

AGENDA

1. What is NSF?
2. What is the Social, Behavioral, & Economics (SBE) Directorate?
3. If you are interested in submitting a proposal to SBE, what should you do?

AGENDA . . . CONTINUED

4. What goes in the proposal?
5. What are Broader Impacts?
6. What are the characteristics of good proposals?
7. What happens after you submit your proposal? How does it get reviewed? What is the Merit Review Process?

What is the National Science Foundation?

Independent federal agency created by Congress in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense..."

- Annual Budget \$8.3 billion

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314



SBE IS 1 OF THE 7 NSF DIRECTORATES

- **Biological Sciences (BIO)**
- **Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)**
- **Education and Human Resources (EHR)**
- **Engineering (ENG)**
- **Geosciences (GEO)**
- **Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)**
- **Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)**

Directorates

Divisions

Programs

**Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences
(SBE)
Directorate**

**Division of
Behavioral &
Cognitive Sciences
(BCS)**

**Division of
Social & Economic
Sciences
(SES)**

**THE VALUE OF SOCIAL, BEHAVIORAL AND ECONOMIC
SCIENCES**

SBE SUPPORTS BASIC RESEARCH TO UNDERSTAND PEOPLE AND SOCIETY

- Human behavior
- Social organizations
- Social, economic, political, cultural, & environmental forces
- Patterns of stability & change
- Individual, group, organizational
- Birth to old age

A Few Programs in the Division of Social & Economic Sciences (SES)

Decision, Risk and Management Sciences	Science of Organizations
Economics	Science, Technology, and Society
Law & Science	Security and Preparedness
Methodology, Measurement, & Statistics	Sociology

A Few Programs in the Division of Behavioral & Cognitive Sciences (BCS)

Archaeology and Archaeometry	Developmental Sciences
Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems	Linguistics
Biological Anthropology	Perception, Action, & Cognition
Cognitive Neuroscience	Science of Learning and Augmented Intelligence
Cultural Anthropology	Social Psychology

Faculty Early Career Development Program

Career Awards are NSF-Wide

FACULTY EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CAREER)

- Untenured tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty
- Integration of research and education
- Single investigator proposal — no Co-PIs
- Minimum \$400,000 (that includes indirects), 5 years
- Max three submissions (one per year)

CAREER AWARDS: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Description of research project
 - Preliminary supporting data
 - Specific objectives
 - Methods, procedures
 - Expected significance of results
- Description of educational activities; plans to evaluate their impact
- Description of how research & educational activities are to be integrated
- Results of prior NSF support

CAREER - Education Component

- Examples:
 - 1) Design innovative courses or curricula
 - 2) Support teacher preparation and enhancement
 - 3) Conduct outreach & mentoring activities to enhance scientific literacy or involve students from underrepresented groups
 - 4) Incorporate research activities into undergraduate courses
 - 5) Link education activities to industrial, international, or cross-disciplinary work

Compelling argument that the project will achieve effective integration between research and education activities.

Synergy!!!!!!

DEPARTMENTAL LETTER

A good *Departmental Letter* will include or demonstrate

- Commitment to the PI's proposed CAREER research and education activities
- Description of how the PI's career goals and responsibilities mesh with that of the organization and department

BUDGET: CHECK WITH PROGRAM DIRECTOR

- Programs may prefer to make awards with budget close to the anticipated *minimum* size
 - **Most Programs: \$400,000**
 - ***minimum (direct AND indirect).***
 - ***BIO minimum is different.***

LETTERS OF COLLABORATION

Letter should consist of a single-sentence statement of collaboration:

“If the proposal submitted by Dr. [name of the PI] titled [proposal title] is selected for funding by the NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description.”

Must **NOT** recommend or endorse PI or project

MERIT REVIEW

Evaluation can be done by either:

- Ad Hoc reviewers only
- Panel Review only (panelists write reviews before the panel meeting)
- Combination of both Ad Hoc and Panel Review

COMMENTS YOU DO NOT WANT TO SEE IN YOUR REVIEW:

- This is a solid but not particularly original study that stomps on old ground (**incremental**)
- Results of study will have **limited impact** in the field
- The PI has not been very productive either during or since his/her Ph.D.
- This proposal is **naive/overly ambitious**

MOST COMMON MISTAKES

Education:

Education component is generic and what is expected of any PI in your field

Unrealistic education activity – “this work will impact K-12 education in the state of X”

Reinventing the wheel – another blog, another website

CAREER PROPOSAL DUE DATE

Agency-wide (regardless of directorate, division, or program) → DUE at SAME time.

SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (SPRF)

SBE → Social Behavioral & Economics Directorate

SPRF PROGRAM

- **Individual Award** - Awards made directly to candidate
- **Host Institution** - Candidates identify a sponsoring scientist and a host institution

Track 1: Fundamental Research	Track 2: Broadening Participation
Builds fundamental knowledge	Increase diversity of researchers
	*Do not have to be a member of underrepresented group

SELECTING A SPONSOR & HOST INSTITUTION

- Identify characteristics important to you in a mentor
- Contact your potential mentor

SBE SPRF TIMELINE

October / November
Proposals Due

December / January
Panel Meeting

February - May
*Proposal Decisions
Sent*

April - May
*PD Requests Required
Information*

May - August
Official Awards

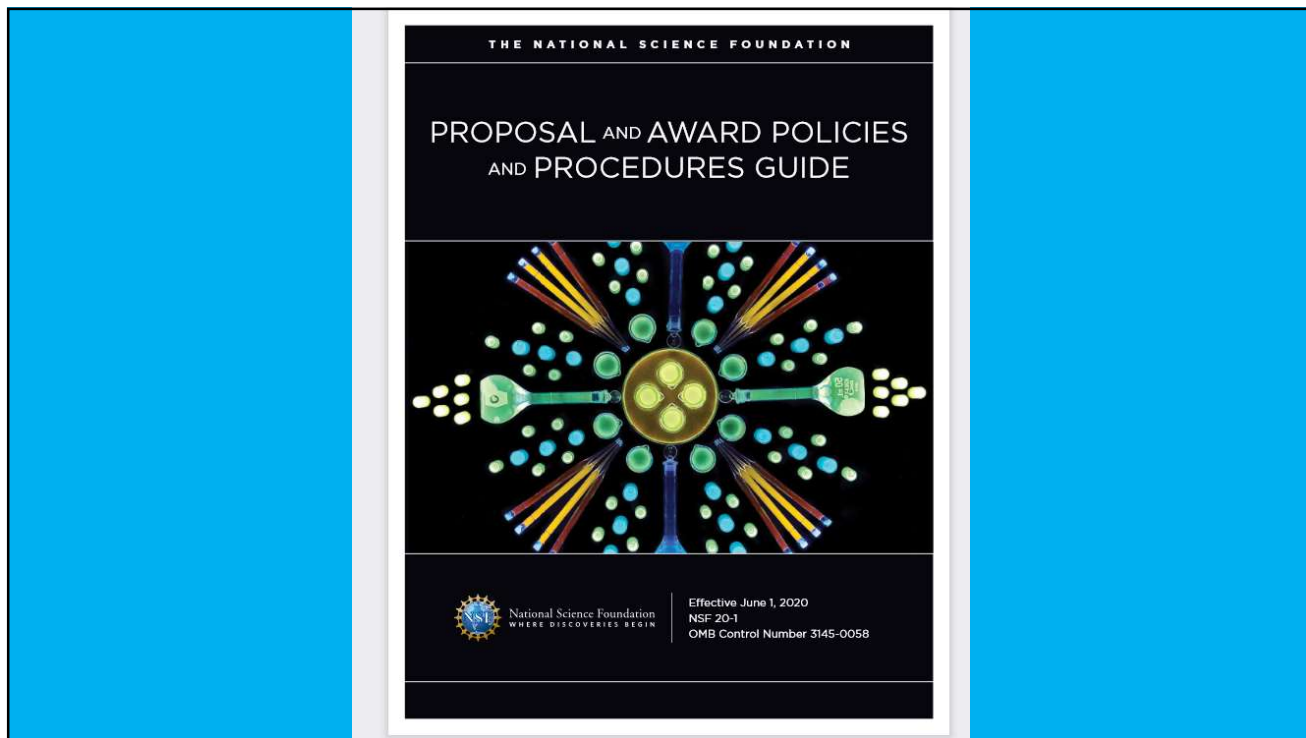
This year the due date is November 1, 2021.
BUT → Check website! Always check website
for due dates.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR SBE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIPS (SPRF)**

Dr. Josie S. Welkom

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**If you are interested in submitting a proposal, what
should you do?**



BROADER IMPACTS

NSF MERIT REVIEW PROCESS: WHAT IS IT?

WHAT IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS FUNDED?