National Science Foundation
Research.gov Proposal Submission
Modernization

Northwestern University
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Presenter

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Agenda

- NSF’s System for Award Management (SAM) Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Implementation
- Login.gov Option for Research.gov Sign In
- Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov
  - When, Why and How
  - Advantages of Research.gov Proposal Preparation
  - Research.gov Proposal Tips
- Research.gov Proposals: Where We Are and What’s Ahead
- Recent Research.gov Proposal Enhancements
- Research.gov Proposal Demo
- Providing Feedback and Why It’s Important
- Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site and Training Resources
- Information Resources for the Research Community & Contacts for Questions
NSF’s System for Award Management (SAM) Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) Implementation
NSF’s SAM UEI Implementation

• NSF replaced DUNS numbers with SAM.gov-assigned UEIs for all NSF-registered organizations in NSF systems as of February 28, 2022

• SAM Legal Business Name and SAM Physical Address updates made in SAM.gov. Organizational address changes no longer accepted in FastLane

• Any subrecipients named in a proposal are also required to obtain a SAM UEI and register in Research.gov. Subrecipients named in the proposal, however, do not need to be registered in SAM. Entities can obtain a SAM UEI without full SAM registration

• DUNS number only used or displayed at NSF for historical reference

Effective April 4, 2022

- Government-wide transition from DUNS number to SAM UEI as federal entity identifier
- SAM.gov-issued UEI required to register new organization in Research.gov
- Proposal validation checks verify the organization's SAM UEI

Proposing organization must have a valid and active SAM registration to submit a proposal to NSF
Login.gov Option for Research.gov
Login.gov Option for Research.gov Sign In

Using Login.gov credentials option:
- Choose Login.gov option from Research.gov Sign In screen
- Enter your Login.gov credentials
- Link/activate your NSF ID
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov
Goodbye FastLane Proposal Preparation...Hello Research.gov

Solicitations

• FastLane targeted to be removed as submission option from all solicitations when the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 23-1) goes into effect in January 2023

• Solicitations clearly specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required

• Grants.gov remains an option for most proposals

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTE ABOUT RESEARCH.GOV PROPOSAL PREPARATION:

Innovating and migrating proposal preparation and submission capabilities from FastLane to Research.gov is part of the ongoing NSF information technology modernization efforts, as described in Important Notice No. 147. In support of these efforts, proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation must be prepared and submitted via Research.gov or via Grants.gov and may not be prepared or submitted via FastLane.
Program Descriptions

- FastLane targeted to be removed as submission option from all program descriptions (PDs) when the PAPPG (NSF 23-1) goes into effect in January 2023

- PD migration process started in March 2022

Alert: Many NSF programs are only accepting proposals in Research.gov or Grants.gov. FastLane may no longer be a submission option. For more information, please visit Program Descriptions that Require Proposal Preparation and Submission in Research.gov or Grants.gov.
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov: Why?

• Launched in 1994, FastLane was cutting-edge technology....28 years ago

• Research.gov built on modernized architecture to meet current and future requirements
  ▪ Features to help reduce administrative burden for both the research community and NSF staff and minimize return without review proposals (e.g., expanded automated compliance checking)
  ▪ Improved user experience with a modern and intuitive interface and inline help throughout the application

• Research.gov is being developed incrementally, and features have expanded to support the transition of all proposal preparation and submission functionality from FastLane to Research.gov when the PAPPG (NSF 23-1) goes into effect in January 2023

• Target date to fully transition all remaining FastLane functions to Research.gov has not yet been determined

• Grants.gov continues to be option for the preparation and submission of most types of NSF proposals
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov: How?

- Incrementally remove FastLane from funding opportunities as an option for proposal submission. Gradual proposal system transition decreases burden on both the research community and NSF staff (e.g., Program Officers and NSF Help Desk technicians)

- Complete development and deployment of remaining proposal preparation functionality in Research.gov (Research.gov Proposal Submission Capabilities)

- Engage NSF staff to facilitate a smooth transition

- Expand Foundation-wide efforts to reach the research community

- Bolster training resources for internal and external stakeholders

- Update NSF policy documents including the PAPPG
Research.gov Proposal Preparation: Advantages for Principal Investigators and Research Administrators

Features to help reduce proposal preparation administrative burden:

• Improved user experience through intuitive and dynamic interfaces that provide only relevant proposal preparation options

• Immediate feedback within each proposal section and for each document upload rather than at proposal submission in FastLane

• Faster document uploads (a few seconds versus 30-90 seconds for each document upload in FastLane)

• Expanded automated compliance checking utilizing error messages (stopping proposal submission) and warning messages (allowing proposal submission)
  ▪ Currently ~450 compliance checks in Research.gov across multiple submission types (full proposals, renewals, preliminary proposals, and letters of intent) versus 56 compliance checks in FastLane for full proposals only
  ▪ Specific, actionable error and warning messages

• Higher quality proposal submissions (e.g., PDF uploads are not altered)

• Minimized Return without Reviews due to some proposal formatting issues
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Tips

• Proposal information cannot be transferred from FastLane to Research.gov and vice versa

• Letters of intent and preliminary proposals must be prepared in the same system as the full proposal (i.e., all in Research.gov or all in FastLane)

• All proposals in a separately submitted collaborative from multiple organizations must be prepared in the same system (i.e., all in Research.gov or all in FastLane)

• Proposal file updates (PFUs) and budget revisions must be executed in the same system as the proposal was submitted (i.e., all in Research.gov or all in FastLane)

• Proposals submitted in Research.gov evaluated by NSF in the same way as proposals submitted in FastLane and Grants.gov, and this migration does not affect the merit review process in any way
# Research.gov Proposals: Where We Are and What’s Ahead

As of 5/12/2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Types</th>
<th>Current Capabilities</th>
<th>Future Capabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Research: Single Submissions from One Organization (April 2018); Single Submission Collaborative Proposals with Subawards (June 2019); Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposals from Multiple Organizations (March 2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Proposal Types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Rapid Response Research (RAPID) (November 2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• SBIR and STTR Phases I/II (fall 2022 release)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ EARly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) (November 2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Postdoctoral Fellowship (proposals for fellowship solicitations that contain reference letter requirements) (release TBD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) (November 2020)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grants.gov Integration (Grants.gov applications only; fall 2022 release)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Equipment (March 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Grants.gov applications will be inserted into Research.gov after they are received and validated by NSF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Travel (March 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Research.gov will be used to add or correct information in Grants.gov applications after submission in Grants.gov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Conference (August 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Post-award Actions</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Ideas Lab (August 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Supplemental Funding Requests, including Career Life Balance Supplemental Funding Requests (fall 2022 release)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) (October 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Planning (October 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Center (November 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Research Infrastructure (November 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Postdoctoral Fellowship (proposals for fellowship solicitations that do not contain reference letter requirements) (April 2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Submission Types</td>
<td>✓ Letter of Intent (October 2021)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Full Proposal (April 2018)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Solicitation-specific Requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Preliminary Proposal: Ideas Lab (August 2021); Non-Ideas Lab (November 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ EHR Project Data Form (April 2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal (November 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Secondary Units of Consideration (April 2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
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<td>Recent Proposal Features</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Withdrawal (Single and Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposal Submissions) (March 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solicitation-specific Requirements</td>
<td>✓ EHR Project Data Form (April 2022)</td>
<td>✓ Project Descriptions Exceeding 15 Pages (November 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Secondary Units of Consideration (April 2022)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Separate Uploads of Multiple Supplementary Documents (April 2022)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recent Proposal Features</td>
<td>✓ Withdrawal (Single and Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposal Submissions) (March 2021)</td>
<td>Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ Project Descriptions Exceeding 15 Pages (November 2021)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site (October 2020)</td>
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<td>✓ Separate Uploads of Multiple Supplementary Documents (April 2022)</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓ Topic-specific How-to Guides (Ongoing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>✓ Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site (October 2020)</td>
<td>✓ Webinars and Demos (e.g., Spring 2022 NSF Grants Conference and Summer 2022 ERA Forum) (Ongoing)</td>
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Effective with PAPPG (NSF 23-1) Implementation in January 2023:

- All FastLane proposal preparation and submission functionality enabled in Research.gov
- FastLane removed as preparation and submission option from all funding opportunities
- No NEW proposals can be prepared or submitted in FastLane
Recent Research.gov Proposal Enhancements
Research.gov Proposal Enhancements Available as of May 2

- **New proposal type supported:**
  - Postdoctoral Fellowship (*proposals specifically for fellowship solicitations that do not contain reference letter requirements*)

- **New features supported:**
  - Project Data Form
  - Secondary Units of Consideration
  - Separate Uploads of Multiple Supplementary Documents
Project Data Form Available as of May 2

• Project data form will display in the Required section on the proposal main page when the selected funding opportunity requires submission of the form.

• Information on the form is used to direct proposals to appropriate reviewers and to determine the characteristics of projects supported by the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR)/Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE).
Secondary Units of Consideration Available as of May 2

• Proposers now have the ability to choose additional Directorate/Division/Program options (i.e., secondary units of consideration) to direct proposals to NSF

• Secondary units of consideration may be added in the Where to Apply proposal wizard setup step OR using the Manage Where to Apply link on the proposal main page
Separate Uploads of Multiple Supplementary Documents Available as of May 2

Other Supplementary Documents

Content Instructions for Other Supplementary Documents:
- Each document must conform to solicitation-specific and PAPPG instructions
- Other Supplementary Documents include:
  - Documents without their own separate upload pages
  - Documents with upload pages
  - Other supplementary documents as specified in the relevant funding opportunity

File Instructions for Other Supplementary Documents:
- Multiple files can be uploaded in this section. After uploading a file you may use the 'Browse for another...' button to upload another file.
- When viewing the full proposal, files will be displayed in the order they are uploaded
- Each file should not contain page numbers, as they will be added automatically by the system
- Accepted file types include: PDF
- Maximum file size permitted per upload is 10 MB

Browse for file to upload  Browse ...
Research.gov Proposal Demo

• Proposal Setup Wizard
• Main Page
• Document Upload and Compliance Error/Warning Messages
• Budget
• Highlights of recent enhancements
Providing Feedback and Why It’s Important
Providing Research.gov Proposal Feedback and Why It’s Important

Why?

• Help NSF continue to build and refine Research.gov
• Help ensure the system is working as intended and identify areas of improvement

How?

• Feedback may be submitted on the Research.gov Feedback page
  - Select “Proposal Preparation & Submission” under the Site Area dropdown menu to provide feedback on the Research.gov Proposal Submission System
  - Select "Proposal Preparation Demo Site" under the Site Area dropdown menu to provide feedback on the demo site
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site and Training Resources
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site

• Demo site can be used to explore preparing proposals and to check compliance of uploaded proposal documents (e.g., Collaborators and Other Affiliations and Biographical Sketch)

• All demo site users are automatically given the PI role for demo site purposes, in order to perform the proposal preparation functions that a PI can do in the actual system. Proposal submission capability is disabled

• See the demo site FAQs on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page for information on demo site access and features

https://web.demo.research.gov/proposalprep/#/proposal-prep
(You will be prompted to sign in to Research.gov if you are not already signed in)
Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission Page

Training Resources

• NEW FAQs
  ▪ Managing Where to Apply and Secondary Units of Consideration FAQs (see the General FAQ topic)
  ▪ Postdoctoral Fellowship Proposals FAQs (see the General FAQ topic)
  ▪ Project Data Form FAQs (see the Proposal Sections FAQ topic)

• NEW and Updated How-to Guides
  ▪ Initiating a New Proposal (same link with updated guide)
  ▪ Adding or Removing an OAU
  ▪ Sharing Proposal and Proposal File Update/Budget Revision Access with SPO/AOR (same link with updated guide)
  ▪ Entering Proposal Budgets
  ▪ Adding or Removing Subaward Organizations
  ▪ Adding or Removing Collaborators and Other Affiliations
  ▪ Deleting an In Progress Letter of Intent, Proposal, or Proposal File Update/Budget Revision
  ▪ Submitting Letters of Intent and Proposals
  ▪ Submitting Proposal File Updates/Budget Revisions

https://www.research.gov/research-web/content/aboutpsm
Research.gov Proposal System Help Features

Inline help features are available to proposers throughout the Research.gov proposal system and the proposal preparation demo site:

• Information tool tips indicated by the blue information icon: 🔵

• Links to the PAPPG

• Links to FAQs

• Links to video tutorials
Resources for LaTeX Users

• Open-source repository of compliant LaTeX/TeX sample input/output files for LaTeX/TeX users to reference for their own documents

• Repository link: https://github.com/nsf-open/nsf-proposal-latex-samples
Information Resources

• Join our NSF System Updates listserv to receive the latest Research.gov system enhancement information and FastLane news! Sign up by sending a blank email to: system_updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov

• **Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals** [page]

• Resources for LaTeX Users: [https://github.com/nsf-open/nsf-proposal-latex-samples](https://github.com/nsf-open/nsf-proposal-latex-samples)

• Research.gov [About Proposal Preparation and Submission] [page]

• Research.gov [About Account Management] [page]

• **NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum** [page]

• NSF ERA Forum listserv to receive updates on ERA Forum activities. Sign up by sending a blank email to: NSF_ERA_FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
Contacts for Questions

• For program-specific questions, please contact the cognizant NSF Program Officer

• For IT system-related questions or technical questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via rgov@nsf.gov

• Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov
Thank you for your participation today!
Appendix
Research.gov Implementation – Important Notice No. 147

- Per Important Notice No. 147, NSF is taking proactive steps to incrementally move the preparation and submission of all proposals from FastLane to Research.gov.

- Most NSF funding opportunities are supported in Research.gov and clearly specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required.
Research.gov Proposal Compliance Error and Warning Messages

- Automated proposal compliance checks triggering an error message will stop proposal submission to NSF, whereas checks triggering a warning message will still allow proposal submission.

- Proposers receiving a compliance error or warning message should check the Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals page and the solicitation for specific proposal requirements.

- Proposers should also review the topic-specific FAQs on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page:
  - *Uploading Documents* topic includes document formatting FAQs
  - *Proposal Sections* topic includes Cover Sheet and budget FAQs
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site Tips

- Demo site FAQs are available on the Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page via the left navigation menu. How-to guides with step-by-step instructions and screenshots are also available.
- The demo site is available both to the research community and to NSF staff.
- An orange "Proposal Preparation Demo Site" banner is at the top of each demo site page to indicate the user is on the demo site.
- The demo site allows users to prepare and edit proposals before preparing them in the actual Research.gov site.
- Demo site proposals are not visible or available in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System, and data cannot be transferred between the demo site and the actual proposal system.
- All proposal and submission types available in the actual system are also available in the demo site. As proposal and submission types are added to the Research.gov Proposal Submission System, they will also be added to the demo site.
- All compliance checks enabled in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System are also in the demo site. Proposers can use the demo site as a resource to check document compliance before uploading them in the actual system.
Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site Tips (cont’d)

• Proposals created in the demo site will be available for six months and then will be deleted by NSF. Neither NSF nor users will be able to access deleted demo proposal data.

• Demo site does not support proposal submission and will not trigger any system-generated email notifications (e.g., link requests for separately submitted collaborative proposals).

• The organization that you are affiliated with in your NSF account profile will be incorporated when you are in the proposal preparation demo site, but the user role(s) that you have will not be available in the demo site.
  ▪ All users who access the demo site will be given the role of PI and the mock organization “National Science Foundation”.
  ▪ This means that users from the research community will have the organization(s) they are affiliated with in their NSF account profile plus the “National Science Foundation” mock organization as available organizations in the demo site.

• The only time other users will be able to view and/or edit any proposals that you create in the demo site is if you add them to the proposal as a co-PI or OAU. If you don’t add any users to the proposal, no one else will be able to access, view, or edit your demo proposal.