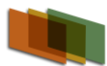
Cloaking devices worked well when first introduced on the *Klingon Bird of Prey*, but they are definitely not for use in a research narrative. ***The cloak of ambiguity will unfortunately obscure the purpose and methods of an otherwise potentially powerful proposal.*** Ambiguity in the research narrative looms like a dense fog. Reviewers and program officers alike will balk at having to navigate a research narrative befogged by poor or careless writing or both, or by an author's inability or unwillingness to make the key narrative distinctions that would clarify the research vision, goals, objectives, rationale, and outcomes. Ambiguity in the narrative imposes upon reviewers and program officers in many ways, ***particularly in asking them to decide what the author actually meant.*** Most reviewers will not have the time, inclination, or patience for this task, and rightfully so, given that it would be difficult to recommend for funding an idea shrouded in ambiguity. Ambiguity in the narrative implies there is ambiguity in the research goals themselves, as well as in how the goals will be achieved. ***Agencies want to know clearly what they are funding and do not want to guess at it.***

The Boiler Plate Costume

Truly frightening proposals emerge when authors view them as nothing more than generic boilerplate text easily transplanted from an old proposal to a new one with a few minor adjustments. Moreover, there is no more horrifying boiler plate than narrative text ***gathered from the websites*** of research team members, an astonishingly common practice. Attempts to find ***“spare parts for proposals”*** salvaged from prior efforts that now populate the “grant writing cloud” and other so-called “proposal databases” are ill advised (See *Do Not Build Your Proposal Out of Spare Parts*, October 2011).

A successful proposal grows from the seed of a compelling and exciting new research idea. Recycling is great for environmental sustainability but it has no place in grant writing! Every required proposal component that evolves from your new idea must do so in an internally integrated manner that adds a logical synthesis, and hence strength, to the core research idea. Attempts to transplant a modified research narrative from an existing proposal into a new proposal will significantly weaken the overall proposal (see *NSF's Perp Walk for Plagiarism* in the June 2015 issue). Writing a successful project narrative requires many thoughtful iterations of each proposal section that reveal to the reader the relational symmetry of one section to another. ***The well-written and convincing research narrative must clearly evolve to reflect and serve the needs of your specific research vision and the performance metrics required for your success.*** Using so-called boiler plate text in a research narrative will likely elicit the same response in reviewers as attempting to pass counterfeit \$100 bills to a Secret Service agent.

So it is important to beware the notion that a new proposal can be a largely borrowed or heavily modeled statement based upon other proposals, or a tattered template shared “in the grant writing cloud.” ***There are not enough immunosuppressant grant-writing techniques available to disguise such “borrowing” from the astute reviewer,*** particularly given that the good program officer and reviewer will function as the immune system of a proposal under consideration. If they detect a transplanted research narrative, they should, and most likely will, reject it.



The Mystery Novel Disguise

Many reviewers may in fact enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine and a well-crafted mystery novel, but it is best to leave the crafting of mystery novels to the practitioners of that genre. It is not a good idea to model your proposal after a mystery novel. Asking reviewers and program officers to play the role of “research detective” charged not with determining “who done it?” but with determining “what research is being proposed here?” will likely come to no good end. Reviewers will not be charmed by a proposal forcing them to play the role of, say, Tony Hillerman’s Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn or Walter Mosley’s Easy Rawlins in order to determine what research you are going to do and why it is significant to the funding agency mission and the disciplinary field. So-called “page turners” are a good thing for the success of a mystery novel but not for the success of a proposal. If reviewers must frantically turn pages to figure out what you propose to do, they will become quickly exasperated rather than intrigued at having to guess at what proposed research might be finally revealed at the end. Get right down to the point in your first paragraph.

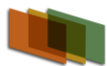
The Research Topic 101 Mask

Just as proposals are not mystery novels, neither are they journal articles or textbooks. While a discussion of the research topic’s background may be warranted to set the stage for the reviewers to understand the significance and context of your research, avoid the mask of writing a long and meandering narrative tour of the general research topic better suited to an introductory textbook 101 on the topic than to technical reviewers. The background information on the topic must be carefully adjusted to the level of topic expertise the reviewers bring to the review process. For this reason, it is important to understand the review process used by specific funding agencies, particularly how reviewers are selected and assigned. For example, NSF recommends describing the technical topic at a level that might be used in a *Scientific American* article, or for what NSF has described as the “**scientifically literate**” reader. Moreover, keep the background discussion tightly focused on what is relevant to your proposed research and avoid the temptation to go beyond that. While time intervals may be central to your research, you need not provide background information on the ammonia maser built in 1949 by NIST as the first proof of an atomic clock.

At many points in the development and writing of a proposal only a preliminary idea exists of what will be proposed. In those situations, it is comforting to begin writing text in hopes that this will “self-ignite” and coalesce into a compelling narrative. Unfortunately, however, this can lead to developing several pages of an overly general introductory narrative unable succinctly to inform the reviewers how your research advances the field in some significant way. Moreover, once written, some authors have great difficulty deleting large blocks of text that have lost their relevance to the research narrative as it has matured through multiple drafts. This becomes a particular danger on single-PI proposals without the benefit of a reading by multiple team members. In either case, a thorough “editorial scrub” of the research narrative by an unsentimental editor can help keep the narrative from becoming a “long and winding road,” something fine in a Beatles song but not in a proposal.

The Black Hole Disguise

A narrative black hole exists when an author becomes convinced that the page limit and font format guidelines in the solicitation are insufficient to explain the proposed idea. This becomes apparent when an author comes to the **dubious conclusion that a proposal narrative improves as the font is reduced to the smallest permissible** size and all white space is squeezed out of every page to allow more elaboration. In some cases, narrative authors may even try an end run around the font size



requirements by placing what is essentially narrative text in graphs, figures, illustrations and tables where smaller fonts are often permissible. Unfortunately, the text eventually becomes so dense that the narrative collapses upon itself and becomes impenetrable to the reviewer. In effect, a too-dense narrative text becomes a laborious read for the reviewers, who will likely balk at the idea of a forced march through dense text imposed on them by an author either unable or unwilling to write a clear and readable research narrative. As Mark Twain once commented in a letter to a friend, "If I had more time I would have written you a shorter letter." This makes an excellent point. Increasing the density of text and format to the maximum permissible in hopes of including more information that gives your research narrative a competitive advantage is the iron pyrite or "fool's gold" of grant writing. **The goal of a research narrative is to communicate the significance of your research to reviewers, not merely to perform an informational data dump.**

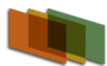
The Stove-Pipe Disguise

A proposal narrative disguised as a series of research silos is certain to leave reviewers confused as to the research value lying beneath the stove-pipe costume. Narrative contributions from multiple authors increase the complexity of proposals. Attempts to introduce what are essentially research strangers as research partners with a history of collaboration only after a funding opportunity is identified will be a hard sell to reviewers. Research integration and programmatic synthesis are two key characteristics of competitive proposals. Strategies to ensure the integration of multiple research strands, as well as any other required programmatic components, must begin very early in the proposal process (see *Planning for Narrative Synergy* in this issue). If a research narrative with multiple strands develops over several draft iterations and still remains more like multiple proposals rather than an integrated whole, then it becomes increasingly difficult to correct the narrative without major revisions. Proposals with multiple research and/or educational strands gain significant advantage by adopting early on a proposal narrative integration plan that will demonstrate a clear research synergy. Solipsistic narrative sections are not rewarded in the review process. **Synergy is the Yellow Brick Road of the successful research narrative. Think synergy not silos!**

The Recycled Proposal Mask

Recycling discarded, broken, failed, or unused items is great for the environment but not so good for declined proposals. Like most recycled materials, old proposals are best left at curbside to be removed for chemical or mechanical processing, or more specifically in the case of a research narrative, substantive rethinking. Unlike the Phoenix, a mythical sacred firebird, a declined proposal rarely will have the ability to be reborn from its own ashes. A recycled proposal submitted in an attempt to do so will be quickly "unmasked" by program officers and reviewers for the truth that lies beneath it—a PI unwilling, unable, or too disorganized to rethink and restructure a research narrative in a way that remolds it into an essentially new proposal. This is not an easy task, but it is a necessary one. **Proposals have a very specific home within a very specific time frame, not a generic home within an open-ended time frame.**

Shopping declined proposals around to multiple agencies is something akin to (pick your analogy) a snipe hunt, wild goose chase, or fool's errand. **Proposals are not fungible across agencies, within agencies, or even within programmatic areas within agencies, nor are proposals fungible over time.** All proposals enjoy fifteen minutes of fame, as Marshall McLuhan might have observed, during the period when reviewers are making the decision to recommend or not recommend funding. However, when a proposal is declined, a resubmit is many months if not a year away in most cases. It is time to begin anew given that a declined proposal, while perhaps not a lemon, certainly



had some serious problems that needed fixing. Don't try to pass it off "as is" like a used car with mechanical or electrical problems to some other unsuspecting buyer, i.e., some other funding agency.

The Silo Disguise

When an invitation to a "proposal party" arrives in the form of a solicitation wherein research and/or education integration is explicitly addressed as a key factor in the evaluation of the proposal, or research integration across multiple disciplines is implicit in the research objectives and outcomes of interest to the sponsor, don't show up disguised as research silos or stovepipes. One common and often fatal mistake in writing a proposal that must demonstrate synergy and value-added benefits to multiple research strands is to compose the narrative sections as separate research articles loosely addressing a common research theme without close coordination or integration among principal investigators.

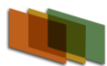
Given the dramatic increase in research funding over the past several years to support research that explores and illuminates the boundaries, interstices, and intersections of multidisciplinary environments in search of new discoveries, it is critical for successful authors to both recognize and avoid siloed sections and **learn the more difficult skill of writing integrated research narratives**. If the multiple authors of the multiple research sections of a transdisciplinary proposal cannot demonstrate and clearly describe how the intersections of "disciplinary catalysts" accelerate the research discovery process in the research narrative, then programs officers and reviewers will be unlikely to fund the proposal, trusting that the required research integration might magically happen in practice.

The "Trust Me" Mask

The "trust me" mask is typically worn by a very vague proposal narrative containing a lot of reminiscence of past accomplishments and accompanied by long descriptive narrative sections that read like a textbook, but with only a fuzzy hypothesis and few specifics about what is actually being proposed and its significance. The subtext of the "trust me" proposal is **"just give me the money and great research will happen."** It often reads like a daisy chain of effusive superlatives, but lacks any grounding in specificity and detail. Reading a "trust me" proposal will put you in mind, here again, of H. L. Mencken's comment about "an army of words marching across the page in search of an idea." In other instances, the "trust me" proposal may present a grandiose idea embellished with vague claims of significance. Ultimately, however, the "trust me" proposal, to quote Macbeth's famous soliloquy, **"is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."** The "trust me" proposal is the research equivalent of a politician promising *"free beer and wide roads."* It is simply not believable.

Wearing an NIH Costume to an NSF Costume Party

Perhaps imposter Frank Abagnale, Jr., played in the movie *Catch Me If You Can* by Leonardo DiCaprio, might pull off this disguise successfully, but in most cases it is best not to attempt to wear an NIH costume to an NSF costume party. Some major alterations will be in order. For example, if your NIH costume identifies you as a biochemist able to significantly accelerate the "bench to bedside" benefits of your research in order to impact a specific human disease, you might want to consider wearing a new costume for the NSF party. In this case, your new, **NSF-appropriate costume** might better focus on how you will advance the frontiers of biological knowledge, increase our understanding of complex biological systems, and provide a theoretical basis for original research in many other scientific disciplines. **Unfortunately, wearing the wrong research costume to the wrong agency costume**



party is a fairly common "fashion faux pas" not limited to researchers attempting to expand their funding opportunities by moving beyond NIH and including NSF as a potential funder of their research. This faux pas is quickly recognized and noted by reviewers.

The Claiming Rather than Explaining Mask

In grant writing it is always better to explain than to claim. **Adjectives and superlatives do not have the power to confer legitimacy on your ideas, nor do they communicate anything more than unsubstantiated opinions.** While your intent may be to use adjectives and superlatives to add a compelling "glitter" to the significance of your research narrative, the most likely result is that they will act more like chaff, annoying or distracting reviewers, much like chaff acts as a countermeasure to confuse radar systems. If something is novel, innovative, unique, or compelling about your research, then demonstrate that with the specificity and detail required to prove it. Claiming that your research is novel, innovative, unique, and compelling without proving it by substantive statements and well supported examples is nothing more than wishful thinking, somewhat analogous to the sixteenth-century English proverb *"If wishes were horses, beggars would ride."* In the case of a research narrative, it is better to heed Benjamin Franklin's observation: **"Industry need not wish."** The significance of your ideas should not need the adornment of "linguistic bling" in the form of gushing superlatives. A clear and simple statement directed to reviewers and program officers describing the significance of your idea **with concise details and specificity will suffice.**

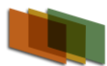
I Love Being in the Weeds Mask

To ensure that reviewers use your proposal as a sleeping aide, overwhelm them with a blizzard of technical minutia achieving the density of a black hole. Take them ever deeper into the disciplinary weeds, page after painful page, extinguishing their hope of finding even a glimmer of significance. Reviewers asked to slog through a seemingly endless series of arcane minutiae will quickly rebel against the numbingly repetitive experience, as desperately as TV meteorologist Phil Connors (Bill Murray) in *Groundhog Day* tries to escape the endlessly repeated series of trivial events. It can be easier to write page after page of familiar technical detail than to write a more disciplined research narrative representing a clear and simple description convincing reviewers of the significance of your research and its likelihood to advance the field in some way. Use technical detail **judiciously to help prove your case rather than disguise it.**

In some cases, the initial writing of technical detail can help you psychologically "jump start" the proposal narrative so you at least have the illusion of words on the page rather than a blank page. Ultimately, however, technical data dumps are nothing more than listings of technical capacities, expertise, and details **without any guiding intelligence** that explains the relational connections among the details and the resultant significance or importance to an agency mission. Excessive technical minutiae in a research narrative unlinked to research relevance forces reviewers into the position of the National Security Agency that gathers massive amounts of global communications but then must mine the "raw data" for relevant information demonstrating a pattern of significance to the agency. Don't expect reviewers to do that job for you. Use the appropriate amount of technical detail to support your arguments, but never assume that "raw" technical details alone will make the funding case for you.

The All Hat and No Cattle Disguise

Putting forth grandiose ideas grounded on generalities rather than specifics is a fairly common failing of many proposals. Grand visions, overly ambitious plans, and unfocused ideas cobbled to unbridled



enthusiasm will not impress reviewers. While effusive epiphanies may have their place on your back deck with a bottle of wine at sunset, they are most often, thankfully, ephemeral, and should not find their way into a proposal narrative.

The No-Value-Added Mask

While economists have long argued the merits of a value-added tax (VAT), there is no such debate over the importance of describing the value-added benefits of your research when it comes to writing a successful proposal (see *Make Your Case for Value-Added Benefits* in the August 15 2015 issue). Describing the value-added benefits of your research—to an agency mission, to a scientific field, and in response to the program objectives defined in a solicitation—is a fundamental requirement for competitiveness across all agencies and foundations, regardless of your academic discipline. Surprisingly, such a description is often overlooked or stated unclearly in the project description on many proposals.

Sometimes PIs neglect such a description because they simply have not thought sufficiently about how the proposed research fits into the overall context of an agency's mission priorities, or considered how the proposed research meets the overall goals and objectives of a specific solicitation. At other times, unfortunately, the PI may be proposing research that does not offer sufficient value-added benefits to warrant funding. Funding agencies support research that advances the disciplinary field in some clear and significant way, or advances the agency's mission-critical objectives in a clear way and significant way.

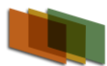
The key words here linked to value-added benefits are “clear,” “significant” and “advances.” The benefits that need to be described in the project narrative represent a “unit of change” that advances the current state of knowledge in a field or discipline and moves it forward in some significant way. The intertwining of value-added benefits and significance needs to be described clearly and succinctly in any research narrative if you hope to capture the interest of program officers and reviewers.

Moreover, the exact nature of the value-added benefits your research offers the funding agency is not a trivial consideration. To address it in the most compelling way requires an understanding of the agency mission objectives at multiple scales—from the level of the agency to a specific solicitation. It also needs your keen assessment of how well your research maps to the agency mission objectives and how it does so in the context of the current state of knowledge in the field. Your ability to capture these multiple contexts and weave a compelling narrative statement describing how your proposed research brings value-added benefits to the funding agency will be a key factor in the success of your proposal.

The Overly Ambitious Disguise

While it is common during presidential election years to hear politicians promise the equivalent of “free beer and wide roads” on every conceivable political topic of potential interest to voters, it is not a good strategy when it comes to crafting a research narrative that you hope will impress program officers and reviewers sufficiently for them to recommend funding. They are a critical audience with sufficient experience to distinguish between what you hope to do and what you can realistically accomplish given the constraints on your time, resources, and expertise.

The overly ambitious project description is a fairly common reason for denying funding to proposals, particularly those submitted by more junior investigators whose earnest enthusiasm may charm



reviewers but finally requires them to recommend against funding, with perhaps the suggestion to resubmit a more realistic proposal in the next grant cycle. The education and outreach component of an NSF CAREER proposal, for example, often tempts new investigators to overreach, while others may overreach in the proposal research plan.

In any proposal, however, getting this balance right is critical. If you submit a proposal in which the research narrative seems to suffer from inflationary promises that are out of balance with your budget, current and pending support, resources, expertise, and teaching obligations, among other constraints, you will likely not be funded. Be realistic in what you can and cannot accomplish within the constraints that set your operational boundaries, and then reflect that in your project narrative. **Reviewers don't fund promises; they fund promises they are convinced can be kept.**

The Solipsist Disguise

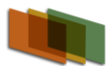
While solipsism is largely dismissed as a frivolous philosophical notion best left to late night discussions in bars bordering college campuses, it does, nonetheless, occasionally manifest itself in proposal narratives. Like its philosophical counterpart, the solipsistic project description is self-absorbed and apparently oblivious to the external reality of an audience, i.e., program officers and reviewers, that will pass judgment on the proposal.

The PIs of self-absorbed project narratives typically make several fatal mistakes, all in some way related to an inability to place their ideas in the proper context, specifically, advancing the research and mission-critical objectives of the funding agency. These narrative flaws include ignoring or attempting to circumvent the mission objectives of the sponsoring agency in the mistaken belief that the PI's ideas are so important they should be funded whether or not they respond to the agency's research requirements; ignoring or appearing to be unaware or indifferent to the fact that successful project narratives are written with an audience in mind—program officers and reviewers, who must be convinced of the significance and value-added benefits to funding the proposed research; and ignoring the need to write a research narrative that is easily read, responsive to the specifics of the solicitation, and accessible to program officers and reviewers in making their funding decision. The bottom line here is that funding agencies are not interested in funding promotional “self portraits” of ideas only marginally relevant to the agency mission objectives.

The Slogan Mask

Passing slogans off as ideas may be sufficient for those running for political office, but it is a really bad idea for those writing a proposal. **Slogans are not ideas.** In writing a project description, particularly for certain types of institutional grants where research and educational objectives are intertwined, such as at NSF, or where institutional transformation of some kind is the desired outcome, such as ADVANCE, project narratives often over rely on slogans or too heavily echo an agency phrases picked up from reports, presentations, and conferences.

While it is important to have a common language to describe common programmatic elements, that common language must be used judiciously and, most importantly, be grounded in the specific context of the institutional objectives that motivate the proposal. Making the claim, for example, that your research is transformational or your proposal integrates research and education in innovative ways amounts only to a slogan without substantive programmatic descriptions in the project narrative that outline the specifics and details to support such a claim. Some authors of what are often institutional proposals of one sort or another, as those mentioned above, or authors of educational components required of research proposals such as the NSF CAREER, make the mistake of sprinkling



the narrative with key words and phrases used by the agency in multiple solicitations, reports, and presentations. This seems to be done under the mistaken belief that echoing the language used in agency vision statements can substitute for the hard work of grounding an agency's overarching vision or goals in the unique context of the particular institution or research or educational program.

While echoing back an agency's language or phrasing is important to demonstrate that you understand and are familiar with the agency's mission objectives as well as the specific solicitation to which you are responding, the real work, as is always the case in proposal writing, comes when you must move from the general vision to the specific program that will allow that vision to be achieved within your unique institutional context.

So slogans, terms, and phrases adopted by an agency to describe their overarching vision, such as the NSF terms *innovative*, *transformational*, *research and education integration*, and numerous others, lack substantive meaning until you define them with the specific details of your research and/or educational objectives within your unique institutional or programmatic context. Until you perform that hard work, these terms are nothing more than agency vision slogans without substance. Throwing them back at program officers and reviewers without the specificity and detail that gives them substantive meaning will bring no value-added benefit to the agency and no reason to fund your proposal.

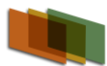
The “Why Should I Bother to Write a Budget Justification” Mask

It is wise to treat the budget justification section of the proposal as an opportunity to write a more competitive proposal rather than as an inconvenient boilerplate disconnected from the project description. Whether through inattention or disregard, a poorly written description of the budget justification unlinked to the research narrative risks missing an opportunity to give additional detail and specificity about the operational and management structure of the project, or other factors unique to your proposal.

At the core of a successful proposal must lie a good idea that reviewers judge to be significant, compelling, and meritorious for funding. But it is also the case that your success will depend upon convincing program officers and reviewers that you have the operational and management expertise to manage a research award wisely and successfully over several years or longer, particularly a major award that may involve multiple researchers, post docs, and graduate students, along with other possible program components aligned with the research objectives.

A funded award, after all, represents a major, strategic investment by a research agency in your capacity to perform. Of course, your case for funding is made in the project description in various sections, including in the management and operations sections. However, the budget justification section allows you additional space to explain the budget request at a level of detail that space constraints in the project description may prohibit. In this respect, the budget justification section serves as a functional bridge between the project narrative and the raw budget numbers. It is a place where narrative text and budget numbers may be joined to give reviewers a clearer and deeper understanding of the operational logic of your proposed research and how it will be accomplished using the sponsor's money.

While the format and content of the budget justification section will vary by agency, and often by program and program size within an agency, it is another important factor in the success of your proposal (if it is a specified component of the solicitation) and, as such, should be approached by the proposal writing team to ensure that it will serve as an illuminating complement to the project



description. After all, successful proposals are the sum of an accumulation of marginal advantages, as economists might describe it, whereby every required component of a proposal is brought as close to perfection as possible, recognizing that the aggregate of these factors cumulatively determines the outcome. Failing to give the budget justification section of a proposal the attention it deserves squanders an opportunity to gain further competitive advantage and hence a funded proposal.

The Freddy Krueger Mask

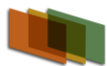
In the seemingly endless series of Freddy Krueger movies beginning with *Nightmare on Elm Street*, the victims all have recurring nightmares and die in their sleep. Program officers and reviewers might also welcome this fate when the “Freddy Krueger Proposal” is submitted to their agency for review with every indication that it has come to them by a circuitous route of prior **serial rejections by other research agencies**. Some of the most egregious examples of horror stories recounted by program officers and reviewers include having to read proposals containing obvious artifacts of prior submittals, such as instances in which a project timeline or most of the research narrative has been clearly copied and pasted into the current proposal from a prior proposal, occasionally so hurriedly as to incorrectly identify the agency to which the “perennial proposal” is currently being submitted.

But even if the most obvious tell-tale signs of a recycled proposal are deleted from the most current resurrection, most reviewers and other readers will quickly recognize other “crime scene” evidence indicating that the proposal’s author is attempting the grant-writing equivalent of “speed dating” funding agencies, perhaps using the same logic that people use in buying lottery tickets. It is fairly easy to recognize when a proposal does not respond to the specific solicitation to which it is being submitted, perhaps because the authors assume such a greatness in the proposed ideas that program officers and reviewers will not care, or eagerly overlook, the fact they are not relevant to the agency mission priorities. Or perhaps authors of recycled proposals assume that all research funding agencies and their programs are fungible, and so a proposal submitted in the past to one of the defense agencies can be tweaked a bit and submitted for an NSF CAREER award.

Unfortunately, the Freddy Krueger Mask is scalable, as the PI’s of large research proposals have likely learned. PI’s should take note, if not actually horrified, when a potential research team member provides an “**off the shelf**” narrative contribution that has likely been inserted in many past efforts.

The Achilles Heel of recycled proposals is that they ignore the basics of successful grant writing; specifically, they forget that competitive proposals must contain competitive ideas that respond clearly to the funding agency’s mission priorities or other research objectives defined in the solicitation. Recycled proposals are destined for rejection. Before trying to recycle an old proposal for a new program, it would be wise to heed U.S. House Speaker Sam Rayburn’s observation that “there is no education in the second kick of the mule.” A recycled proposal is most likely to have suffered a series of “mule kicks” by reviewers in the past, and this should be taken to heart for future efforts.

Bottom line: if you are proposing new research ideas, express the significance of those new ideas, and all topic components of them, in newly-crafted writing for every word of the proposal narrative. Success in proposal writing will not be achieved using recycled parts—successful proposals are not renovations of the past but a creation for the future, together with the compelling arguments you make for the place and significance of your research ideas in that future.



The “I am a Researcher not a Wordsmith” Mask

Mark Twain once stated that he never trusted a person who could only spell a word one way. Unfortunately, Mark Twain will not be reviewing your proposal, but rather program officers and reviewers who may not be amused by errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation, and the resultant ambiguities they create. When it comes to the mechanics of writing a research proposal, it is prudent to assume a level of perfection in grammar, spelling, and usage equivalent to that of writing a computer program with zero tolerance for coding errors.

While one or perhaps two errors in a major proposal may be tolerated by reviewers, or escape notice, anything more than that will likely draw attention, and not of a positive kind. Reviewers will likely assume, and justifiably so, that sloppy errors in language and usage will translate into sloppy errors in research. Unfortunately, there is no equivalent concept in grant writing to the “Navaho rug flaw,” whereby a purposeful imperfection is woven into a wool rug or blanket to allow evil spirits the opportunity to exit the design.

The last comment you want to read in your reviews is that the proposal was poorly written and contained numerous typos, or was in need of wordsmithing. Reviewers will occasionally comment on how well the research narrative was written, or how poorly it was written. But reviewers rarely recommend funding for poorly written proposals. Fortunately, errors of grammar, usage, and spelling are correctable by taking the time to closely proofread your narrative, or, better yet, by getting a fresh set of eyes on the proposal by an experienced editor.

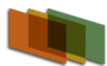
The Unbalanced Disguise

Balance, proportion, and emphasis are key characteristics of a well-written proposal narrative. While the intentional absence or distortion of these characteristics makes for fanciful Halloween masks of ghoulish, frightening features, an unintentional neglect of these characteristics in the proposal narrative will have a similarly disturbing effect on program officers and reviewers. In the case of the ghoulish Halloween mask, the reward may well be a generous amount of candy. But the ghoulishly distorted proposal that knocks on an agency’s door will likely leave empty handed.

Unfortunately, the rules for a well-proportioned and balanced project narrative are not as easily described as Euclid’s golden triangle, where the ratio of 1.618033 was viewed as proportionally perfect. Of course, the ideal proportion in the project narrative is not something the early Greeks addressed, at least as far as we know, and so it is left to the proposal authors to make sure to appropriately balance the narrative’s many sections.

How do proposal narratives become unbalanced or poorly proportioned? When a single author or a team of authors produces the first draft of a proposal, they will typically write most about what they know best. For example, first drafts often feature a disproportionately long background section that imbalances the narrative. Fortunately, creating the first draft of a proposal by following a template or narrative outline drawn from the solicitation and review criteria will reduce the likelihood of writing an imbalanced project narrative.

However, while a narrative template that outlines the required sections and subsections of any specific project description can reduce imbalance, it does not entirely prevent errors in assigning the weight given to particular sections of the proposal, even in cases where a well-crafted template imposes page limits on sections, or where the solicitation itself imposes page limits on sections. Often, segments receiving the least space in a first draft may emerge as the core sections of the proposal



narrative that are not only the most important but also the most challenging to write. These sections tend to relate to the research vision, synergy among project objectives, and the like, which lie at the core of the competitive submittal.

Balance, proportion, and emphasis in the project description need to be continuously monitored during the writing and internal review process with each thoughtful iteration of the narrative. It is not unusual that initial proposal drafts develop a significant amount of imbalance. This needn't hamper the proposal's success as long as the authors recognize that each subsequent draft of the proposal requires a new rebalancing to account for the revised text.

For instance, authors commonly allow a draft narrative, particularly in the early stages of development, to run well over the page limit to ensure that they cast a broad "narrative net" over all of the ideas with a potential to contribute to the proposal's success. However, as the due date approaches, the process of honing, crafting, and tightening the narrative begins. This is the point at which close attention must be paid to achieving balance among sections of the proposal.

For example, if buffers are not important to the proposed research project, don't spend narrative time on buffers. Check to see whether or not the management plan is appropriate for the scale and scope of the project, or whether the narrative balance reflects the agency's weighting of review criteria, or whether the narrative overemphasizes less important questions asked in the solicitation and underemphasizes the most important questions, or whether the narrative description appears untethered from the budget requests.

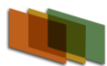
Balance, proportion, and emphasis are key attributes of the well-written, and hence successful, proposal and need to reflect an internal hierarchy of ideas advanced in the narrative and the support requested in the budget to develop those ideas.

The "I Really Need this Grant" Mask

If you want to strike horror into the hearts of program officers and reviewers alike, then make a need-based arguments to a merit-based research agency. If need is a factor in the review of the proposal, it will be stated as such in the solicitation, e.g., in U.S. Department of Education solicitations, need is sometimes a weighted factor. Moreover, if other non-merit-based factors are part of the review process, then those will be stated in the solicitation as well. For example, in some cases, federal mission agencies look for a geographic distribution in making awards under a specific program. Absent a note in the program solicitation describing review factors other than those related to merit, don't disguise and overshadow a potentially fundable idea by focusing on need-based descriptions rather than the merit of your ideas.

While in some instances at certain funding agencies a compelling description of the need for the project is one review criterion, it is typically not a criterion at the major research funding agencies. Therefore, making need-based pleas in a proposal to a merit-based agency, such as NSF or NIH, arguing that rejecting your proposal amounts to callously shutting down the local orphanage, is not a wise strategy. These arguments are perhaps better directed to a foundation, particularly state or regional foundations, or federal agencies with programs that do account for need as a factor in competitiveness.

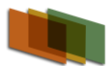
Moreover, without guidance from a university research office or members of a university community, some faculty or professional staff without sufficient experience in reading a solicitation closely, or an understanding of the mission and culture of a particular agency, may mistake a research



proposal solicitation for an infrastructure support solicitation. This can often be exacerbated when reduced or flat budget appropriations force some university offices to adopt unrealistic expectations of finding grant funding to support personnel and administrative infrastructures. Or, this can happen when faculty with a history of internal support for various programmatic infrastructures are forced to look elsewhere for funding due to budget cuts and fiscal redirections. In other cases, it may occur when faculty or professional staff in university offices with a history of funding from need-based agencies and foundations are looking for a new revenue stream to support expanded programs, or for those programs that are being defunded.

While this misinterpretation of a merit-based research agency's mission can be directed to many federal agencies, it is most often directed to the NSF. Taking what is essentially a need-based rather than a merit-based argument to NSF occurs fairly commonly, particularly in the domain of education, where researchers may lack familiarity with NSF's mission and culture.

Helping potential applicants clearly understand the distinction between need- and merit-based agencies or solicitations as early in the proposal development process as possible can save a significant amount of time and resources, not only for those writing the proposals but also for those who must advise, process, or submit those proposals.



How a Good Website Can Help Faculty Win Grants

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Reprinted from May 15, 2018

By Lucy Deckard

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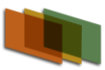
When you hear about someone new who's doing research that you think might be interesting, what's the first thing you do? You may search your library's database for journal articles authored by that person and assiduously read several of the articles, but odds are before you do that, you Google that person and take a look at their webpage to get an overview of their work and determine if it's worth investigating further. Program officers and potential collaborators often do the same thing, yet many faculty have webpages that are uninformative about their research or contain information that's out of date. The pernicious aspect of this oversight is that you will never know the opportunities you missed because a Program Officer was looking for a reviewer with your expertise, or a colleague was looking for a collaborator, and didn't find you. Remember also that your website is your public face, so if you happen to be a faculty member in the arts, for example, and are working to raise funds from donors or private foundations for art events or performances, your website is very likely the first place donors you approach will look. A poorly designed website will not help your case when working to engage potential donors.

Looking for Reviewers

Researchers who are now well-funded often say that the most valuable experience that paved the way toward funding was serving as a proposal reviewer. This experience can provide invaluable insight into what reviewers are looking for, how review panels work, specific interests of the program that might fund you, and what makes a proposal successful. NSF Program Officers often struggle to find reviewers with specific expertise needed. If you're interested in pursuing NSF grants, you should identify the program or programs likely to be the most interested in your research and volunteer to be a reviewer for those programs. Some divisions have a formal process for volunteering that entails filling out a form on the website, but for most programs, you can make your interest known by sending your NSF biosketch to your P.O. along with an email volunteering to review. You can also ask colleagues who review for NSF to recommend you. However, when your name surfaces, it's very likely that the P.O. will check out your webpage. It may also happen that the P.O. needs a reviewer with specific expertise to serve as an ad hoc reviewer for a specific proposal (this often comes up when the panel assembled doesn't have the required expertise). Again, the P.O. may do a web search to identify potential reviewers. If your website effectively communicates your research interests, conveys the impression of an active research program, and is attractive and well laid out, the P.O. will most likely decide to investigate your work further.

Looking for Collaborators

As research becomes more interdisciplinary, and as funding agencies increasingly seek proposals that tackle society's hard problems, they are looking for projects that bring together teams with diverse expertise that offers the promise of new perspectives and synergies. For example, NSF's Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS) and Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) explicitly require that social science expertise be included in project teams. Putting together these kinds of teams with members with a wide range of disparate areas of expertise



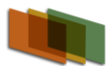
often forces faculty to reach out beyond their unusual professional networks. One way that conversation can get started is by making it easy for researchers in other areas to find you.

Developing an Effective Research Webpage

One of the main reasons that faculty webpages become stale and outdated is that many universities make it difficult for faculty to access and update their own university webpages. If this is an issue you're struggling with, consider setting up your own research webpage through WordPress, Squarespace or some other web host service. These are typically inexpensive (less than \$150/year) and provide easy-to-use, attractive and flexible templates that don't require a knowledge of html. You can then simply put a link to your research webpage on your university webpage (or ask the person with the authority to do that). This will allow you to keep your research website current without running official website access gauntlets at your institution.

Developing an effective research webpage is similar to developing a proposal. Here are some key principles:

- Make it accessible audiences outside of your research area.
- Make it attractive; one way to do that is to include engaging graphics and avoid overcrowding. You can add more pages and provide links for different projects or topics.
- Think about what you want to communicate. If you would like a Program Officer to see you as an engaged mentor and educator, include photos of your research group as well as information on your education and outreach activities.
- Above all, keep it up to date so that it's clear you are an active researcher working at the frontiers of your discipline.



Research Grant Writing Web Resources

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NSF invests \$19.6M in emerging research institutions to grow their capacity to participate in regional innovation ecosystems and announces next funding opportunity

Awardees will receive training and support for 3 years to build more inclusive regional ecosystems and potentially connect to NSF Regional Innovation Engines

The U.S. National Science Foundation announced the first-ever Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC) investment of \$19.6 million to nearly 50 teams at U.S. institutions of higher education, including teams from historically Black colleges and universities, minority-serving institutions and community colleges. Each institution will receive up to \$400,000 over three years.

Through this investment, EPIIC awardees will receive support to develop capacity and institutional knowledge to help them build new partnerships, secure future external funding and tap into their regional innovation ecosystems – potentially into an [NSF Regional Innovation Engine](#) (NSF Engine) or an Economic Development Administration Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (EDA Tech Hub).

NSF also recently released the [next funding opportunity for EPIIC](#). [Learn more at an informational webinar on Oct. 25 at 3:30 p.m. ET.](#)

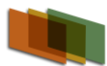
"NSF aspires to accelerate the nation's research and innovation enterprise and empower all Americans to participate in the science- and technology-driven workforce," said Erwin Gianchandani, NSF assistant director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). "EPIIC reinforces NSF's commitment to develop new, inclusive innovation ecosystems by connecting diverse networks of partners to work together to drive the expansion of key technologies – and the technology workforce – in the U.S. and in turn address pressing national, societal and geostrategic challenges."

Launched by the TIP Directorate, EPIIC works with institutions interested in growing external partnerships and building innovation capacity. NSF recognizes that many institutions, including MSIs, small academic institutions and two-year institutions, stand to benefit from additional focused support for the infrastructure and resources needed to grow external partnerships and to tap into innovation ecosystems, including engaging with NSF Engines and EDA Tech Hubs.

"NSF recognizes that institutions with limited research capacities require comprehensive support to become equitable partners in their regional innovation ecosystems," said Thyaga Nandagopal, director of TIP's Division of Innovation and Technology Ecosystems. "This funding aims to set EPIIC awardees on level ground to seek and build lasting partnerships to tap into their innovation potential, and the capacity-building efforts will continue to provide significant innovation partnership opportunities well into the future." The full list of EPIIC awardees can be found on [NSF's award search webpage](#).

[Aligning Fundamental Research and Education in Advanced Manufacturing with the Objectives of the Manufacturing USA Institutes](#)

[Manufacturing USA](#) is a national network of manufacturing institutes established in 2014 by the multi-agency collaboration that guided its formation. Each Institute focuses on a specific manufacturing technology and the education of a skilled workforce to advance it and has the corresponding expertise, facilities, infrastructure and university and industrial membership to undertake projects that



transition manufacturing technologies from Manufacturing Readiness Level (MRL) 4 (laboratory demonstration) to MRL 7 (implementation in an environment representative of production). The objectives of the Manufacturing USA institutes are highly complementary to those of the National Science Foundation (NSF), which focus on MRL 1 (basic research) to MRL 3 (proof of concept), providing opportunities to speed the translation of NSF-sponsored research and educational innovations to use.

Manufacturing USA Institutes cover a wide range of topical areas that span the challenging and high-tech world of advanced manufacturing, from biopharmaceutical production and tissue printing to robotics and cybersecurity. NSF is interested in receiving proposals addressing critical fundamental research on and workforce development needs for advanced manufacturing that enable innovations in the technical focus areas of one or more of the Manufacturing USA Institutes.

This DCL encourages the submission of research and educational proposals that align with the technical focus areas of the Manufacturing USA Institutes **to established NSF programs in the Directorates for Engineering (ENG), STEM Education (EDU), and Technology Innovation and Partnerships (TIP)**. Proposal submissions should detail explicit collaborations with Institutes to facilitate the transition of promising research results and educational programs to them, leverage the programs, facilities, infrastructure, expertise, and member companies of one or more Institutes, and/or provide experiential learning opportunities for students. Proposal submissions that include internship opportunities for student researchers in the institutes and their member companies are strongly encouraged.

Submission Process

This is not a new program. Proposals must be submitted to established NSF programs in the ENG, EDU and TIP Directorates in accordance with the guidance contained in the *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG)* and any program specific requirements, including deadlines.. Proposals submitted in response to this DCL should be clearly identified by including a proposal title that is prefixed by "Manufacturing USA:" after any program specific title requirements.

Special Note: AIM Photonics has provided a detailed protocol for collaboration, as specified in [NSF 23-054](#), Dear Colleague Letter: Research on Integrated Photonics Using AIM Photonics Capabilities. Proposals for collaboration with AIM Photonics must follow the procedures indicated in [NSF 23-054](#), and their titles must be prefixed by "PIC:" instead of "Manufacturing USA:"

Principal investigators are encouraged to think broadly about opportunities for proposal submission to the NSF. Examples include the following DCLs, program descriptions and program solicitations:

[Accelerating Innovations in Biomanufacturing Approaches \(NSF-DOE/ABF Collaboration\)](#)

[Advanced Manufacturing \(AM\)](#)

[Advanced Technological Education \(ATE\)](#)

[A New Supplemental Funding Opportunity for Skills Training in Advanced Research & Technology \(START\)](#)

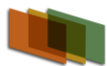
[Cellular and Biochemical Engineering \(CBE\)](#)

[Computational and Data-Enabled Science and Engineering \(CDS&E\)](#)

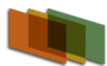
[Critical Aspects of Sustainability \(CAS\)](#)

[Cyber Physical Systems \(CPS\)](#)

[Designing Materials to Revolutionize and Engineer our Future \(DMREF\)](#)



[Electronics, Photonics and Magnetic Devices \(EPMD\)](#)
[Engineering Design and Systems Engineering \(EDSE\)](#)
[Engineering Research Centers \(ERC\)](#)
[Environmental Sustainability](#)
[Foundational Research in Robotics \(FRR\)](#)
[Future of Semiconductors \(FuSe\)](#)
[Future Manufacturing \(FM\)](#)
[Industry-University Cooperative Research Centers \(IUCRC\)](#)
[Manufacturing Systems Integration \(MSI\)](#)
[Non-Academic Research Internships for Graduate Students \(INTERN\) Supplemental Funding Opportunity](#)
[Operations Engineering \(OE\)](#)
[Partnerships for Innovation \(PFI\)](#)
[Process Systems, Reaction Engineering and Molecular Thermodynamics](#)
[Research Experiences for Undergraduates \(REU\) Sites and Supplements](#)
[Research on Integrated Photonics Utilizing AIM Photonics Capabilities](#)
[Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace \(SaTC\)](#)



Educational & Social Sciences Web Resources

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Don't miss it! IOS Virtual Office Hour for Investigators at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions

ON OCTOBER 12, 2023 BY BIOIOSBLOGGERS IN VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Join us on **Thursday, October 19th, 1 - 2pm ET** for the next IOS Virtual Office Hour where we will be discussing funding opportunities of interest for investigators at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs). Program Directors will give an overview of opportunities such as Facilitating Research at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions and Research Opportunity Awards (NSF [14-579](#)) and Building Research Capacity of New Faculty in Biology (NSF [22-500](#)). We'll also discuss important opportunities such as Mid-Career Advancement (NSF [22-603](#)) and the Faculty Early Career Development Programs (NSF [22-586](#)). We'll conclude the Virtual Office Hour with time for a Q&A session, so be sure to bring your questions!

REGISTER HERE TO PARTICIPATE

If you can't make it to this or any future office hours, don't worry! We post recaps and presentation slides of all [IOS Virtual Office Hours](#) on our blog. IOS Virtual Office Hours are held on the third Thursday of every month from 1 - 2pm ET. Upcoming dates and topics are announced ahead of time on the IOS Blog, so we suggest you [sign up for blog notifications](#).

Upcoming Virtual Office Hour Topics (subject to change):

November 16, 2023 - IOS Synthesis Center Webinar

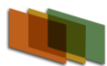
December 21, 2023 - NSF 101: Navigating NSF for new and established investigators

2023 NCES STATS-DC Data Conference -- Presentations are now available!

Presentations from the 2023 NCES STATS-DC Data Conference are now available! NCES hosted the 2023 Conference in Bethesda, MD, from August 9-11, 2023. The theme of this year's conference was Managing the Data Highway. Several presentations from the concurrent sessions are now available for viewing. We will continue to add presentations to the website, so please check back often! The Institute of Education Sciences, a part of the U.S. Department of Education, is the nation's leading source for rigorous, independent education research, evaluation, statistics, and assessment. IES is celebrating 20 years. Here's how to get involved.

NCSEER Announces the 2024 Research Training Workshop: Comprehensive Program for Adaptive Interventions Training in Education (CATIE)

The National Center for Special Education Research, in conjunction with the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, announces a research training workshop in the design, conduct, and analysis of novel experimental design methods for optimizing adaptive interventions, including SMART designs. It will also promote ongoing professional career development by offering scholars guidance and mentorship before, during, and after the in-person training institute to support research plans pertaining to the construction of adaptive interventions in educational settings. The workshop facilitators and mentors are methodological scientists and intervention scientists with



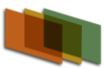
expertise in researching and carrying out adaptive intervention studies in education. This in-person workshop will be held February 21-23, 2024. Classroom instruction will take place on the University of Michigan campus. There is no application fee or cost to attend, though participants will need to travel to the training. Applications are open to scholars working in early intervention, education, or special education. All applications must be received no later than November 6, 2023. For more information about the training institute and how to apply, go to <https://d3c.isr.umich.edu/workshops/getting-smart-comprehensive-program-for-adaptive-interventions-training-in-education-catie/>

The National Center for Education Research at IES released two funding announcements for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 2024) this week.

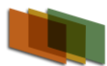
- [Research Training Programs in the Education Sciences](#) (84.305B): These research training programs seek to fund new approaches to train and mentor students and researchers from diverse backgrounds to encourage their entry into and success in education research careers. These efforts are intended to improve the quality of education research and to encourage new ideas, approaches, and perspectives. For FY 2024, there are three training programs:
 - Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for Education Research
 - Early Career Development and Mentoring Program for Faculty at Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs)
 - Methods Training for Education Researchers.
- [Statistical and Research Methodology in Education](#) (84.305D): This program supports the development of a wide range of methodological and statistical tools that will better enable applied education scientists to conduct rigorous education research. In FY 2024, IES invites applications under two topics:
 - The Core Grants topic supports the development of new and improved statistical and research methods and their dissemination to education researchers.
 - The Toolkits, Guidelines, Compendia, and Review Papers Grants topic supports the compilation of existing research and information on a given method into products that help education researchers understand and apply the method, such as toolkits, guidelines, compendia, and review papers.
- See [Important Dates and Deadlines for FY 2024 Competitions](#) for more information. All application packages are now available on Grants.gov. Letters of intent (optional but encouraged) are **due October 26, 2023** for 84.305B and 84.305D. The application deadline for 84.305B and 84.305D is **January 11, 2024**

STEPS TO APPLYING FOR IES GRANTS

1. **Identify** a current funding opportunity that matches your research interests and identify the relevant [letter of intent and application deadlines](#) and **sign up** for IES [newsflashes](#) to stay informed.
2. **View** a [funding opportunities webinar](#) to learn more about the application process and choosing an appropriate funding opportunity and **attend** our [virtual office hour](#) sessions for general, group discussions.



3. **Download** the [Application Submission Guide](#), as well as the appropriate [Request for Applications](#) and [application package](#) (Search for ALN 84.305 or ALN 84.324).
4. **Submit** your [Letter of Intent](#) (optional but strongly encouraged).
5. **Register** (or update) your organization on [Grants.gov](#) and [SAM.gov](#). Read the Department's [Fact Sheet](#) for information about the Federal government's transition from DUNS Number to Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).
6. **Submit** your application to [Grants.gov](#) before the application [deadline](#).



Agency News, Reports, Workshops & Roadmaps

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[NSF partners with the Institute for Progress to test new mechanisms for funding research and innovation](#)

The U.S. National Science Foundation and the [Institute for Progress](#) (IFP), with its Metascience Working Group, today announced an agreement to design and execute experiments to explore how the agency funds and supports research and innovation. The "[CHIPS and Science Act of 2022](#)" charged NSF with considering alternatives to, or experimentation within, NSF's traditional processes for receiving, reviewing, and funding research and innovation. Under this agreement, IFP will design and implement one or more economic and social experiments, statistical tests of a hypothesis.

"The NSF merit review process is the gold standard for evaluating the most promising research," said NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan. "We know there are always ways to improve, and these 'science of science' experiments will allow us to test new mechanisms to accelerate decision making. The results will enhance how NSF makes investments by reducing turnaround time on final decisions, allowing greater flexibility in pivoting projects toward maximal impacts, and developing new pathways for researchers."

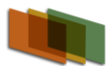
Over the course of the collaboration, IFP will consult with NSF on the current funding mechanisms and review processes used by the agency to decide which proposals to award and will propose tests for different ways to fund high-risk and high-reward proposals. IFP will then help develop tests of different mechanisms of interest to NSF staff, as well as potential analyses of NSF data to measure the outputs of NSF funding. Learn more about IFP on the [Institute for Progress website](#). Learn more about the working group on the [Metascience Working Group webpage](#).

[Women and Justice](#), By Dr. Shauntey James, PhD, JD

Women and Justice explores the twisted road that women are forced to follow in pursuit of justice. The journey is marked by sexual violence, intersectionality, and Supreme Court overhauls, to name a few. Half-hour interviews with experts in the field that you can fit into a workout or your drive home will challenge prevailing understandings of women and justice and make suggestions for future reforms. The winding road may be difficult to process at times, but to help straighten the path for the next generation, it's a path worth taking. **Subscribe for new episodes every Friday.**

USDA's Office of Tribal Relations Heather Dawn Thompson will provide an overview of the USDA Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative at 3 p.m. EST on Wednesday, November 8. Following her presentation, Food and Nutrition Service and NIFA staff will highlight resources from their respective agencies. [Register](#) for the webinar.

- **October 17, 2 p.m. EDT:** [Using PubAg to Share USDA-funded Work](#)
- **November 2, 2:30 p.m. EDT:** [Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agriculture Systems](#)
- **November 8, 3 p.m. EST:** [NIFA Nutrition Security Webinar: Promoting Indigenous Food Sovereignty](#)
- **November 16, 2:30 p.m. EST:** [2024 National 4-H Conference Information Session](#)
- **December 6, 3 p.m. EST:** [Transdisciplinary Approaches: The Science of Team Science](#)

**Application Deadlines**

- **October 26:** [Predoctoral Fellowships](#)
- **October 30:** [Community Food Projects Competitive Grant Program RFA](#)
- **November 2:** [Social Implications of Food and Agricultural Technologies](#)
- **November 13:** [Veterinary Shortage Situation Nominations Deadline](#)
- **December 7:** [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development](#)
- **December 29:** [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program](#)

Effective October 2, 2023, the National Science Foundation (NSF) updated the NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR) system with a new, streamlined submission workflow enabling NSF award recipients to add and manage journal articles, conference papers, conference proceedings, datasets, and workshop reports as separate and distinct products, and allowing products with a digital object identifier (DOI) from Crossref.org or DataCite.org to integrate seamlessly into the NSF-PAR.

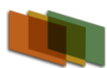
There are no changes to NSF's Public Access policy or project reporting requirements. Here's what you need to know: Conference proceedings and workshop reports are new product types in the NSF-PAR. The NSF-PAR search and filter feature has been updated to include all five supported product types.

- The streamlined NSF-PAR workflow includes easy-to-use add, update, and delete functionality for each product type.
- Journal articles, conference papers, and conference proceedings can be added to the NSF-PAR with or without a DOI.
- Journal article and conference paper metadata auto-populated using a DOI or entered manually in the NSF-PAR will be auto-populated in NSF project reports. Dataset metadata entered in the NSF-PAR with a DOI will also be auto-populated in NSF project reports.

A new *Adding Research Products to NSF-PAR and NSF Project Reports* guide will be available on the Research.gov [About Public Access](#) page. Visit the [NSF Public Access Initiative](#) page for additional information including the [NSF Public Access Plan 2.0 - Ensuring Open, Immediate and Equitable Access to National Science Foundation Funded Research](#) released earlier this year and to learn more about open science. **Questions?** If you have IT system-related questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via rgov@nsf.gov. Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov.

[Dear Colleague Letter: Capacity Building to Catalyze Collaborations to Address Climate Change Impacts on Human Health \(C2H2\)](#)

This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) encourages submission of proposals and supplemental funding requests focused on addressing the serious issue of the human health impacts resulting from climate change and downstream impacts from climate mitigation strategies. Tackling climate change-related human health issues has been identified as a priority by the scientific community¹. Participating entities

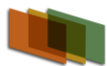


in this DCL are the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Geosciences (GEO); the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE); and, in the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU), the Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) and the Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUP) Programs.

Due to the increased incidence of human health issues driven by climate change GEO, SBE, and the EDU CREST and TCUP Programs, using the funding vehicles below, seek to foster interdisciplinary teams and approaches that strengthen communication and collaboration across and between their scientific communities and with those in the health sector as well as with local communities and other key stakeholders. Interested researchers are encouraged to include participants reflecting the full spectrum of diverse talent in STEM and engage those underserved by current geoscience research and/or medical science, as well as communities most vulnerable to climate change impacts.

GEO, SBE and the EDU TCUP Program invite submission of the following types of opportunities that respond to the climate change and human health focus of this DCL. In addition the EDU CREST and TCUP Programs encourage submission of proposals in response to this DCL topic. Proposals and supplemental funding requests must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the guidelines contained in the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) and the relevant program solicitation, if applicable. To submit a responsive request for the following opportunities indicated below, please see the C2H2 Opportunity Submission Instructions section at the end of this DCL.

- **Research Coordination Networks (RCNs)** proposals to develop networks that involve geoscientists, health/medical professionals, social/behavioral/economic scientists, educators, and can include impacted communities, and other stakeholders. These networks advance research or education through discussion and coordination of research, training, and educational activities across disciplinary and organizational boundaries. They facilitate understanding across disciplines and the development of novel ideas for collaboration, networking, and information exchange on challenges, solutions, and data. Find more information on the RCN program and solicitation on the [RCN program page](#).
- **Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)** proposals responding to this DCL support novel and transformative ideas from a team involving geoscientists and/or social/behavioral/economic scientists and human health/medical professionals for transformative exploratory projects addressing climate-triggered human health issues. Guidance on preparation of EAGER proposals is contained in PAPPG Chapter II.F.3.
- **GOALI Supplemental Funding Requests** responsive to this DCL are for GEO or SBE recipients to work with a biomedical or any other medical/health-related private sector entity on research of mutual interest. Guidance on preparation of GOALI supplemental funding requests is contained in PAPPG Chapter II.F.5.
- **GeoHealth INTERN** supplements provide opportunities for graduate students on GEO or SBE funded awards to work with a non-academic health or medical entity as described in the [2023 GeoHealth INTERN DCL](#).
- **Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST)** responsive to this DCL must enhance research capabilities in climate change and health at minority-serving



institutions (MSIs) through the establishment of centers that effectively integrate education and research. Learn more about [CREST Centers](#).

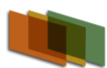
- **Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)** increases instructional and discovery capacity in STEM fields that align with and support the emphases of this DCL coming from institutions of higher education that are eligible for TCUP support. Get more information on the [TCUP Program](#).
- **Conference Proposals** led by geoscientists for meetings between geoscientists, health/medical professionals, social scientists, and/or affected communities. Preparation of conference proposals for identifying opportunities for advancing climate change impacts on human health should be guided by results from recent federal agency workshop reports, National Academies studies, reports from professional societies of geoscientists, and similar sources. Proposals should present new ideas and a vision for advancing convergent research on specific climate-related health topic(s) and on activities to catalyze collaborations between parties that advance use-inspired research with high potential for significant human health impacts. Guidance on preparation of Conference proposals is contained in PAPPG Chapter II.F.9.
- **Planning Proposals** from geoscientists or social/behavioral/economic scientists to support initial conceptualization, planning, and collaboration activities related to climate change impacts on human health with the goal of formulating new, robust plans for large-scale projects in current and emerging research areas responsive to this DCL for future submission to NSF. Guidance on preparation of planning proposals is contained in PAPPG Chapter II.F.1.
- **Supplemental Funding Requests to existing NSF GEO or SBE awards** for PIs wanting to further develop a component of human health related to their parent award that requires collaboration with medical or public health professionals.

C2H2 DCL OPPORTUNITY SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

For those wishing to participate in the capacity building activities indicated above and in response to this DCL, the first step is to send an email to the NSF email address geohealth@nsf.gov containing a brief Concept Outline of the activity that includes the information below.

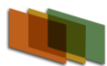
Concept Outline Content and Format

1. Opportunity of interest (see titles of opportunities in bold above).
2. Title
3. Most relevant Directorate – one of the following GEO, SBE, EDU.
4. PI(s) name(s) and institutional affiliation, with lead PI listed first.
5. No more than one page description of the activity and its proposed implementation and goals, including brief mention of targeted groups, entities, and/or partners. For the below opportunities, please also include the following in the text of the email:
 - a. **RCN** – Most appropriate GEO or SBE program to which the proposal is to be submitted, identification of targeted science and medical/health sectors/groups, and targeted medical/public health issue.



- b. **EAGER** – Most appropriate GEO or SBE program to which the proposal is to be submitted, identification of participants in the activity including those from the medical/health sector, and targeted medical/public health issue.
- c. **GOALI** – Parent award number, award end date, NSF award managing program director, targeted human health issue, and identity of public health/medical related private sector company.
- d. **GeoHealth INTERN** – Parent award number, award end date, NSF award managing program director, targeted human health issue, and identity of non-academic public health/medical host.
- e. **CREST** – Identification of institutions and participants in the activity including those from the medical/health sector and the targeted medical/public health issue.
- f. **TCUP** – Identification of participants in the activity including those from the medical/health sector and the targeted medical/public health issue.
- g. **Conference** – Most appropriate GEO or SBE program to which the proposal is to be submitted. Conference focus and goal/probable outcome, identification of participants in the activity including those from the medical/health sector, and the targeted medical/public health issue.
- h. **Planning Proposal** – Most appropriate GEO or SBE program to which the proposal is to be submitted. Planning process goal in terms of future actions, identification of participants in the activity including those from the medical/health sector, and the targeted medical/public health issue.
- i. **Supplement to an active GEO or SBE award** – Parent award number, award end date, award managing program officer, and identification of medical/public health collaborator(s).

Upon receipt, Concept Outlines submitted to the geohealth@nsf.gov email address will be distributed to the appropriate and/or targeted Programs/program officers. Prospective PIs will receive an email from the cognizant NSF program officer that specifies whether a full proposal or supplemental funding request may be submitted. Note: For EAGER and Planning proposals, the email confirming approval to submit must be uploaded in the “Program Officer Concurrence Email” section of Research.gov. For all other types of proposals and supplemental funding requests, the email must be with the file name “Program Officer Concurrence Email” in the “Other Supplementary Documents” section in Research.gov. Questions about this DCL and/or its relation to the opportunities described above should be directed to geohealth@nsf.gov.



New Funding Opportunities

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New Funding Posted Since September 15 Newsletter

URL Links to New & Open Funding Solicitations

Solicitations Remaining Open from Prior Issues of the Newsletter

Open Solicitations and BAAs

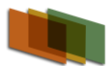
User Note: URL links are active on date of publication, but if a URL link breaks or changes, a Google search on the key words will typically take you to a working link. Also, entering a grant title and/or solicitation number in the Grants.gov search box will work as well.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology

The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) awards Postdoctoral Research Fellowships in Biology (PRFB) to recent recipients of the doctoral degree for research and training in selected areas supported by BIO and with special goals for human resource development in biology. For proposals under this solicitation, these areas are (1) Broadening Participation of Groups Underrepresented in Biology, (2) Integrative Research Investigating the Rules of Life Governing Interactions Between Genomes, Environment and Phenotypes, and (3) Plant Genome Postdoctoral Research Fellowships. The fellowships encourage independence at an early stage of the research career to permit Fellows to pursue their research and training goals in the most appropriate research locations in collaboration with sponsoring scientists. It is expected that the sponsoring scientists will actively mentor the Fellows and will greatly benefit from collaborating with these talented early-career scientists and incorporating them into their research groups. The research and training plan of each fellowship must address important scientific questions within the scope of BIO and the specific guidelines in this fellowship program solicitation. Because the fellowships are offered to postdoctoral scientists only early in their careers, NSF encourages doctoral students to discuss the availability of these postdoctoral fellowships with their doctoral mentors and potential postdoctoral sponsors early in their doctoral programs to take full advantage of this funding opportunity. Fellowships are awards to individuals, not institutions, and are administered by the Fellows. **Due Nov 29.**

Focused Research Groups in the Mathematical Sciences

The purpose of the Focused Research Group activity is to support collaborative groups employing innovative methods to solve specific, major research challenges in the mathematical sciences. A major challenge is an outstanding problem of significant importance that requires the focused and synergistic efforts of a collaborative group to solve, and whose solution will have wide impacts in the mathematical sciences and potentially in other areas. Groups may include, in addition to statisticians and mathematicians, researchers from other science and engineering disciplines appropriate for the proposed research. Risky projects are welcome. Interdisciplinary projects are welcome. Projects should be timely, limited in duration to up to three years, and substantial in their scope and impact for the mathematical sciences. Funded projects that show substantial progress in their first two years may be recommended for a creativity extension for up to an additional two years. **Due December 6.**



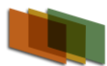
Enabling Partnerships to Increase Innovation Capacity (EPIIC)

The purpose of this solicitation is to broaden participation in innovation ecosystems that advance key technologies (e.g., advanced manufacturing, advanced wireless, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, quantum information science, semiconductors, novel materials, and microelectronics) by supporting capacity-building efforts at institutions of higher education (IHEs) interested in growing external partnerships. Creation of this program is motivated by the commitment of the National Science Foundation (NSF), including the newly established NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP), to accelerate scientific and technological innovation nationwide and empower all Americans to participate in the U.S. research and innovation enterprise. Establishing more inclusive innovation ecosystems will require broad networks of partners working together in support of use-inspired research; the translation of such research to practice or commercial application; and the development of a skilled workforce. The NSF Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) program, housed within the TIP Directorate, seeks to grow inclusive innovation ecosystems around the country. Growing such ecosystems will only be successful if all interested IHEs within a region are able to participate and contribute their unique set of skills and expertise. However, NSF appreciates many Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs), Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs), and two-year institutions lack the infrastructure and resources needed to grow external partnerships and effectively contribute to innovation ecosystems, and thus are currently unable to effectively engage with the NSF Engines program. This solicitation aims to provide MSIs, PUIs, and two-year institutions with limited or no research capacity (see Section IV for details) with the support necessary to become equitable partners with teams competing under the current and subsequent NSF Engines program funding opportunities. Importantly, participation in this solicitation is not predicated on an existing partnership with organizations submitting an NSF Engines proposal. Rather, it is expected that the capacity-building efforts funded under this solicitation will provide significant innovation partnership opportunities irrespective of future participation in an NSF Engine. **Prelim. Dec. 15; full May 16.**

FY2024 Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed Project

The overarching purpose of the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS®) is to address regional and national needs for ocean information, to gather reliable data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data. IOOS is a national, regional and private-sector partnership working to enhance the nation's ability to collect, disseminate, and use ocean information. U.S. IOOS is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean information, to gather specific data on key coastal, ocean, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data to support national defense, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach training and education.

The IOOS Coastal and Ocean Modeling Testbed (COMT) is an ongoing, multi-year effort to transition prototype ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes models, modeling tools and techniques, products, and data management advances to operations using a process that includes stakeholder engagement from industry, government, academia, and others invested in the modeling and prediction of the nation's ocean and coastal regions. IOOS, along with the other seven program offices within the National Ocean Service (NOS), has recently published a NOS Modeling Strategy (<https://aambpublicoceanservice.blob.core.windows.net/oceanserviceprod/tools/coastalpredictions/NOS-Modeling-Strategy-2023.pdf>) that describes a holistic, interdisciplinary, and community built



modeling portfolio to deliver the applications and services needed to reduce risks to life and property, enhance the economy, and promote social well-being in concert with our ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments. The COMT program aims to bring this vision to fruition through co-development of operational models. Operational mode is defined as the actual application of the technology in its final form and under mission requirements. Within this context, the U.S. IOOS Program is managing a competitive research and development project in which the IOOS Program funds advanced ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes modeling, prediction innovation projects designed to enable evaluation and transition of these models, modeling tools and techniques to operations mode. This funding will support modeling and prediction transitions in regions across the United States. **Due Feb. 26.**

Solicitations Remaining Open from Last Newsletter

Partnerships With Common Fund Data Ecosystem Resources (U24 Clinical Trial not Allowed)

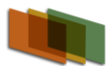
The NIH Office of Strategic Coordination (Common Fund - <https://commonfund.nih.gov/>) has generated many valuable and widely available datasets. The Common Fund Data Ecosystem is helping to ensure that all Common Fund (CF) data are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR). The purpose of this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is to announce the availability of funds for projects that involve collaboration with multiple CF Data Coordinating Centers (DCCs) to combine discovery and/or translational approaches with work that will enhance reusability of Common Fund data and contribute knowledge to the [Common Fund Data Ecosystem](#). Clinical trials will not be accepted through this NOFO. A clinical trial planning component is allowable, provided it is appropriate and rigorously developed. **Open Date (Earliest Submission Date)** November 04, 2023; **Letter of Intent Due Date(s)** November 4, 2023

Open Solicitations and BAAs

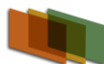
[BAA's remain open for one or more years. During the open period, agency research priorities may change or other modifications are made to a published BAA. If you are submitting a proposal in response to an open solicitation, as below, check for modifications to the BAA at Grants.gov or by utilizing [Modified Opportunities by Agency](#) to receive a Grants.gov notification of recently modified opportunities by agency name.]

ARMED FORCES PEST MANAGEMENT BOARD (AFPMB)

The Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB), an agency of the Department of Defense (DoD), is soliciting pre-proposals for original and innovative research designed to develop new interventions for protection of deployed military personnel from diseases caused by arthropod-borne pathogens and to improve control of bed bugs and filth flies. Diseases of significant concern include Lyme disease, malaria, dengue fever and other arboviruses. The program supports development of: (1) new toxicants or the adaptation of existing toxicants to medically relevant pests; (2) new insecticide application techniques; (3) new personal protection tools that prevent human-vector contact; (4) decision support tools and (5) novel vector surveillance tools that focus on improved control outcomes. Ideally the research would support **Advanced Technology Development** (see [DoD Financial Management Regulation Volume 2B, Chapter 5](#), DoD RDT&E Budget Activity 3) of new insecticides or improved formulations of existing insecticides for vector control, new technology or enhanced modalities of personal protection from biting arthropods, or improved efficacy and



sustainability of equipment for vector surveillance and application of pesticides for vector control in a military operational environment. Research should be product-oriented, consisting of advanced research related to a particular technology or new capability, evaluation of experimental products for military uses, or research directed towards development of an existing prototype product for commercial manufacture. Research should include semi-field or field evaluation of prototype products. Research should not include testing and evaluation of commercial products. Any pesticide end use products described in the proposed research should be destined for registration by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The research must be primarily applicable to the military, products should be transferable to civilian uses. The program consists of competitive grants open to principal investigators (PIs) from academia, industry, and local or state government agencies. Federal Agencies (including DoD) may apply subject to appropriate regulations. This BAA is intended to solicit pre-proposals for AFPMB for those parts of development not related to a specific system or hardware procurement in accordance with Title 2, Subtitle A, Chapter II, Part 200 CFR. The purpose of this BAA is to identify the best available science, and as such, there are no set-asides associated with any awards resulting from this BAA. Specific areas of interest are described in the "Areas of Interest" section of this BAA. This Announcement provides a general description of project areas, including specific areas of interest, general information, evaluation and selection criteria, and proposal preparation instructions. All documentation and or attachments that are required with the submission of a full proposal, if requested, are described in the Mandatory Proposal Forms section of this announcement. Awards are typically made under grants; however, other funding opportunities may be considered. **Open to Oct. 31, 2024**



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