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NSF for Group Research
NSF Goals in Supporting the Social, Behavioral And Economic Sciences

- Increase fundamental understanding of human behavior and society by supporting basic research, infrastructure, and education in the SBE sciences.

- Provide understanding relevant to critical national problems such as education, globalization, economic well being, risk mitigation, and diversity.
Presentation Coverage

• Basic Types of NSF Grants
  – Unsolicited
  – Solicited
  – Programs for special categories of researchers
  – RAPIDs and EAGERs
  – Hints on Getting Funded
SES Target Dates

January 18 & August 18
Decision, Risk, & Management Science
Economics
Law and Social Science
Methodology, Measurement & Statistics
Political Science
Sociology

February 1 & August 1
Science & Technology Studies
Innovation and Organizational Change
BCS Target Dates

December 1 & July 1
  Archaeology & Archaeometry
  Physical Anthropology

January 1 & August 1
  Cultural Anthropology

January 15 & July 15
  Cognitive Neuroscience
  Developmental & Learning Sciences
  Perception, Action, & Cognition
  Linguistics
  Social Psychology

January 15 & August 15
  Geography & Regional Science
Particularly Important for INGroup

- Innovation and Organizational Sciences
- VOSS (Office of Cyberinfrastructure)
- Science of Science and Innovation Policy
- Social Psychology
Special Solicitations

• Cyberenabled Discovery and Innovation (VO)
  – Inquire of Susan Winter (swinter@nsf.gov)

• ADVANCE (EHR)
  – Inquire of Kelly Mack (kmack@nsf.gov)
Grants For Particular Types of Researchers

- Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- Faculty Early CAREER Development Program
- Minority Post-Doctoral Fellowships
- Dissertation Improvement Grants
- RUI’s
- REU’s
- Supplements for Accommodation to Disabilities
RAPIDs and EAGERs

- RAPIDs: ephemeral
- EAGERs: too groundbreaking for review
- Internal Review Only
  - RAPIDs: Ephemeral / Time Sensitivity
  - EAGERs: Too Groundbreaking for Review
- Can be submitted at any time,
  - But need PO permission to submit
NSF Standard Merit Criteria

- **Intellectual merit**
  - Importance
  - Creativity and originality
  - Conception and organization
  - Achievability (access to resources, record of achievement)

- **Broader impacts**
  - Training
  - Diversity
  - Infrastructure
  - Dissemination/Public Awareness
  - Societal Benefits (of the findings themselves)
Types of Review

- ‘Mail’ Reviewers plus Panel Review
- Panel Review
- Internal Review Only
- Sources of Reviewers:
  - Program Officer’s knowledge
  - References in proposal
  - Web of science; SSRN; Google Scholar, etc.
  - Reviewer recommendations
  - Investigator’s suggestions
  - Volunteers
Caution: We are a Bureaucracy

- Do not violate the 15-page rule (without PO approval)
- Do not violate typeface, other GPG strictures (some programs will give you no second chance)
- Get permission if need to submit late
- Do not submit the same proposal to two programs (instead: ask for co-reviews)
- Post-doctoral Mentoring Plans Required
- Coming Soon: Data Management Plans
Myths about NSF

- Only funds scholars at elite graduate institutions
- Only funds “famous” academics
- Once declined, you are likely always to be declined
- Only funds “normal science”
- Advisory committees make funding decisions
Common Reasons for Declinations

- “Trust-me” proposals
- Little theory
- Little specificity about methods
- Weak link between theory and methods
- Not feasible
  - Expertise gaps
  - Insufficient funding for program success
  - Too ambitious
- Incremental contribution
- “Bad luck”
  - Not enough money in the fiscal year
  - Portfolio objectives in a given fiscal year
Advice

- Learn to love rejection
- Team up
- E-mail Program Officer with specific questions
  - 1-2 pages
  - Hypotheses, Theory, Methods, Major Citations