

Division of Integrative Organismal Systems 2011 Webinar

- What is changing?
- Why is it changing?
- What are the details?
- Questions



What is Changing?

Take Home Message

Starting with the January 2012 proposal submission deadline – all proposals submitted to the core programs in the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) must conform to a new, division-wide Program Solicitation

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503623



What is Changing?

- The new Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) Solicitation is *one of three new Solicitations* released by the Directorate for Biological Sciences
 - A new Solicitation for proposals submitted to Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)
 - Two new Solicitations for proposals submitted to IOS and the Divisions of Environmental Biology (DEB)



What is Changing?

The IOS and DEB solicitations both:

1. Require a **pre-proposal** submission in January followed by **full proposal** deadline in August.
2. Full proposals can be submitted to the core programs **ONLY** if invited by the program based on review of a pre-proposal.



What types of proposals are affected by these new solicitations?

- All regular research proposals that were previously submitted through the NSF **Grant Proposal Guide**, or to any of the **core Programs Descriptions in IOS or DEB** must conform to the new solicitations.
- In addition, any proposals submitted to the core programs in IOS or DEB through the Research at Undergraduate Institutions (**RUI**) or Long Term Research in Environmental Biology (**LTREB**) solicitations must conform to the same, new solicitations.



The IOS core programs are:

Behavioral Systems Cluster:

Animal Behavior

Developmental Systems Cluster:

Plant, Fungal and Microbial Developmental Systems

Animal Developmental Systems

Evolution of Developmental Systems

Neural Systems Cluster:

Organization

Activation

Modulation

Physiological and Structural Systems Cluster:

Symbiosis, Defense and Self-Recognition

Processes, Structures and Integrity

Organism-Environment Interactions



The DEB core programs are:

Ecosystem Science Cluster:

Ecosystem Studies

Evolutionary Processes Cluster:

Evolutionary Ecology

Evolutionary Genetics

Population and Community Ecology Cluster:

Population and Community Ecology

Long Term Research in Environmental Biology

Systematics and Biodiversity Science Cluster:

Phylogenetic Systematics

Biodiversity: Discovery and Analysis



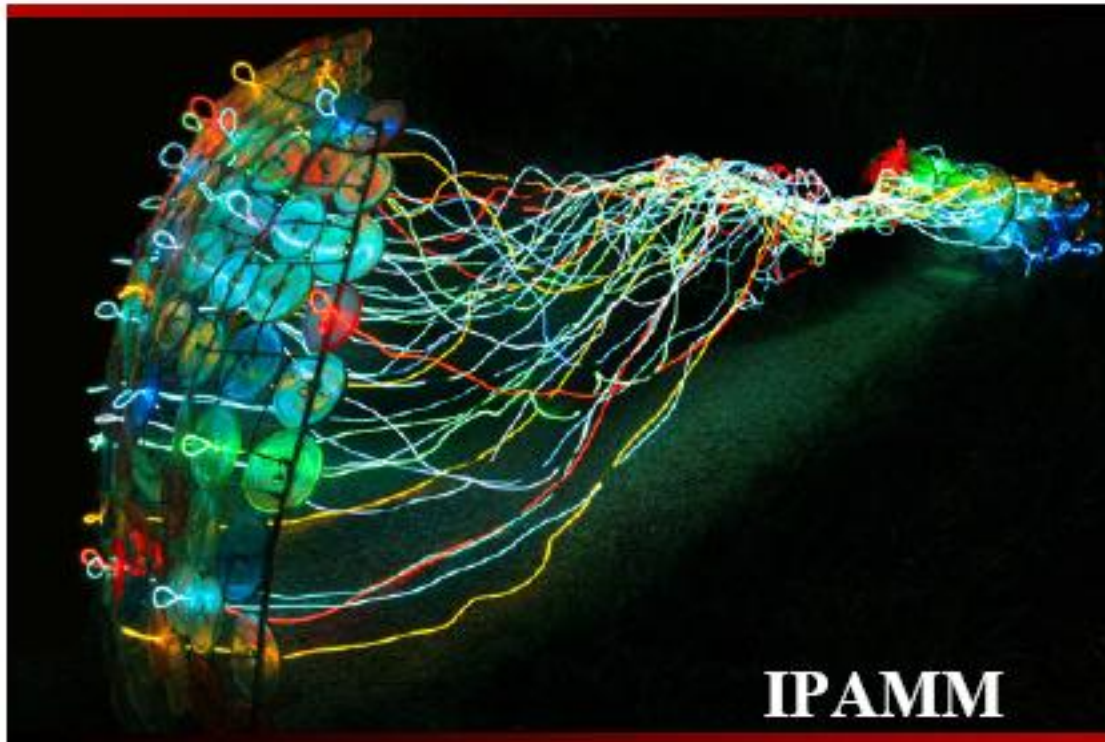
Solicitations NOT affected by this change include (but are not limited to):

- Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP)
- CAREER
- Research Coordination Networks – RCN
- Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants - DDIG
- Assembling the Tree of Life - ATOL
- Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems - CNH
- Dimensions of Biodiversity
- Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases – EEID

Also, ALL programs in IOS and DEB will continue to accept:

- Conference and workshop proposals
- EAGERs
- RAPIDs
- Supplements to existing awards





IPAMM

*Impact of Proposal and Award
Management Mechanisms*

Final Report

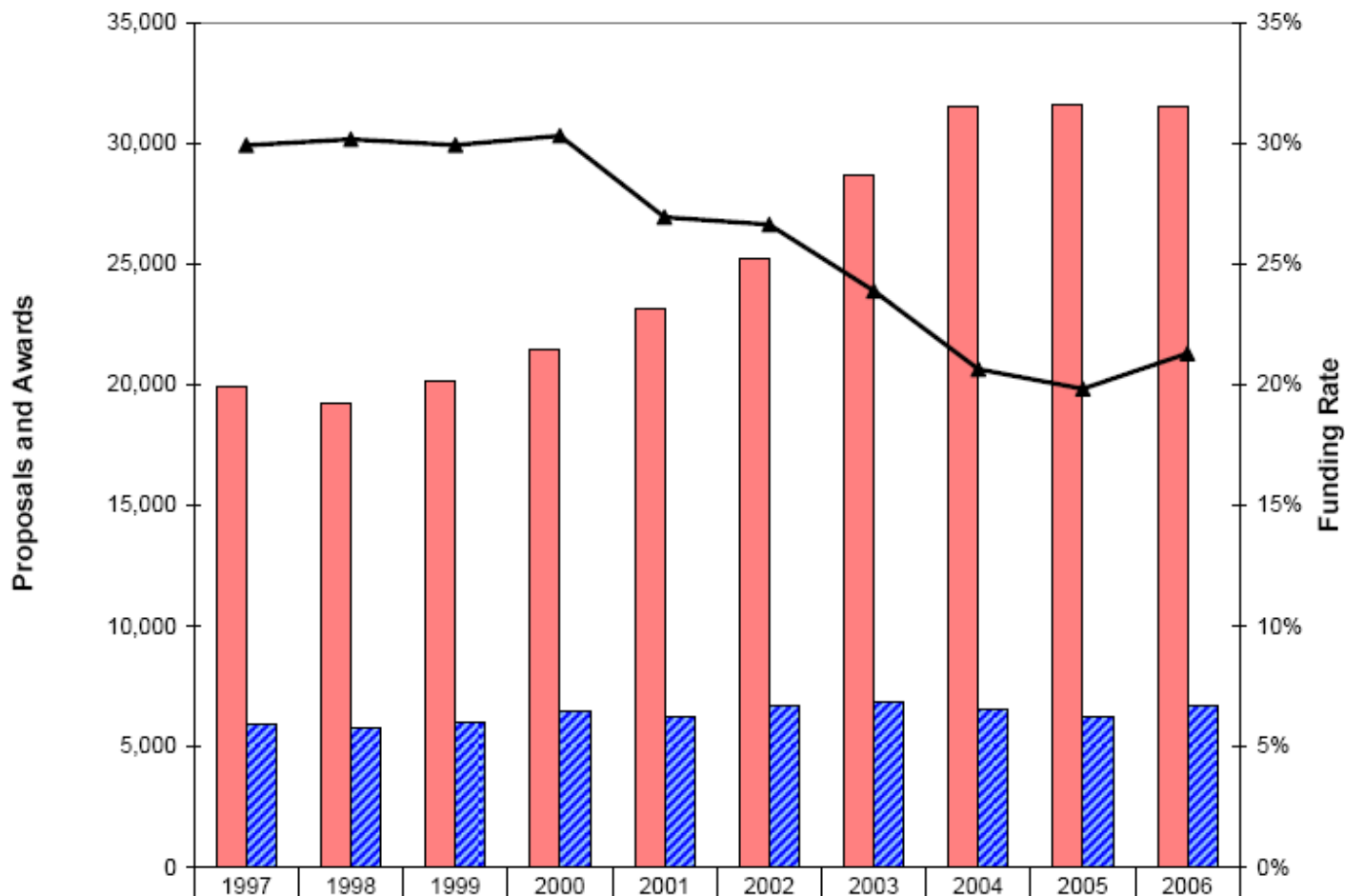
August 1, 2007






National Science Foundation



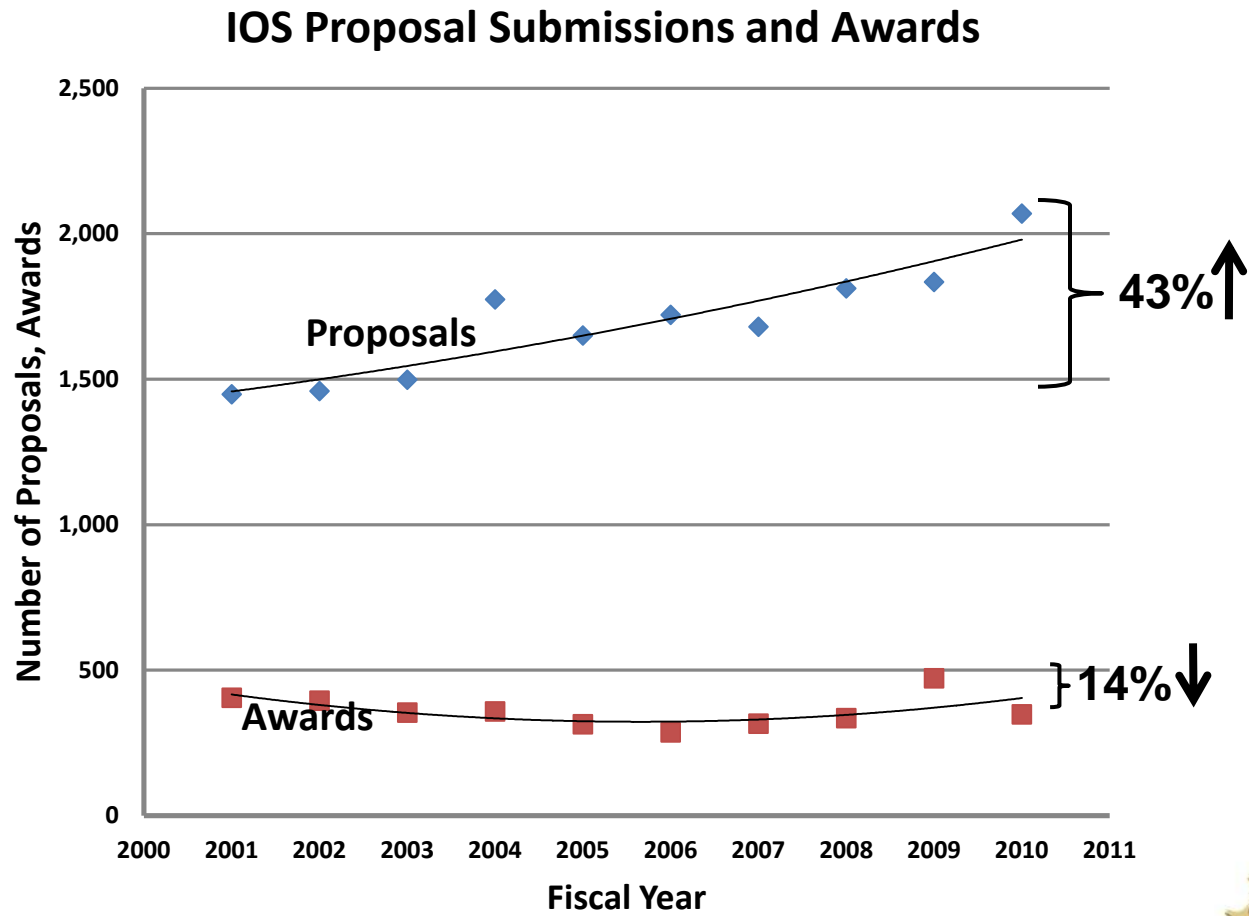
Comparison of Trends in Changes in Research Proposal Numbers and Funding Rates



 Competitive Proposal Actions	19,935	19,218	20,118	21,442	23,096	25,241	28,676	31,553	31,574	31,514
 Competitive Awards	5,961	5,796	6,019	6,498	6,218	6,722	6,846	6,509	6,258	6,708
 Funding Rate	30%	30%	30%	30%	27%	27%	24%	21%	20%	21%



A Steadily Rising Community Workload



- Rationale

- Full proposal success rates have declined 11% from 28% in 2001 to 17% in 2010
- PIs are writing more and more full proposals
- Increased proposal numbers lead to heavier workload on the reviewing community
- IOS and DEB have decided that a remedy for the workload challenge is to move to a system of review that starts with pre-proposal submission, followed by invited full proposals

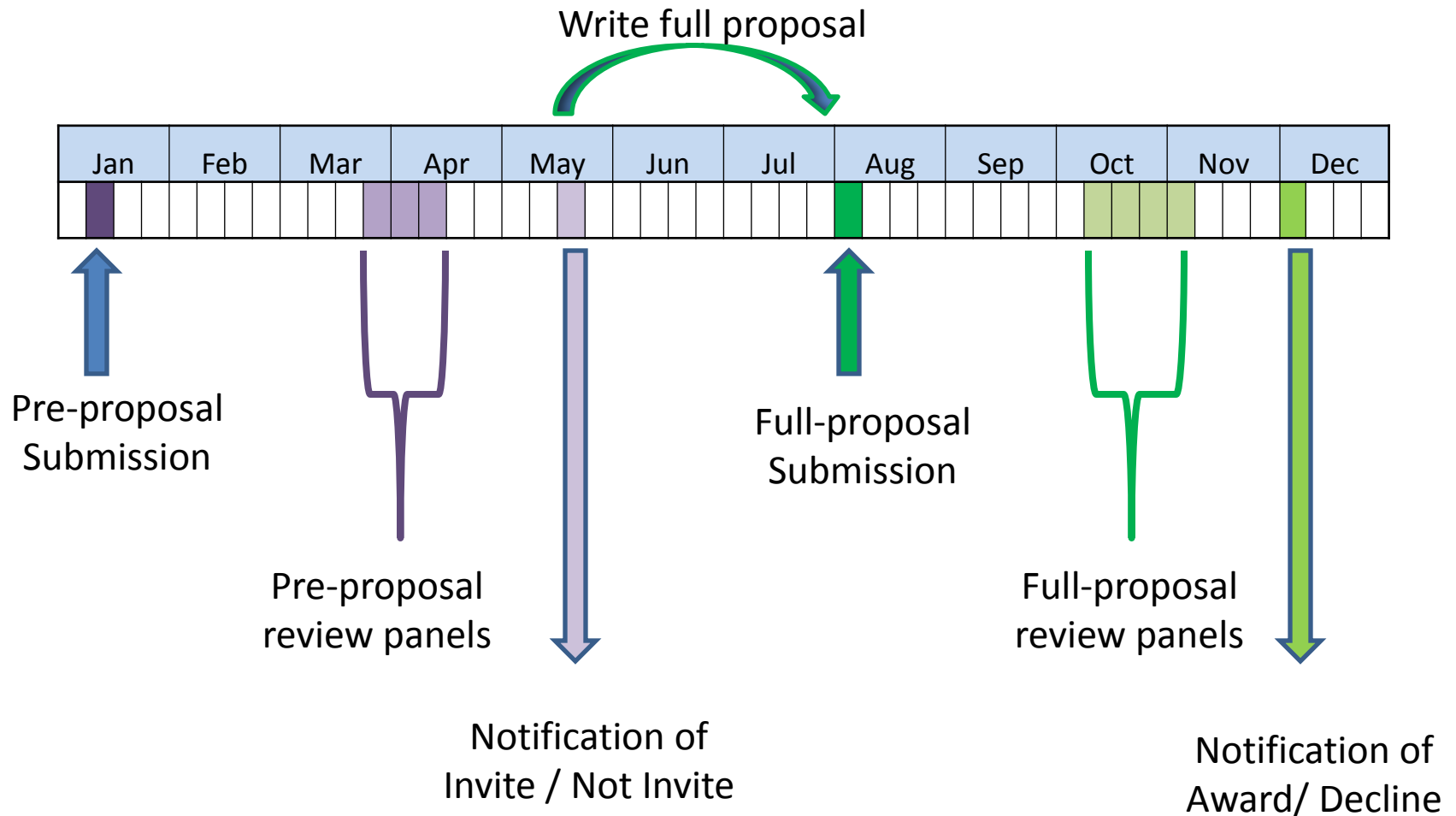


New IOS Core Program Process

- Single pre-proposal deadline per year followed by submission of invited full proposals
 - Preliminary proposals- January
 - required
 - Limited to 2 per PI/Co-PI/Lead on sub-award
 - Pre-proposal panel- March/April
 - Invite/Not Invite decision plus feedback
 - Full proposal submission – August
 - **Only** invited proposals
 - October panel
 - Award/Not Award



Annual Cycle of Review and Recommendation



New IOS Core Program Process

- Benefits to PIs
 - Shorter format so less time invested
 - Still get feedback early on
 - Better “odds” for invited full proposals
- Benefits to Institutions
 - No budget preparation for pre-proposals
- Benefits to the community
 - Fewer requests for review as only full proposals will be ad hoc reviewed



Preliminary Proposal Format

- Cover sheet
 - Title must begin with “IOS Preliminary Proposal:”
 - Apply to Solicitation **NSF 11-572** and not the GPG!!
 - Check Pre-Proposal Checkbox
 - Enter \$2 for amount requested (No budget is required)
- Project Summary Page
- Project Description (5 Pages Total):
 - Personnel Page (PI, co-PIs, Senior Personnel)
 - Project Narrative limited to 4 pages
- Biographical Sketches (No COI Information)
- References Cited (3 pages)
- Combined Conflict of Interest Spreadsheet (Single copy document)
- *Appendices or other supplementary documents are **NOT** allowed*



Preliminary Proposal Content

- Similar to a full proposal the narrative of a pre-proposal should address the:
 - **Main idea** or set of concepts that the PIs intend to address,
 - **Significance** of those questions or rationale for why one would want to address the issues,
 - **Specific questions**, hypotheses or aims the PI intends to pursue to be able to address the issues,
 - **Research approaches** or experimental plan,
 - **Ability of the team** to conduct the research
 - **Broader impacts**



Basis for Invite/Not Invite Decisions

- **Advice of the pre-proposal panel**
 - Are the ideas innovative or potentially transformative?
 - Are the ideas conceptually well grounded?
 - Are the experimental approaches and experimental design feasible and logically linked to the central ideas?
 - Are the PIs well qualified and experienced enough with the approaches to be able to conduct the research?
 - What risks are involved and can they be overcome?
 - What is the potential impact of the science?
 - Is there a convincing and significant effort made towards broader impacts?
- **Portfolio balance**
 - Existing awards in the program
 - Diversity with regard to career level, under-represented groups, geographic location and institution type



QUESTIONS?

- This Webinar will be posted as presented for on-demand viewing at a later time
 - *Webinar URL*
 - *Link to Solicitation –URL*
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=503623&ods_key=nsf11572
 - *Link to FAQ – URL* <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11079/nsf11079.jsp?org=NSF>
- Email questions to any IOS Program Director:
 - see IOS website for addresses: <http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=IOS>
- *Concerns can also be directed to:*
 - *IOS Division Director (Acting) – Jane Silverthorne* jsilvert@nsf.gov
 - *Assistant Director for Biological Sciences – John Wingfield*
jwingfie@nsf.gov

