
National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Grants

<http://www.nsf.gov>; <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>

The following are general guidelines for this agency. **Please see Notice of Grant Award for specific terms & conditions.** The Principal Investigator is responsible for ensuring that all requirements are met. The Office of Research Services will assist the Principal Investigator in accomplishing this.

General:

The National Science Foundation funds research and education in science and engineering. It does this through grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, and other research and/or education institutions in all parts of the United States. The Foundation accounts for about 20 percent of federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

Each year, NSF receives approximately 30,000 new or renewal support proposals for research, graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, and math/science/engineering education projects; it makes approximately 9,000 new awards. These typically go to universities, colleges, academic consortia, nonprofit institutions, and small businesses. The agency operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, certain oceanographic vessels, and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry and U.S. participation in international scientific efforts.

Information about NSF programs is compiled annually into the Guide to Programs, and updated and supplemented by periodic Program Announcements and Solicitations. These publications can be found through the Online Document System:

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?gp> Lists of current announcements and information can also be found on the NSF web by broad program area: <http://www.nsf.gov/home/programs/recent.htm> To receive rapid notification of new program information, by email or via a custom web page, you may subscribe to NSF's Custom News Service <http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/>

Applying for Funding:

Applications for funding are submitted electronically through the Fastlane system: The NSF FastLane system may be accessed at <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>. New users will need to contact Research Services Pre-Award Contact to get set-up as a registered Fastlane user. Refer to the NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) for general guidelines (<http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?gpg>).

Renewals:

For standard grants awarded for two or more years and for continuing or incrementally funded grants, an annual progress report must be submitted electronically via the project reporting system in FastLane. Competing renewals are submitted via Fastlane using the standard application model.

Special Considerations:

N/A

Budget Considerations & No Cost Extensions:

Unless noted otherwise in terms & conditions, these grants are covered under the **Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP)**, which provides the following:

- Approval for first No Cost Extension for a period of up to a maximum of one year ("Grantee-Approved No-Cost Extension") must be requested through the NSF FastLane system at least **30 days** prior to the end of the budget period. Subsequent requests for extensions or requests for extensions exceeding one year ("Sponsor Approved Extensions") must be requested from NSF via FastLane at least **45 days** before the expiration date of the grant.
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- Pre Award costs can be incurred up to 90 days prior to the start date of the grant. The costs must be necessary for the conduct of the project and allowable under the potential award.
 - Unobligated balance at the end of a **budget** period can be carried forward to the following budget period.
 - Most modifications to budgets are allowable without agency approval (see prior approvals below).
 - The **maximum summer salary** that may be charged to a NSF grant is 1/11 of the year's salary for calendar year appointments and 2/9 of the year's salary for academic year appointments.
 - Participant Support Costs are accounted for separately and generally carry no F&A costs. Some programs, such as Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Supplements have special instructions for treatment of participant support.
 - REU supplements may only be used for the student's support such as stipends, supplies, etc. The F&A on REU Supplements is 25% of stipends and salary and wages minus the Fringe Benefit Rate.
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Other Administrative Actions:

Prior Agency Approval required from the NSF Grants Officer for (in addition to above):

- Significant Project Changes
 - Transfer of the Project Effort (Subawards) – requests must be submitted via the NSF FastLane System
 - Change in Objectives or Scope
 - Absence or Change of Principal Investigator
 - Change in Person-Months Devoted to Project
 - Establishing Relatedness of Projects Under the Direction of Collaborating PI/PDs
 - Second and Subsequent requests for additional no-cost extension or requests for extensions exceeding one year
 - Rearrangements/Alterations aggregating \$25,000 or over
 - Reallocation of funds budgeted for Participant or Trainee Support Costs
 - Any deviations from special terms or conditions stated on Notice of Grant Award
 - Pre-Award Costs exceeding 90 days prior to start date, must be requested via the NSF FastLane System
 - Change of Grantee Organization
 - Need for additional funds
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Specific Cost Sharing Requirements:

Unless otherwise specified in the grant document, NSF requires cost sharing in the minimum amount of 1% on the aggregate total costs of all projects requiring cost sharing. Please refer to specific award regarding any specific cost sharing requirements, i.e. equipment grants. Changes in the amount of cost-sharing reflected on Line M of the award budget require the written prior approval of the NSF Grants Officer. Equipment grants are usually funded through the Academic Research Infrastructure Program and are identified by the suffix ARI at the end of the grant title. Unless otherwise required by the award or requested by NSF, the actual cost sharing while subject to documentation and audit does not have to be reported to NSF. However, if the award contains required cost sharing totaling \$500,000 or more, the cost sharing must be certified by ORS and reported to the cognizant NSF Program Officer on an annual and final basis.

Carryforward:

Allowable from one budget period to the next without prior approval of Grants Officer.

Other:

- **Program Income**
Unless otherwise noted in the terms and conditions of the award, **Program Income** must be treated the following ways:
 - Research awards: Additive Alternative – Program income is added to the total funds committed to the project by NSF and used to further project objectives.
 - **Equipment**
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Funding:

Funding for most of these awards is received via drawdowns under a Letter of Credit.

Revenue Parent= LOCNSF

unless otherwise specified in the grant, title to equipment purchased or fabricated with NSF funds is vested in University. However, NSF reserves the right to transfer the title of equipment costing \$5,000 or more to the Federal Government or a third party.

Invoicing Requirements :

No invoicing required if award is under Letter of Credit. If invoicing is required, check award document for the invoicing terms and any necessary forms to use for invoicing.

Financial Reporting Requirements :

Final Internal Financial Report is Due **90** days after the expiration date of the grant and expenditures are reported to NSF via a Cumulative Federal Cash Transaction Report (SF272) on a quarterly basis by ORS.

Non-Financial Reporting Requirements :

For standard grants awarded for two or more years and for continuing or incrementally funded grants, an annual progress report must be submitted electronically via the project reporting system in FastLane. Unless otherwise specified in the award, annual project reports are due at least three months prior to the end of the current budget period. The final project report, NSF Form 98A, is due **90** calendar days after the expiration or termination of the award. Failure to submit timely reports may delay processing of funding increments.

Non Financial Closeout:

Unless otherwise specified in the award, the final project report, NSF Form 98A, is due **90** calendar days after the expiration or termination of the award and must be submitted electronically via the project reporting system in FastLane.

Last updated: 08/22/03 PC/ap
