



NSF Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Program

Discussion with the Council on Governmental Relations
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IPA Program Provides Significant Value to NSF

- IPAs bring fresh perspectives and deep expertise that keep NSF nimble.
- Combining IPAs with experienced federal employees creates the synergy required to support fundamental research at the frontiers of science.
- IPAs enable a close connection with the community, building and nurturing trust, and serve as ambassadors.

Authority: Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (5 U.S.C. 3371 - 3376)



Performance and Accountability

- Congressional and Inspector General interest in NSF's use of IPAs
 - IPA performance plans and assessments
 - Training and development activities
- IPA Steering Committee
 - Opportunity to articulate overall use of IPAs within a strategic workforce framework
 - Opportunity to identify cost savings in context of NSF mission accomplishment and recruitment/retention of IPAs



FY 2016 Facts and Figures

- 175 IPAs
 - ~13% of NSF workforce; ~ 25% of NSF scientific staff
- IPA agreement costs: \$42.2M
 - Salary, benefits, per diem, lost consulting
- Requested cost-share was 15%; actual cost-share overall was 6%



Policy Changes Affecting New IPAs

- Cost Sharing
 - NSF is piloting a required 10% cost sharing of the IPA's academic-year salary and fringe benefits.
- Lost consulting - no longer a reimbursable cost element
- NSF-funded IPA travel to the home institution under the Independent Research and Development (IR/D) program is limited to twelve trips per year.
 - Additional trips using non-NSF funds permitted.



Cost Sharing Pilot Assessment

- Principal Questions of Interest:
 - To what extent might the new IPA policy changes affect the quality of the IPA Program?
 - What might be the cost implications associated with the pilot for the:
 - Burden to the Institution
 - Individual IPA
 - National Science Foundation
- Engage with our partners to gather information
- Assessment will continue throughout FY 2017



Discussion Questions

- What are your views of the IPA program, including the value to the IPA and back to the IPA's institution?
- Have the new policies (cost sharing, lost consulting, NSF-supported IR/D trips home) influenced IPA's decisions to come to NSF, thus far?
- What are your recommendations to streamline the IPA administrative processes between institutions and NSF?