



# NSF PROPOSAL & AWARD POLICY UPDATE



**FDP May Meeting**  
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# Topics

- PAPPG Status and Proposed Changes
- Public Access System Enhancements
- Research.gov Updates
- NSF Grants Conference – Spring Virtual Event

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

- NSF typically announces a new PAPPG in the fall with implementation in the new year
- In 2021, the PAPPG will be released on a new schedule
  - December 14 – February 12: Public Comment in the Federal Register
  - Summer 2021 release date
  - October 2021 effective date



# PAPPG Proposed Changes



- Implementation of 2 CFR § 200
- Addition of context language for proposal sections
- Biographical Sketch expanded from two to three pages
- Further clarification of current and pending support



# PAPPG Proposed Changes



- Addition of Planning Proposal as a new proposal type
- New Travel Proposal Certification requirement
- Addition of Career-Life Balance Supplements
- Increased visibility of Research.gov

# Public Access – Recent System Enhancements

- Effective May 24, 2021, PIs no longer require NSF Help Desk assistance to:
  - Remove deposited publications from the NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR)
  - Remove publications from in-progress project reports in the Research.gov Project Reporting System
- Streamlining this process helps reduce administrative burden for both PIs and NSF staff and improves NSF-PAR and project report data quality.
- No changes to NSF's Public Access policy or project reporting requirements.
- Refer to the [how-to-guide](#) with step-by-step instructions and screenshots for both the NSF-PAR and in-progress project report publication removal process.



# Recent Research.gov Enhancements: Proposal Types

## ***New proposal types available since March 22:***

Additional proposal types and associated [automated compliance checks](#) enabled in Research.gov **and** in the Research.gov demo site:

- Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED)
- Equipment
- Travel

## ***Research.gov Proposal Screenshot: Proposal Type Options***

The screenshot shows the 'Prepare New Proposal' interface on Research.gov. It features a progress bar with five steps: 1. Funding Opportunity, 2. Where to Apply, 3. Proposal Type (selected), 4. Submission Type, and 5. Proposal Details. Below the progress bar, the section 'Select Proposal Type' asks 'What type of proposal will be used?'. A list of proposal types is shown, with 'Research' selected. Other options include 'Rapid Response Research (RAPID) Proposals', 'Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)', 'Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Research and Engineering (RAISE)', 'Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)', 'Ideas Lab', 'Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED)', 'Conferences', 'Equipment', 'Travel', 'Center', 'Research Infrastructure', and 'Fellowship'. A red box highlights the 'FASSED', 'Equipment', and 'Travel' options. To the right of these options, a blue button reads 'FASSED, Equipment and Travel: Available Now'. Another blue button labeled 'Available Now' is positioned to the right of the 'Research' option.

**Note:** All Proposal Types are listed in Research.gov but only those currently supported will be available for selection (i.e., unavailable selections are grayed out). View the [Research.gov Proposal Submission Capabilities](#) for details.

# Recent Research.gov Enhancements: Proposal Withdrawal

***New functionality available since March 22:***

- Proposers are able to withdraw both **single submission (with and without subawards)** and **separately submitted collaborative proposals** in Research.gov
- New proposal withdrawal FAQs added to the Research.gov [About Proposal Preparation and Submission](#) page

The screenshot displays the 'Proposal Preparation' section of the Research.gov website. It features three main panels: 'Prepare New Proposal', 'In Progress Proposals', and 'Submitted Proposals'. The 'Submitted Proposals' panel is highlighted with a red border. Within this panel, the 'View/Update Submitted Proposals' button is visible, and below it, a new link for 'Proposal Withdrawal' is highlighted with a red box. An arrow points from a 'New Tooltip' label to this link. The 'Submitted Proposals' panel also includes a description: 'View, download, or perform a Proposal File Update/Budget Revision on proposals that have previously been submitted to NSF.' and a list of links: 'Proposal File Update (PFU) / Budget Revision' and 'Proposal Withdrawal'.



# Research.gov Proposals: Capabilities Overview

Current Capabilities	Upcoming Capabilities	Future Capabilities
<p><b><u>Proposal Types</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Research:</b> Single Submissions from One Organization (<i>April 2018</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Research:</b> Single Submission Collaborative Proposals with Subawards (<i>June 2019</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Research:</b> Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals from Multiple Organizations (<i>March 2020</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Rapid Response Research (RAPID)</b> (<i>November 2020</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>EARly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)</b> (<i>November 2020</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE)</b> (<i>November 2020</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED)</b> (<i>March 2021</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Equipment</b> (<i>March 2021</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Travel</b> (<i>March 2021</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Proposal Features</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Withdrawal</b> (Single and Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposal Submissions) (<i>March 2021</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Training</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <b>Research.gov Proposal Prep Demo Site</b> (<i>October 2020</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Initial Topic-specific How-to Guides</b> (<i>March 2021</i>)</li> <li>✓ <b>Proposal Preparation Demo Video</b> (<i>March 2021</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Proposal Types</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Conference</b> (<i>Targeting late summer release</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Ideas Lab</b> (<i>Targeting late summer release</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)</b> (<i>Targeting fall release</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Submission Types</u></b> (<i>Targeting late summer/early fall release</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Letter of Intent</b></li> <li>• <b>Preliminary Proposal</b></li> <li>• <b>Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal</b></li> <li>• <b>Renewal Proposal</b></li> <li>• <b>Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Post Award Actions</u></b> (<i>Targeting fall release</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Supplemental Funding Requests</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Training</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Additional Topic-specific How-to Guides</b> (<i>ongoing</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Webinars</b> (<i>e.g., Spring 2021 NSF Grants Conference</i>)</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Proposal Types</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SBIR and STTR Phases I/II</b></li> <li>• <b>Center</b></li> <li>• <b>Research Infrastructure</b></li> <li>• <b>Fellowship</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Solicitation-specific Requirements</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Additional specified forms or documents</b> (e.g., DUE Project Data Form)</li> <li>• <b>Approved deviations from the PAPPG</b> (e.g., Project Descriptions exceeding 15 pages)</li> </ul>

## Notes:

- (1) Since July 2020, Research.gov is able to support all Research proposals that conform to standard *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) requirements for formatting and document content.
- (2) Two new proposal types (Planning Proposals and Career Life Balance Supplemental Funding Requests) included in the "For comment" draft of the PAPPG (NSF 22-1) are not listed in this table.

# Research.gov Proposal Training Resources

Training resources on the [Research.gov About Proposal and Submission](#) page:

- FAQs by topic
- Links to video tutorials including new [16-minute demo video](#) highlighting key proposal preparation features and preparing proposal file updates/budget revisions
- Link to [Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals](#) page to view current Research.gov proposal compliance checks
- Links to topic-specific how-to guides (e.g., [Initiating a Proposal](#) and [Sharing Access with Sponsored Projects Office/Authorized Organizational Representative](#))

## Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission Page

**About Proposal Preparation and Submission**

The Research.gov Proposal Submission System modernizes proposal preparation and submission capabilities by improving the user experience while also reducing administrative burden through an intuitive interface and expanded automated proposal compliance checking. Research.gov is being developed incrementally, and features are expanding to support the transition of all proposal preparation and submission functionality from FastLane to Research.gov in accordance with NSF Important Notice 147: [Research.gov Implementation Update](#) issued September 22, 2020. Grants.gov continues to be an option for the preparation and submission of NSF proposals.

Access the [Research.gov Proposal Submission System](#)

Explore the [Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site](#)

**Why Prepare Proposals in Research.gov?**

- Fast and easy Proposal Setup Wizard
- Quickly find funding opportunities, initiate a proposal, and give access to administrative staff
- Expanded compliance checking ([View Research.gov compliance checks](#))
- Immediate compliance feedback upon proposal section upload
- PDF uploads are not altered
- Minimize Return without Reviews due to some formatting issues
- On-screen references to relevant sections of the [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#)
- Better management of personnel and subawards
- Improved performance
- Less system downtime

**When to Use Research.gov**

Prepare your proposal in Research.gov if:

- 1 Your funding opportunity specifies submission via Research.gov is available
- 2 Your proposal is a full proposal, **AND**
- 3 Your proposal is one of the following types:
  - Research
  - RAPID
  - EAGER
  - RAISE
  - FASED
  - Equipment
  - Travel

Single and collaborative proposals are supported. [View all supported and new features.](#)





# NSF Grants Conference – Spring Virtual Event

- The virtual NSF Grants Conference will take place the week of June 7<sup>th</sup>. Sessions include:
  - Proposal Preparation
  - Merit Review
  - Award Management
  - NSF Directorate sessions
  - NSF CAREER program
  - Science and Security
- Register at: <https://nsfpolicyoutreach.com/>



# For More Information

**“Ask Early, Ask Often!”**

- [nsf.gov/staff](https://nsf.gov/staff)
- [nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp](https://nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp)
- [policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov)

