STEM + Computing K-12 Education (STEM+C)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for submitting proposals to the STEM+C Program Description (18-005Y): https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505006

Is there a Solicitation in addition to the Program Description?

No, there is no solicitation. For FY18 and FY19, STEM+C is requesting proposals through the Program Description: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505006

A Program Description encourages the submission of proposals in specific program areas of interest to NSF. See Chapter I.C (Categories of Funding Opportunities). Proposals must follow the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG): *Proposal and Award Policies & Procedures Guide*. See Chapter III of the PAPPG for additional information.

What happens if I submit after the target date of July 2, 2018?

According to the PAPPG Chapter I.F.1, target dates are "dates after which proposals will still be accepted, although they may miss a particular panel or committee meeting": https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/pappg_1.jsp#IF1

Proposals received by the target date of July 2, 2018 will be considered for FY18 as funds are available or for FY19. Proposals received after July 2, 2018 may also be considered for 2018 or 2019 funds as funds are available.

How do I prepare a proposal in response to the STEM+C Program Description?

Proposals submitted in response to the STEM+C Program Description should follow PAPPG Chapter II: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/pappg_2.jsp.

Specific guidelines regarding Proposal Contents are described at: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/pappg_2.jsp#IIC.

Complete proposals expedite review and processing. The PAPPG Checklist for Proposal Preparation can be found at: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/pappg_2.jsp#2ex1.

STEM+C Objectives:

Proposals must address the goals of STEM+C program as stated in the Program Description:

> The STEM+C Program focuses on research and development of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to the integration of computing within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning for preK-12 students in both formal and informal settings. STEM+C supports research on how students learn to think computationally to solve interdisciplinary problems in the STEM fields.

A suggested resource for designing education research is the Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13126/nsf13126.pdf

Are there specific funding categories, strands, project durations, or funding limits?

There are no specific strands, themes, funding categories or restrictions on project duration or funding limit. Program Descriptions use the generic eligibility and proposal preparation in the *Proposal and Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (Chapter I.C. Categories of Funding Opportunities) for Full Proposals, Supplements to Awards, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs), and EAGERs. Proposals should also address the National Science Board's approved merit review criteria (See Chapter III of the PAPPG).

Does the STEM+C Program Description allow proposals for five years of funding?

According to the PAPPG Chapter Ii.C.2.a(4)(b): "Grants are normally awarded for up to three years but may be awarded for periods of up to five years. The Foundation encourages PIs to request awards for durations of three to five years when such durations are necessary for completion of the proposed work and are technically and managerially advantageous."
https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/pappg_2.jsp#IIC2a.

Is an (internal or external) advisory board required?

An advisory board (either internal or external) is not required. However, they may be useful and appropriate for many projects, particularly those that are large and more complex. If funds are requested for such a board, it would be helpful to describe the nature and function of the board and the types of people you would appoint to such a board. If you can provide the names of specific people who have agreed to serve, along with mention of their expertise and the contributions they would bring to an advisory board, this would be helpful to reviewers.

Does the Program Description have an expectation for evaluation of project outcomes?

According to the PAPPG Chapter III.A.1: "Meaningful assessment and evaluation of NSF funded projects should be based on appropriate metrics, keeping in mind the likely correlation between the effect of broader impacts and the resources provided to implement projects."
https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/pappg_3.jsp#IIIA.

Does the Program Description have an expectation for dissemination of project outcomes?

Yes. The spread of the use of effective approaches to STEM education relies on outreach to the community, including presentation at professional society meetings, workshops, publication, and other mechanisms. According to the PAPPG Chapter XI.D.4.:
https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/pappg_11.jsp#XID4.

Investigators are expected to promptly prepare and submit for publication, with authorship that accurately reflects the contributions of those involved, all significant findings from work conducted under NSF grants. In addition, investigators are expected to share with other researchers, at no more than incremental cost and within a reasonable time, the primary data, samples, physical collections and

other supporting materials created or gathered in the course of work under NSF grants. Grantees are expected to encourage and facilitate such sharing.

Interested in reviewing proposals submitted to STEM+C?

Please submit a CV as soon as possible for consideration to review proposals. As with all NSF programs, you cannot be a reviewer if you have a pending proposal to that program at the time of review.

If you have additional questions, please contact:

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