

# **NSF Proposal & Award Policy Update**

**Council on Governmental Relations  
Virtual Meeting**

**June 11, 2020**



**National Science Foundation**  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

# Presenter

- Jean Feldman
  - Head, Policy Office
  - Division of Institution & Award Support
  - Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
  - [policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov)





# Topics Covered

- Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 20-1) Implementation
- Policy Implementation of the Biographical Sketch and Current & Pending Support sections of the proposal
- NSF Response to COVID-19
- NSF Outreach

# Key Dates for 2020 PAPPG

- Posted to the NSF website on Friday, January 24, 2020
- Effective for proposals submitted, or due, on or after June 1, 2020
- Released to the community more than 120 days prior to effective date



# PAPPG (NSF 20-1) Implementation

- NSF provided an additional 30 days for proposers and awardees to prepare for implementation
- NSF delayed implementation of the PAPPG requirement to use NSF-approved formats for the biographical sketch and current and pending support
- NSF-approved formats will be required for proposals submitted or due, on or after **October 5, 2020**
- All other PAPPG changes were effective on **June 1, 2020**

# Policy Implementation

## Biographical Sketch

- Appointments section must include any titled academic, professional, or institutional position whether or not remuneration is received
  - NSF is in the process of developing an FAQ on what constitutes a “professional appointment”
- Synergistic Activities must be specific and may not include multiple examples to describe a single activity
- See PAPPG (NSF 20-1), Chapter II.C.2.f

# Policy Implementation

## Current & Pending Support

- NSF uses the information to assess the capacity of the individual to carry out the research as proposed as well as to help assess any potential overlap/duplication
- Information must be provided for all current and pending support irrespective of whether such support is provided through the proposing organization or directly to the individual
- Project or in-kind contributions without a time commitment are not required to be reported in Current and Pending Support

# Policy Implementation

## Current & Pending Support (Cont'd)

- In-kind contributions that are intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF must be included as part of the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal
- Information contained in current and pending support is separate and distinct from the information provided in the budget
- In-kind contributions that are not intended for use on the project and have no associated time commitment should not be reported in current and pending support



# Policy Implementation

## Current & Pending Support (Cont'd)

- For projects that exceed five years, the individual should report on the next five years of the project
- For projects that span two fiscal years, the individual should report the latter of the two years
- Start-up packages from the proposing organization are not required to be reported
- Faculty salary is not considered current and pending support and should not be reported

# Policy Implementation

## Current & Pending Support (Cont'd)

- NSF is in the process of developing a new FAQ on consulting
- See PAPPG (NSF 20-1), Chapter II.C.2.h
- See NSF's most current version of FAQs on the Policy Office website

# Changes to the NSF-Approved Formats Made Based on Community Feedback (to date)

- Biographical Sketch
  - Permit use of “et al.” for publication citations in the Products section in the event that listing multiple authors makes it difficult to fit the information into the allotted space (NSF fillable format and SciENCv format)
  - Increased space for the Products section by removing instructional text. Links added to relevant PAPPG sections (NSF fillable format)
  - Removed the requirement to include the NSF ID (NSF fillable format)
  - Added a version date to the document (NSF fillable format)

# Changes to the NSF-Approved Formats Based on Community Feedback (to date) (Cont'd)

- Current and Pending Support
  - Increased the number of Projects/Proposal entries from 10 to 15 (NSF fillable format)
  - Updated the Award Number field to accept numbers and letters (NSF fillable format and SciENCv format)
  - Replaced “Calendar Year” label with “Year” for consistency with PAPPG (NSF fillable format and SciENCv format)
  - Removed the requirement to include the NSF ID (NSF fillable format)
  - Added a version date to the document (NSF fillable format)



# What's Next??

- Continued updating of Frequently Asked Questions
- Issuance of new award term and condition on post-award disclosure of current support and in-kind contribution information
- Inclusion of new requirement in annual project report on updating of “Other Support” by PIs and co-PIs
- Issuance of revised Term and Condition for International Collaborations on Major Facilities

# COVID-19: NSF Response

- Important Notice No. 146, NSF Letter to Community Regarding COVID-19
- Implementation of OMB Memoranda (M-20-17 & M-20-20)
- NSF Guidance on the Effects of COVID-19 on Human Subjects and Vertebrate Animals Research
- NSF Guidance for Major Facilities and Contracts Regarding COVID-19
- Impact on Deadline Dates

# COVID-19: NSF Response (Cont'd)

- Issuance of COVID-19 Dear Colleague Letters
- Frequently Asked Questions
  - For Proposers and Awardees
  - For SBIR and STTR Grantees
  - For Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites, Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Sites, International Research Experiences for Students (IRES) Sites, and Similar Activities
  - For NSF Panelists

# COVID-19: NSF Implementation of OMB Flexibilities (M-20-17)

- Flexibility with SAM registration
- Flexibility with application deadlines
- Allowability of salaries and other project activities
- Allowability of costs not normally chargeable to awards
- Prior approval requirement waivers
- Exemption of certain procurement requirements
- Extension of financial and other reporting
- Extension of currently approved indirect cost rates
- Extension of closeout
- Extension of single audit submission



# Outreach

- Existing NSF resources including
  - PAPPG webinar
  - Webinar on biographical sketch & current and pending support
  - NSF Grants Conference videos and presentations

The screenshot displays the NSF Policy Outreach website. The header includes the NSF Policy Outreach logo and navigation links: HOME, UPCOMING EVENTS, RESOURCE CENTER (highlighted), NSF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, and STAY INFORMED. The main content area features a search bar and filters for Year (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020) and Media (Presentation, Webcast, Webinar). Below the filters, there are several resource cards with 'View Now' buttons:

- April 2020 Approved Formats for Proposals Webinar PPT
- April 2020 Approved Formats for Proposals Webinar
- February 2020 PAPPG Update PPT
- February 2020 PAPPG Webinar
- Fall 2019 Grants Conference: Introduction & Overview
- Fall 2019 Grants Conference: Funding Types

On the right side, there are more resource cards for the Fall 2019 Grants Conference, including Proposal Preparation, Merit Review Process, Office of Inspector General, and NSF-Wide Programs. A dropdown menu at the bottom left shows 'Policy Office Topic and NSF Directorate' with a 'Select...' option.

<https://www.nsfpolicyoutreach.com>



**For More Information:**

**Ask Early, Ask Often!**

**[policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov)**



**National Science Foundation**  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN