

**National Science Foundation  
Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences  
4201 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22230**

Dear Colleague,

The Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE) announces a special emphasis on Research Opportunity Awards (ROAs). ROAs are a component of the Research in Undergraduate Institutions (RUI) program. ROAs enable faculty members at predominantly undergraduate institutions to pursue research as visiting scientists with NSF-supported investigators at other institutions. The Cross-Directorate Activities Program in SBE has set aside funds specifically for this special emphasis and is accepting ROA supplement requests according to the guidelines in the RUI Program Announcement, NSF 00-144 (<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf00144>). There are two deadlines for this special emphasis: **May 15, 2001** and **January 15, 2002**.

Predominantly undergraduate institutions play a critical role in U.S. science and technology through their substantial contributions to research and education. NSF encourages research by faculty members of these institutions, both to ensure a broad national base for research and to help faculty members stay at the cutting edge of their disciplines. An ROA is intended to increase the visiting scholar's research capability and effectiveness, to improve research and teaching at his or her home institution, and to enhance the NSF-funded research of the host principal investigator.

As stated in the RUI Program announcement, requests for ROA supplements are submitted to NSF by the host institution. Faculty members interested in becoming ROA visiting researchers make their own arrangements with NSF-supported investigators. Alternatively, the PI of an ongoing NSF research grant may initiate an ROA collaboration. For additional information on how to find a collaborator please see the section "Finding a Collaborator."

Please refer to the RUI Program Announcement for information regarding RUI eligibility. Faculty members who wish to become ROA visiting researchers must be from RUI-eligible institutions. Any institution with an SBE-funded principal investigator (RUI or non-RUI) is eligible to be a host institution. SBE welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists in any social and behavioral science field supported by NSF. Underrepresented minorities are particularly encouraged to apply to this program.

Once a partnership is found, the prospective visiting ROA researcher and the SBE-supported PI at the host institution should work together to develop a research plan and budget. The nature of the research responsibility, the duration of the ROA visit, the nature of the visitor's appointment, the rate of pay, and other arrangements with respect to employment are matters to be negotiated between the host institution, the PI, the prospective visiting scientist, and his/her home institution, as the proposal is developed.

ROA activities can be performed during the summer or during sabbaticals. Budget requests for this special emphasis can be up to \$50,000 and must be justified in terms of the duration of the visit. Except for major instrumentation or equipment, any item acceptable for inclusion under a regular grant proposal (as detailed in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>) may in principle be included in an ROA budget. Most ROA requests include salary and fringe benefits for the visitor, travel costs, and essential supplies

A formal ROA request letter from the funded principal investigator must be endorsed by the grantee organization and submitted via FastLane as a supplement to an existing grant **by May 15, 2001 or January 15, 2002**. It must include a description of the arrangements and the work to be performed by the ROA visitor, a statement of the contribution of this work to the NSF-supported project and to the visitor's future research and home organization, a budget with appropriate explanatory information, and a biographical sketch of the visitor.

Please note that, for this special emphasis, **only** supplement requests to existing awards will be accepted. Researchers with new proposals who wish to include an ROA component should do so following the RUI/ROA Program Announcement and submit their proposals to the disciplinary programs. If support is recommended, funds will come from the disciplinary program that reviewed the new proposal.

Specific guidelines for the submission of ROA supplements can be found in the RUI Program Announcement and on the last page of this letter under "Submission Guidelines."

The supervising program officer for the existing award will review each request for an ROA supplement on its own merits. Funding decisions based on these reviews will be made at the discretion of the Program Directors for Cross-Directorate Activities. Consideration will be given to the capability of the investigators, the technical soundness of the proposed effort, the contribution of the ROA activity to the ongoing research project, and its potential impact upon the ROA visitor and the visitor's institution.

The staff of the Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Social Sciences at NSF finds the ROA mechanism to be an excellent way to involve faculty at undergraduate institutions in NSF's major research programs. The ultimate goals of this special emphasis are to strengthen the research capabilities and opportunities of faculty at predominantly undergraduate institutions while, at the same time, facilitating strong partnerships and collaborations among faculty in all institutions. We hope that you will give serious consideration to applying for a Research Opportunity Award.

Sincerely,

William P. Butz  
Director  
Division of Social and Economic Sciences

Philip Rubin  
Director  
Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences

## **Submission Guidelines**

Supplement requests submitted in response to this Dear Colleague letter should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the [Grant Proposal Guide](#) (GPG), NSF 01-2. The complete text of the GPG (including electronic forms) is available electronically on the NSF Web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov). NSF FastLane requirements apply to all requests submitted in response to this Dear Colleague letter. In FastLane, proposers should select “Supplemental Funding Request” and then select the corresponding proposal. All supplement requests should include the following items:

1. a description of the arrangements and the work to be performed by the ROA visitor
2. a statement of the contribution of this work to the NSF-supported project and to the visitor’s future research and home organization
3. a budget with appropriate explanatory information
4. a biographical sketch of the visitor (enter this item under the “Budget (including Justification)” section)

Proposers are also asked to email [kraymond@nsf.gov](mailto:kraymond@nsf.gov) once the supplement request has been submitted, so as to alert Cross-Directorate Activities to its arrival. Failure to follow these guidelines may delay processing.

## **Finding a Collaborator**

The NSF RUI website (<http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/crssprgm/rui/connections.shtm>) contains information, summarized below, on how to find a collaborator. First, potential host researchers can be found by searching the NSF award abstracts (<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a6/A6AwardSearch.htm>). Use keywords from your research area to pull up a list of awards relevant to your research. To get additional information about the award, click on the title of the award. Be sure to check the dates of the award, as some awards may have expired. Second, you may wish to contact the Program Officer(s) in disciplines relevant to your research area. Third, Science Assistant Kristin Raymond will keep a listing of RUI faculty and NSF grantees looking for research partnerships. If you would like to be added to the list of people looking for matches or if you need assistance in finding a match, please e-mail her (address below) briefly stating your research interests and areas.

## **Contact Information**

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