

Efforts to Reduce Administrative Burden

Council On Governmental Relations



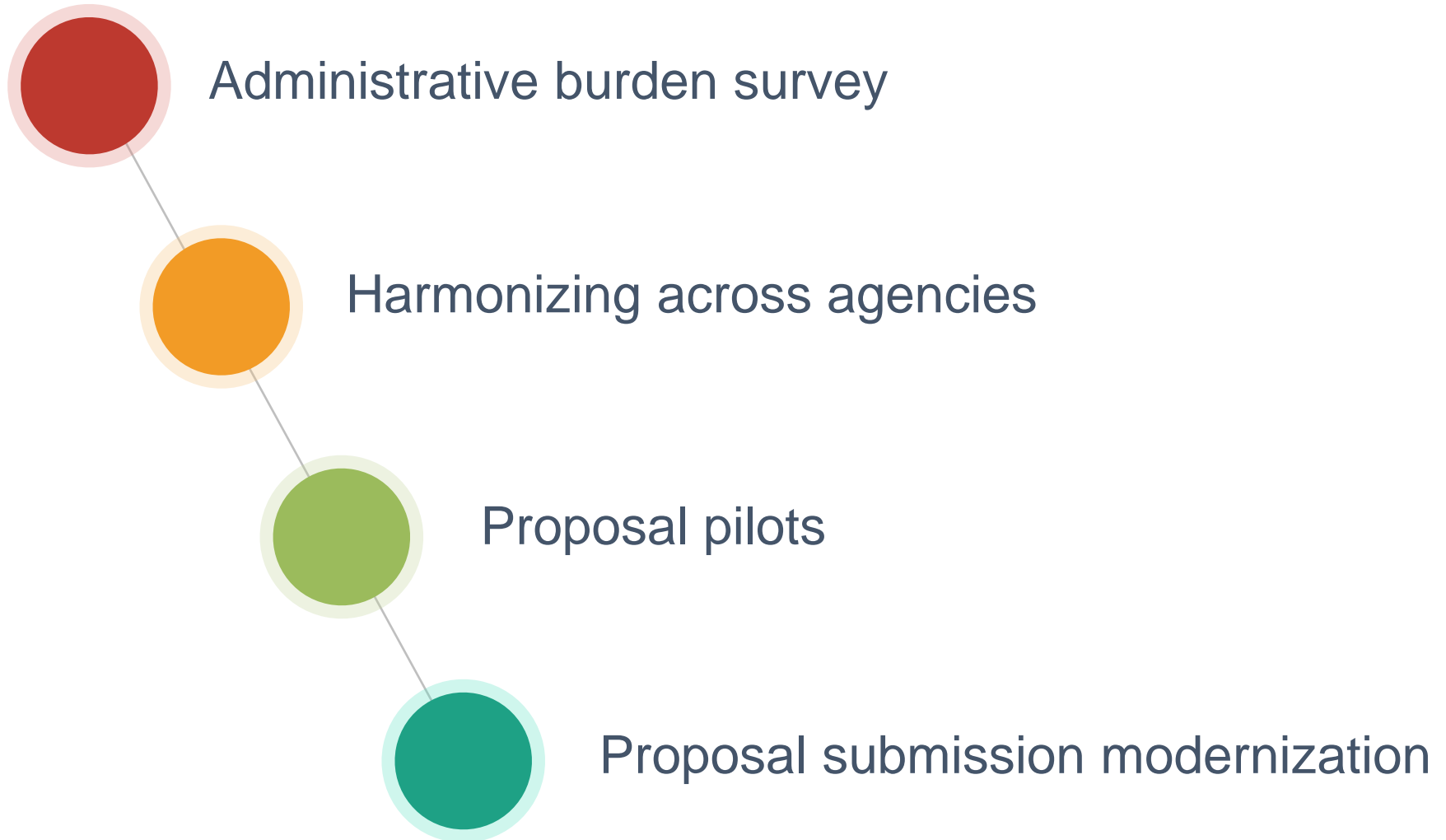
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National Science Foundation

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Topics



Administrative Burden Survey

“Select up to top five most helpful options in reducing the administrative burden that you experience when preparing and submitting NSF proposals”




1. Prepopulating proposals with existing data - 9989
2. Allowing certain documents or approvals (e.g. data management plan, detailed budgets, Institutional Review Board approval) to be submitted after proposal - 8931
3. Revising the format of NSF solicitations to identify the difference between solicitation-specific requirements and standard NSF proposal requirements -8695
4. Developing and utilizing a common federal government-wide Biographical Sketch format - 8242
5. Tailoring the proposal interface to reflect the requirements of a given funding opportunity - 7314
6. Ensuring NSF systems have a consistent look and feel - 6112
7. Publishing and enforcing a NSF-wide list of proposal compliance requirements - 4255
8. Providing additional help functionality (e.g. LiveChat functionality) - 3451
9. Employing preliminary proposals more broadly - 3319
10. Other - 1421

Administrative Burden Survey

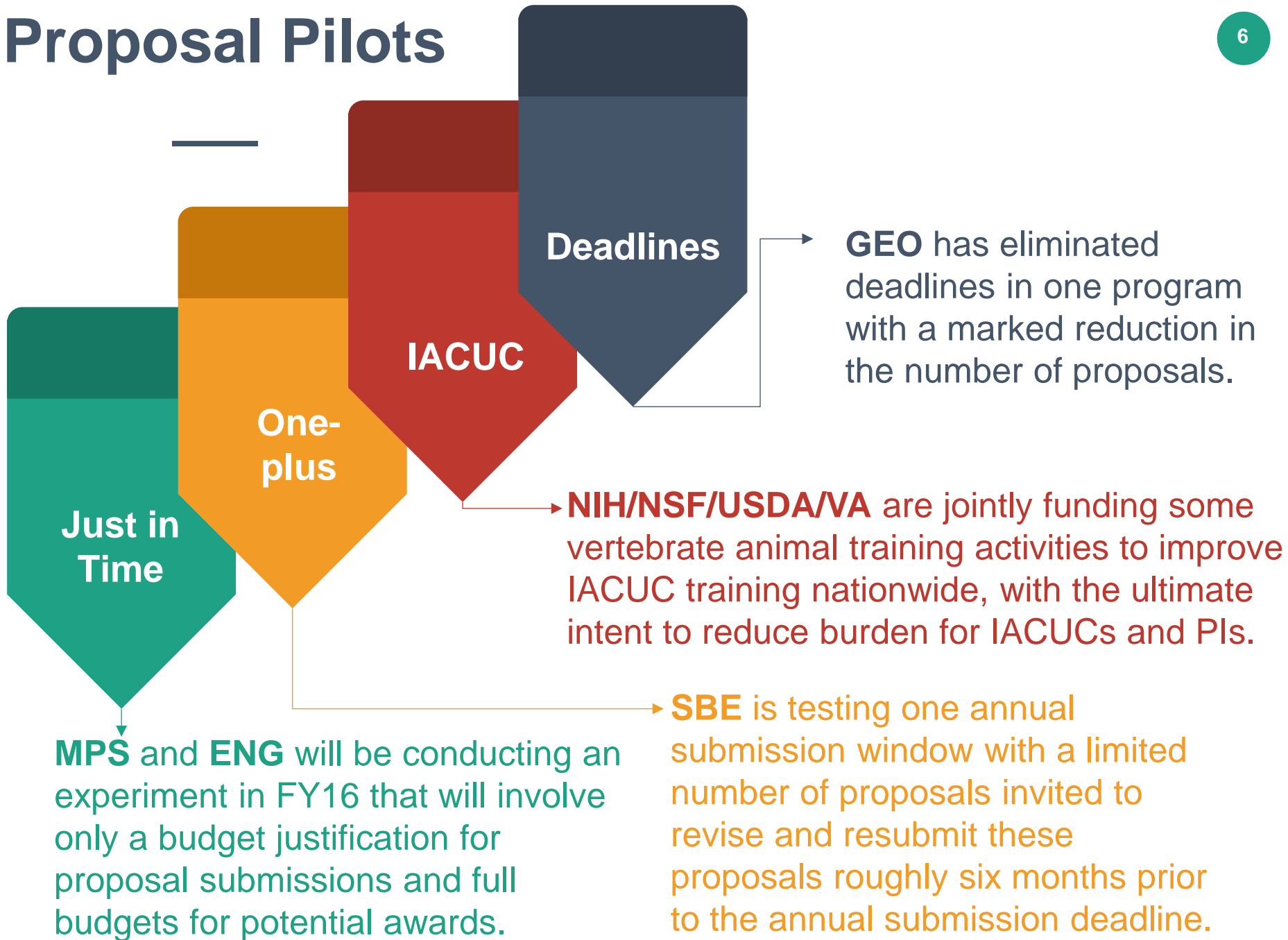
“Rank potential efforts to assist in submitting compliant proposal?” (1=less helpful, 5=more helpful) ”

1. Streamlined proposal requirements (e.g. simplified budgets, phased submission of proposal sections as they are needed for NSF’s merit review process)
2. Additional/improved compliance warnings or error notifications
3. Clarification of the compliance rules required for successful proposal submission
4. More interaction with NSF program staff
5. Enhanced FastLane help functionality

Harmonize and standardize across agencies 5 where possible

-  **Research Performance Progress Report:** a streamlined common data set for the submission of progress reports for use by Federal agencies that support research and research-related activities.
-  **Research Terms and Conditions:** With the implementation of the Uniform Guidance, NSF and NIH are jointly leading an initiative to develop an updated standard set of award terms and conditions for use with research and research related awards that are in compliance with the revised guidance.
-  **Progress Reports:** Due date has been changed from 90 days to 120 days for consistency with financial reporting information.

Proposal Pilots



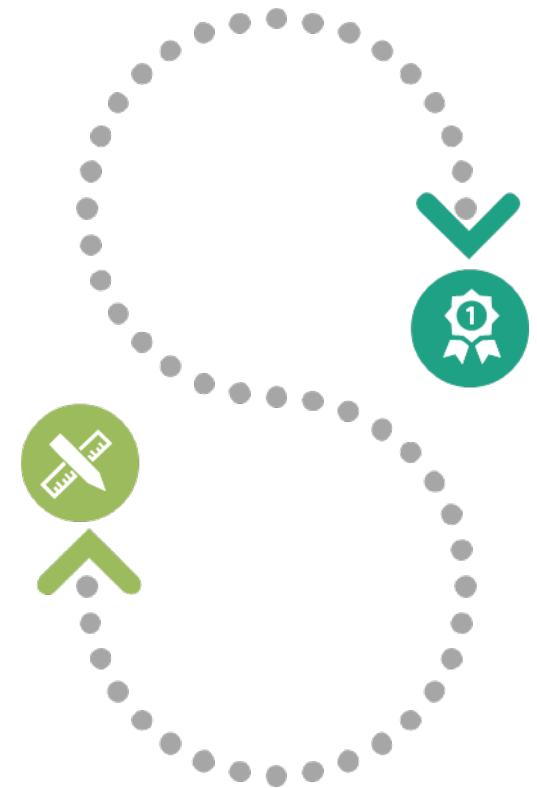
Proposal Submission Modernization Assuring Proposal Compliance

Goals

- Enhance NSF proposal preparation and submission processes.
- Reduce administrative burden on PIs, organizations and NSF staff.
- Increase likelihood of proposal acceptance upon successful proposal submission in FastLane.

Approach

- Clarify policies and procedures in PAPPG.
- Standardize proposal formats.
- Improve existing functionality and migrate from FastLane to Research.gov
- Further automate compliance checking.
- Reduce programmatic review to a minimum set of essential elements



Proposal Submission Modernization

PSM is a multi-year initiative to modernize the proposal submission capabilities currently in FastLane and implement new capabilities in Research.gov.

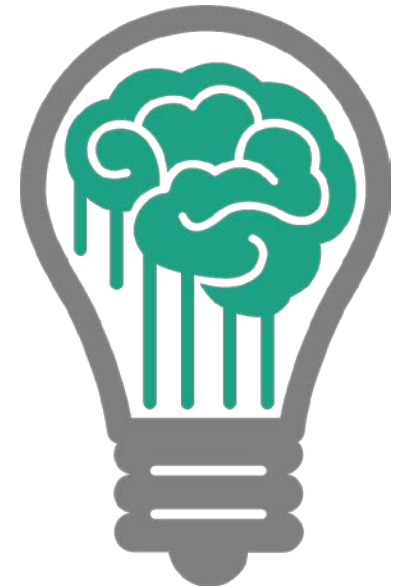
Areas include pre-populating proposals with existing data; revising the format of NSF solicitations to identify the difference between solicitation-specific requirements and standard NSF proposal requirements; tailoring the proposal interface to reflect the requirements of a given funding opportunity.

Proposal Submission Modernization Assuring Proposal Compliance

Compliance checking surrounds proposals submitted in response to program solicitations. Warning messages are triggered if any of the following sections are not included: References Cited, Biographical Sketch(es), Budget Justification: Primary Organization, Budget Justification: Sub-recipient Organization, Current and Pending Support, Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources

Grants.gov does not perform these types of compliance checks and may allow a proposal to be submitted.

Questions?



Returned without Review (RWR)

Full Proposals (FY14 reasons)

From FY05 to FY14, there were between 2.8% and 4.5% of research proposals returned without review.

Inappropriate for NSF



Duplicates a proposal in review



Did not address both merit review criteria in Project Summary



Received past the deadline



Not substantially revised



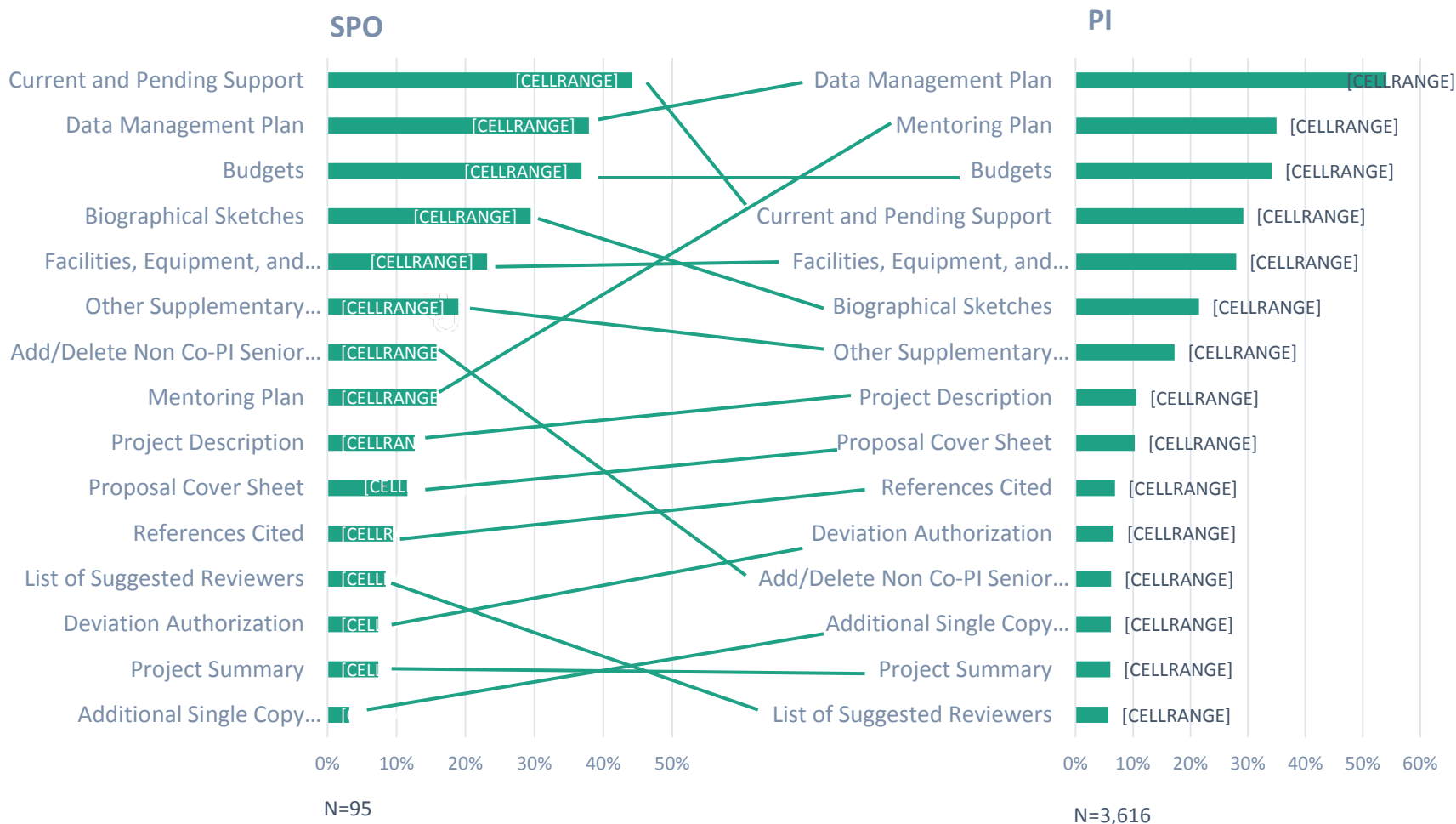
Format problem



Not responsive to solicitation, program announcement, or PAPPG

Administrative Burden Survey

“Select up to three proposal sections that place an unreasonable administrative burden on you during the proposal preparation process”



Administrative Burden Survey

“Select up to top five most helpful options in reducing the administrative burden that you experience when preparing and submitting NSF proposals”

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