National Science Foundation Proposal Modernization Update



Federal Demonstration Partnership
January 12, 2022



Presenter

Stephanie Yee

IT Project Manager

Research.gov/FastLane/Grants.gov Maintenance & Operations Lead

Office of Information and Resource Management

Division of Information Systems

syee@nsf.gov



Agenda

- Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov
 - When, Why and How
 - Advantages of Research.gov Proposal Preparation
 - Research.gov Proposal Tips
- Research.gov Proposals: Where We Are and What's Ahead
- Recent Research.gov Proposal Enhancements
- Research.gov Proposal Demo
- Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site and Training Resources
- Providing Feedback
- Information Resources for the Research Community
- Contacts for Questions



Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov



Goodbye FastLane Proposal Preparation...Hello Research.gov

- FastLane is targeted to be removed as a submission option from all funding opportunities by December 31, 2022
- 70% of NSF funding opportunities are currently supported in Research.gov
- Funding opportunities clearly specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required

Division of Environmental Biol

PROGRAM SOLICITATION NSF 22-541

REPLACES DOCUMENT(S): NSF 21-504



National Science Foundation

Directorate for Biological Sciences Division of Environmental Biology

Full Proposal Deadline(s):

Proposals Accepted Anytime

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTE ABOUT RESEARCH.GOV PROPOSAL PREPARATION:

Innovating and migrating proposal preparation and submission capabilities from FastLane to Research.gov is part of the ongoing NSF information technology modernization efforts, as described in Important Notice
No. 147. In support of these efforts, proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation must be prepared and submitted via Research.gov or via Grants.gov and may not be prepared or submitted via FastLane.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

The Bridging Ecology and Evolution (BEE) special category is no longer part of this solicitation. Proposals that combine ecological and evolutionary approaches to better understand the functional role of biodiversity can be submitted to the new "Biodiversity on a Changing Planet" solicitation (NSF 22-508).

This revision includes new details on the required contents of the Data Management Plan

Innovating and migrating proposal preparation and submission capabilities from FastLane to Research.gov is part of the ongoing NSF information technology modernization efforts, as described in Important Notice No. 147. In support of these efforts, proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation must be prepared and submitted via Research.gov or via Grants.gov and may not be prepared or submitted via FastLane.

Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG).



Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov: Why?

- Launched in 1994, FastLane was cutting-edge technology....28 years ago
- Research.gov is built on modernized architecture to meet current and future requirements
 - Features to help reduce administrative burden for both the research community and NSF staff and minimize return without review proposals (e.g., expanded automated compliance checking)
 - Improved user experience with a modern and intuitive interface and inline help throughout the application
- Research.gov is being developed incrementally, and features have expanded to support the transition of all proposal preparation and submission functionality from FastLane to Research.gov by a target date of December 31, 2022
- Target date to fully transition all remaining FastLane functions to Research.gov has not yet been determined
- Grants.gov will continue to be an option for the preparation and submission of most types of NSF proposals





Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov: *How?*

- Incrementally remove FastLane from funding opportunities as an option for proposal submission. Gradual proposal system transition decreases burden on both the research community and NSF staff (e.g., Program Officers and NSF Help Desk technicians)
- Continue to develop and deploy additional proposal preparation functionality in Research.gov (<u>Research.gov Proposal Submission Capabilities</u>)
- Engage NSF staff to facilitate a smooth transition
- Expand Foundation-wide efforts to reach the research community
- Bolster training resources for internal and external stakeholders
- Update NSF policy documents including the PAPPG



Research.gov Proposal Preparation: Advantages for Principal Investigators and Research Administrators

Features to help reduce proposal preparation administrative burden:

- Improved user experience through intuitive and dynamic interfaces that provide only relevant proposal preparation options
- Immediate feedback within each proposal section and for each document upload rather than at proposal submission in FastLane
- Faster document uploads (a few seconds versus 30-90 seconds for <u>each</u> document upload in FastLane)
- Expanded <u>automated compliance checking</u> utilizing error messages (preventing proposal submission) and warning messages (allowing proposal submission)
 - There are currently 100+ compliance checks in Research.gov versus 56 compliance checks in FastLane
 - Specific, actionable error and warning messages
- Higher quality proposal submissions (e.g., PDF uploads are not altered)
- Minimized Return without Reviews due to some proposal formatting issues



Research.gov Proposal Preparation Tips

- Research.gov is being added to solicitations whenever possible as a submission option, even if FastLane is not yet removed
- Program descriptions are supported in Research.gov
- Proposal information cannot be transferred from FastLane to Research.gov and vice versa
- Letters of intent and preliminary proposals must be prepared in the same system as the full proposal (i.e., all in Research.gov or all in FastLane)
- All proposals in a separately submitted collaborative from multiple organizations must be prepared in the same system (i.e., all in Research.gov or all in FastLane)
- Proposal file updates (PFUs) and budget revisions must be executed in the same system as the proposal was submitted (i.e., all in Research.gov or all in FastLane)
- Proposals submitted in Research.gov are evaluated by NSF in the same way as proposals submitted in FastLane and Grants.gov, and this migration does not affect the merit review process in any way



Research.gov Proposals: Where We Are and What's Ahead

As of 1/7/2022

Current Capabilities	Upcoming Capabilities	Future Capabilities
Proposal Types Research: Single Submissions from One Organization (April 2018); Single Submission Collaborative Proposals with Subawards (June 2019); Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals from Multiple Organizations (March 2020) Rapid Response Research (RAPID) (November 2020) EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) (November 2020) Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) (November 2020) Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) (March 2021) Equipment (March 2021) Travel (March 2021) Conference (August 2021) Ideas Lab (August 2021) Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) (October 2021) Planning (October 2021) Research Infrastructure (November 2021) Submission Types: Letter of Intent (October 2021) Full Proposal (April 2018) Preliminary Proposal: Ideas Lab (August 2021); Non-Ideas Lab (November 2021) Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal (November 2021) Renewal Proposal (August 2021) Recent Proposal (August 2021) Recent Proposal (August 2021) Recent Proposal Features Withdrawal (Single and Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposal Submissions) (March 2021) Training Research, gov Proposal Prep Demo Site (October 2020) Initial Topic-specific How-to Guides (March 2021)	 Proposal Type Postdoctoral Fellowship (Spring 2022 release) Solicitation-specific Requirements EHR Project Data Form (Spring 2022 release) Secondary Units of Consideration (Spring 2022 release) Training Additional Topic-specific How-to Guides (ongoing) Webinars (e.g., Spring 2022 NSF Grants Conference and ERA Forum) 	Proposal Type SBIR and STTR Phases I/II (Fall 2022 release) Post-award Actions Supplemental Funding Requests, including Career Life Balance Supplemental Funding Requests (Fall 2022 release)



Recent Release Enhancements



November Release Enhancements

• The following submission types and proposal types are now available in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System:

NEW Submission Types

- Preliminary Proposal
- Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal

NEW Proposal Types

- Center
- Research Infrastructure

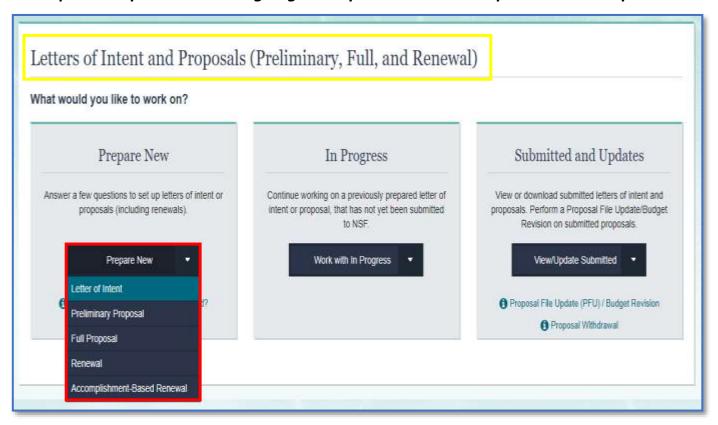
Project Descriptions exceeding 15 pages



November Release Enhancements

- New submission types:
 - Preliminary Proposal
 - Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal
- Research.gov enforces whether a preliminary proposal is required

Proposal Preparation Landing Page: "Prepare New" Tile Drop-down Menu Options

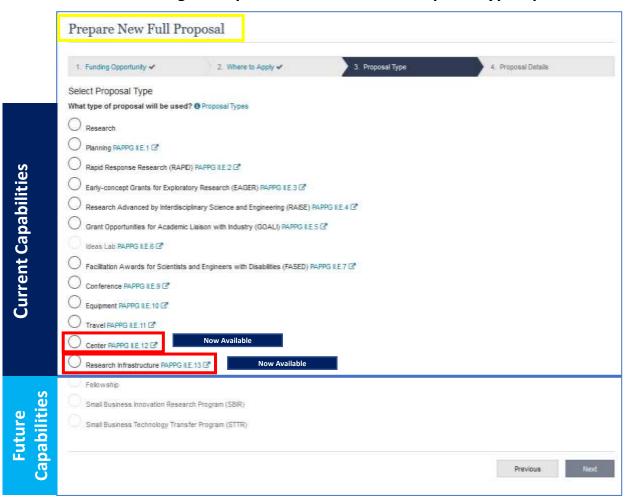




November Release Enhancements

- New proposal types:
 - Center
 - Research Infrastructure
- Project Description exceeding 15 pages
 - Page limits in a single solicitation may vary by track or program
 - Proposers must follow the Project
 Description page limit guidance in the solicitation
 - PAPPG must be followed for the proposal type when a solicitation does not include Project Description page limit guidance

Research.gov Proposal Screenshot: Full Proposal Type Options



Research.gov Proposal Demo

- Proposal Setup Wizard
- Main Page
- Document Upload and Compliance Error/Warning Messages
- Budget
- Highlights of recent enhancements





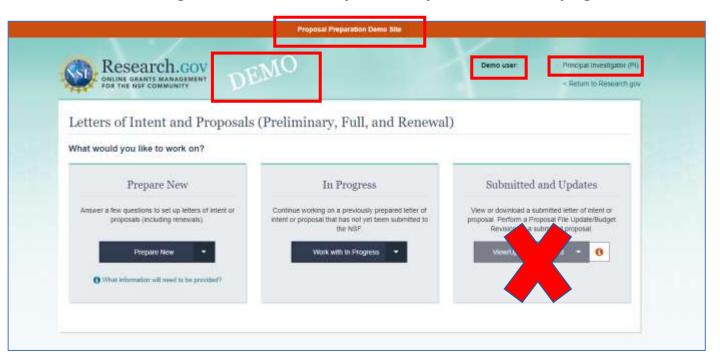
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site and Training Resources



Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site

- Demo site can be used to explore preparing proposals <u>and</u> to check compliance of uploaded proposal documents (e.g., Collaborators and Other Affiliations and Biographical Sketch)
- All demo site users are automatically given the PI role for demo site purposes, in order to perform the proposal <u>preparation</u> functions that a PI can do in the actual system. Proposal submission capability is disabled
- See the demo site FAQs on the Research.gov <u>About Proposal Preparation</u> <u>and Submission</u> page for information on demo site access and features

Research.gov Demo Site: Proposal Preparation Homepage



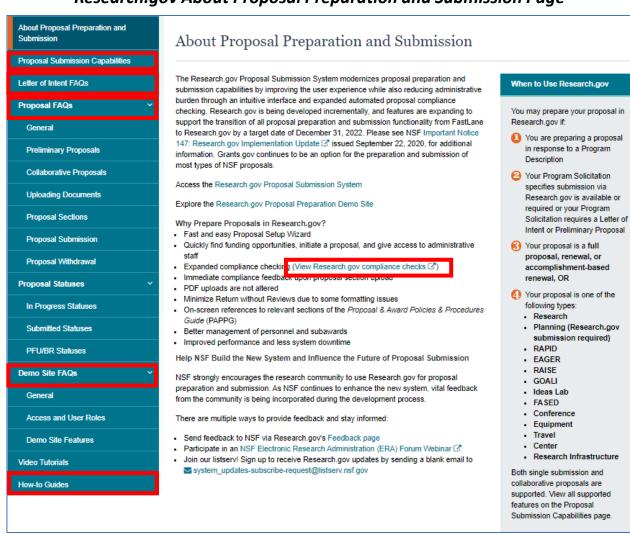


Research.gov Proposal Training Resources

Training resources on the Research.gov <u>About</u> <u>Proposal and Submission</u> page:

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

Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission Page



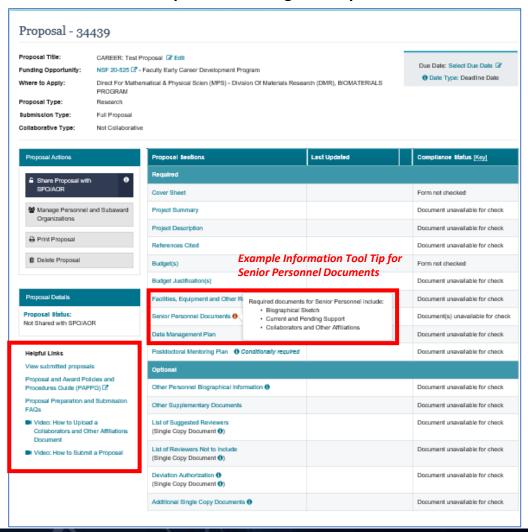


Research.gov Proposal Training Resources (cont'd)

Inline help features are available to proposers throughout the Research.gov proposal system and the proposal preparation demo site:

- Information tool tips indicated by the blue information icon: •
- Links to the PAPPG
- Links to FAQs
- Links to video tutorials

Proposal Main Page Example





Providing Feedback





Learn how to deposit publications in the NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR).

We'll walk you through the process in this short video!

Watch Futorial Video



Prepare & Submit Proposals

Prepare, submit and check status of proposals

- Prepare new or existing proposals
- Check Proposal Status
- FASTLANE PROPOSAL FUNCTIONS
- Additional proposal functions



Proposal/ Panel Review

Review proposals, participate in panels

- FASTLANE PROPOSAL REVIEW
- ☐ Proposal Review
 FASTLANE PANEL REVIEW
- Panelist Functions

Awards & Reporting

Submit project reports, notifications & requests

- Project Reports
- Deposit Public Access Publication
- Example Project Reports (Demo site)
- Notifications & Requests

FASTLANE AWARD FUNCTIONS

Additional award functions



Fellowships & Honorary Awards

Nominate colleagues, apply for awards

- Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
- Postdoctoral Fellowships and Other Programs
- Honorary Awards



View balances and submit cash requests

Submit or manage payment transactions

NSF

Contact Help Desk

More about ACMS

Research.gov

About Services

Award Cash Managem

Program Income Reporting



.

- FASTLANE ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT
- Research Administration

NSF Award Highlights

- Explore Scholarly p Public Access Rer
- Search awards /



National Science Foundation

News & Discoveries

News Discoveries Multimedia Gallery Funding & Awards

Recently Announced Funding Op Upcoming Funding Opportunity A-Z Index of Funding Op Find Funding Award Search

Proposal 8





Providing Research.gov Proposal Feedback

Why?

- Influence the future of proposal submission
- Help NSF continue to build and refine Research.gov

How?

- Feedback may be submitted on the Research.gov
 Feedback page
 - Select "Proposal Preparation & Submission" under the Site Area dropdown menu to provide feedback on the Research.gov Proposal Submission System
 - Select "Proposal Preparation Demo Site" under the Site Area dropdown menu to provide feedback on the demo site



Information Resources

- Join our NSF System Updates listserv to receive the latest Research.gov system enhancement information and FastLane news. Sign up by sending a blank email to: system updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
- Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals page
- Research.gov <u>About Proposal Preparation and Submission</u> page (new information is being added on an ongoing basis, so please check back frequently....)
- Research.gov <u>About Account Management</u> page
- NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum page
- NSF ERA Forum listserv to receive updates on ERA Forum activities. Sign up by sending a blank email to: <u>NSF_ERA_FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov</u>

Contacts for Questions

- For program-specific questions, please contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer
- For IT system-related questions or technical 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





Thank you for your participation today!



Appendix



Research.gov Proposal Compliance Error and Warning Messages

- Automated proposal compliance checks triggering an error message will prohibit proposal submission to NSF, whereas checks triggering a warning message will still allow proposal submission
- Proposers receiving a compliance error or warning message should check the <u>Automated</u> <u>Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals</u> page and the solicitation for specific proposal requirements
- Proposers should also review the topic-specific FAQs on the Research.gov <u>About Proposal</u>
 <u>Preparation and Submission</u> page
 - Uploading Documents topic includes margin and line spacing FAQs
 - Proposal Sections topic includes Cover Sheet and budget FAQs
- Reminder: Effective November 2020, the compliance checks and associated compliance warnings for font type and font size were removed in Research.gov to align with FastLane and NSF policy



Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site Tips

- Demo site FAQs are available on the Research.gov <u>About Proposal Preparation and Submission</u> page via the left navigation menu. How-to guides with step-by-step instructions and screenshots are also available
- The demo site is available both to the research community and to NSF staff
- An orange "Proposal Preparation Demo Site" banner is at the top of each demo site page to indicate the
 user is on the demo site
- The demo site allows users to prepare and edit proposals before preparing them in the actual Research.gov site
- Demo site proposals are not visible or available in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System, and data cannot be transferred between the demo site and the actual proposal system
- All proposal and submission types available in the actual system are also available in the demo site. As
 proposal and submission types are added to the Research.gov Proposal Submission System, they will also
 be added to the demo site
- All compliance checks enabled in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System are also in the demo site. Proposers can use the demo site as a resource to check document compliance before uploading them in the actual system

27



Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site Tips (cont'd)

- Proposals created in the demo site will be available for six months and then will be deleted by NSF.
 Neither NSF nor users will be able to access deleted demo proposal data
- Demo site does not support proposal submission and will not trigger any system-generated email notifications (e.g., link requests for separately submitted collaborative proposals)
- The organization that you are affiliated with in your NSF account profile will be incorporated when you are in the proposal preparation demo site, but the user role(s) that you have will not be available in the demo site
 - All users who access the demo site will be given the role of PI and the mock organization "National Science Foundation"
 - This means that users from the research community will have the organization(s) they are affiliated with in their NSF account profile plus the "National Science Foundation" mock organization as available organizations in the demo site
- The only time other users will be able to view and/or edit any proposals that you create in the demo site is if you add them to the proposal as a co-PI or OAU. If you don't add any users to the proposal, no one will else will be able to access, view, or edit your demo proposal