

Status of the NSB Cost Sharing Report



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National Science Board

National Science Foundation Act of 1950

“The Foundation shall consist of a
National Science Board... and a
Director”

National Science Board Membership

- 24 Members, NSF Director serves *ex officio*
- Nominated by the President
- Confirmed by the Senate
- Criteria: Eminence, Service, Representative
- 6-year Terms on 2-year Cycle (May)
- NSB Chairman and Vice Chairman Elected by Members for 2-year Term

National Science Board Responsibilities

- Provides oversight and establishes the policies of the National Science Foundation
- Serves as an independent body of advisors to the President and Congress on broad national policy issues related to science and engineering research and education

National Science Board Activities

- **Approves Large Awards**
- Interacts with Congress
- Issues Reports and Publications
- Convenes Workshops, Hearings, and Roundtable Discussions
- Makes Honorary Awards
- Approves NSF Budget Submission to the President

NSB Study of NSF Cost Sharing Policy

- **October 2004: NSB eliminates all program-specific mandatory cost sharing requirements.**
- **February 2007: NSB forms *ad hoc* task group to informally study the issue.**
- **August 2007: Congress directs NSB to study unintended consequences of its 2004 revision to cost sharing (America COMPETES Act; Public Law 110-69).**

NSB Study of NSF Cost Sharing Policy

October 2007: NSB establishes Task Force on Cost Sharing (Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, chair) to study:

- Requirement of mandatory cost sharing in NSF programs, especially industry programs
- Voluntary cost sharing
- Impacts on the NSF proposal review process
- Burden of tracking and reporting cost sharing
- Impact of cost sharing on broadening participation in NSF-funded research

Data Collection & Findings

November 2007 – January 2008

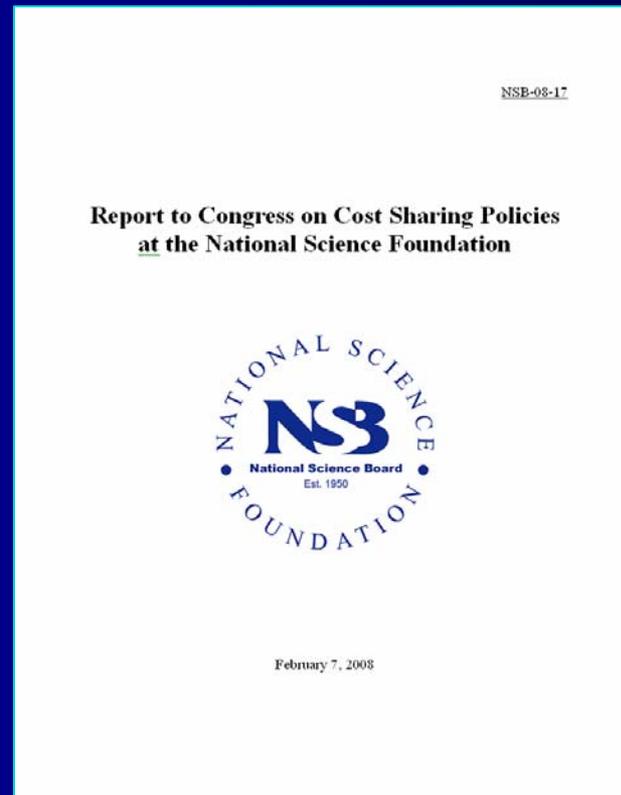
- **Roundtable Discussion on Cost Sharing (December 7, 2007 at NSF)**
- **Informal Roundtable Discussions at Annual Meetings of NSF Constituent Groups:**
 - (1) EPSCoR**
 - (2) ERC (Engineering Research Centers) Program**
 - (3) I/UCRC (Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers) Program**

Data Collection & Findings: EPSCoR, ERC, & I/UCRC Programs

- **General support for reinstatement of mandatory cost sharing for EPSCoR, ERC, and I/UCRC programs.**
- **Cost sharing demonstrates an institution or state's strategic commitment to the project.**
- **Mandatory cost sharing gives proposers leverage to ask for institutional cost sharing and/or to recruit industry partners.**
- **For ERC & I/UCRC, putting cash on the table makes industry partners strategically involved.**

NSB Study of NSF Cost Sharing Policy

February 2008: NSB approves “Report to Congress on Cost Sharing Policies at the National Science Foundation”



Recommendations & NSF Implementation

NSB RECOMMENDATION 1:

NSF should define and communicate a set of overarching principles **to guide the application of mandatory cost sharing**, to include specific goals and expected outcomes of its application.

Recommendations & NSF Implementation

NSB RECOMMENDATION 2:

NSF should continue to employ OMB Circular A-110 (2 CFR Part 215) to define cost sharing and should communicate all changes to NSF cost sharing policy to its stakeholders.

Recommendations & NSF Implementation

NSB RECOMMENDATION 3:

NSF should enhance its training of program officers to avoid unintended implicit or explicit requests for voluntary cost sharing/institutional commitment during the budget negotiation process. Further, NSF should continue to emphasize that merit review is founded on the quality of the work to be performed, with cost sharing (where applicable) as an eligibility, not a review, requirement.

Recommendations & NSF Implementation

NSB RECOMMENDATION 4:

NSF should reinstate mandatory cost sharing for the following programs:

- **Engineering Research Centers (ERC)**
- **Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)**
- **Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC)**

Recommendations & NSF Implementation

NSF IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

- **ERC Program:**
 - Last solicitation issued: 07-521
 - Status of revision process for new solicitation: The ERC solicitation is being revised to re-institute a cost sharing requirement.
- **I/UCRC Program:**
 - Last solicitation issued: 08-591
 - Status of revision process: The I/UCRC solicitation contains a cost sharing requirement.
 - Next due date for full proposals is September 25, 2009.
- **EPSCoR Program:**
 - Last solicitations issued: 08-587 and 08-595
 - Status of revision process: These EPSCoR solicitations contain a cost sharing requirement.
 - Next due dates for full proposals are October 21, 2008 and January 9, 2009, respectively.

Recommendations & NSF Implementation

NSB RECOMMENDATION 5:

NSF should continue to communicate the requirements of tracking and reporting mandatory cost sharing to all institutions to which it provides funding.

Recommendations & NSF Implementation

NSB RECOMMENDATION 6:

NSF should periodically and systematically review its cost sharing **policies and their impacts and report its findings to the Board.**

NSB Follow-Up Activities

COMPLETED

- **Input from NSF Advisory Committees**
- **July 9 Roundtable Discussion: "Voluntary Cost Sharing: Specification, Tracking, and Role in the NSF Decision Process"**
- **July 10 Roundtable Discussion: "Implications of Mandatory and Voluntary Cost Sharing for Broadening Participation in Science and Engineering Research and Education"**

NEXT STEPS

- **Federal Register Request for Public Comments**
- **Discussions with NSF Staff**
- **New Board Policy to be Approved**
- **Follow-up Report**

EPSCoR & The Board

- **EPSCoR awards now above threshold (larger of 1% of Directorate/Office Budget or \$3M) for Board Review**
- **EPSCoR Office must go through rigorous internal process to get recommendations to the Board**
- **EPSCoR Office must present information item to Board no more than six months prior to Board action**
- **EPSCoR Office must prepare full package for Board review one month before Board meets**
- **Board must approve awards**

Additional Information

- **National Science Board at www.nsf.gov/nsb**
- **Task Force on Cost Sharing:**

http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/tskforce_cs.jsp

- **Report to Congress on Cost Sharing Policies at the National Science Foundation:**

http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/2008/rprt_congress_cs_policy.pdf

- **Request for Public Comments:**

<http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/committees/cs/comment.jsp>