

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)**  
***Funding Overview and Application Preparation Guidance***

**Main Agency Website:** <http://www.nsf.gov/index.jsp>

**NSF's Main Funding website:** <http://www.nsf.gov/funding/>

**General Information:**

Funding is available in 13 Program Areas:

[Crosscutting and NSF-wide](#)

[Biological Sciences](#)

[Computer & Information Science & Engineering](#)

[Cyberinfrastructure](#)

[Education and Human Resources](#)

[Engineering](#)

[Environmental Research & Education](#)

[Geosciences](#)

[Integrative Activities](#)

[International Science & Engineering](#)

[Mathematical & Physical Sciences](#)

[Polar Programs](#)

[Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences](#)

**Application Submission Information:**

Proposals to NSF must be submitted electronically via either the NSF FastLane System (<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/>) or Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov/>).

**Guidance documents:**

NSF Fastlane Grant Proposal Guide (GPG):

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=gpg](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg) (available in either an HTML or PDF version)

NSF Grants.gov Application Guide:

[http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=grantsgovguide](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide) (available in a PDF version)

**Funding Opportunity Search:**

Either a keyword search or advanced search can be conducted here: <http://nsf.gov/funding/>

## **Proposal Format:**

Proposal Pagination: Applicants must paginate proposals themselves.

## Proposal Margin and Spacing Requirements:

- Font: Arial, Courier New, or Palatino Linotype (10 points or larger); Times New Roman or Computer Modern family of fonts (11 points or larger). A font size of less than 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figure, table or diagram captions and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters.
- Margins: one inch in all directions.
- Line spacing: At discretion of applicant.

## Sections of the Proposal:

- Cover Sheet
- Project Summary: 1 page summary of proposed activities; must clearly address: the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and the broader impacts resulting from the proposed activity.
- Table of Contents: Automatically generated by Fastlane.
- Project Description: Not to exceed 15 pages. Further instructions can be found here: [http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/gpg\\_2.jsp#IIC2d](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/gpg_2.jsp#IIC2d).
- References Cited: No specific page limit.
- Biographical Sketch(es): 2 page limit. Sections (for Senior Personnel): (a) Professional Preparation; (b) Appointments; (c) Publications; (d) Synergistic Activities; (e) Collaborators & Other Affiliations
- Budget
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
- Special Information and Supplementary Documentation
- Appendices

## **Resources Available from R<sup>2</sup> for applicants interested in applying for funding from NSF:**

- NSF Application Checklist
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) Application Checklist
- Model funded NSF proposals
- Sample NSF biosketches and instructions
- One-one-one instruction available on using the NSF Fastlane system