Presenter

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Agenda

- 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
- Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site and Training Resources
- Providing Feedback
- Information Resources for the Research Community
- Contacts for Questions
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov
Goodbye FastLane Proposal Preparation...Hello Research.gov

- FastLane is targeted to be removed as a submission option from all funding opportunities by December 31, 2022
- 70% of NSF funding opportunities are currently supported in Research.gov
- Funding opportunities clearly specify whether submission via Research.gov is available or required

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.
Migrating Proposal Preparation and Submission from FastLane to Research.gov: Why?

- Launched in 1994, FastLane was cutting-edge technology....28 years ago
- Research.gov is 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 by a target date of December 31, 2022
- Target date to fully transition all remaining FastLane functions to Research.gov has not yet been determined
- Grants.gov will continue to be an 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).

- Continue to develop and deploy additional 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 (preventing proposal submission) and warning messages (allowing proposal submission)
  ▪ There are currently 100+ compliance checks in Research.gov versus 56 compliance checks in FastLane
  ▪ 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

• Research.gov is being added to solicitations whenever possible as a submission option, even if FastLane is not yet removed

• Program descriptions are supported in Research.gov

• 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 are 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 1/7/2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Capabilities</th>
<th>Upcoming Capabilities</th>
<th>Future Capabilities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proposal Types</strong></td>
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<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>Proposal Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Rapid Response Research (RAPID) (November 2020)</td>
<td>• Postdoctoral Fellowship (Spring 2022 release)</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>Solicitation-specific Requirements</td>
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<td>✓ Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) (November 2020)</td>
<td>• EHR Project Data Form (Spring 2022 release)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) (March 2021)</td>
<td>• Secondary Units of Consideration (Spring 2022 release)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Equipment (March 2021)</td>
<td>Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Travel (March 2021)</td>
<td>• Additional Topic-specific How-to Guides (ongoing)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Conference (August 2021)</td>
<td>• Webinars (e.g., Spring 2022 NSF Grants Conference and ERA Forum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Ideas Lab (August 2021)</td>
<td>Submission Types:</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) (October 2021)</td>
<td>✓ Letter of Intent (October 2021)</td>
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<td>✓ Planning (October 2021)</td>
<td>✓ Full Proposal (April 2018)</td>
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<td>✓ Center (November 2021)</td>
<td>✓ Preliminary Proposal: Ideas Lab (August 2021); Non-Ideas Lab (November 2021)</td>
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<td>✓ Research Infrastructure (November 2021)</td>
<td>✓ Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal (November 2021)</td>
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<td>✓ Post doctorate Fellowship (Spring 2022 release)</td>
<td>✓ Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Accomplishment-Based Renewal Proposal (August 2021)</td>
<td>Proposal Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Research.gov Proposal Prep Demo Site (October 2020)</td>
<td>• Postdoctoral Fellowship (Spring 2022 release)</td>
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<td>✓ Initial Topic-specific How-to Guides (March 2021)</td>
<td>Solicitation-specific Requirements</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Withdrawal (Single and Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposal Submissions) (March 2021)</td>
<td>• EHR Project Data Form (Spring 2022 release)</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Project Descriptions Exceeding 15 Pages (November 2021)</td>
<td>• Secondary Units of Consideration (Spring 2022 release)</td>
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**Recent Proposal Features**
- Withdrawal (Single and Separately Submitted Collaborative Proposal Submissions) (March 2021)
- Project Descriptions Exceeding 15 Pages (November 2021)

**Training**
- Research.gov Proposal Prep Demo Site (October 2020)
- Initial Topic-specific How-to Guides (March 2021)
Recent Release Enhancements
November Release Enhancements

• The following submission types and proposal types are now available in the Research.gov Proposal Submission System:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW Submission Types</th>
<th>NEW Proposal Types</th>
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<td>• Preliminary Proposal</td>
<td>• Center</td>
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<td>• Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal</td>
<td>• Research Infrastructure</td>
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• Project Descriptions exceeding 15 pages
November Release Enhancements

• **New submission types:**
  - Preliminary Proposal
  - Full Proposal related to a Preliminary Proposal

• Research.gov enforces whether a preliminary proposal is required
November Release Enhancements

• New proposal types:
  ▪ Center
  ▪ Research Infrastructure

• Project Description exceeding 15 pages
  ▪ Page limits in a single solicitation may vary by track or program
  ▪ Proposers must follow the Project Description page limit guidance in the solicitation
  ▪ PAPPG must be followed for the proposal type when a solicitation does not include Project Description page limit guidance
Research.gov Proposal Demo

• Proposal Setup Wizard
• Main Page
• Document Upload and Compliance Error/Warning Messages
• Budget
• Highlights of recent enhancements
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
Training resources on the Research.gov About Proposal and Submission page:

- FAQs by topic
- Links to video tutorials including 16-minute demo video highlighting key proposal preparation features and preparing proposal file updates/budget revisions
- Link to Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals page to view current Research.gov proposal compliance checks
- Links to topic-specific how-to guides (e.g., Initiating a Proposal and Sharing Access with Sponsored Projects Office/Authorized Organizational Representative)
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:  
  ![Information Icon](image)
- Links to the PAPPG
- Links to FAQs
- Links to video tutorials
Providing Feedback
Providing Research.gov Proposal Feedback

**Why?**
- Influence the future of proposal submission
- Help NSF continue to build and refine Research.gov

**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
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

• Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission page (new information is being added on an ongoing basis, so please check back frequently....)

• 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 Proposal Compliance Error and Warning Messages

- Automated proposal compliance checks triggering an error message will **prohibit** 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 margin and line spacing FAQs
  - *Proposal Sections* topic includes Cover Sheet and budget FAQs

- **Reminder:** Effective November 2020, the compliance checks and associated compliance warnings for font type and font size were removed in Research.gov to align with FastLane and NSF policy
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.
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.