National Science Foundation Update

Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting

August 27, 2012

Ask Early, Ask Often

- **Jean Feldman**
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Topics Covered

- Merit Review
  - Merit Review Criteria Working Group
  - Merit Review Process Working Group
- Cost Sharing Update
- ARRA Update
- COI at the NSF

NSF Merit Review Criteria Revision

Status and Next Steps

- NSB report:
  - http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/2011/meritreviewcriteria.pdf
- Merit Review Criteria Working Group: meeting regularly to discuss implementation plans
- Federal Register Notice published May 25, 2012 – comments were due on July 12, 2012
- Comments were reviewed and resolved
  - Feedback, overall, was very favorable to the proposed implementation
- Proposed PAPPG language has been finalized and briefed to NSF Senior Management

Status and Next Steps (Cont'd)

- Changes to note:
  - Project Summary; and
  - New certification to implement Section 526 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.
- Currently implementing changes in NSF's internal and external corporate systems
- PAPPG release planned October 2012; effective January 2013
- Significant Internal & External Outreach Planned

Merit Review Process Working Group

Status and Next Steps

- Final report submitted by Merit Review Process Working Group to Dr. Suresh
- Engage divisions and programs interested in pilot activities
  - BIO and SBE have approved pilots in place
  - ENG and CISE are currently developing pilot documentation
- Develop implementation plans for pilots
- Launch pilot activities
- Enhance NSF Merit Review website to include a description of all ongoing pilots
- Evaluate pilot activity impact

Cost Sharing Implementation at NSF

Progress Update

Cost Sharing Update

- As recommended by the National Science Board and implemented by NSF, inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited in solicited & unsolicited proposals, unless approved in accordance with agency policy.

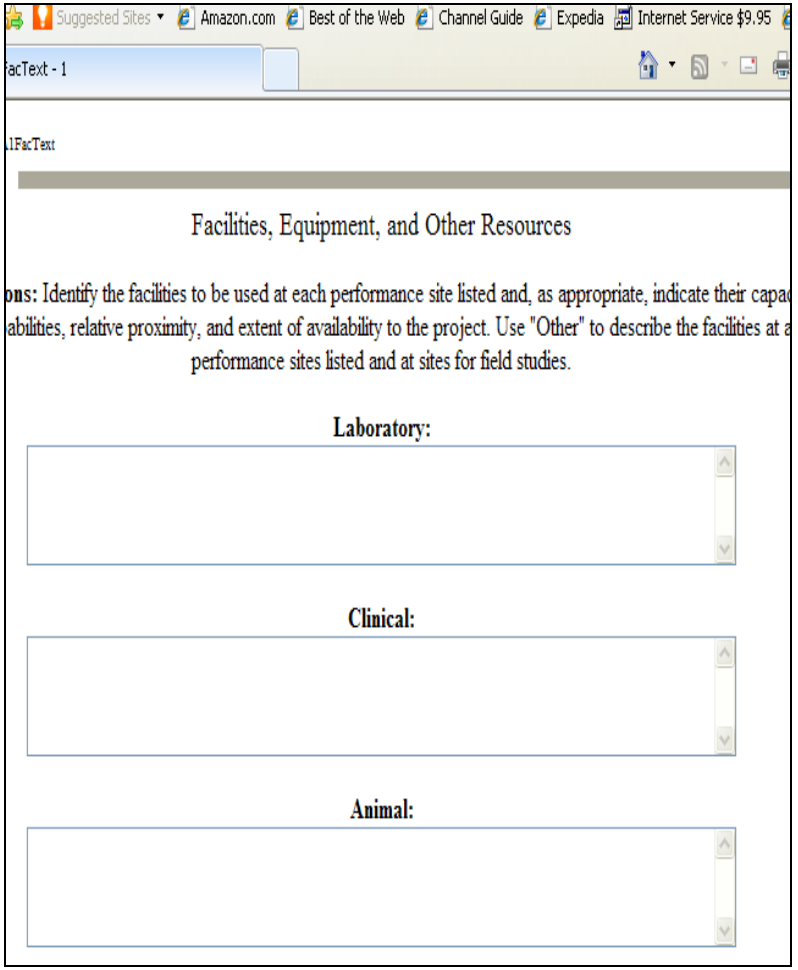
- Only 6 programs have been approved to require cost sharing:

  - Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI);
  - Robert Noyce Scholarship Program;
  - Engineering Research Centers (ERC);
  - Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (I/UCRC);
  - Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); and
  - Innovation Corps (I-Corps)

Cost Sharing Update – Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources

- Provide a comprehensive description of all resources (**both physical and personnel**) necessary for, and available to the project

- No reference to cost, date of acquisition, and whether the resources are currently available or would be provided upon receipt of award



Cost Sharing Update

- Solicitations are being carefully scrubbed to ensure compliance with NSF's cost sharing policy.
- Next version of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures (PAPP) Guide will include a revision to the Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources section, to clarify what should be included.
- FastLane has been modified to address issue of PI time on budget.
- Anticipated issuance of the next PAPPG is October 2012, and effective January 2013
- Cost sharing FAQs:

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=costsharefaqs

- Send additional questions to costsharing@nsf.gov

ARRA Waiver Process

Progress Update

NSF ARRA Waiver Process

Jan.-Feb. 2012 | **March 2012** | **April 2012** | **May 2012** | **June 2012** | **Post-June 2012**

Brief NSF Directorates/Offices on process, get feedback, & answer questions (Feb. 29)

Program staff complete waiver requests within their Divisions & submit to Directorate/Office Front Offices (March 5)

Directorates/Offices review waiver requests & submit those with a compelling, defendable rationale in accordance with OMB criteria to arra@nsf.gov (by March 19)

BFA Acceleration Committee reviews waiver requests & makes recommendations to ARRA Steering Committee (March 19-May 24)

ARRA Senior Accountability Official (Dr. Marrett) reviews recommendations & determines which requests will be submitted to OMB (June 2012)

NSF submits waiver requests to OMB (by June 29, 2012)

Decision/ Response from OMB (unknown future date)

COI at the NSF

COI Policy and Upcoming Changes

- NSF's COI Policy has long required that institutional policies include arrangements for keeping NSF's Office of the General Counsel appropriately informed if the institution finds that it is unable to satisfactorily manage a conflict of interest.

- The upcoming PAPPG will include a revision to our COI policy that specifies the process that will be used by the NSF Office of the General Counsel when they are notified that the institutional is not able to satisfactorily manage a conflict of interest.