National Science Foundation (NSF) Update --- Spring 2013

Federal Demonstration Partnership Meeting
May 13, 2013

Ask Early, Ask Often

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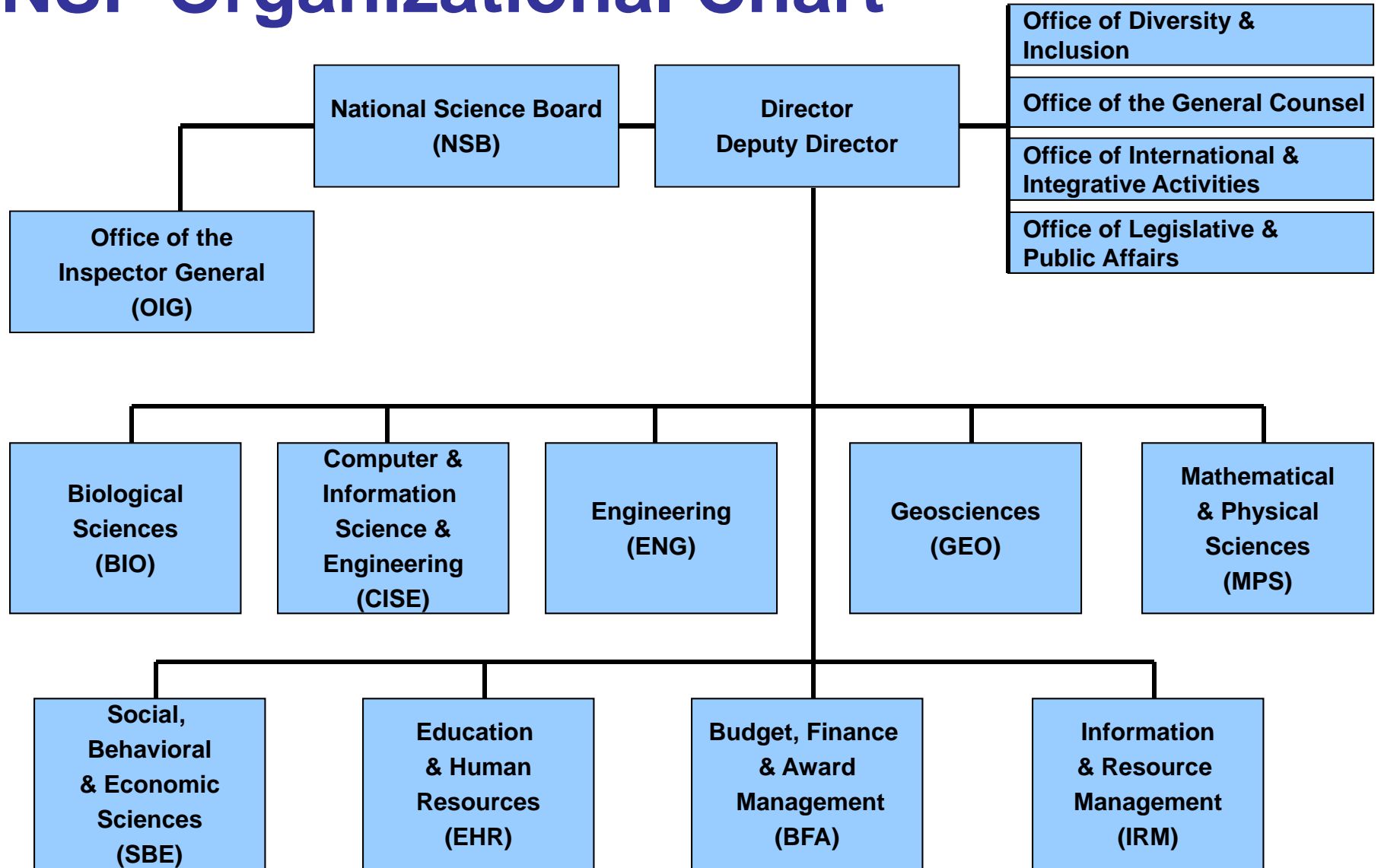(703) 292-8243
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Coverage

- Personnel and Organization Update

- FY 2013 Sequestration

- ARRA Update

- Enhanced Auto-Compliance Checking at NSF

- Implementation of the Research Performance Progress Report in Research.gov

- Implementation of the Award Cash Management Service in Research.gov

NSF Organizational Chart

National Science Board (NSB)

Director Deputy Director

Office of Diversity & Inclusion

Office of the General Counsel

Office of International & Integrative Activities

Office of Legislative & Public Affairs

Office of the Inspector General (OIG)

Biological Sciences (BIO)

Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)

Engineering (ENG)

Geosciences (GEO)

Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS)

Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE)

Education & Human Resources (EHR)

Budget, Finance & Award Management (BFA)

Information & Resource Management (IRM)

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WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

Personnel Update

- Dr. Cora Marrett appointed Acting Director, NSF

- Dr. Pramod P. Khargonekar appointed Assistant Director, Directorate for Engineering

- Dr. Roger M. Wakimoto appointed Assistant Director, Directorate for Geosciences

- Dr. F. Fleming Crim appointed Assistant Director, for Mathematical & Physical Sciences

- Dr. Wanda Ward appointed Head, Office of International & Integrative Activities

FY 2013 Sequestration

- NSF Guiding Principles
  - Protect commitments to NSF's core mission and maintain existing awards
  - Protect the NSF workforce
  - Protect STEM human capital development programs

- Administration Guidance
  - OMB Memorandum M-13-03
  - "Take into account funding flexibilities (i.e. reprogramming and transfer authority"

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FY 2013 Sequestration: Impact

- No anticipated furloughs of NSF staff

- No anticipated reductions to continuing awards or ongoing construction projects

- Major impact on number of new research grants
  - Reduction of nearly 1,000 research grants
  - Impact on nearly 12,000 people supported by NSF

ARRA Acceleration: What Recipients Need to Know

- E-mails sent to all Awardees/PIs in late September notifying them if their award was or was not included on NSF waiver request list

- Awards on waiver request list
  - Extensions and other no-cost actions okay if consistent with scope and original terms of award
  - NSF received informal OMB approval for its full waiver list

- Awards NOT on waiver request list
  - Cannot be extended past 9/30/13
  - Other no-cost actions okay if consistent with scope and project completion by 9/30/13
  - Costs must be incurred by 9/30/13; all funds do not have to be drawn down – normal closeout (ACM$)

- Questions: NSFARRAReviewer@nsf.gov

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GPG-Required Sections of the Proposal

- Project Summary
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources
- Supplementary Documentation
  - Data Management Plan
  - Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (where applicable)

Beginning March 18th, Enhanced Auto-Compliance Checking Was Implemented!!!!

FastLane Will / Will Not Check:

- FastLane will check for the presence of GPG-required sections of the proposal
- If a section is not included, FastLane will not permit submission of the proposal
- FastLane will not check:
  - Formatting
  - Page Length (except for Project Summary)
  - Content

Auto-Compliance Checking…ahhhh, the Nuances….

- Biographical Sketches & Current and Pending Support

    – FastLane permits the biosketch and current and pending support sections to be uploaded as a single PDF for the PI, co-PI and senior project personnel.

    – For FastLane to accept the proposal, proposers must insert text or upload a document that states, "Not Applicable" for any co-PI or senior person

Nuances Cont'd

- Proposal submission instructions that deviate from the GPG will require special attention:
    - Conferences, symposia or workshops;
    - Equipment grants;
    - International travel grants; and
    - Program solicitations, where applicable

- If solicitation submission instructions do not require one of the sections, proposers will need to insert text or upload a document in that section of the proposal that states, "Not Applicable"
    - This will enable FastLane to accept the proposal.

Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals

Lead Organization: Required Sections

- Project Summary
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
- Supplementary Documentation
  – Data Management Plan
  – Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (if applicable)

Non-Lead Organization: Required Sections

- Biographical Sketch(es)
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources

Auto-Compliance Checking...When??

- Principal Investigators (PI)
  - Will receive warning messages if any of the GPG-required sections are missing
  - Will be able to forward proposal to their organization's SPO

- Sponsored Projects Office (SPO)
  - FastLane will prevent submission from the SPO if any of the GPG-required sections is missing

Auto-Compliance Checking…NOT!

- Automated compliance checking will not be applied to:

    – Preliminary Proposals

    – Supplemental Funding Requests

What is the impact on Grants.gov proposals?

- The *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* specifies the same general content requirements for proposal submission.

- Grants.gov may allow a proposal to be submitted even if one of the required sections is missing.

- If a section is missing, a proposal may be returned without review.

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And just when you thought it was safe to go outside….

- The next version of the PAPPG is currently being developed and should be available for public comment by the beginning of June

NSF Implementation of the Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR)

- Compliant with new OMB-OSTP approved RPPR format and data dictionary

- New service in Research.gov for PIs, co-PIs, SPOs

- Replaces annual, interim, and final project reports in FastLane

- Structured data collection

New Service in Research.gov

Key Differences of the New Project Report System

- Report pre-population

- PDF upload to support images, charts, and other complex graphics

- Special Reporting requirement controlled by solicitation

- PI no longer provides demographic information on significant participants

RPPR Implementation

- Launch Date: March 18, 2013

  – All NSF awards and organizations

  – NSF awardees were asked to stop submitting project reports in FastLane starting on February 1, 2013

  – NSF Program Officers must approve all FastLane-submitted reports by March 15, 5 PM EST

PIs need to understand…

- The reports are not intended to be cumulative
- Information is for the specified reporting period
- The last annual report….is the final report!
- Project Outcome Reports for the General Public **are still required**

More Information and Help

- Research.gov Webinar Series
  - For directions, email webinars@research.gov

- Research.gov Website: Project Report Info Page (for PIs and SPOs)

- Research.gov Help Desk
  - Rgov@nsf.gov or 1-800-381-1532

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Award Cash Management Service (ACM$)

- The Award Cash Management $ervice (ACM$) is a new approach to award payments and post-award financial processes

  – ACM$ will transition financial processing of award payments from the current "pooling" method and transition to submission of award level payments

  – Requires submission of award level payment amounts each time funds are requested.

  – End of the current "pooling" method and transition to submission of award level payment amounts each time funds are requested

  – Eliminates quarterly Federal Financial Reports (FFR)

New Service in Research.gov

Award Cash Management Service (ACM$) Update

- Full implementation of ACM$ began on April 4th.
  - 1,494 awardees have been converted as of Friday May 10th.
  - Goal is to complete conversion of all awardees by June 30th.

- Process Changes:
  - Federal Financial Report ends with conversion to ACM$.
  - FastLane Cash Request was shutdown on March 26th.

Key Documents

- **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide**

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

- **Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request**

  http://www.nsf.gov/about/budget/fy2013/index.jsp

- **NSF Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2011-2016**

  http://www.nsf.gov/news/strategicplan/nsfstrategicplan_2011_2016.pdf

- **NSB Report on Merit Review**

  http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/2011/meritreviewcriteria.pdf

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For More Information…..

Ask Early, Ask Often!

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nsf.gov/staff

nsf.gov/staff/orglist.jsp