

## **NSF Early Career Development Program (CAREER)**

Program Solicitation NSF 20-525

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20525/nsf20525.htm>

**Deadline:** All proposals due July 27, 2020

**Proposal Submission Timeline:** Created by NSF includes answers to the following questions:

Do you have a NSF ID?

You have a NSF ID by haven't signed in for an extended period of time.

NSF recommends submitting the proposal 10 days before the due date to make sure that there are no errors.

[https://www.research.gov/common/attachment/Common/Career\\_deadline.pdf](https://www.research.gov/common/attachment/Common/Career_deadline.pdf)

**Minimum Funding Amount:** The CAREER award, including indirect costs, is expected to total a minimum of \$400,000 for the 5-year duration, with the following exceptions: Awards for proposals to the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO), the Directorate for Engineering (ENG), or the Office of Polar Programs (OPP) are expected to total a minimum of \$500,000 for the 5-year duration.

**Eligibility:** Proposers must meet all of the following eligibility requirements as of the annual deadline:

- Hold a doctoral degree in a field supported by NSF;
- Be engaged in research in an area of science, engineering, or education supported by NSF;
- Hold at least a 50% tenure-track (or tenure-track-equivalent) position as an assistant professor (or equivalent title);
- Be untenured; and
- Have not previously received a CAREER award. (Prior or concurrent Federal support for other types of awards for non-duplicative research does not preclude eligibility.)

### **Restrictions:**

- Because the CAREER program is intended to foster individual career development, partners or collaborators on the project, while allowed, **may not be designated as co-PIs**. Proposals submitted with co-PIs will be returned without review.
- No appendices are permitted on CAREER proposals.
- No letters of support or recommendation may be included with CAREER proposals.
- CAREER proposals may not duplicate (or be substantially similar to) proposals already under consideration by NSF from the same investigator. In other words, your CAREER proposal must be substantially distinct from any other proposal awarded or under consideration by NSF.
- Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

**Requirements:** Follow the instructions in the NSF 20-1, June 1, 2020 version of the [NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#).

- **Project Title.** The project title must begin with "CAREER:" and follow with an informative title.
- **Project Summary.** Each proposal must contain a summary of the proposed project not more than one page in length. The Project Summary consists of an overview, a statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity.

- **Project Description.** The project description cannot exceed 15 pages.
- **References.** Provide references in support of *both research and education aspects* of the CAREER proposal.
- **Budget and Budget Justification.** Work with your grants manager to create the budget and budget justification.
- **Biographical Sketch of the Principal Investigator.** NSF requires a biographical sketch (limited to two pages) for each individual identified as senior personnel. Detailed information about the content is available in the [Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\), Chapter II.C.2.f](#). The biosketch should include both research and education activities and accomplishments.
- **Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources.** This section of the proposal is used to assess the adequacy of the resources available to perform the effort proposed to satisfy both the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts review criteria. Proposers should describe only those resources that are directly applicable. Proposers should include an aggregated description of the internal and external resources (both physical and personnel) that the organization and its collaborators will provide to the project, should it be funded. Such information must be provided in this section, in lieu of other parts of the proposal (e.g., Budget Justification, Project Description). The description should be narrative in nature and must not include any quantifiable financial information. Reviewers will evaluate the information during the merit review process and the cognizant NSF Program Officer will review it for programmatic and technical sufficiency.
- **Departmental Letter.** The letter cannot be more than 2 pages in length and include the department head's name and title below the signature. Required elements are found in the RFP.
- **Letters of Collaboration.** If the project involves collaborative arrangements of significance, these arrangements should be documented through letters of collaboration. Letters of collaboration should be limited to stating the intent to collaborate and should not contain endorsements or evaluation of the proposed project. Letters of collaboration should follow the single-sentence format:

“If the proposal submitted by Dr. [insert the full name of the Principal Investigator] entitled [insert the proposal title] is selected for funding by the NSF, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the Project Description or the Facilities, Equipment or Other Resources section of the proposal.”