National Science Foundation
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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Funding Mechanisms

Speaker

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Types of Funding Mechanisms

- Research
- RAPID & EAGER
- Ideas Lab
- Conferences
- Equipment
- International Travel
- Facility / Center
- Fellowships

Grants for Rapid Response Research (RAPID)

The RAPID funding mechanism is for projects having a severe urgency with regard to availability of, or access to data, facilities or specialized equipment, including quick-response research on natural or anthropogenic disasters and similar unanticipated events.

EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)

- The EAGER funding mechanism may be used to support exploratory work in its early stages on untested, but potentially transformative, research ideas or approaches.
- This work is considered especially "high risk-high payoff" because it involves radically different approaches, applies new expertise, or engages novel disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspectives.

Ideas Lab

- Supports the development and implementation of creative and innovative project ideas that have the potential to transform research paradigms and/or solve intractable problems.

- Project ideas typically will be high-risk/high-impact, as they represent new and unproven ideas, approaches and/or technologies.

- Modeled on the "sandpit" workshops that are a key component of the United Kingdom Research Council's "IDEAs Factory" program.

Conferences

- NSF supports conferences in special areas of science and engineering that bring experts together to discuss recent research or education findings or to expose other researchers or students to new research and education techniques.

- Conferences will be supported only if equivalent results cannot be obtained at regular meetings of professional societies.

- Proposals should generally be made at least a year in advance of the scheduled date.

Equipment

- Proposals for specialized equipment may be submitted by an organization for:
  - Individual investigators;
  - Groups of investigators within the same department;
  - Several departments;
  - Organization(s) participating in a collaborative or joint arrangement;
  - Components of an organization; or
  - A region.
- One individual must be designated as PI.
- Investigators may be working in closely related areas or their research may be multidisciplinary.
- Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program for large-scale instrumentation acquisition.

International Travel

- Proposals for travel support for U.S. participation in international scientific and engineering meetings held abroad are handled by the NSF organizational unit with program responsibility for the area of interest.

- Group travel awards are encouraged as the primary means of support for international travel.

- Group travel proposals may request support only for the international travel costs of the proposed activity.

Facility / Center

- Centers exploit opportunities in science, engineering and technology in which the complexity of the research problem(s) or the resources needed to solve the(se) problem(s) require the advantages of scope, scale, change, duration, equipment, facilities, and students that can only be provided by an academic research center.

- Most Center awards are limited to a maximum duration of ten years and are often subject to mid-course external merit review.

Fellowship

- Two types of fellowships include Graduate Research Fellowships and Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Fellowships provide support for fellows with a focus on educational developments such as curricula development, training or retention.
- Consult the relevant program solicitation for further details.
- Fellowship programs available at: nsf.gov/funding/education.jsp?fund_type=3

For More Information

Ask Early, Ask Often!

nsf.gov/staff

nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp

nsf.gov/about/career_opps/rotators/index.jsp