Webinar: Promoting Research and Innovation in Methodologies for Evaluation (PRIME) Solicitation NSF 10-615

PRIME

A Cross-Directorate Program in Education and Human Resources

National Science Foundation

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2010/nsf10615/nsf10615.pdf

Due Date via FastLane: January 05, 2011

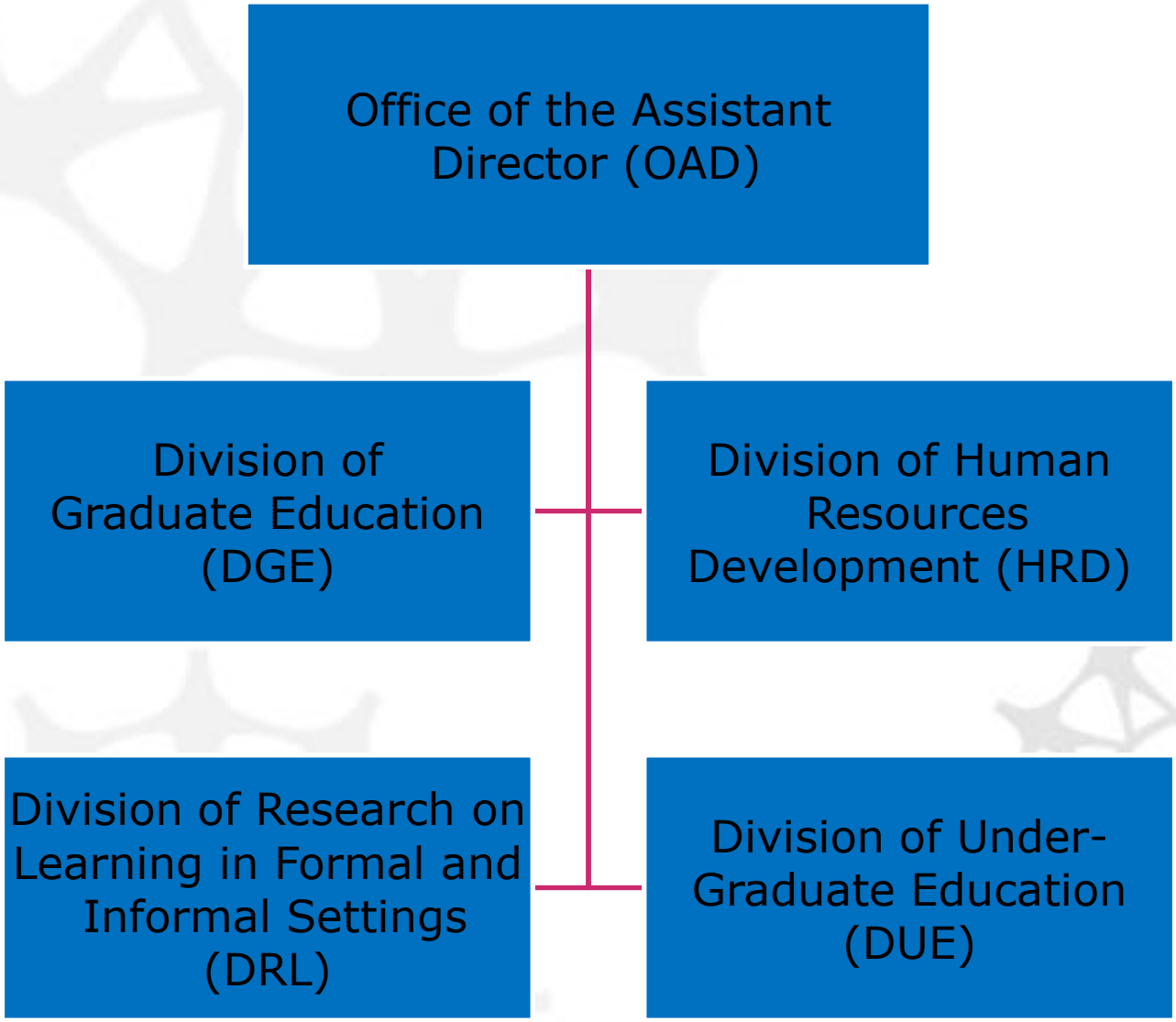
Agenda for Webinar

- Overview of EHR
- Rationale
- Overview of PRIME program
- PRIME program tracks
- PRIME program types
- NSF merit criteria for proposals
- Recommendations for proposers
- Q & A about solicitation

Program Management and Oversight

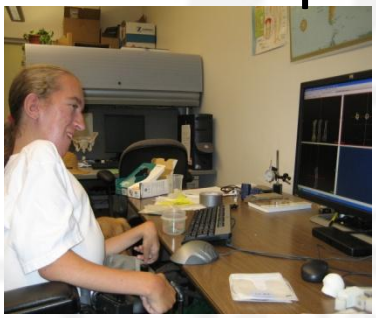
- Division of Research and Learning
  - Email:DRLPRIME@nsf.gov
- Cross-Directorate and Cross-Foundation Team of Program Directors

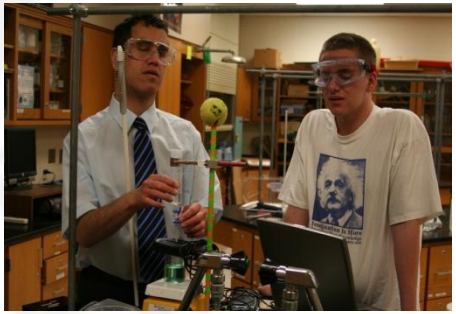
Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)



EHR Program Overview

- Education, research, development, evaluation
- Teacher development, capacity building and partnerships in K-12 Education
- Broadening participation; support for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)
- STEM Career Pathways: Undergraduate Education
- Public Engagement with Science
- Innovation in Graduate Education and Graduate Fellowships





Rationale for Prime Program

- New developments in STEM education, cutting-edge educational research, and workforce development
- Pressures for accountability
- Challenges to develop innovative evaluation approaches, questions, theories, methodologies, measures, analytic tools and reporting formats
- Opportunities to creatively address issues of national importance in STEM education and new and enduring issues in evaluation

Overarching Program Goal:

The **primary** goal of the PRIME program is to support the development, demonstration, and validation of innovative new methodologies and approaches to the evaluation of STEM education programs.

PRIME

- **Seeks** to advance evaluation theory and practices …
- **Calls** for studies with special emphasis on developing innovative STEM evaluation methodologies and identifying ways to measure impacts …
- **Encourages** new ways to conceptualize evaluation …
- **Invites** participation from STEM disciplines …

Areas of Interest

1. **Innovative approaches that explore ways of** determining the impact and usefulness of evaluation of STEM education projects or programs, with appropriate rigor.

2. **Theoretical foundations that expand perspectives on** evaluating STEM education and human workforce initiative, including translating approaches from other fields.

3. **Development of capacity and infrastructure that increases** the number of researchers and evaluators who can produce conceptually sound and methodologically appropriate evaluations of STEM education and workforce projects, portfolios and programs

Proposal Types

- Exploratory Projects: Small-scale explorations such as proof-of-concept and feasibility studies.

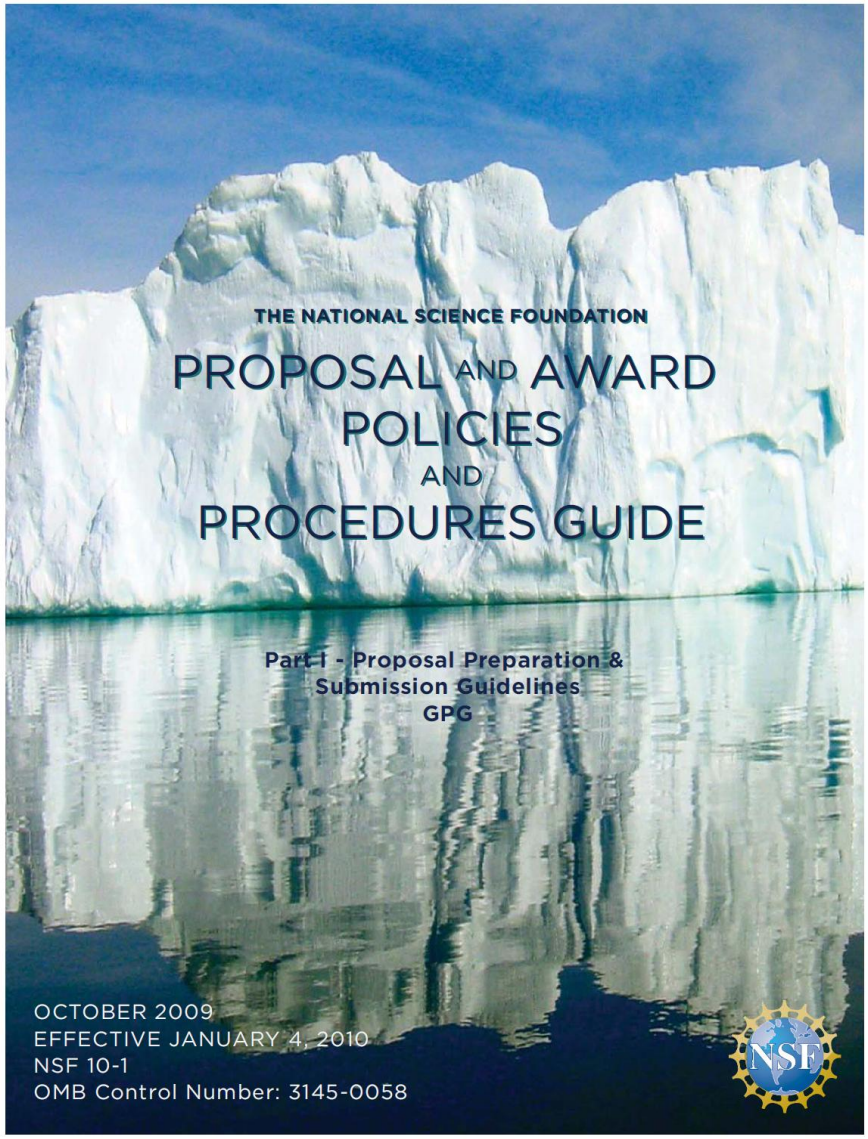
  $250,000 for 2 years. 3-5 awards
- Full-scale Projects: Large projects related to the 3 tracks.

  $800,000 for 3 years. 13 – 17 awards
- Workshops and Conferences: Focus on PRIME areas of interest. Submission at any time. ~$100,00

Other Opportunities

- CAREER
  - http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503214
- EAGER
  - http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg
- RAPID
  - http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf10_1/gpg_2.jsp#IID1

Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide



Sections of Proposal
(NSF Grant Proposal Guide)

- Project Summary
- Table of Contents
- Project Description
  - Management Plan
  - Project Evaluation
  - Dissemination Plan
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch (es)

Sections of Proposal

- Budget / Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
- Supplemental Documents
  - Letters of Commitment
  - Post-doc Mentoring Plan
  - Data Management Plan
  - IRB Documentation or Status

Additional Requirements

- Allocation of funds for PIs to attend PRIME PI Meeting
- Participation in program monitoring and evaluation efforts

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Merit Review

Merit Review

Through its merit review process, the National Science Foundation (NSF) ensures that proposals submitted are reviewed in a fair, competitive, transparent, and in-depth manner. The merit review process is described in detail in Part I of the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG): the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG). The GPG provides guidance for the preparation and submission of proposals to NSF.

The goal of this Merit Review website is to help you better understand the NSF merit review process as well as identify resources for additional information (including applicable chapters in the GPG). Sections of this website include:

An overview of the NSF Proposal and Award Process is presented in the diagram below. The text in the following sections correspond to the different areas on the diagram.

Intellectual Merit
(NSF standard language)

- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, provide outcomes from the prior work.)
- To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts?
- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
- Is there sufficient access to resources?

Broader Impacts
(NSF Standard Language)

- How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?
- How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic location, etc.)?
- To what extent will the proposed activity enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?
- Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
- What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Suggestions:

- Read solicitation carefully.
- Study the Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) available on the NSF website (note: new guidelines as of Jan, 2010) http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf10_1/gpgprint.pdf
- Follow the guidelines, especially for budgets, budget justifications, bios, fonts, etc.
- Ask a colleague to read it as a “reviewer”.

Suggestions

- Provide a strong argument for the importance of the effort (e.g., national issues in STEM education, new and enduring issues in evaluation).
- Clearly articulate the STEM content.
- Cite appropriate literature.
- Describe the appropriateness of the research design, data, analytic tools, and strategies to address limitations.