HBCU OUTREACH: ATLANTA

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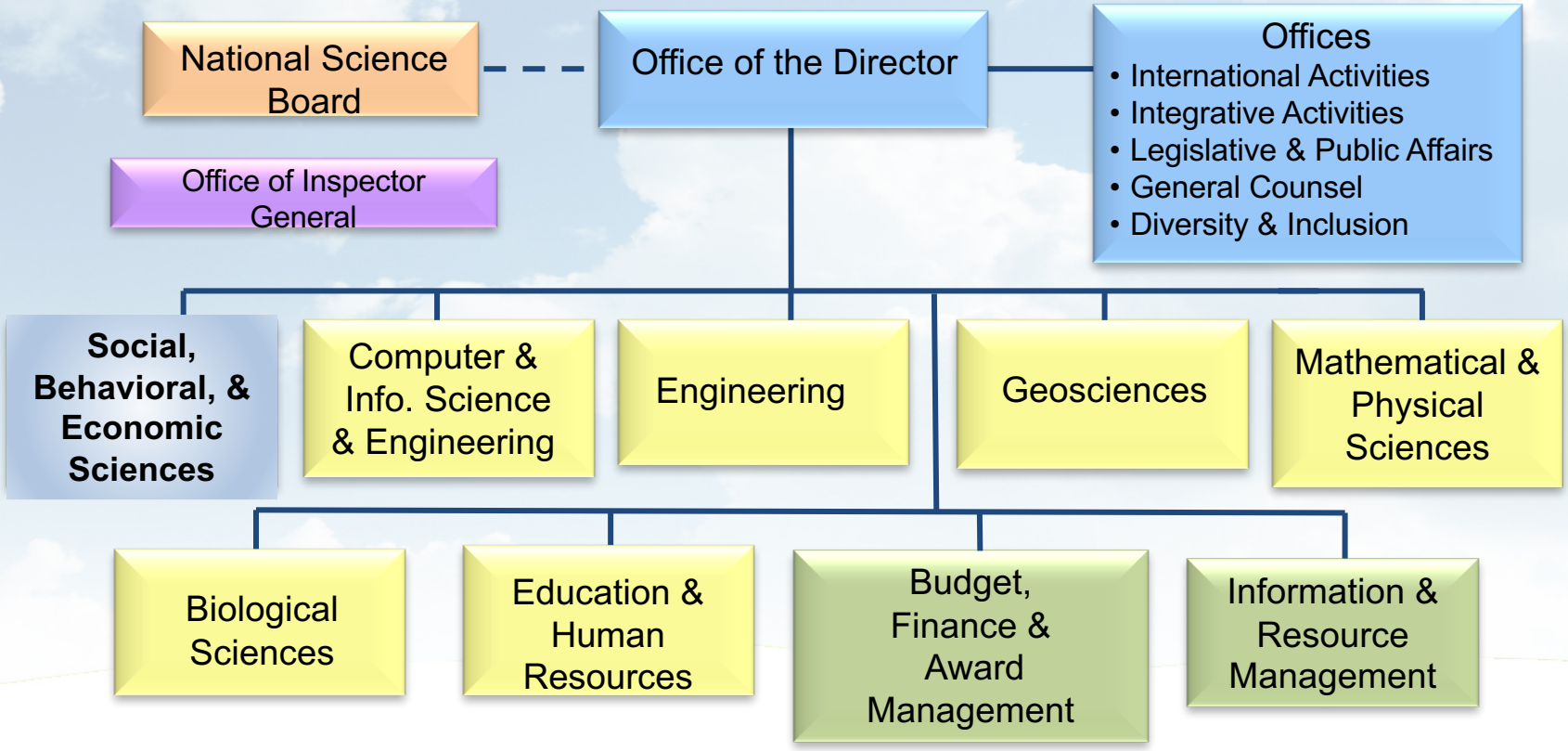
Introduction

- Economics and SES Award Portfolio by Institution Type
- The “supply of” and “demand for” NSF Awards
- The Need to increase “demand”
- The purpose of this workshop
- Organization of Presentation
- Please ask questions as they come during the presentation. Don’t wait for the Q&A session

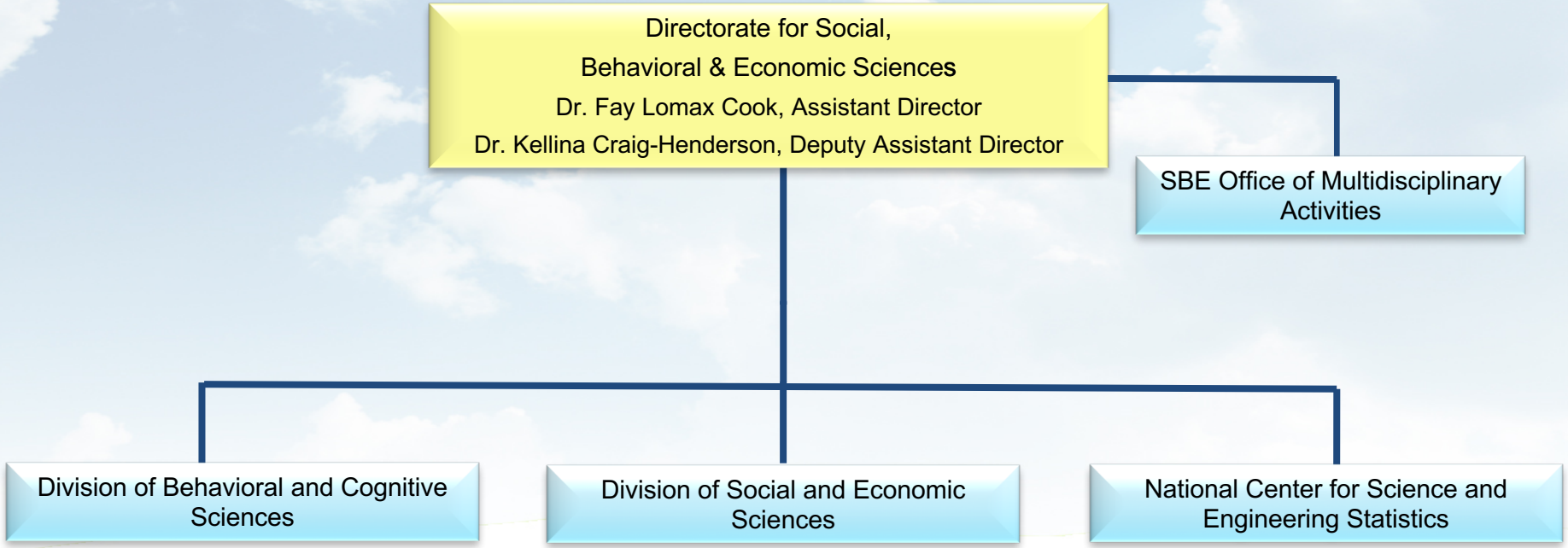
NSF in a Nutshell

- 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 of about $7.0 billion
- Currently about 11,000 new awards per year, with an average duration of three years

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION



NSF SBE OVERVIEW
$270 million annual budget (FY 2017 Enacted)



SBE's Mission

- Promote the understanding of people and their lives by supporting research that:
  - Reveals basic facets of human behavior and
  - Helps provide answers to important societal questions and problems
- Work with other disciplines to ensure that basic research and solutions to problems build upon the best multidisciplinary science
- Provide mission-critical statistical information about science and engineering in the U.S. and the world

Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS) Programs

Supports research to develop and advance scientific knowledge on:

- Human cognition
- Language
- Social behavior
- Culture
- Interactions between human societies and the physical environment

- Archaeology and Archaeometry
- Biological Anthropology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental Sciences
- Documenting Endangered Languages
- Geography and Spatial Sciences
- Linguistics
- Perception, Action, & Cognition
- Science of Learning
- Social Psychology

Social and Economic Sciences (SES)

Seeks to enhance our understanding of human, social and organizational behavior by supporting **disciplinary** and **interdisciplinary** research that advances knowledge in the social and economic sciences, and by building social science **infrastructure**

- Disciplinary programs:
  - Economics
  - Political Science
  - Sociology
- Interdisciplinary programs:
  - Decision, Risk, and Management Sciences
  - Science of Organizations
  - Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics
  - Science, Technology, and Society
  - Law and Social Sciences

SBE Supports Basic Research on People and Society

- Human behavior
- Social organizations
- Social, economic, political, cultural, and environmental forces
- Patterns of stability & change
- Individual, group, organizational
- Birth to old age
- How people in turn shape those forces to promote the progress of science and to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare

NSF Economics Program I

- Supports theoretical and empirical research that improves understanding of institutions and processes of economics
- Emphasizes and fund ***rigorous*** research in economics
- Only Federal government program with broad mandate to maintain and ***strengthen basic economic science.***
- ***Transformative/innovative*** are two operative words
- Funds research in all sub-fields of economics
- Strongly support inter-disciplinary research---across SBE and across the Foundation

Economics Program II

- Size:
  - Budget: ~$27.4 million Awards: 103/325
- Target Dates: August 18, January 18
- Program Highlights
  - Supported every Nobel Prize winner in economics since 1998
  - 27/28 Clark Bates Medal winners funded by econ program
- Program Directors:
  - Nancy Lutz: nlutz@nsf.gov; Seung-Hyun Hong: shong@nsf.gov
  - Kwabena Gyimah-Brempong: kgyimahb@nsf.gov
  - https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5437)

Some Relevant Cross-Directorate Initiatives

- Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems (**NCS**)
- Cyberlearning and Future Learning Technologies (**Cyberlearning**)
- Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (**CNH**)
- ADVANCE: Increasing the Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic Science and Engineering Careers (**ADVANCE**)
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities Undergraduate Program (**HBCU-UP**)
- Inclusion across the Nation of Communities of Learners of Underrepresented Discoverers in Engineering and Science (**INCLUDES**)
- Critical Resilient Interdependent Infrastructure Systems and Processes (**CRISP**)
- Cultivating Cultures for Ethical STEM (**CCE STEM**)

HBCU-UP

- NSF 16-538 http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16538/nsf16538.pdf
- Awards to study and implement innovative ways improve the preparation and success of HBCU STEM education
- Up to $50 million in funding and 115 awards in 2 cycles
- NSF Contacts:
  - Tony Edquist tedquist@nsf.gov
  - Earnestine Easter epsalmon@nsf.gov
  - Andrea Johnson andjohns@nsf.gov
  - Claudia Rankins crankins@nsf.gov

Types of HBCU-UP Awards

- Five major types of awards with different emphasis and requirements
  - Targeted Infusion Projects ($400 k limit)
  - Broadening Participation Research in STEM education ($350 k)
  - Research Initiation Award ($300 k)
  - Implementation Projects ($1- 2 M over 5 years)
  - ACE Implementation Projects (up to $3 m over 5 years)
  - Broadening Participation Research Centers (up to $9 m, 5 yrs)
  - Others—conferences, RAPID, EARGER
- All require letters of intent; some preliminary proposals

Proposal Preparation and submission

- Who is qualified? Only PI from HBCUs
- All proposals must be submitted to the HBCU-UP at NSF
- Cover sheet should have the following:
  - Division: ***HRD-Division of Human Resource Development***
  - Program: ***Hist Black Colleges and Univ***
  - Title for submission to any particular project should begin with that project, e.g. “Research Initiation Project: The efficiency of … in STEM Education”, “Targeted Infusion Project: A Proposal to enhance students research experience in laboratory experiments in economics..”
- In addition to following guidelines for the HBCU-UP competition, address any extra requirements for a particular award you are applying for

Target Dates and other details

- Each of these awards have their own target dates; respect them
- Remember to submit the letter of intent in time
- All proposals are submitted via FastLane or Grants.gov and must follow NSF Guidelines as set out in the PAPPG
- When in doubt, you have resources (cognizant program officers) at NSF

DCL: HBCU Excellence in Research (EiR) Program

- A new NSF wide initiative to stimulate and enhance research at HBCUs (https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf17138)
- Part of the revised solicitation of the HBCU-Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP) program
- Proposals submitted to the HBCU-UP Program but PI identifies a secondary program in a research directorate to which the proposal should be directed for review
- Proposal should prepared and submitted in accordance with NSF guidelines contained in PAPPG. See (http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_sum.jsp?ods_key=paapp) and any application solicitation guidelines

NSF Organizations Participating in EiR

- Directorates for:
  - Biological Sciences (BIO)
  - Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
  - Engineering (ENG)
  - Geosciences (GEO)
  - Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)
  - Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)

and

  - Office of Integrative Activities (OIA)

Types of Proposals Accepted by EiR

- Projects up to $1 million to stimulate improvements in research capacity and competitiveness at HBCUs
- Include but not limited to:
  - Release time to enable faculty members to conduct research
  - Visits by faculty to visit other institutions to learn new methods & techniques
  - Support for research, faculty professional development
  - Support for post-doctoral fellows and students
  - Acquisition and upgrading of research equipment
  - Collaborative research efforts with partner universities and national laboratories

Types of Proposals Accepted by EiR II

- Project must have a research focus in a research area supported by NSF, a direct connection to the long term plans of the host Department and institutional mission
- Should include plans for expanding institutional research capacity
- Partnerships with smaller HBCUs are encouraged
- Up to $500,000 to support individual PIs. Should help further the Pis research, improve research capacity at the institution, and should involve students in the research experience.

FAQS

- HBCU is awarded grant on behalf of PI who must be a full time faculty at the institution to be eligible
- Funds may go to non-HBCU partners but must be well justified
- Student involvement in research is strongly encouraged
- Request for equipment must be well justified. Solicitation my place limits on the amounts of such requests.
- Academic year release time may be requested but must be well justified.
- All proposals are reviewed using NSF's review criteria—intellectual merit and Broder Impact.
- SBE Contact(s):
  - kgyimahb@nsf.gov

HBCU DCL NSF 17-027

- DCL 16-080 which targeted improving research capacity in HBCUs. This was followed by another DCL (NSF 17-027) this year (see https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17027/nsf17027.jsp).
- Provides additional pots of money to program funds to fund research at HBCUs.
- Program may be continued in 2018.
- Proposals must be sent to the PI's cognizant program (economics, sociology, DRMS). Need to watch program target dates
- Proposals must be submitted in accordance with NSF guidelines as indicated in the NSF PAPPG.
- Proposals are reviewed using NSF's two review criteria

NSF 17-027

- Note that NSF 17-027 will also fund:
  - EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER)
  - Rapid Response Research (RAPID)
  - Supplements to existing Awards
  - Conferences
- Such proposals must be submitted in accordance with NSF guidelines in the PAPPG

Types of NSF Awards

- Standard Research Grants
- CAREER Awards
- High Risk/Exploratory Awards (EARGER, RAPID)
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants
- Training Grants
  - Graduate Research Fellowships
  - Post-Doctoral research Fellowships
  - Research Experiences for Undergraduates
- Workshops
- Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Awards
- Research Coordination Networks (RCNs)

Opportunities for Primarily Undergrad Institutions (PUI)

- What's a PUI?
- Funded in SBE through regular programs, standard merit review process.
- Research in Undergraduate Institutions Awards (RUI): work on your campus.
- Research Opportunity Awards (ROA): working with an NSF-funded PI at the campus of a research university.
- Solicitation 14-579 has details about special info to include in proposal.

Opportunities for Future SBE Scientists

- Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP).
- Research Assistantships funded by NSF research awards.
- Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (DDRIG).
- NSF-funded mentoring programs in SBE fields
  - Political Science: Ralph Bunche Summer Institute
  - Economics: AEA Summer Training Program

Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

- Regular NSF proposals can put undergraduate students in the budget, or ask for REU (**R**esearch **E**xperiences for **U**ndergraduates) Supplements. **Contact the Program Director for your existing grant**.
- REU Sites are standalone projects; every NSF directorate has annual REU Site competition. See NSF REU program page at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5517&from=fund. **Deadline 4th Wednesday in August, annually**.
- Details on the SBE REU Sites program can be found here: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503644
- All REU Site proposals are reviewed in multi-disciplinary panels. There is one competition for the entire SBE Directorate.

Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (DDRIG)

- SBE Participating Programs:
  - Provide dissertation research support for doctoral students in US
  - Supplemental funds for items not available at the student's university or other funding sources
- All SBE programs fund DDRIGs. Some even have dedicated Panels.
- Economics accepts and reviews DDRIGs with standard proposals

SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (SPRF)

- Submission Deadline: Last Monday in October, Annually
- SPRF program has two separate tracks
- **Applicants must choose one**

  1. Broadening Participation, SPRF-BP
     - Promote diversity in the scientific workforce
     - Previously called the SBE Minority Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
  2. Interdisciplinary Research in Behavioral and Social Sciences, SPRF-IBSS
     - To promote research in emerging interdisciplinary fields
- SPRF Program Page for details, link to full solicitation, and FAQs: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504810

Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER; 17-537)

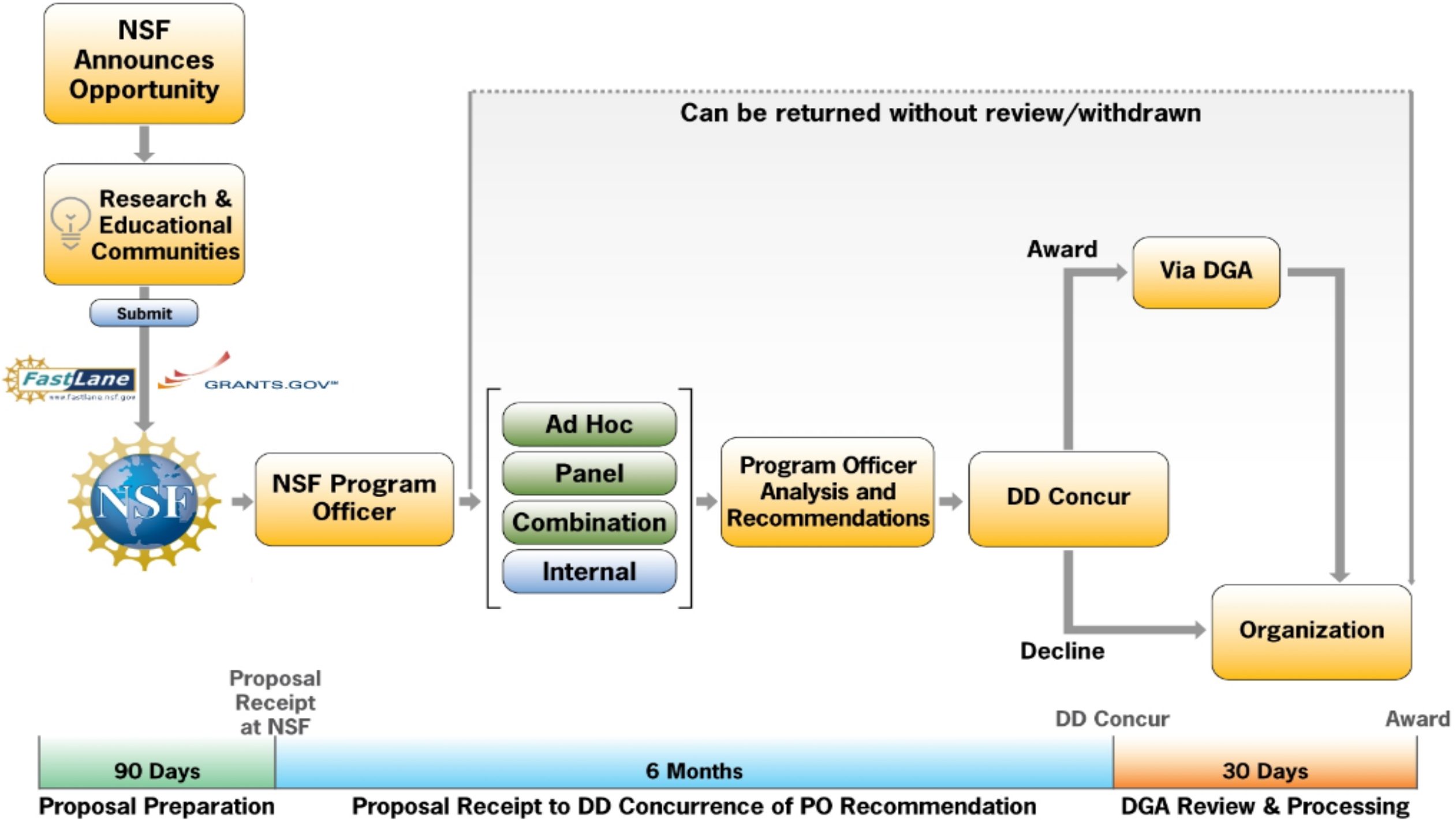
- Pre-tenure but tenure-track (or equivalent) faculty
- Integration of research and education
- Single investigator proposal – no Co-PIs
- Minimum $400,000 over 5 years
- Maximum of three submissions (one per year)
- Deadline: mid to late July
- Workshops to write CAREER proposals in Spring

Access to NSF Funding

- **Submit a proposal** to a standing program or submit a proposal to a special competition.
- **Merit Review** by advisory panel or ad hoc reviewers or combination of the two.

NSF Review Criteria

- **Intellectual merit** – “highest quality” and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
- **Broader impacts**… should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals.


NSF Announces Opportunity
Research & Educational Communities
Submit
FastLane
www.fastlane.nsf.gov
GRANTS.GOV™
NSF
NSF Program Officer
Can be returned without review/withdrawn
Ad Hoc
Panel
Combination
Internal
Program Officer Analysis and Recommendations
DD Concur
Award
Via DGA
Decline
Organization
Proposal Receipt at NSF
DD Concur
Award
90 Days
6 Months
30 Days
Proposal Preparation
Proposal Receipt to DD Concurrence of PO Recommendation
DGA Review & Processing

Anatomy of proposal review

- **Intellectual Merit**
  - Qualifications of PI
  - Creativity & Originality
  - Transformative?
  - Conception & Organization
  - Access to Resources
  - Advances Scientific Knowledge
- **Broader Impacts**
  - Importance of Topic
  - Mentoring
  - Diversity
  - Infrastructure
  - Dissemination/Publication
  - Societal Benefits

Anatomy of NSF Grant Proposal

- Cover Page
- Project Summary (1 page)
- Table of Contents (auto-generated)
- Project Description (15 pages)
- References cited
- Biographical sketches (for all senior PIs on the project)
- Budget
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment, and other Resources
- Post-doctoral mentoring Plan (if applicable
- Data Management Plan
- Supplemental Documentation (if applicable—no letters of support)

Consideration in Writing your Proposal

- Why is the work important?
- How is the work unique or innovative?
- What approach am I going to use and have I adequately sketched it out? Is it feasible?
- Why will this approach be especially valuable or informative?
- How is the team qualified to do this research?
- What is the contribution of this research to knowledge and how do the results benefit society?

Stay in the Loop

- Dear Colleague Letters
- Special Competitions and Investment Areas
- NSF.gov → NSF Social Media
  - NSF twitter: @nsf
  - NSF Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/US.NSF/
  - NSF Tumblr (blog): http://nationalsciencefoundation.tumblr.com/
- SBE Social Media sites:
  - SBE twitter: @nsf_SBE
  - SBE Tumblr: http://bit.ly/1Np43Lo

Open Session Q&A

Thank you for your patience

NSF Funding
Opportunities, Mechanics and Don'ts
October 2017

Nancy Lutz, Program Director
Economics
Jon Leland, Program Director
Decision, Risk & Management Science

Myths about NSF

- Only funds scholars at elite graduate institutions.
- Only funds “famous” academics.
- Once declined, you are likely always to be declined.
- Only funds “normal science”.
- Advisory committees make funding decisions.

The Real NSF

- Not monolithic.
- Lots of competition for funding.
- Has policies and procedures that you need to understand.

How Do I Start With NSF?

- Step One: Your idea
- Step Two: Does applying make sense?
- Step Three: Know your target
- Step Four: Developing a proposal

Hints on Steps Two and Three for economists.

Identifying Your Target

- Identify some possible NSF programs/funding opportunities.
- Research those opportunities.
- Contact the program directors to make sure it’s a match.

NSF Organization and Lingo

- Employees are organized by Directorates, Divisions, and Programs
- Funding is generally in Programs, but sometimes there are special pots available.
- A “standing” program will be around indefinitely; a “special solicitation/opportunity” is limited.

Opportunities and Mechanisms (an example)

Programs

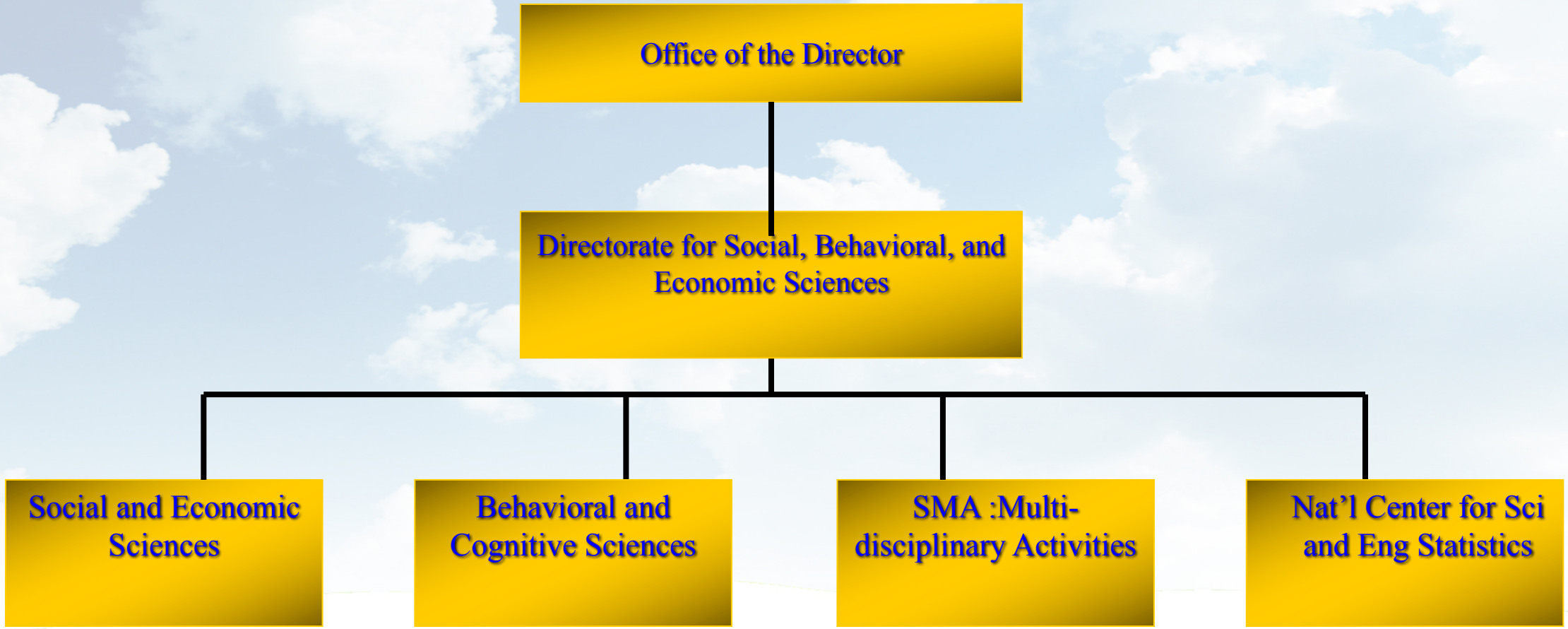
- Economics
- Social Psychology
- Law and Social Science
- INFEWS

Kinds of Awards

- Regular Awards
- Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grants
- CAREER
- EAGER
- RUI
- RAPID
- Collaborative Awards

This is confusing. Help!

- Start with the programs/pots of money.
- Then ask yourself if a special kind of award might work for your project.


Office of the Director
Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences
Social and Economic Sciences
Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences
SMA :Multi-disciplinary Activities
Nat'l Center for Sci and Eng Statistics

General Features of SBE Standing Programs

- Each have two ‘target dates’ a year.
- Use both panel review and mail reviews.
- Review CAREER proposals, most accept dissertation proposals, they make EAGER and RAPID awards, etc.

Interdisciplinary Research

- Look for opportunities for your specific area/topic

- Consider Co-Review
  - Submit proposal once
  - Request review by multiple programs
  - Higher funding rate

Using nsf.gov

- Read our official rulebook (Grant Proposal Guide)
- Look for information for all of SBE
- Find information on each program
- Learn about specific NSF awards

Info from Award Search

- What kinds of research does this program fund?
- Who is funding Prof. B?
- How many CAREER/EAGER/RAPID/etc awards does this program make?
- What's the average award size in my research area?

Contacting Program Directors

- E-mail 1-2 pages with:
  - Research Question(s)
  - Theory on which you are building
  - Methods
  - Major Citations

  - We can identify potential fit
  - We can offer advice on some reviewing pitfalls
- Talk to us at ASSA and other major meetings

Writing A Proposal

- Follow NSF policy carefully.
- Reviewers will be evaluating both review criteria – give them the info they need.
- Make sure you understand the reviewer audience.

Types of Review

- Mail plus Panel – the SBE standard
- Panel Only – Other directorates and almost all solicitations

Coauthors?

Consider submitting “Collaborative Proposals”

- Mechanism for researchers collaborating across institutions
- One proposal from each institution, reviewed as a single unit.
- Solves many cross-institutional organizational problems for you

NSF Sources of Reviewers

- Program Officer’s knowledge
- References listed in the proposal
- Citation Searches
- Reviewer’s recommendations
- Investigator’s suggestions

Reviewing Criteria

- Intellectual merit
- Broader impacts

- Solicitations: Special Criteria

- Label these in project summary

Intellectual Merit?

- Will the proposed activity advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- Is the project likely to be successful:
  - Qualifications of the proposer/team
  - Sufficient access to resources
- To what extent does the proposed activity explore creative and original concepts?
- Transformative potential?
- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?

Broader Impacts

- Promote teaching, training and learning
- Broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)
- Enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks and partnerships
- Disseminate results broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding
- Benefit society

Errors and Worries

- Most Common Errors
  - Not giving us requested information
  - Lack of proofreading
- Most Common Needless Worry
  - What should my budget be?

Reasons for Declinations

- “Trust-me” proposal
- No theory, no methods, or poor match between theory and methods
- Not feasible
  - Expertise gaps
  - Insufficient funding
  - Too ambitious
- Incremental contribution
- Bad luck

30 WAYS TO MAKE SURE YOU GET FUNDED

Not!

1. Submit your proposal a little late.

Sure, they'll review your proposal even if it arrives a day or two after the deadline.

2. Don’t follow the guidelines concerning page limits (or margins, or font size, or bio format)

They don’t really enforce those silly rules, do they?

3. Don’t read the program announcement carefully

There’s nothing important in there…program managers really don’t take that verbiage seriously.

5. Don’t write clearly and succinctly.

Reviewers might not respect you if your proposal is too easy to understand.

6. Don’t waste time working too hard on the project summary or abstract so that it clearly and concisely outlines the problem, the objectives, the project activities, and expected outcomes.

Reviewers can darn well study the full proposal if they want to get a clear idea about what you are proposing to do. Let them earn their understanding the old-fashioned way by slogging through your proposal page-by-page.

7. Don’t proofread your proposal carefully.

This isn’t grade school. It’s the quality of the ideas that count, not neatness.

8. Respond to agency requests for brief bio sketches by simply submitting the first two pages of your standard résumé.

Most reviewers don’t read the résumés and they should know who you are anyway!

9. Don’t bother to get your colleagues to review the proposal before you submit it.

You don’t want to hassle your colleagues and friends to spend time reading your proposal and giving “feed-forward” so that you can improve it. You don’t have time for that; besides you’ll get feedback from the agency in a mere 6-to-9 months.

10. Assuming a 15-page limit, use at least 10-to-12 pages for literature review and problem definition.

The most important purpose of the proposal is to explain to dim-witted reviewers the nature of the field and why the problem you've chosen to work on is much more important than any other problems in the field, such as the ones that the reviewers themselves are working on.

11. If there are two or more camps within the area that you are proposing research, only cite the research of your own school of thought.

Presenting both sides of the issue will simply make you look wishy-washy.

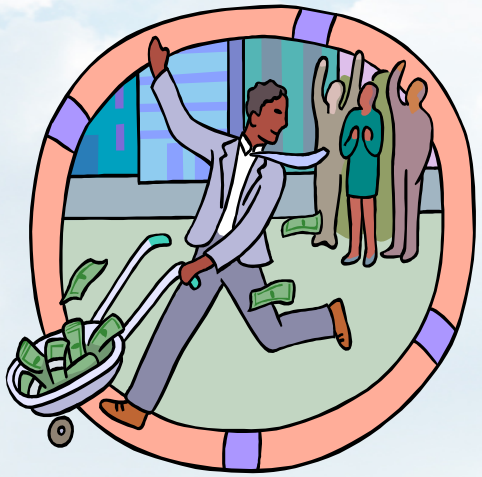
12. Don't fill the proposal with unnecessary details about the specifics of your research plan – clearly stated hypotheses, crisp summary of your research plan and procedures, and the other elements that make it clear exactly how you intend to go about answering your research questions.

The reviewers will not require all this extraneous detail in order to recognize the distinctively high quality of your work. A simple "trust-me" appeal should do the trick.

13. Don’t bother doing pilot work.

Reviewers won’t be interested in preliminary work that might show that you’re on to something good and committed to the idea. After you get the money you can figure out exactly what you want to do, not before.

14. Pad the budget.



Those agencies have more money than they know what to do with.

15. Lowball the budget.

If it’s cheap enough they might support it.

16. Don’t bother with the budget explanation section.

Details, details – you don’t need to explain the purpose of those costly mystery items in the budget.

17. Cite your own work heavily.

Yours is the best work in the field. You needn't waste time citing the unimportant and insignificant work of other researchers in the field, such as potential reviewers and panel members.

18. Don’t bother the program officer with questions.

They don’t like to be bothered.

19. If a Program Director calls or emails telling you to submit a proposal, ignore it.

What do Program Directors know anyway?

20. Don’t take a look at the abstracts of awards available on agency websites or foundation annual reports and don’t obtain copies of funded proposals.

These aren’t directly relevant to your own work, so why bother?

21. Don’t bother reading those guides to proposal writing that Research Offices publish and/or distribute and don’t go to proposal writing workshops.

You could spend that time doing your own work.

22. Find out the value of the typical award in your field; then request at least double that amount.

If lightning strikes, you might as well be in a position to take advantage of it.

23. Don’t take advantage of the opportunity to suggest potential reviewers or to request that certain individuals not be used to review your proposal.

Isn’t one reviewer just as good as any other?

24. Apply with confidence the lessons that you learned from dealing with one agency when you submit to another agency.

NIH, NSF, NEH, the State of New York, the Kellogg Foundation – what's the difference? Seen one funding agency, seen them all.

25. Don’t look for special funding opportunities targeted for new investigators.

You wouldn’t want to take advantage of special treatment simply because you’re just starting out. The funding rate for new investigators is much lower than for established investigators, but you’ll be the exception that proves the rule.

26. Collaborations and partnerships with PIs from other institutions are a waste of time. So are advisory boards that would help to give the project guidance and direction.

Collaborating with other people rarely adds much of value and is a big pain anyway.

27. Don’t bother to submit letters of commitment from any outside partners.

There will be time for that after you get the funding.

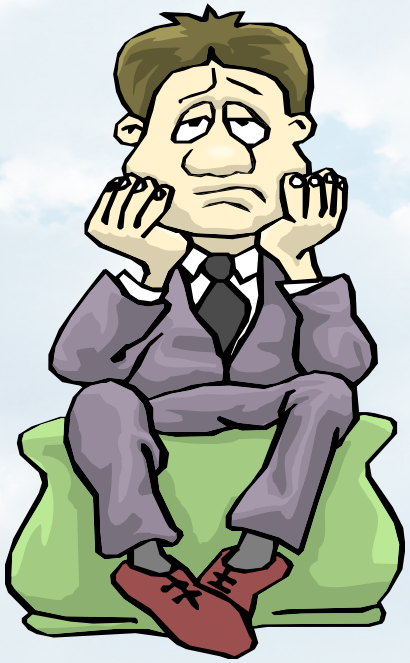
28. Make sure you get the proposal to the Office of Sponsored Programs no more than 24 hours before it must be submitted.

You don’t want to give then more than a day because then they’ll be more likely to cause you headaches and create extra work.

29. Don’t pay attention to the reviews of previous versions of your proposal.

Where do they find these ignoramuses anyway? Don’t bother trying to address their questions. Maybe you’ll get better reviewers next time.

30. Give up easily.



If you don’t get funded the first time, forget about it. Go on to your next idea. Or, practice your golf game.

Thank you!

Open and possibly unused slides

NCSES Data of Interest

- Detailed Statistical Tables or eTables by survey: http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/tables-by-survey.cfm
  - Institution level ranking tables for measures such as R&D expenditures, research space, number of S&E graduate students, S&E doctorates awarded.
- Academic Institution Profiles: http://ncsesdata.nsf.gov/profiles/
  - Selected data for individual institutions on doctorates, graduate students, research funding and expenditures from four NCSES surveys.
- WebCASPAR: https://ncsesdata.nsf.gov/webcaspar/
  - Online table generator for NCSES data. Can choose data from several NCSES surveys by selected institutions and years to create custom tables.
  - For more information contact Ronda Britt, rbritt@nsf.gov.

On the horizon…

- Newly established (2015) “Diversity and Inclusion in Government Council” (OPM, OMB, & EEOC)
- SBE outreach to Minority Serving Institutions
- Women and Minorities in STEM Booster Act of 2016 (2017-2021) (pending approval)
- Broadening participation in HBCUs NSF 17-027
  - Contacts: kgyimahb@nsf.gov

Strategies to Enhance your Chances

- Read the program announcement very carefully. Missing important details could cost you an Award
- Talk to a Program Officer. A short one page outline of your ideas can serve as the basis for such a discussion. S/he can tell you whether your ideas fit or does not fit the Program Announcement.
- Ask about whether there are other programs or initiatives that may bet better fit for your ideas
- If a proposal is declined, schedule a follow up chat with a program officer to get a feedback on whether/how to revise
- NEVER GIVE UP! Persistence usually Pays off.

Managing Awards Successfully

- Documents to read after you have received an award
  - The award letter from NSF (and all references cited in it).
  - The NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide.
  - Note that these documents give awardees considerable responsibility subject to some limitations
- If you have questions or need help, contact:
  - The managing NSF program officer (who will be named in the award letter, with updates visible on research.gov).
  - The NSF grants officer (also named in the award letter or accessible via http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dga/docs/liaison.pdf).
- Become aware of critical issues and processes for managing awards
  - Examples include reporting requirements for PIs, no-cost extension procedures, pre-award spending, transferring an award to a different organization, managing subawards, redirecting funds across budget lines.

What to Consult and Who to Contact

- Documents to read before you prepare a proposal:
  - The solicitation or program announcement for the specific competition (and maybe an FAQ sheet).
  - The NSF *Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG; NSF 16-001), which usually is updated annually.
  - If there are disagreements between PAPPG and the solicitation, the solicitation takes precedence.
- If you have questions or need help, contact:
  - The relevant program officer(s) if you have questions re: appropriateness of a proposal or interpretation of proposal-preparation guidelines and rules. (E-mail usually is better for initial contact, and it's best to make contact well before the proposal-submission deadline.)
  - The **FastLane** user-support desk if you have technical or procedural questions or problems. (**Call 800-673-6188 between 7 AM and 9 PM ET M-F**.)