NSF Funding Opportunities
&
Tips on Crafting Your Proposal

Presented by: Dr. Celeste Carter
National Science Foundation

January 21, 2016
The Webinar Begins At 3 PM Eastern
Webinar Details

• For this webinar you will be in listen only mode using your computer or phone

• Please ask questions via the question window

• This webinar is being recorded – you will be sent a recording link
Disclaimer: This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grants # 1205077 and # 1261893. Any opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.
The CCTA IS Led By

- National Center for Convergence Technology (CTC) based at Collin College in Frisco, TX (lead)
- South Carolina ATE National Resource Center (SCATE) based at Florence Darlington Technical College in Florence, SC
- Florida ATE Center (FLATE) based at Hillsborough Community College in Tampa, FL
- Bio-Link Next Generation National ATE Center for Biotechnology and Life Sciences (Bio-Link) based at City College of San Francisco in San Francisco, CA
- Networks Resource Center based at the Maricopa Community College District in Phoenix, AZ
CCTA Purpose

• Respond to a request from the Department of Labor (DOL) to the NSF to have ATE Centers provide technical assistance services to DOL TAACCCT grantees
  – Success coaching
  – In-person convenings
  – Knowledge management/best practices
  – Peer-to-peer learning
CCTA Activities are Relevant for

- Department of Labor grants
- National Science Foundation Projects and Centers
- Workforce-oriented programs of all kinds
Deliverables

• Topical Webinars and Teleconferences On
  – Existing and new solutions
  – Live/recorded with attendee Q&A
  – Archived on www.atecentral.net

• Other online media including videos and transcripts
Deliverables Continued

• Invitations to regional discipline-specific conferences
• Identify and document best practices
• Host convenings
Poll #1: Your Affiliation

A. I am involved with an NSF grant
B. I am involved with a TAACCCT grant
C. Both
D. Neither
NSF at a Glance

$7.2 billion
FY 2014 Appropriations

24 percent
NSF’s share of total federal support for basic research conducted at academic institutions

10,800
Competitive awards funded by NSF

22 percent
Funding rate of proposals submitted to NSF

50,000
Proposals evaluated through competitive merit review

233,000
Number of proposal reviews

36,500
Number of experts who participate in the merit review process

1,922
Colleges, universities and other institutions in all U.S. states and territories that receive NSF funding

299,000
Number of people NSF supports directly (researchers, postdoctoral fellows, trainees, teachers and students)

200 plus
Number of Nobel Laureates supported by NSF

90 percent
Proportion of NSF funding allocated through grants and cooperative agreements

$169,107
Average annual size of NSF research grant

2.9 years
Average duration of NSF research grant

Figures represent FY 2013 actuals except where noted.
Fiscal Year 2013 Funding Rates

Overall FY 2013 EHR Funding Rate: 18%

- DGE 8%
- DRL 12%
- DUE 21%
- HRD 24%

- Actions
- Awards

Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate
Division of Graduate Education (DGE)
Division on Research & Learning (DRL)
Division of Undergraduate Edu. (DUE)
Human Resource Development (HRD)
Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program

- Focus: education of science and engineering technicians for high-technology fields that drive the nation’s economy.
- ATE Projects, ATE Centers & Targeted Research on Technician Ed.
  - Funding from $150,000-$4 million over all 3 tracks
  - Grades 7-12, two-year and four-year institutions (Pathways).
  - Community and technical colleges must be in leadership roles.
  - Education / Industry Partnerships are a hallmark of ATE.
ATE Projects

• Projects: up to $300,000/yr for 3-yrs ($900,000 max. total)

• Small, New to ATE: up to $200,000 total over 2-3-yrs
  — Mentor Connect (www.mentor-connect.org)

• ATE Coordination Networks: up to $200,000/yr for 4-yrs
ATE Investments

ATE Projects and Centers
292 Active Grants in Spring 2013

- Micro and Nanotechnologies: 53 (18%)
- Advanced Manufacturing Technologies: 35 (12%)
- Information and Security Technologies: 23 (8%)
- Agricultural and Environmental Technologies: 56 (19%)
- General Advanced Technological Education: 46 (16%)
- Bio and Chemical Technologies: 29 (10%)
- Engineering Technologies: 50 (17%)

https://atecentral.net/ate20
8,000 Business & Industry Collaborations in 2012

Reported purposes of collaboration

- **Information about workforce needs**: 55%
- **General support**: 40%
- **Developing program content**: 22%
- **Financial or in-kind support**: 21%

Percentage of respondents indicating collaboration served this purpose.

Source: EvaluATE

https://atecentral.net/ate20
NSF Scholarships in STEM (S-STEM) Program

- Supports institutional scholarship programs for full-time, academically-talented students with financial need. Funds are provided through H1B visa fees.

- Strong proposals develop programs for cohorts of students that address local needs, and effectively mentor and support students to enable them to enter the STEM workforce or graduate school.

Proposal Deadline: May 16, 2016

S-STEM Strands

• Strand 1: S-STEM Institutional Capacity Building
  – $650,000 over 5-yr, 60% funds go to scholarships
  – work with offices of institutional research or researchers. Findings from these types of projects shall be used to improve local implementation of academic and student supports, provide an understanding of student success and inform any future proposals for S-STEM Design and Development Strand.

• Strand 2: S-STEM Design and Development
  – Single Institution, $1 million over 5-yr, 60% scholarships
  – Multi-Institutional Consortia, $5 million over 5-yr, 60% scholarships
  • 2-yr – 4-yr, or any combination in consortium
IUSE emphasizes knowledge-based & knowledge-generating approaches.

**Two program tracks**

**Engaged Student Learning**
- Exploration (Smaller Scope)
  - Up to $300k, 3 yrs.
  - Nov 2, 2016
- Design and Implementation (Larger Scope)
  - Level I: Up to $600k, 3 yrs.
  - Level II: $601k to $2M, 5 yrs.
  - Jan. 11, 2017

**Institutional and Community Transformation**
- Exploration (Smaller Scope)
  - Up to $300k, 3 yrs.
  - Nov 2, 2016
- Design and Implementation (Larger Scope)
  - Up to $3M, 5 yrs.
  - Jan. 11, 2017

Focus on design, development, implementation of and research on STEM learning models, approaches, and tools

Focus on approaches to increase the propagation of highly effective methods of STEM teaching and learning
Research Collaborations with SBIR/STTR Phase II Grantees

Community College Students and Teams  Partnership funding between small businesses and community college researchers and students.

Max Funding: $40,000 per year

Deadline: Rolling submission; submission 3 months before target start date is suggested
Proposal Writing Tips

- Read the Program Solicitation
- Read the Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG)
The Program Solicitation

• Program Description
• Program-specific considerations & restrictions
  ▪ Institutional Eligibility & Limitations
  ▪ PI Eligibility & Limitations
  ▪ Budgetary Limitations
• Submission Deadlines & Target Dates
• Resources for proposal preparation
• Program Director Contact Information
NSF PAPPG

Part I: Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) and Part II: Award & Administration Guide (AAG)

Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)
- Chapter I: Pre-submission Information
- Chapter II: Proposal Preparation Instructions
- Chapter III: NSF Proposal Processing and Review
- Chapter IV: Non-Award Decisions and Transactions
- Chapter V: Renewal Proposals

Award & Administration Guide (AAG)
- Chapter I: NSF Awards
- Chapter II: Grant Administration
- Chapter III: Financial Requirements and Payments
- Chapter IV: Grantee Standards
- Chapter V: Allowability of Costs
- Chapter VI: Other Post Award Requirements
- Chapter VII: Grant Admin. Disputes and Misconduct
Advice from a Program Officer

1. Identify a specific need that you will address
2. Provide detail on how you plan to address the need: measurable goals and objectives
3. Present a project team that has the expertise to carry out your plan
4. Describe how you will know if you are successful (evaluation and assessment)
5. Describe how you will tell others about your project (dissemination)
More Advice....

- Do your homework! References are critical and you should know what the program award portfolio looks like with respect to your project.
- Contact other PIs and don’t reinvent the wheel!
- Mentor Connect [www.mentor-connect.org](http://www.mentor-connect.org)
- SCATE: [www.teachingtechnicians.org](http://www.teachingtechnicians.org)
- ATE Central [www.atecentral.net](http://www.atecentral.net)
- ATE Centers [www.atecenters.org](http://www.atecenters.org)
- EvaluATE Center [www.evalu-ate.org](http://www.evalu-ate.org)
New Performers*
Submit proposal

Merit Review → Ratings and Program Officer review
Program Officer (PO) then does 2 things
Begins negotiation with PI to resolve questions and concerns (intends to recommend for award)
Sends proposal to Division of Grants and Agreements (DGA)

DGA sends New Performer Package to Institution
Institution completes package → DGA

Cost Analysis & Audit Resolution (CAAR)
DGA notifies PO recommend award
DGA Declines & De-briefs Institution

*Never received an award OR no award within 5-yrs OR never reviewed by CAAR
10 Ways to Write a Proposal that won’t get funded...

1. Assume deadlines are NOT enforced.
2. Assume page limits and font size restrictions are NOT enforced.
3. Substitute flowery rhetoric for good examples.
4. Don’t check your spelling or grammar.
5. Assume the program guidelines have NOT changed; or just ignore them.
6. Assert: “Evaluation will be ongoing and consist of a variety of methods.”
7. Assume a project website is sufficient for dissemination.
8. Assume your past accomplishments are well known; after all NSF may have funded them. If you have funding from another entity that informs the proposal your writing – include results and outcomes (TAACCCT)!
9. Provide a template letter of commitment for your partners to use.
10. Inflate the budget to allow for negotiations.

✓ Check out Mentor Connect for help on preparing your budget and budget justification
Join Us – All Webinars 3 pm Eastern


Co-sponsored by Mentor-Connect: Leadership Development and Outreach for ATE (SC ATE Center, Florence-Darlington Technical College, Florence, SC)

Experts from the National Science Foundation will address important information concerning financial management and grant management for ATE grant recipients and who to contact about what. The focus will be on financial accounting issues and problems often seen in monitoring visits such as participant support, time and effort accounting, sub-awardees, record keeping, changes in scope, overload, and use of consultants. Participants will have an opportunity to pose questions and get answers directly from NSF personnel.

Presenters:
• Mr. L. Rashawn Farrior, NSF Grants & Agreements Specialist, National Science Foundation
• Dr. V. Celeste Carter, Lead Program Officer, ATE Program, National Science Foundation

For Other Upcoming Webinars See: http://www.atecenters.org/ccta
Join us in Pittsburgh, PA!

July 25-28, 2016

www.highimpact-tec.org
Register for HI-TEC and TAACCCT Convening

HI-TEC Conference July 27-28 in Pittsburgh, PA

Free follow-up TAACCCT technical assistance convening for all TAACCCT grantees and others who can benefit on Friday, July 29.
Q&A and Contacts

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Thanks for joining today