

National Science Foundation



W H E R E D I S C O V E R I E S B E G I N

NSF Proposal & Award Policy Update

Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting
May 11, 2018



SPEAKER

Jean Feldman

Head, Policy Office

Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management

Division of Institution & Award Support

policy@nsf.gov

703.292.4573



TOPICS

- PAPPG Eligibility Reminders
- NSF Important Notice on Harassment
- Revision of NSF's Grant Conditions
- Proposal Submission Modernization is finally here!!



ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS IN NSF 18-1

- For International Branch Campuses of US IHEs
 - If the proposal includes funding to be provided to an international branch campus of a US institution of higher education (including through use of subawards and consultant arrangements), the proposer must explain the benefit(s) to the project of performance at the international branch campus, and justify why the project activities cannot be performed at the US campus.



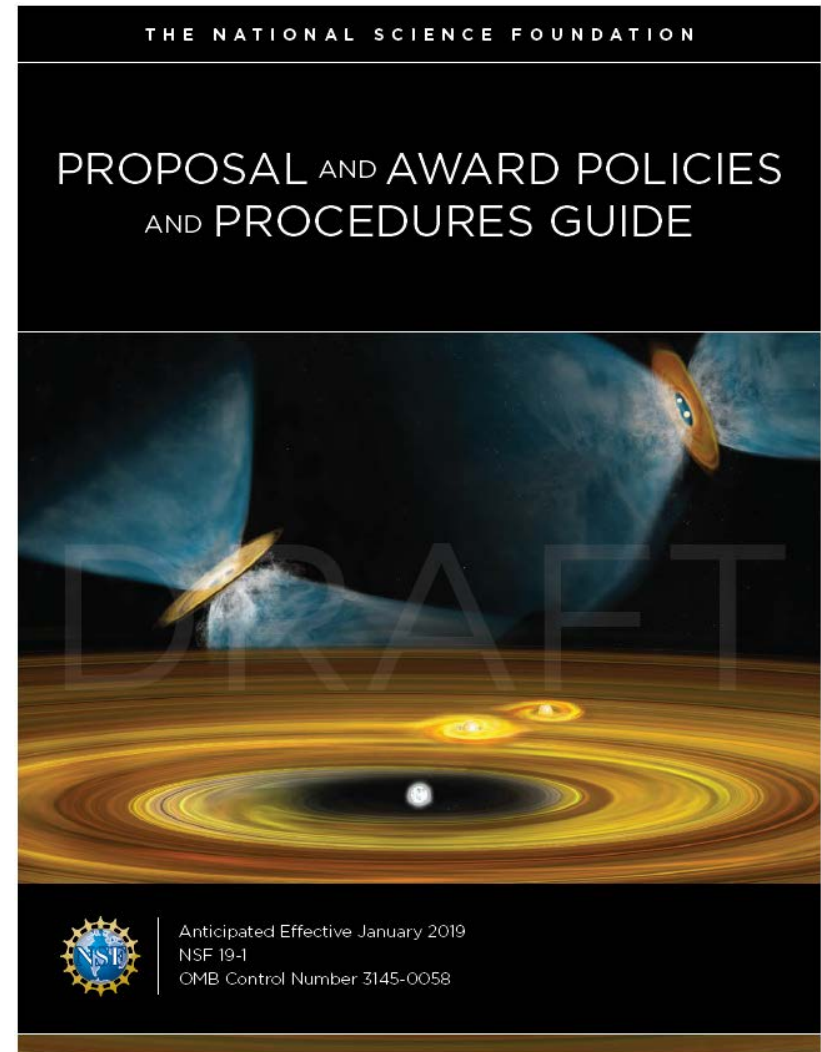
ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS IN NSF 18-1 (CONT'D)

- For Foreign Organizations:
 - In cases however, where the proposer considers the foreign organization's involvement to be essential to the project (e.g., through subawards or consultant arrangements), the proposer must explain why local support is not feasible and why the foreign organization can carry out the activity more effectively. In addition, the proposed activity must demonstrate how one or more of the following conditions have been met:
 - The foreign organization contributes a unique organization, facilities, geographic location and/or access to unique data resources not generally available to US investigators (or which would require significant effort or time to duplicate) or other resources that are essential to the success of the proposed project; and/or
 - The foreign organization to be supported offers significant science and engineering education, training or research opportunities to the US.
- NSF solicitations can include more restrictive standards



PAPPG 19-1

- A “For Comment” draft of the 19-1 version of the PAPPG will be announced in the Federal Register on Monday, May 14th.



IMPORTANT NOTICE 144 ON HARASSMENT

- National Science Foundation (NSF) does not tolerate sexual harassment, or any kind of harassment, within the agency, at grantee organizations, field sites, or anywhere NSF-funded science and education are conducted.
- NSF is committed to promoting safe, productive research and education environments for current and future scientists and engineers.
- The PI and co-PI and all grant personnel must comport themselves in a responsible and accountable manner, including during the performance of award activities conducted outside the organization, such as at field sites or facilities, or during conferences and workshops.



WHAT STEPS HAVE WE TAKEN?

To bolster our commitment, NSF is taking the following steps:

- Published in the Federal Register for public comment, a draft term and condition that would require grantee organizations to notify NSF:
 - 1) of any findings/determinations regarding the PI or any co-PI that demonstrate a violation of awardee codes of conduct, policies, regulations or statutes relating to sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault; and
 - 2) if the awardee places the PI, or any co-PI on administrative leave relating to a finding or investigation of a violation of awardee codes of conduct, policies, regulations or statutes relating to sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault. For purposes of this term and condition, “administrative leave” includes any administrative action by the awardee that could impact the PI’s or any co-PI’s ability to fulfill their responsibilities on the award.
- The Federal Register comment period closed on May 4, 2018.
- NSF will fully consider all comments received over the next several weeks.



WHAT STEPS HAVE WE TAKEN? (CONT'D)

- Identified Expectations Regarding Harassment-Free Research Workplaces
 - NSF expects all awardee organizations to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment-free workplaces wherever science is conducted. This expectation includes activities at all research facilities, field sites, and during conferences.
- Enhanced Web Resources
 - NSF recently launched a dedicated web portal to consolidate policies and procedures, promising practices, and frequently asked questions relating to sexual and other forms of harassment.
 - Visit www.nsf.gov/harassment



NSF AND HARASSMENT – WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO US?

- People who create unsafe environments disrupt the entire scientific ecosystem, discouraging scientists -- particularly young scientists -- from contributing, and harming their careers and scientific progress.
- NSF's mission is to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense; and for other purposes.
- It's the law!



REVISION OF THE NSF AGENCY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS TO THE RESEARCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Effective May 14, 2018, grants made to institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations will incorporate by reference the [*Research Terms & Conditions*](#) dated March 14, 2017 and the [*NSF Agency Specific Requirements*](#) dated May 14, 2018.

Significant Changes

- **Equipment, Article 25.** The revisions update NSF's Equipment article to align with 2 CFR 200.313 requirements for all equipment purchased under NSF awards and provide clarity on reporting requirements for NSF-owned equipment.
- **Intangible Property, Article 26.** The revisions update NSF's Intangible Property article to implement government-wide changes to the Department of Commerce Bayh-Dole regulations at 37 CFR § 401 effective May 14, 2018.

Clarifications and Other Changes

- **Copyright Ownership, Government License, Article 27.** The Copyright Ownership, Government License article has been removed from the Intangible Property article and has been added as a standalone article. The content of the article has not changed.



PROPOSAL SUBMISSION MODERNIZATION (PSM) IS HERE!!

- PSM is a multi-year initiative to modernize the proposal submission capabilities currently in FastLane and implement new capabilities in Research.gov.
- It aims to reduce the administrative burden to the research community and NSF staff associated with preparation, submission, and management of proposals.
- NSF previewed the environment for users from February through April.
- As of **April 30, 2018**, proposers are now able to prepare and submit non-collaborative research proposals in Research.gov



PSM APRIL RELEASES

- Initial release allows submission of Full, Research non-collaborative proposals, enabling the following features:
 - AOR Proposal Submission
 - Proposal File Update & Budget Revision
- Future releases will enable other proposal types and features



FUTURE PROPOSAL PREPARATION ENHANCEMENTS

- Incremental releases will be deployed quarterly after the initial release to expand features
 - Enhancements to Compliance Checking
 - Additional Email Notifications
 - Collaborative Proposals (subawards and multiple organizations)
 - Withdraw/Delete Proposal
 - All proposal documents and forms (e.g. Substitute Negotiator)
 - Additional Proposal Types (e.g. EAGER, RAPID, etc.)
 - Additional Submission Types (e.g. Letters of Intent, ABR, Pre-proposal)
 - Solicitation-specific proposal sections
 - Data pre-population (e.g. Current and Pending Support)
 - Unique FastLane Modules (e.g. SBIR/STTR, GRFP)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Ask Early, Ask Often!

policy@nsf.gov

