Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program
Proposal Writing Webinar
February 2015

Eligibility for a Grant in NSF15530

Proposals may be submitted by

- Universities and two- or four-year colleges (including community colleges, tribal colleges, and minority-serving institutions) accredited in, and having a campus located in, the United States, or consortia of such institutions, or U.S. nonprofit entities that have established consortia among such institutions of higher education.
- In addition, for Track 4: Research on the Preparation, Recruitment, and Retention of K-12 STEM Teachers, professional societies and similar organizations that are directly associated with educational or research activities.

In solicitation 15-530, there are no restrictions on the number of proposals per organization or on the number of proposals per PI or Co-PI.
Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program

Proposals must provide evidence of exemplary teacher preparation and development efforts.

Proposals must provide evidence of genuine collaboration between faculty in STEM and faculty in education.

Every project is expected to be grounded in and contribute to the knowledge base.

Proposal Due Dates

March 17, 2015 for FY 2015 funds
August 4, 2015 for FY 2016 funds

Comparison of Phases in Tracks 1, 2, 3
(for 15-530 and not an exhaustive list of expectations)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Phase 1</th>
<th>Phase 2</th>
<th>Capacity Building</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Provide Scholarships/Stipends/Fellowships</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence-based Models and Strategies</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Develop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Strong Partnerships</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Develop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evaluation and Research</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes and Longitudinal</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contribute to Knowledge Base</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost-sharing</td>
<td>Tracks 2, 3</td>
<td>Tracks 2, 3</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>60% on F1, Stipends</td>
<td>Tracks 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Tracks 1, 2, 3</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Definitions of Terms

Scholarship

In S&S Track, funds awarded to:
- An undergraduate STEM major (≥ junior status)
- A post-bac (when the program requires a fifth year)

Stipend

In S&S Track, funds awarded to:
- A STEM professional who enrolls in a teacher certification program

Fellowship

A title and funds awarded to:
- In TF Track, a STEM professional
- In MTF Track, a STEM teacher

Definitions of Terms

High-Need Local Educational Agency (LEA)
(e.g., a high-need school district)

A high percentage of individuals from families with incomes below the poverty line;
A high percentage of secondary school teachers not teaching in the content area in which they were trained to teach;
A high teacher turnover rate.

Track 1 (S&S) Scholarships & Stipends
undergraduate STEM majors and/or STEM career changers

Major in STEM, participate in project program, and teach in a high-need school district for 2 years for each year of support.

Phase 1: up to $1.2M for up to 5 years
Phase 2: up to $800K for up to 5 years
Capacity Building: up to $75K for up to 1 year

Required Partners (and)
STEM Faculty
Education Faculty
Schools/LEAs

Scholarships for Undergraduate STEM Majors
Junior and Senior STEM majors [and post-bacs]
≥ $10,000 per year not to exceed cost of attendance

Stipends for STEM Professionals
Career-changers enroll in a teacher certification program
≥ $10,000 one year not to exceed cost of attendance

Some Additional Considerations
Internships for freshman and sophomores to attract STEM majors into K-12 STEM teaching careers.
Recruiting STEM majors who may not have previously considered a career in K-12 STEM teaching.
Involving master teachers
Track 2 (TF) NSF Teaching Fellowships
STEM career changers

Earn teacher certification through a master's degree program and teach in a high-need school district for 4 years.

Phase 1:
up to $3M for up to 5 (or 6) years
Cost-sharing required

Phase 2:
up to $1.8M for up to 5 years

Capacity Building:
up to $75K for up to 1 year

Required Partners (and)
- An IHE department that provides an advanced program within a specific STEM discipline
- An IHE department that provides a teacher preparation program
- At least one high-need LEA and at least one public school served by the LEA
- At least one nonprofit organization

Fellowship and Salary Supplement
≥ $10,000 while enrolled in the 1-year master’s degree program
≥ $10,000 per year for 4 years while teaching in a high-need school district

Take on leadership role within the school or LEA
- Mentoring
- Curriculum development
- Plan/Implement PD
- Participate in pre-service education

Track 3 (MTF) NSF Master Teaching Fellowships
exemplary, experienced STEM teachers

Already have a master’s degree in their field, participate in project program to develop master teachers, and teach in a high-need school district for 5 years

Phase 1:
up to $3M for up to 5 (or 6) years
Cost-sharing required

Phase 2:
up to $1.8M for up to 5 years

Capacity Building:
up to $75K for up to 1 year
**Scholar/Fellow Obligations for Tracks 1, 2, and 3**

- Provide the institution with annual certification of employment.
- Participate in activities (including surveys) conducted as part of institution project-level and NSF program-level evaluation.
- Complete the teaching commitment or repay the scholarship/stipend/fellowship as a loan.

See the solicitation for additional expectations and details.

**Institutional Obligations for Tracks 1, 2, and 3**

- Ensure the scholarship/stipend/fellowship recipients accept the terms.
- Monitor (including tracking) and report on the compliance of recipients (including repayment if necessary).
- Supply relevant statistical and demographic data as requested.
- Cooperate with NSF third-party project monitoring.

See the solicitation for additional expectations and details.
Track 4: Noyce Research
Some Additional Comments

- The NRC research priority areas are not the only interesting issues that need to be addressed.
- The program would like to have a portfolio that includes a wide range of methodological approaches.
- There are other programs that accept education research proposals related to STEM teacher preparation (e.g., DRK-12, ECR, IUSE, STEM+C). To determine best fit, contact relevant program officers.
15-530 changes from 14-508

- Separates the previous TF/MTF track into two tracks and adds a research track:
  - Track 1: Scholarships & Stipends (S&S)
  - Track 2: NSF Teaching Fellowships (TF)
  - Track 3: NSF Master Teaching Fellowships (MTF)
  - Track 4: Research on the Preparation, Recruitment, and Retention of K-12 STEM Teachers
- Revises the previous additional budget limitation information to stipulate that:
  - Budgets for Tracks 1, 2, and 3 must allocate at least 60% of the total requested Direct Costs to scholarships, stipends, fellowships, or salary supplements.

15-530 changes from 14-508

- Makes Phase 2 projects in Tracks 1, 2, and 3 eligible (along with Phase 1 and Capacity Building) to request additional funds if the project involves a significant collaboration among two-year and four-year institutions. For more information see the Budget Limitations sections in each track.
- Eliminates the Phase 2 Monitoring and Evaluation project option.
- Includes a Definitions of Terms section.
- Establishes the full proposal due date for FY16 funded projects as August 4, 2015.
- Eliminates letters of intent (previously optional).

Preparing the Proposal

Solicitation Section V

Project Summary (1 page)

Overview: The first sentence must:

- indicate the specific Track and category of the proposal (e.g., S&S Phase 1); and
- name all institutions, including high-need local educational agencies and non-profit organizations as appropriate, that are involved in the proposal.

Intellectual Merit

Broader Impacts
**Project Description (15 pages)**

Tracks 1, 2, and 3 (S&S, TF, MTF)
Be sure to include descriptions of the proposed

- strategies for recruitment,
- strategies for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the teaching commitment/repayment,
- evaluation and research plan,
- plans for dissemination of the results of the project and for contributing to the knowledge base.

See Section V of the solicitation for additional details.

**Project Description (15 pages)**

Track 4 (Noyce Research)
Be sure to include descriptions of the proposed

- linkages to the literature base,
- well-focused research questions/hypotheses,
- methods aligned with the theory and questions/hypotheses,
- contribution to/implications for implementation,
- contribution to knowledge and theory,
- strategies for dissemination,
- plans for objective external feedback.

See Section V of the solicitation for additional details.

**Additional Resources**

nsfnoyce.org


- includes the *NSF Grant Proposal Guide*
- includes detailed instructions on items such as required biosketches, required Data Management Plan, IRB approval, allowable budget items, etc.

**NSF 13-126: Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development (ED and NSF)**

- and NSF 13-127: Related FAQs

**Proposal Processing and Merit Review Criteria**

Solicitation Section VI
Proposal Processing and Timeline

Who reviews?

Experts in
- STEM education
- STEM content
- research/assessment methodology
- cognitive science, psychology, sociology, anthropology
- school-based experts
- others as appropriate for the set of proposals submitted

The Proposer Receives...

NSF Merit Review Criteria

Guiding Principles

- All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
- NSF projects, in the aggregate, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals.
- Meaningful assessment and evaluation of NSF funded projects should be based on appropriate metrics, keeping in mind the likely correlation between the effect of broader impacts and the resources provided to implement projects.
**NSF Merit Review Criteria**

**Required**

- **Intellectual Merit**: The intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and

- **Broader Impacts**: The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

**NSF Merit Review Criteria**

**Required**

**NSF Merit Review Criteria**

**(unpacked)**

**Intellectual Merit**

- Importance to advancing knowledge and understanding
- Creative, original, and/or potentially transformative
- Proposers’ qualifications
- Sufficient access to resources
- Proposed activity well-conceived and organized
- Data management plan
- Post-doc mentoring plan, if applicable
- Evaluation

**Broader Impacts**

- Promote teaching, training, and learning?
- Enhance the infrastructure for research and education? Partnership development?
- Disseminate results broadly?
- Benefit society?

**NSF Merit Review Criteria**

**(unpacked)**

**Elements**

The following elements should be considered in the review for both Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
   a) advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
   b) benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or institution to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home institution or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?
Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

In addition to the above criteria, for Phase 1 and Phase 2 proposals in Track 1 (S&S), Track 2 (TF), and Track 3 (MTF), reviewers will be asked to consider the evidence of the following central issues (including results of prior Noyce awards, if applicable):

- The extent to which the proposed work attends to the expectations and requirements discussed in Section II Program Description relevant to the track to which the proposal is being submitted.
- The potential of the project to recruit, prepare, and retain STEM majors and/or STEM professionals (for S&S and TF) or develop and retain NSF Master Teaching Fellows (for MTF), in teaching careers in high-need local educational agencies.
- The quality of the academic requirements and other components of the program, the extent to which the proposed preparation, recruitment, and retention strategies reflect effective practices based on research.
- That the institution is committed to sustaining the program beyond the period of NSF funding (with the possible exception of funds for scholarships/stipends/fellowships).

What Makes a Proposal Competitive?

- Original ideas
- Succinct, focused project plan
- Realistic amount of work
- Sufficient detail provided
- Cost effective
- High impact
- Knowledge and experience of PIs
- Contribution to the field
- Rationale and evidence of potential effectiveness
- Likelihood the project will be sustained
- Solid evaluation plan

Common Weaknesses: Scholarship Track

- Proposal does not follow guidelines for Noyce Program
- Failure to indicate students will complete STEM major (not change to Science Education or Math Education major
- Little information about teacher preparation program
- Unrealistic projections
- Recruitment and selection strategies not well described
- Lack of support for new teachers
- Lack of involvement of STEM faculty (or education faculty)
- Lacks plans for monitoring compliance with teaching requirement
- Weak evaluation or lacks objective evaluator
- Does not address Prior Results or Lessons Learned
- Lacks details
Common Weaknesses of TF/MTF Proposals

- Insufficient details for preservice and induction program for Teaching Fellows and professional development program for Master Teaching Fellows
- Vague recruitment plans
- Selection plans do not follow guidelines
- Master Teacher roles and responsibilities not discussed
- Matching funds not identified
- Role of non-profit organization not clear
- School district partnership not strong
- Evaluation weak

Tips for Success

- Be aware of other projects and advances in the field
- Cite the literature
- Provide details
- Discuss prior results as applicable
- Include evaluation plan with timelines and benchmarks
- Put yourself in the reviewers’ place
- Consider reviewers’ comments if resubmitting proposal
- Have someone else read the proposal
- Spell check; grammar check
- Call or email NSF Program Officers

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