



NSF PROPOSAL & AWARD POLICY UPDATE



FDP Meeting – January 11, 2021
Jeremy Leffler, Outreach Specialist, Policy Office
Division of Institution & Award Support

Topics

- *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)*
 - Implementation Schedule for 2021
 - Proposed Changes
- Research.gov Updates
- Helpful Resources



Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Implementation Schedule

- NSF typically announces a new PAPPG in the fall with implementation in the new year
- In 2021, the PAPPG will be released on a new schedule
 - December 14 – February 12: Public Comment in the Federal Register
 - Spring 2021 release date
 - October 2021 effective date



PAPPG Proposed Changes



- Implementation of 2 CFR 200
- Addition of Planning Proposal as a new proposal type
- New Travel Proposal requirements
- Addition of context language for proposal sections
- Further clarification of current and pending support
- Clarification of the type of research supported by NSF
- Addition of Career-Life Balance Supplements
- Increased visibility of Research.gov

Research.gov – Important Notice No. 147

- NSF is taking proactive steps to incrementally move the preparation and submission of all proposals from FastLane to Research.gov by 2022
- FastLane has already been removed from some funding opportunities as a submission option. FastLane will continue to be incrementally removed from funding opportunities in 2021
- Core BIO program solicitations without deadline dates now require submission via Research.gov (or Grants.gov)

Important Notice No. 147

Research.gov Implementation Update

Important Notice to Presidents of Universities and Colleges and Heads of Other National Science Foundation Grantee Organizations

September 22, 2020

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has been at the forefront in the development of Federal agency electronic systems designed to prepare and submit proposals for Federal financial assistance. From the introduction of FastLane in 1994, to the incremental development of Research.gov as its eventual replacement, NSF has led the way with modern, agile systems tailored to meet the needs of the research community.

While NSF's FastLane system has been a resounding success story, it is now an aging, antiquated system that has become increasingly expensive to maintain and even harder to improve. Over the past few years, NSF has partnered with and received valuable input from the research community, resulting in the development of a modern, flexible Research.gov system that reduces administrative burden to meet the current and future needs of researchers, administrators and organizations. As a result, NSF has successfully migrated important research functions from FastLane to Research.gov including the preparation and submission of annual and final project and outcomes reports, most notifications and requests and award payments. NSF is now taking proactive steps to incrementally move the preparation and submission of all proposals from FastLane to Research.gov with a tentative target date for completion by 2022.

In support of this effort, in the coming weeks and months, NSF will begin making changes to specific funding opportunities to require the use of Research.gov for the preparation and submission of proposals to NSF.¹ The Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) will soon require the use of Research.gov for the preparation and submission of proposals in response to its core programs that do not have deadline dates. NSF funding opportunities will clearly specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required.

To ensure that researchers and administrators are prepared for these changes, NSF is developing additional training materials to meet the needs of the community. This includes video tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions, step-by-step guides and a demonstration site. Current training materials are available on the [About Research.gov site](#).

NSF encourages the community to become familiar with Research.gov and to begin using it for the preparation and submission of proposals, as well as to provide NSF with valuable feedback. For additional information, FAQs, opportunities for training and to provide feedback, please visit [Research.gov](#).

Dr. Sethuraman Panchanathan
Director

¹During this time, NSF will continue to permit proposals to be prepared and submitted via Grants.gov.



Research.gov Proposal Types

Research.gov Proposal Screenshot: Proposal Type Options

- Rapid Response Research (RAPID), EARly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER), and Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) proposal types will be available in Research.gov
- [New associated automated compliance checks will also](#) be added

Prepare New Proposal

1. Funding Opportunity ✓ 2. Where to Apply ✓ 3. Proposal Type 4. Submission Type 5. Proposal Details

Select Proposal Type

What type of proposal will be used? ⓘ Proposal Types

- Research Available now
- Rapid Response Research (RAPID) PAPPG II.E.1 ⓘ
- Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) PAPPG II.E.2 ⓘ
- Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) PAPPG II.E.3 ⓘ
- Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)
- Ideas Lab
- Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED)
- Conference
- Equipment Future releases
- Travel
- Center
- Research Infrastructure
- Fellowship
- Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR)
- Small Business Technology Transfer Program (STTR)

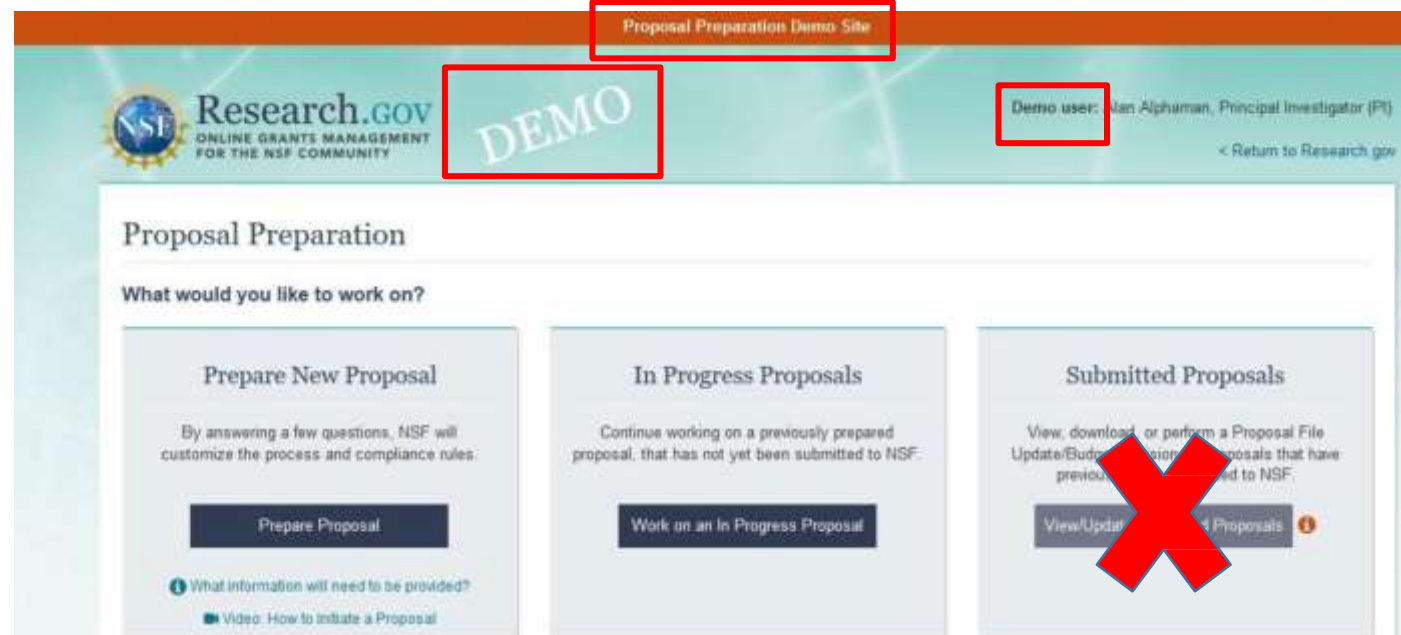
Note: All Proposal Types are listed in Research.gov but only those currently supported will be available for selection (i.e., unavailable selections are greyed out).

Research.gov Demo Site

Proposal Preparation Demo Site

- Demo site is now available for use by the research community
- All users will be able to perform the proposal **preparation** functions that can be executed by a Principal Investigator (PI) in the actual Research.gov Proposal Submission System. Proposal submission capability will be disabled
- All users must sign in to Research.gov to access the demo site, and each user will have the role of PI for demo site purposes. No other user roles (e.g., Sponsored Project Officer or Authorized Organizational Representative) are available

Research.gov Demo Site Screenshot: Proposal Preparation Homepage



Research.gov – Font Warnings

- The compliance checks and associated compliance warnings for font type and font size will be removed in Research.gov to align with FastLane
- PAPPG (NSF 20-1) [Chapter II.B.2.a.](#) proposal font requirements must be followed
- Proposals may be Returned Without Review if the font type or font size are not compliant with the PAPPG
- NSF is making these changes per feedback from the research community



Research.gov Proposal Training Resources

- Resources available when preparing proposals on both the actual Research.gov site and the demo site:

- Information tool tips
- Links to the PAPPG
- Links to FAQs
- Links to video tutorials



Excerpt from Research.gov Main Proposal Page (Demo Site)

Proposal Details		
Proposal Status: Not Shared with SPQWOR		
Helpful Links View submitted proposals Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) Demo Site FAQs Video: How to Upload a Collaborators and Other Affiliations Document Video: How to Submit a Research Proposal		
Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources		Document unavailable for check
Senior Personnel Documents		Document(s) unavailable for check
Data Management Plan		Document unavailable for check
Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan	Conditionally required	Document unavailable for check
Optional		
Other Personnel Biographical Information		Document unavailable for check
Other Supplementary Documents		Document unavailable for check
List of Suggested Reviewers (Single Copy Document)		Document unavailable for check
List of Reviewers Not to Include (Single Copy Document)		Document unavailable for check
Deviation Authorization (Single Copy Document)		Document unavailable for check
Additional Single Copy Documents		Document unavailable for check

- Resources on Research.gov [About Proposal and Submission](#) page:

- FAQs by topic
- Links to video tutorials
- [Link to Research.gov proposal automated compliance checklist](#)



Excerpt from Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission Page

About Proposal Preparation and Submission	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release Timeline Proposal Preparation and Submission FAQs General Collaborative Proposals Uploading Documents Proposal Sections Proposal Submission Demo Site FAQs General Access and User Roles Demo Site Features Video Tutorials 	<h3>About Proposal Preparation and Submission</h3> <p>The Research.gov Proposal Submission System modernizes proposal preparation and submission capabilities by improving the user experience while also reducing administrative burden through an intuitive interface and expanded automated proposal compliance checking. The new system is being developed incrementally and as capabilities are migrated from FastLane to Research.gov, the system features will expand until it eventually replaces FastLane for proposal preparation and submission.</p> <p>Access the Research.gov Proposal Submission System</p> <p>Explore the Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site</p> <p>Current and Future Capabilities</p> <p>Now supporting Full, Research proposals that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single submissions from one organization Single submission collaborative proposals from one organization (collaborative proposals with subawards) Separately submitted collaborative proposals from multiple organizations <p>View the Research.gov Proposal Submission System Current and Future Capabilities to see what's ahead.</p> <p>Why Prepare Proposals in Research.gov?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fast and easy Proposal Setup Wizard Less than five minutes to quickly find funding opportunities, initiate a proposal, and give access to administrative staff Expanded compliance checks (View Research.gov compliance checks) Immediate compliance feedback Higher quality proposal submissions (e.g., PDF uploads are not altered)



Research.gov information

- 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 webpage](#)
- [Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission webpage](#) with new and updated FAQs organized by topic and links to video tutorials (*new information is being added on an ongoing basis, so please check frequently....*)
- [Research.gov About Account Management webpage](#)
- [NSF Electronic Research Administration \(ERA\) Forum webpage](#)
- [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](#)



Additional Resources

- “For Comment” Draft Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)
 - https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/papp/pappg22_1/FedReg/draftpappg_dec2020.pdf
- Draft PAPPG Federal Register Notice
 - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/14/2020-27448/agency-information-collection-activities-comment-request-national-science-foundation-proposalaward>
- NSF Grants Conference On-Demand Resource Videos
 - <https://nsfpolicyoutreach.com/resource-center/>
- NSF Proposal & Award FAQs
 - https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/papp/pappg20_1/faqs20_1.pdf
- NSF FAQs Related to Current and Pending Support
 - https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/papp/pappg20_1/faqs_cps20_1.pdf

