



WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



# NSF Update

## Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

September, 2011

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# Ask Early, Ask Often

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# Coverage

- 2012 budget update
- Update on revision of NSF Merit Review Criteria by NSB
- Merit Review Working Group Process Activities
- Section 520 of the Reauthorization of the America COMPETES Act
- RPPR Update
- NSF's Family Friendly Initiative
- Federal Research Profile System: Attend the Session!!



# FY 2012: Appropriations

## HOUSE COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE AND RELATED AGENCIES MARK FY 2012 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ANALYSIS

(dollars in millions)

	FY 2011 Current Plan	FY 2012 Request	FY 2012 House Mark	FY 2012 House Mark vs:			
				FY 2011 Current Plan		FY 2012 Request	
				Amount	Percent	Amount	Percent
R&RA <sup>1</sup>	\$5,564	\$6,254	\$5,601	\$37	0.7%	-\$652	-10.4%
EHR	861	911	834	-27	-3.1%	-77	-8.5%
MREFC	117	225	100	-17	-14.7%	-125	-55.5%
AOAM	299	358	299	*	-0.1%	-59	-16.4%
NSB	5	5	5	*	-0.1%	*	-6.5%
OIG	14	15	14	*	-0.1%	-1	-6.9%
<b>Total, NSF</b>	<b>\$6,860</b>	<b>\$7,767</b>	<b>\$6,853</b>	<b>-\$7</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-\$914</b>	<b>-11.8%</b>

Totals may not add due to rounding.

<sup>1</sup> FY 2011 Current Plan R&RA funding includes the \$54 million transfer to the U.S. Coast Guard.

\* The calculated change amount is less than \$500,000.



# FY 2012 Appropriations – Next Steps

- Senate Schedule:
  - Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee markup – September 14
  - Committee on Appropriations markup – September 15
- FY 2012 begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>
  - NSF will likely be operating under a continuing resolution at the year's start.
- Impact of debt ceiling legislation on FY 2012 appropriations – Stay Tuned



# NSB Task Force on Merit Review

- Established Spring 2010, charged with “examining the two Merit Review Criteria and their effectiveness in achieving the goals for NSF support for science and engineering research and education”
- Focusing on:
  - How criteria are being interpreted and used by PIs, reviewers, and NSF staff
  - Strengths and weaknesses of criteria
  - Impact of criteria on how PIs develop projects
  - Role of the institution



# Sec. 526 of America COMPETES Reauthorization Act (ACRA) of 2010

- Instructs NSF to have a Broader Impacts review criterion to address eight broad national goals
- Further instructs NSF to develop and implement a policy for this criterion that:
  - Provides for education about the policy
  - Clarifies that BI activities shall either draw on proven strategies and existing programs/activities; or for new approaches, build on current research



# Current Status

- Task Force proposed a set of principles and revised review criteria at the May NSB meeting
- Dear Colleague Letter released on June 14 requesting input on the revised criteria
- Nearly 280 comments received, nearly two-thirds from university faculty
  - Concerned that intent of broader impacts concept was weakened
  - List of national goals was problematic



# Next Steps

- Task Force met earlier this week to discuss new revisions
- Will be preparing its full report over the next few months
- Plan to present full report and recommendations at December NSB meeting



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# Reexamining the Merit Review Process:



## The NSF Merit Review Process Working Group



# In a nutshell....

- New internal NSF Working Group created by Dr. Suresh
- Looking for potential enhancements to the merit review process that:
  - Reduce the burden on reviewers & proposers;
  - Stimulate the submission of of high-risk/game-changing ideas; and
  - Ensure that the process identifies/funds an appropriate portion of high-risk, game-changing ideas.



# In a nutshell (cont'd)

- Developing:
  - A design for a program of pilot activities
  - A framework for evaluating past and future pilots
- Engaging:
  - NSF staff and the research community in developing, testing and assessing novel methods of proposal generation and proposal review



# Experiments Conducted to Date

- Represent < 1% of proposals reviewed by NSF
- Focus on review process and NOT on merit review criteria
- Directed towards specific goals or questions
- Limited experience to date ( $n < 5$ )
- Evaluation of results pending



# ACRA Section 520

- “Any institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 101(A) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)) that receives National Science Foundation research support and has received at least \$25,000,000 in total Federal research grants in the most recent fiscal year shall keep, maintain, and report annually to the National Science Foundation the universal record locator (URL) for a public website that contains information concerning its general approach to and mechanisms for transfer of technology and the commercialization of research results...”



# NSF Implementation

- NSF will be implementing the statutory provision via inclusion of a new agency specific requirement to the Research Terms and Conditions
  - Anticipate new Ts&Cs issued in October, and, effective in January 2012
- To meet threshold, both NSF and Federal research grants must have been active at some point during most recently completed Federal fiscal year
- Awardees will electronically submit their URLs to, and info will be posted on, the Science, Engineering and Education (SEE) Innovation section of Research.gov
- Institutions will not be required to reveal confidential, trade secret, or proprietary information on their websites



# RPPR Status Update

- GMLOB:
  - Completed a draft RPPR data dictionary based upon the OMB RPPR approved format
  - Completed a draft RPPR XML schema
  - Both documents will be circulated for agency review in the near future
- NSF:
  - Closing out the RPPR requirements phase
  - Thanks much to the FDP feedback!!
  - The RPPR design phase is set to begin later this fall with an anticipated rollout beginning in next summer



# Feedback Updates

- NSF reached out to a subset of PIs and SPOs and feedback was received during the month of July
- NSF consolidated the feedback:
  - PIs & SPOs liked the consolidated Research.gov reporting dashboard
  - PIs liked having the list of the most urgent reports displayed first
  - PIs liked the reporting tabs and thought they were easy to use and understand
  - PIs liked the pre-population wizard but would greater control when they use the wizard
  - PIs thought the Other Authorized User functionality will be helpful
  - SPOs would like additional date ranges in the search fields



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# Coming Soon!!!



**Report of the NSF Family-Friendly Policies Working Group**