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**Federal Funding Agencies: National Science Foundation (NSF)**

Created in 1950 by Congress, the National Science Foundation (NSF) supports “fundamental research and education in all scientific and engineering disciplines,” with the exception of the medical sciences, which are supported by other federal agencies. The NSF is divided into multiple Offices and Directorates,
and the Directorates contain Divisions that support different areas of science. The seven Directorates include the following:

1. Biological Sciences
2. Computer and Information Science and Engineering
3. Education and Human Resources
4. Engineering
5. Geosciences
6. Mathematical and Physical Sciences (includes Chemistry and Physics)
7. Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences

**NSF Funding Mechanisms**

Funding from the NSF is primarily provided through two mechanisms: program solicitations and investigator-initiated projects. Program Solicitations (PS) are somewhat similar to what other funding agencies would call a “request for proposals” or a “funding opportunity announcement.” The program solicitation has a specific purpose and goal(s) attached to it. For example, the Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (I-USE) program is designed to address the challenges associated with increasing the number of STEM graduates to meet national needs. Under this program solicitation, the NSF is looking for proposals that will both address this challenge on an institutional level and provide insights on solving the problem on a regional/national level.

While the NSF issues a large number of program solicitations for specific projects each year, they issue a significant proportion of grants—perhaps 50% or more of all awards—for investigator-initiated projects. Unlike program solicitations, where the NSF invests in projects to address challenges/issues identified by the agency, investigator-initiated projects support fundamental research in an area of need identified by the researcher. For example, a mathematician working on a research project involving computational models may develop and submit a research proposal under one of the NSF’s investigator-initiated programs. To find an appropriate funding mechanism for this type of project, investigators should look for the general Program Descriptions (PDs) in the directorate that supports their area of research.

In addition to PSs and PDs, the NSF may issue “Dear Colleague Letters” to provide additional information, clarification, or new areas of emphasis for funding opportunities, and they may issue Program Announcements, which are generic funding opportunity announcements.

**NSF Budget and Funding Rates**

The NSF’s FY16 budget included $6.033 billion for Research and Related Activities, the majority of which goes to institutions to conduct research. An additional $880 million for Education and Human Resources funding, which supports STEM education and outreach, was also included in the FY16 budget. Funding success rates vary according to directorate and program, with some directorates having funding rates as low as 17% and others having rates as high as 27% (2014). The average funding rate for research grants in recent years has hovered around 20%.

For more information on the National Science Foundation and its funding opportunities, please visit their Website at [http://www.nsf.gov/](http://www.nsf.gov/) or contact ASU’s Office of Sponsored Projects ([osp@angelo.edu](mailto:osp@angelo.edu)).

**Upcoming Funding Opportunities**

**Calvin K. Kazanjian Economics Foundation**
Grant Programs to Increase Economic Literacy

Submission deadline: September 15, 2016

Program description: “While the Kazanjian Foundation maintains a vital interest in the overall efforts to increase economic literacy, the Board of Trustees will give special attention to proposals and projects with national impact that addresses the following issues:” 1) “elevating the nation’s understanding of the need for economic education,” 2) “the application of new strategies for teaching economics including on-line and web-based instruction,” 3) “projects, policy studies, or programs that encourage measurement of economic understanding,” and 4) “programs that help…disenfranchised youth and/or young adults with children learn to participate in the economic system.”

Link to full announcement: http://www.kazanjian.org/grants/apply

Department of Homeland Security

Science and Technology Directorate Center of Excellence for Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis – Center Partner

Submission deadline: Program description: “The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) Office of University Programs (OUP) is requesting applications from U.S. colleges and universities to serve as a partner institution for a Center for Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis (CINA). The DHS COEs are university consortia that work closely with DHS Components and their partners to conduct research, develop and transition mission-relevant science and technology, educate the next generation of homeland security technical experts, and train the current workforce in the latest scientific applications.”


Eisenhower Foundation

Travel Grants

Submission deadline: September 30, 2016

Program description: “The Eisenhower Presidential Library Abilene Travel Grants Program assists scholars’ research of primary sources in such fields as history, government, economics, communications, and international affairs so they may provide informed leadership in our national life. The grants program is funded and administered by the Eisenhower Foundation in Abilene, Kansas.”

Link to full announcement: https://www.eisenhower.archives.gov/research/travel_grants.html

Fats and Proteins Research Foundation, Inc.

Research Grants

Submission deadline: September 15, 2016

Program description: “FPRF welcomes research proposals to enhance current uses of rendered animal products, improve rendering processes, and develop new applications. The Foundation’s key areas of focus are livestock nutrition (including aquaculture), pet food nutrition, feed safety, sustainability, and novel technologies.”

Link to full announcement: https://fprf.org/research-proposals/

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation

Research Travel Grants Program

Submission deadline: September 15, 2016
Program description: “The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation awards grants of up to $2,200 each in support of research in the holdings of the Gerald R. Ford Library. A grant defrays travel and living expenses of a research trip to the Ford Library.”
Link to full announcement: https://www.fordlibrarymuseum.gov/library/foundationgrants.asp

LBJ Presidential Library

Researcher Grants and Awards
Submission deadline: September 15, 2016
Program description: “The Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation awards a limited number of grants and awards for research at the LBJ Presidential Library semi-annually. Grant periods are June 1 through December 31 for the Fall term and January 1 through August 31 for the Spring term.”
Link to full announcement: http://www.lbjlibrary.net/collections/grants-and-awards/

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation

Research Grants
Submission deadline: August 1, 2016
Program description: “The foundation welcomes proposals from any of the natural and social sciences and the humanities that promise to increase understanding of the causes, manifestations, and control of violence and aggression. Highest priority is given to research that can increase understanding and amelioration of urgent problems of violence and aggression in the modern world.”
Link to full announcement: http://hfg.org/rg/guidelines.htm

Institute of Education Sciences

Education Research Program
Submission deadline: August 4, 2016
Program description: “The central purpose of the Institute's research grant programs is to provide interested individuals and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities for all students. These interested individuals include parents, educators, students, researchers, and policymakers. In carrying out its grant programs, the Institute provides support for programs of research in areas of demonstrated national need. … The Institute's National Center for Education Research (NCER) will hold six competitions, one in each of the following areas: 1) Education research; 2) Education research training; 3) Statistical and research methodology in education; 4) Partnerships and collaborations focused on problems of practice or policy; 5) Low-cost, short-duration evaluations; and 6) Research networks.”
Link to full announcement: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/03/08/2016-05155/applications-for-new-awards-education-research-and-special-education-research-grant-programs

Low-Cost, Short-Duration Evaluation of Education Interventions
Submission deadline: August 4, 2016
Program description: Under this program, the Institute of Education Sciences provides grants of $50,000-$125,000 for projects designed to evaluate education interventions over a period of no more than two years.
Link to full announcement: http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=282064

Special Education Research Program
Submission deadline: August 4, 2016
Program description: “The central purpose of the Institute's research grant programs is to provide interested individuals and the general public with reliable and valid information about education practices that support learning and improve academic achievement and access to education opportunities for all students. These interested individuals include parents, educators, students, researchers, and policymakers. In carrying out its grant programs, the Institute provides support for programs of research in areas of demonstrated national need. The Institute's National Center for Special Education Research (NCSER) will hold three competitions, one in each of the following areas: 1) Special education research; 2) Special education research training; and 3) Low-cost, short-duration evaluations.”

Link to full announcement: https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2016/03/08/2016-05155/applications-for-new-awards-education-research-and-special-education-research-grant-programs

National Endowment for the Arts

Research Labs

Submission deadline: July 12, 2016

Program description: “Through a new program, the National Endowment for the Arts Research Labs (NEA Research Labs), we seek to support a series of transdisciplinary research partnerships, grounded in the social and behavioral sciences, to produce and report empirical insights about the arts for the benefit of arts and non-arts sectors alike.”

Link to full announcement: https://www.arts.gov/program-solicitation-national-endowment-for-the-arts-research-labs

National Endowment for the Humanities

Documenting Endangered Languages

Submission deadline: September 16, 2016

Program description: “The Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) program is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) to develop and advance knowledge concerning endangered human languages. Made urgent by the imminent death of an estimated half of the 6000-7000 currently used languages, this effort aims also to exploit advances in information technology. Awards support fieldwork and other activities relevant to recording, documenting, and archiving endangered languages, including the preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, and databases. DEL funding is available in the form of one- to three-year project grants as well as fellowships for six to twelve months. At least half the available funding will be awarded to projects involving fieldwork.”

Link to full announcement: http://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/documenting-endangered-languages

Summer Stipends

Submission deadline: September 29, 2016

Program description: “Summer Stipends support individuals pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both. Eligible projects usually result in articles, monographs, books, digital materials and publications, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly resources. Summer Stipends support continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months. Summer Stipends support projects at any stage of development.”

Note: ASU is limited to nominating two individuals for the Summer Stipends program. If you plan to apply, please notify the Office of Sponsored Projects immediately (osp@angelo.edu).

Link to full announcement: http://www.neh.gov/grants/research/summer-stipends

National Institutes of Health
**Academic Research Enhancement Award (Parent R15)**

**Submission deadlines:** Standard R15 deadlines apply; see full announcement for details  
**Program description:** “The purpose of the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program is to stimulate research in educational institutions that provide baccalaureate or advanced degrees for a significant number of the Nation's research scientists, but that have not been major recipients of NIH support. AREA grants create opportunities for scientists and institutions otherwise unlikely to participate extensively in NIH research programs to contribute to the Nation's biomedical and behavioral research effort. AREA grants are intended to support small-scale research projects proposed by faculty members of eligible, domestic institutions, to expose undergraduate and/or graduate students to meritorious research projects, and to strengthen the research environment of the applicant institution.”  

**National Science Foundation**

**Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program**

**Submission deadline:** September 6, 2016  
**Program description:** “The National Science Foundation Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program seeks to encourage talented science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors and professionals to become K-12 STEM teachers. The program invites creative and innovative proposals that address the critical need for recruiting and preparing highly effective K-12 STEM teachers, especially in high-need local educational agencies. The program offers four tracks: Track 1: The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarships and Stipends Track, Track 2: The NSF Teaching Fellowships Track, Track 3: The NSF Master Teaching Fellowships Track, and Track 4: Noyce Research Track. In addition, Capacity Building proposals are accepted from proposers intending to develop a future Track 1, 2, or 3 proposal.”  

**NEA Foundation**

**Learning and Leadership Grants**

**Submission deadline:** June 1, 2016  
**Program description:** “Learning & Leadership Grants support National Education Association (NEA) members who are public school teachers, public education support professionals, and/or faculty and staff in public institutions of higher education for one of the following two purposes: 1) Grants to individuals fund participation in high-quality professional development experiences, such as summer institutes, conferences, or action research, [and] 2) Grants to groups fund collegial study, including study groups, action research, lesson plan development, or mentoring experiences for faculty or staff.”  
**Link to full announcement:** [http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/learning-leadership-grants/](http://www.neafoundation.org/pages/learning-leadership-grants/)

**Russell Sage Foundation**

**Research Grants and Awards**

**Submission deadlines:** Vary according to program; see full announcement for details  
**Program description:** “The Russell Sage Foundation was established by Mrs. Margaret Olivia Sage in 1907 for “the improvement of social and living conditions in the United States.” The Foundation now carries out that mission by sponsoring rigorous social scientific research as a means of diagnosing social problems and improving social policies. In sponsoring this research, the Foundation is dedicated to strengthening the methods, data, and theoretical core of the social sciences. The Foundation’s awards are restricted to support for social science research within its program areas.”  
**Link to full announcement:** [http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply](http://www.russellsage.org/how-to-apply)
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI): Foundational Program

Submission deadlines: Vary by program area; see full announcement for details

Program description: "The AFRI Foundational Program is offered to support grants in the six AFRI priority areas to continue building a foundation of knowledge critical for solving current and future societal challenges. The six priority areas are: Plant Health and Production and Plant Products; Animal Health and Production and Animal Products; Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health; Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment; Agriculture Systems and Technology; and Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities."

Link to full announcement: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-program

Water for Agriculture Challenge Area

Submission deadline: August 4, 2016

Program description: "NIFA requests application for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program Water for Agriculture Challenge Area for fiscal year (FY) 2016 to help solve critical water problems in rural and agricultural watersheds across the United States. In FY 2016, applications are sought in the following priority areas: (1) Water Availability for Diverse Agricultural Uses: The Right Water for the Right Place and Time; (2) Understanding Decisions and Behaviors Connected with Agriculture and Post-harvest Processing Industry Water Use; [and] (3) Understanding the Human Health Impacts to Exposure from Nontraditional Water Used in Agriculture."

Link to full announcement: https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-water-agriculture-challenge-area

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