



# Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) Virtual Office Hour

Welcome! We will begin the Virtual Office Hour soon.  
Please submit questions in the Zoom Q&A box.



## **Division of Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS) Welcome!**

### **Program Directors in attendance today:**

- Anna Allen (Developmental Systems Cluster)
- Courtney Jahn (Plant Biotic Interactions Program)
- Joanna Shisler (Symbiosis, Infection and Immunity Program)
- Colette St. Mary (Behavior Systems Cluster)

### **Administrative Support & Technical Assistance:**

- Ben Wong, Program Specialist



# IOS Virtual Office Hour

## Today's Topics

- Updates and Reminders
- Recent Solicitations and Dear Colleague Letters (DCLs)
- Proposal Life Cycle: From Submission to Decision
- Q&A with Program Directors



# NSF's Broadening Participation Portfolio

## Relevant opportunities

Dear Colleague Letter: STEM Access for Persons with Disabilities (STEM-APWD) (NSF 23-160)

Dear Colleague Letter: Veterans Research Supplement (VRS) Program (NSF 23-161)

## Centralized information available on NSF's broadening participation portfolio websites:

- <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/broadening-participation>
- [https://www.nsf.gov/od/broadeningparticipation/bp\\_portfolio\\_dynamic.jsp](https://www.nsf.gov/od/broadeningparticipation/bp_portfolio_dynamic.jsp)
- <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/broadening-participation/granted#events-56a>



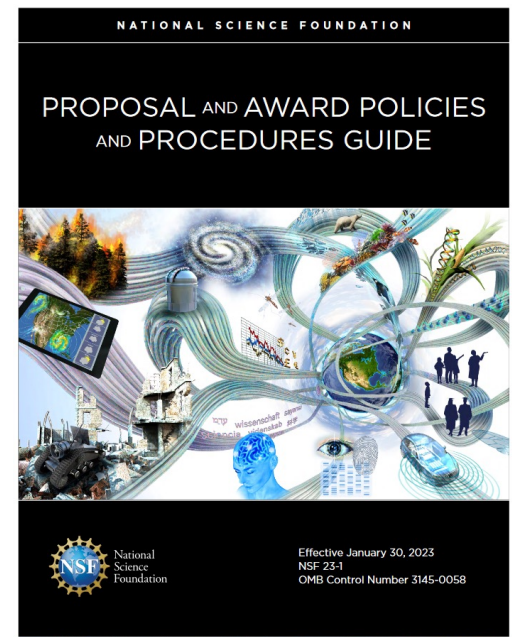
# Administrative Updates

- Always **be sure** you're referencing the most up to date solicitation and Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide
- **Safe & Inclusive Working Environments for Off-campus or off-site research**

If off-campus/off-site research is proposed, the box indicating that **must** be checked on cover page

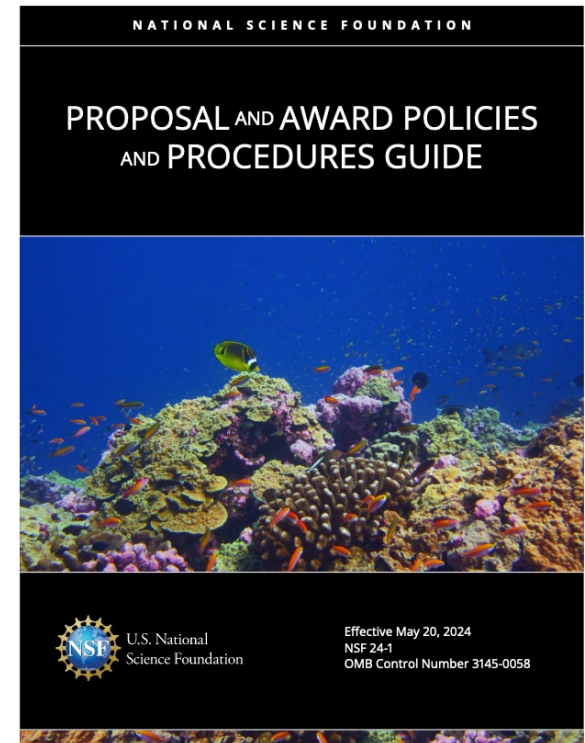
If you are applying to a BIO CORE solicitation or another program participating in the BIO/GEO SAI plan Pilot, a 2-page plan document is required in lieu of the certification & should be uploaded as a Supplemental Document

See the [BIO Homepage](#) for more information and participating programs



# New PAPPG (NSF 24-1) Effective May 20, 2024

- We are pleased to announce that a revised version of the NSF ***Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide*** (PAPPG) (NSF 24-1) has been issued.
- The new PAPPG will be effective for **proposals submitted or due on or after May 20, 2024**.
- We strongly encourage you to view the Summary of Changes included in the PAPPG.
- While this version of the PAPPG becomes effective on May 20, 2024, in the interim, the guidelines contained in the current PAPPG (NSF 23-1) continue to apply.



# Recent Solicitations

IOS Core Programs solicitation (24-546), PBI (20-576), and PGRP (NSF 24-547) – No deadlines and no submission limits

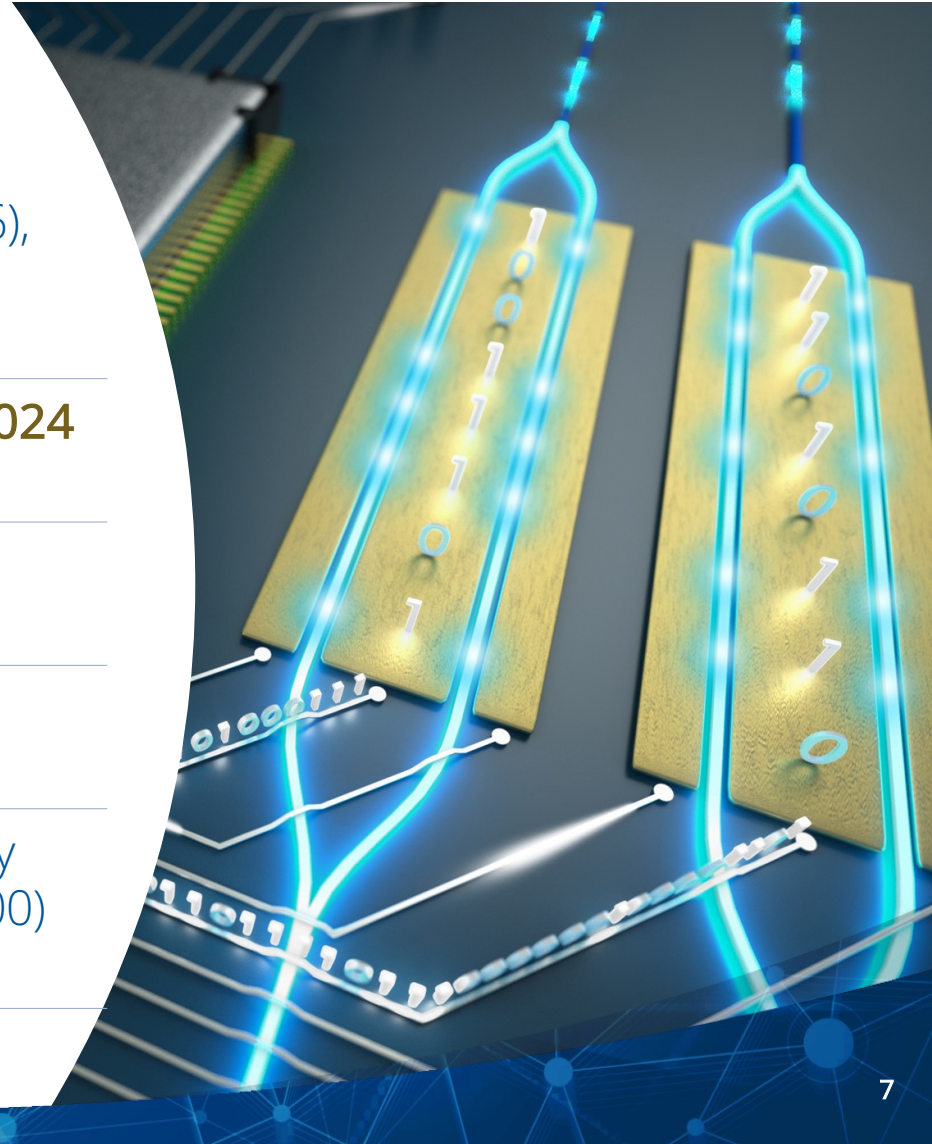
Growing Convergence Research (GCR) – **April 12, 2024** (NSF 24-527)

Partnership to Advance Conservation Science and Practices (PACSP) - **April 24, 2024** (NSF 24-531)

NSF-Research Traineeship Program (NRT) – **Sept. 6, 2024** (NSF 21-536)

Building Research Capacity of New Faculty in Biology (BRC-BIO) – **window May 1-July 1, 2024** (NSF 22-500)

Program webinar April 2, 2024



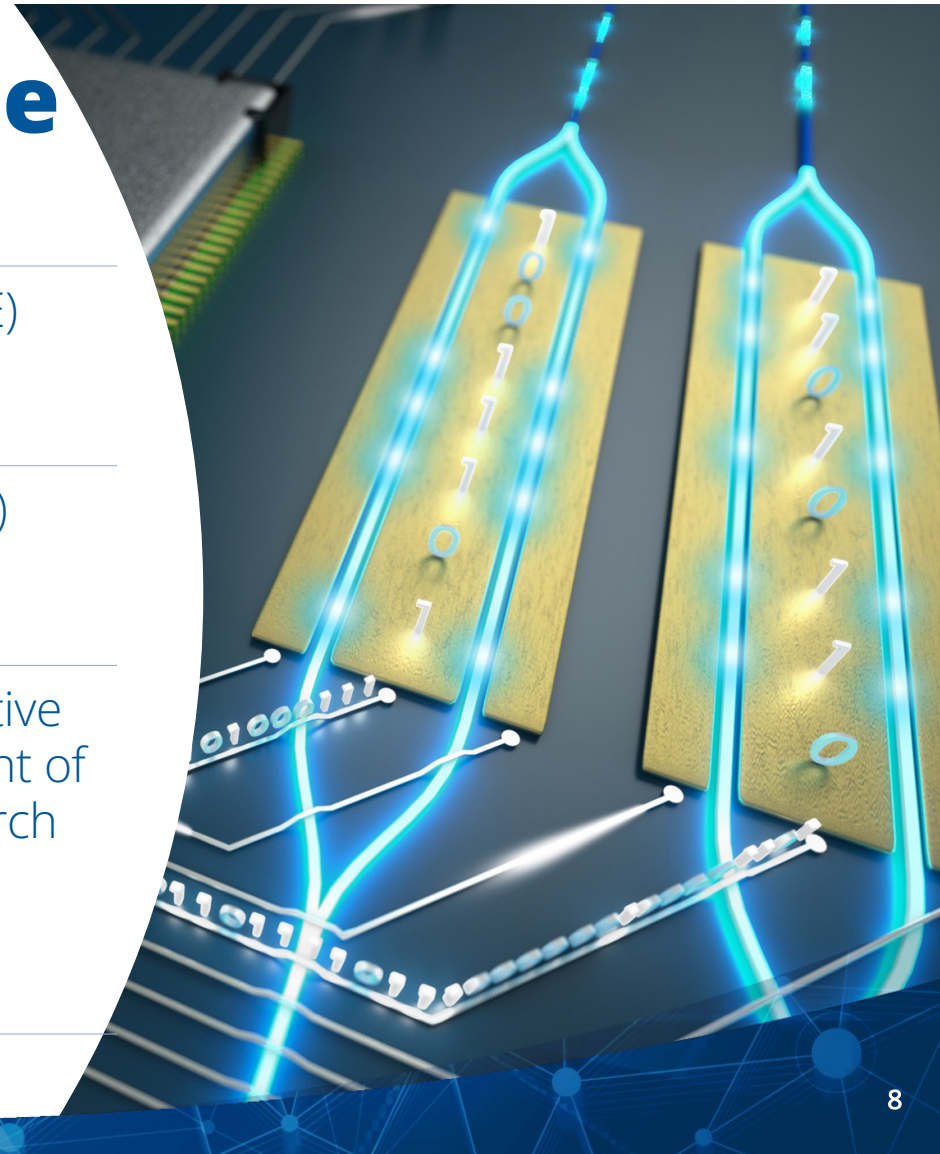
# Recent Dear Colleague Letters (DCLs)

DCL: Neurobiology in Changing Ecosystems (NiCE) (NSF 24-044) – Follow guidance for IOS Core Programs

DCL: Leveraging Innovations from Evolution (LIFE) (NSF 24-049) – Follow guidance for IOS Core Programs

DCL: Special Guidelines for Submitting Collaborative Proposals under the U.S. NSF and the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) of India Collaborative Research Opportunities (NSF 24-054)

- only PGRP participating
- Follow guidance for PGRP





# IOS Virtual Office Hour Reminders

- Submit questions in the Zoom Q&A box
- Project-specific questions are best addressed individually by contacting a Program Director
- Next IOS Virtual Office Hour: **April 18, 2024**
  - CASA-BIO Part 2, Next Steps



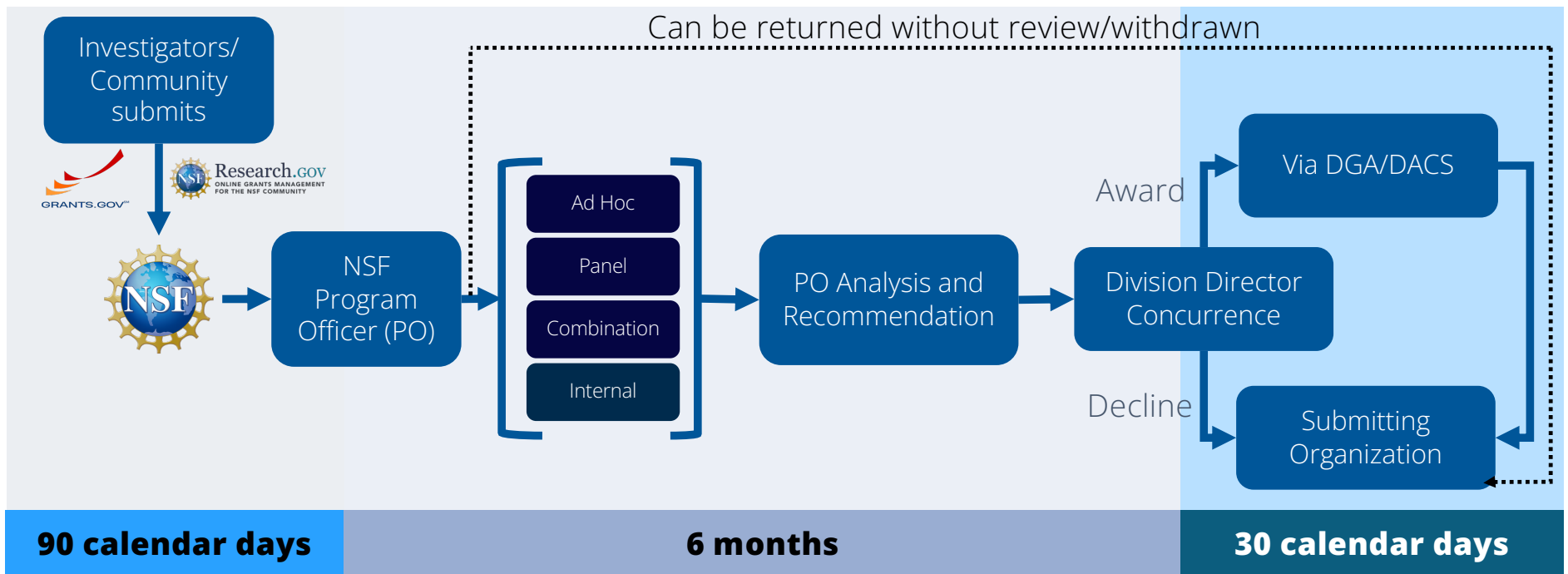
# Proposal Life Cycle

I'm just a  
Proposal



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I%27m\\_Just\\_a\\_Bill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I%27m_Just_a_Bill)

# NSF Proposal & Award Process Timeline



Funding Opportunity Issued

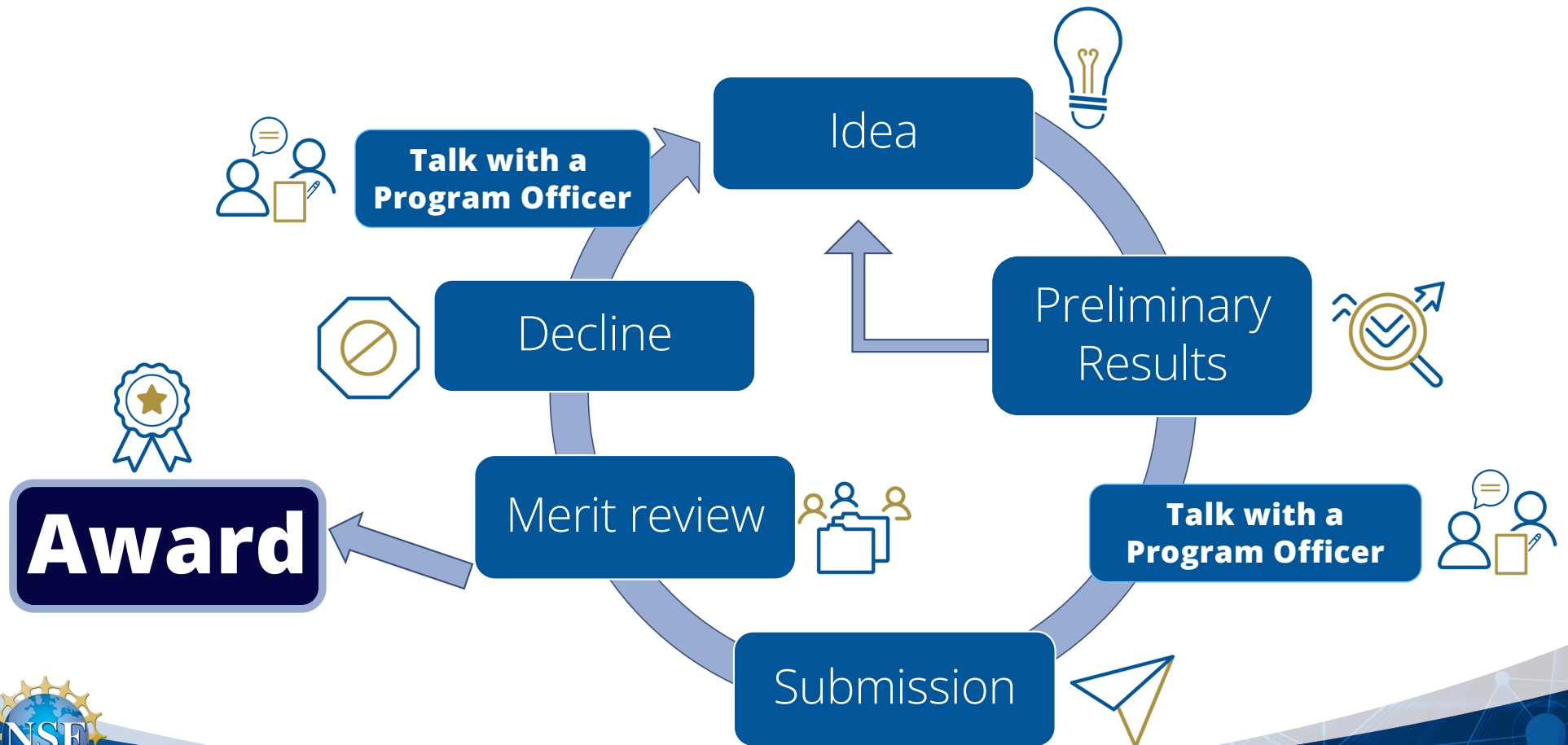
Proposal Receipt at NSF

DD Concur

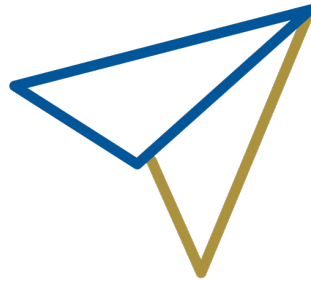
Award



# Proposal Submission Process: PI Perspective



# Submission → Research.gov or Grants.gov

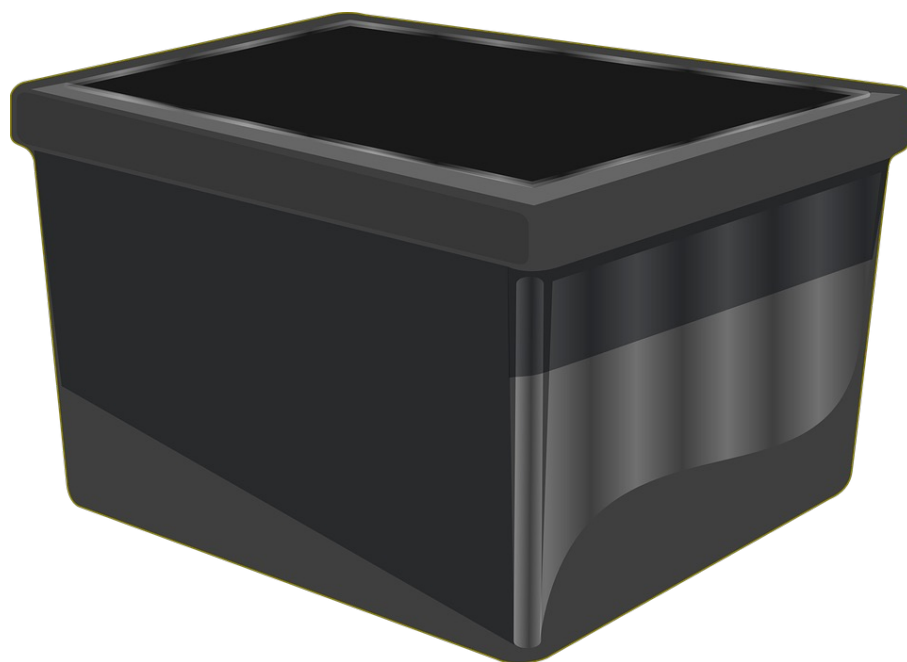


## Key Take-Aways:

1. Either [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) can be used to submit to NSF.
2. If you have problems submitting through either site, please contact their respective Support Centers.  
[Research.gov Support](https://www.research.gov/support) → 1-800-381-1532 or [rgov@nsf.gov](mailto:rgov@nsf.gov)  
[Grants.gov Support](https://www.grants.gov/support) → 1-800-518-4726 or [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)
3. Plan ahead!



# Merit Review ....



# Merit Review ....



Ad Hoc

Panel

Internal

Combination

## Key Take-Aways:

1. Upload a “List of Suggested Reviewers” as one of your Single Copy Documents.  
This can also include a list of reviewers not to include.
2. Internal NSF review can be used if approved by Leadership.  
Typically for proposals under \$50,000 (conference/workshop requests, supplement requests, etc.).



# Panel

- Convened to discuss the **strengths** and **weaknesses** of the proposed **intellectual merit** and **broader impact** activities
- Reviewers provide input and information that helps program officers make informed decisions
- Review panels tend to be topically broad given the variety of research topics submitted to programs
- NSF panels are not standing, long-term panels





# Example Panel Timeline (15 min/proposal)

## Primary Reviewer (~6 minutes)

1. Brief description of overall proposal (2 minutes max)
2. Critique the Proposal (4 min max)
  - a. Research Plan → Strengths and weaknesses
  - b. Broader Impacts → Strengths and weaknesses
3. Comment on solicitation specific assessment & other documents (e.g., RUI, Post-doc mentoring, Prior Support, Data Management, International Collaboration)

## Secondary Reviewer (~4 minutes)

1. Add additional information/critique – if you agree with the primary, say so - don't repeat.
2. FOCUS on any ad hoc reviews that have discrepancies from the prior comments.
3. Evaluate the arguments made by those reviewers and attempt to reconcile the discrepancy.

## Tertiary Reviewer/Scribe (~3 minutes)

1. Add your critique, if you have new points to make.
2. Ask for any information still needed for the panel summary.
3. Write first draft of panel summary.

## Open Discussion and Ranking (~ 2 min)

1. The entire panel discusses the proposal & someone suggests a position on the ranking board

*Note: there is flexibility here & specific Programs might divide the roles up differently*



# Mock Panel Example

**Program Officer**  
**Primary Reviewer**  
**Secondary Reviewer**  
**Tertiary Reviewer/Scribe**

**NOTE: During the Virtual Office Hour, we ran a 10- minute mock panel at this point**



# After the Review ....

## PAPPG NSF 23-1

***“After scientific, technical, and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant NSF Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for award. Normally, final programmatic approval is at the Division/Office level. Because of the large volume of proposals, this review and consideration process may take up to six months.”***

- Program officers consider the reviewed proposals and their existing portfolio of funded work.
- Decisions to recommend or decline are made and released electronically to the PI.
- We aim to have the majority of decisions back to PIs within 6 months of a proposal being submitted, however sometimes it may take a little longer.



# Decision → Award or Decline



## What are “Cognizant Program Officer Comments” and where can you find them at Research.gov?

Application Status History

Status	Status Date
Declined	01/01/0000

**Cognizant Program Officer Comments**

All reviewers agreed that this is an interesting biological problem to study. However, concerns about rationale for some experiments, the need for additional preliminary data and the narrow focus of the proposed research were significant and dampened the enthusiasm. Two reviewers indicated that the data presented in Table 2 lowers the value of the preliminary data. Some technical concerns such as the suitability of the fluorescence assays to distinguish small differences were also noted by the reviewers. Therefore, the PI is strongly encouraged to contact the Program Director for feedback and advice on future proposal preparation.

Review Information

Please note: The Sponsored Projects Office (or equivalent) at the submitting organization is NOT given the capability to read the below review information.

Panel Summary

Panel Summary	Release Date
Panel Summary #1	01/01/0000

Proposal Review    [Summary of All Reviews](#)

Review	Release Date
Proposal Review #4	01/01/0000
Proposal Review #3	01/01/0000
Proposal Review #2	01/01/0000
Proposal Review #1	01/01/0000

\*\*\* Note- These are red fictitious PO comments that are just shown here as an example. \*\*\*



## Decision → Decline



### Suggestions:

- Read the Panel Summary before the Reviews!
- Take a couple of days to process the reviews
- Email the managing Program Officer and ask for a time to discuss your recently declined proposal
  - Figure out what were really the panel's concerns and what is just "noise"

**Talk with a Program Officer ....**



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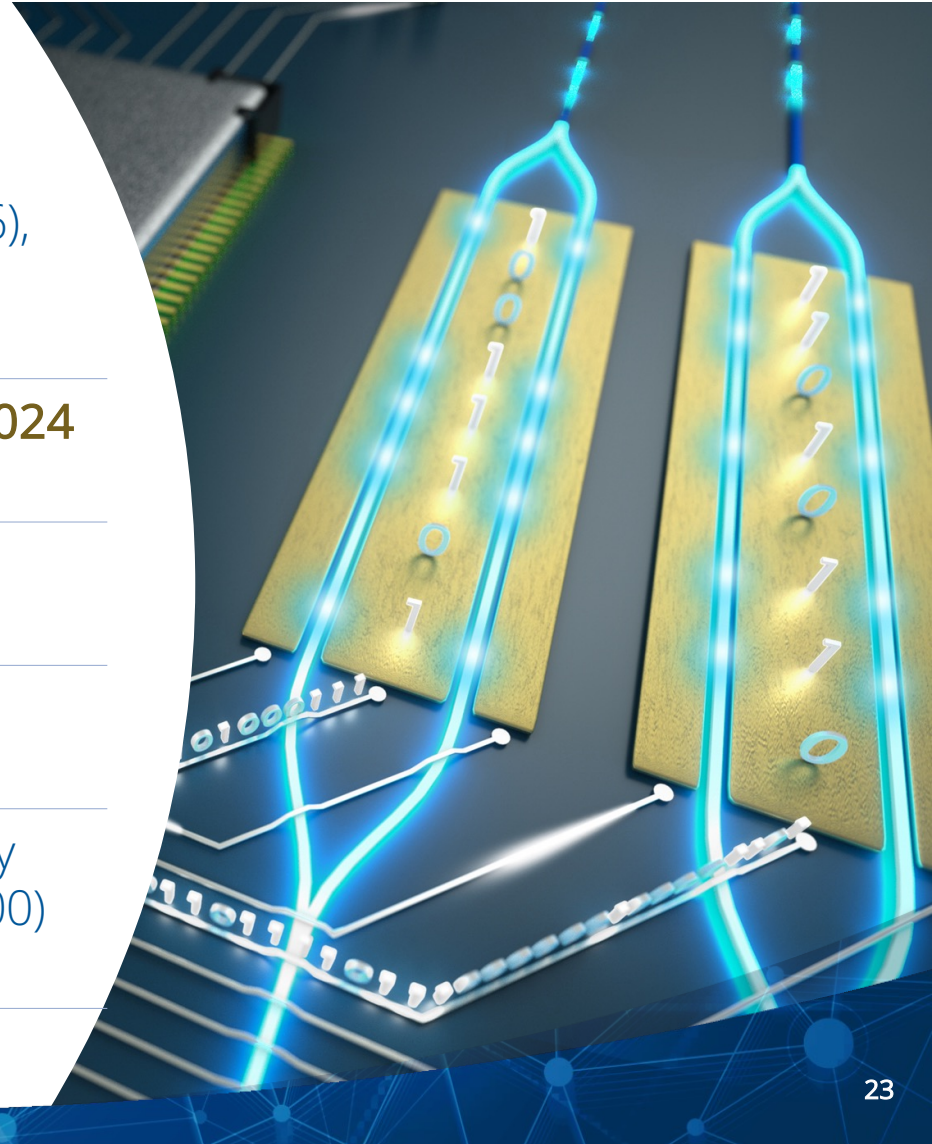
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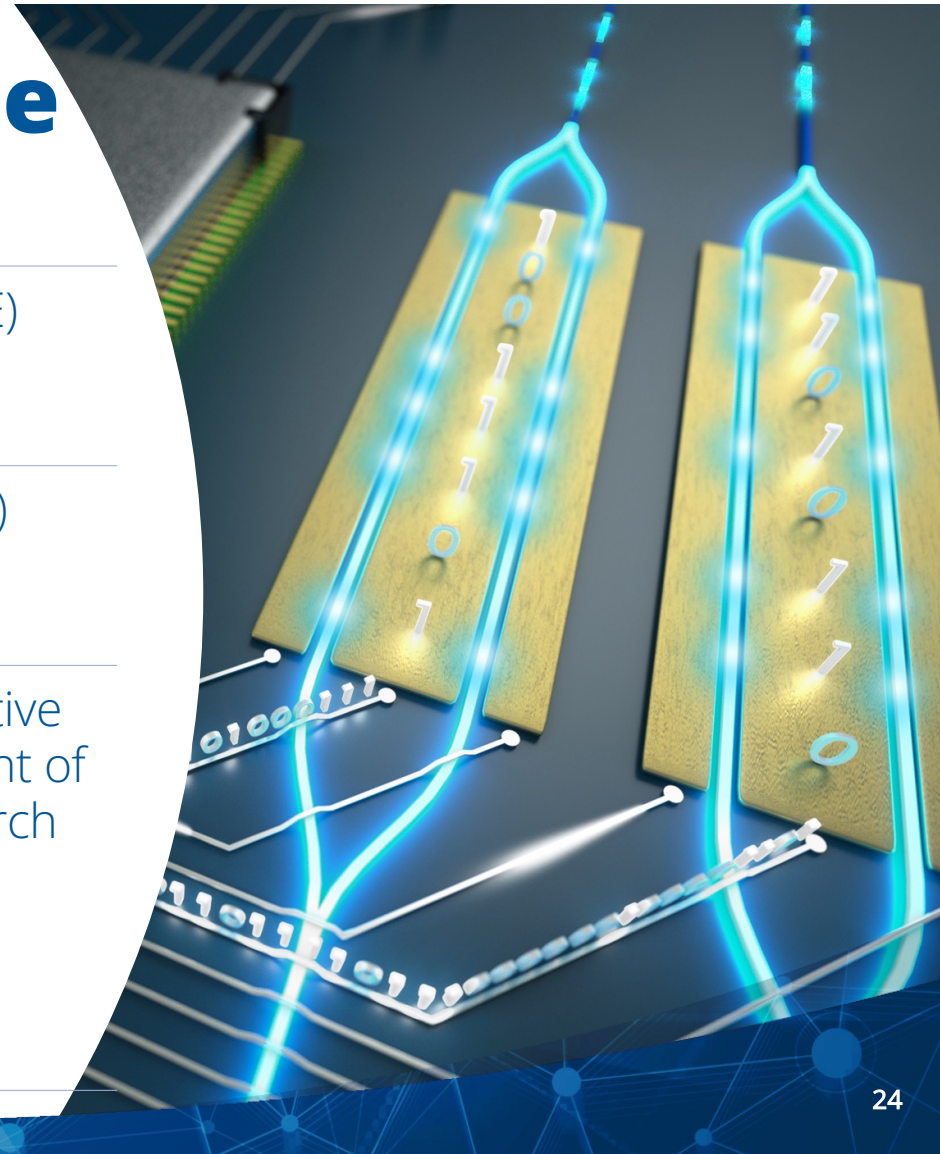
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- only PGRP participating
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# IOS Cluster and Program Contacts

<b>Behavioral Systems</b>	Suzy Renn	srenn@nsf.gov
<b>Developmental Systems</b>	Anna Allen	akallen@nsf.gov
<b>Neural Systems</b>	Floh Thiels	ethiels@nsf.gov
<b>Plant Genome Research Program</b>	Diane Jofuku Okamuro	dokamuro@nsf.gov
<b>Physiological and Structural Systems</b>	Ted Morgan	tmorgan@nsf.gov



# We're listening! Tell us more about you and your research and broader impacts

## Investigator Demographic Data Why provide it in your NSF profile?

- This information helps NSF develop future Broadening Participation opportunities.
- Large gaps in self-reported information make it challenging to evaluate program award scope and impede NSF's ability to track impact and progress.
- Individual demographic data in your NSF profile is not available to panelists or reviewers.

## Science Happens Here! #NSFstories

- Share your awesome findings and fantastic outreach experiences  
<https://beta.nsf.gov/about/science-happens-here>



### The importance of bee-ing together

*As wild bees face new risks, their diversity becomes even more important for flowers and farms*

Share



# BIO Virtual Office Hours (VOH)

## Informational webinars focused on:

- New and ongoing funding opportunities
- Topics of general interest
- Open questions from audience to be answered live

## Dates & Times (all Eastern Time Zone)

Division of Biological Infrastructure – 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday from 3-4 p.m.

Division of Environmental Biology – 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday from 1-2 p.m.

Division of Integrative Organismal Systems – 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 1-2 p.m.

Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences – 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday from 2-3 p.m.



# BIO Blogs

News, features, highlights, virtual office hour topics,  
and more from OAD and the BIO Divisions

BIO Buzz (OAD): <https://oadblog.nsfbio.com/>

DBInfo (DBI): <https://dbiblog.nsfbio.com/>

DEBrief (DEB): <https://debblog.nsfbio.com/>

IOS in Focus (IOS): <https://iosblog.nsfbio.com/>

MCB Blog (MCB): <https://mcbblog.nsfbio.com/>



# BIO News and Updates

Sign-up for emails on new solicitations; events; due date reminders; and BIO's quarterly newsletter, including information on new priorities and solicitations, highlights from the community, and more!

Visit [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov) and scroll down until you see the Sign up and social media banner, click on the yellow box, and follow the prompts.

