

**The T-AP Digging into Data Challenge
Request for Proposals
Addendum for Applicants to the
National Science Foundation (NSF)**

Note: This addendum to the T-AP Digging into Data Challenge Request for Proposals contains agency-specific information for US-based institutions applying to the program. Please see the Digging into Data Challenge Web site, www.diggingintodata.org, for links to the main RFP and the RFP Addenda for all funders.

Applications will initially be submitted through the Digging into Data Challenge online portal. Following panel review and Program Officer deliberations, those PIs whose applications have been recommended for funding through NSF will be asked to submit a copy of the original application, plus additional documents required for all NSF applications, to NSF's FastLane system or to Grants.gov.

Applicants are reminded that in order to be considered for funding from the NSF, submissions must be compliant with NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG) as well as the Digging into Data Request for Proposals and this Addendum for Applicants to the National Science Foundation. A revised version of the [PAPPG, NSF 16-1](#), became effective on January 25, 2016. Please be advised that the guidelines contained in NSF 16-1 apply to applications submitted in response to this funding opportunity.

Cognizant Program Officer:

Joan Maling, telephone: 703-292-8046, email: jmaling@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

FastLane Help Desk, telephone: 1-800-673-6188; e-mail: fastlane@nsf.gov.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 47.075

I. Program Description

<see RFP>

II. Award Information

Awards from NSF are up to \$175,000 for a single U.S. institution. If multiple U.S. institutions are collaborating, then the maximum award is increased to \$200,000. The maximum award duration is three years. Please see the RFP for more details.

Cost Sharing: Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited. See the PAPPG, Part I: *Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)* [Chapter II.C.2.g\(xi\)](#) for further information.

III. Eligibility

Eligibility is limited to

- Universities and Colleges: Universities and two- and four-year colleges (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the U.S., acting on behalf of their faculty members. Such organizations are also referred to as academic institutions;
- Non-profit, non-academic organizations with IRS tax-exempt status: independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities; and
- State and local governmental agencies and federally-recognized Indian tribal organizations.

Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Degree candidates may not be principal investigators.

Principal investigators may submit only one application to this program at a time, although they may participate in two Digging into Data projects. They may also apply for other NSF awards. NSF generally does not award grants to other federal entities or to applicants whose projects are so closely intertwined with a federal entity that the project takes on characteristics of the federal entity's own authorized activities. This does not preclude applicants from using grant funds from, or sites and materials controlled by, other federal entities in their projects.

IV. Application and Submission Information

As described above, applications will initially be submitted through the T-AP Digging into Data Challenge on-line portal. Following panel review and Program Officer deliberations, those PIs whose applications have been selected for funding by NSF will be asked to submit a copy of the original application plus additional documents required for all NSF applications to NSF's FastLane system. For applications submitted via FastLane, standard guidelines in the PAPPG apply.

The list below describes how items required in applications required for submission to NSF relate to those submitted to the T-AP Digging into Data Challenge portal. Note that this list is not all inclusive. NSF applications must conform to all NSF submission requirements, as described in [Chapter II – Proposal Preparation Instructions](#) of the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG).

- 1. NSF Cover Sheet (additional NSF requirement):** For the Program Announcement/Solicitation select: "NSF 16-1 Grant Proposal Guide (GPG)", for the Division select: "SMA-SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities", and for the Program select: "DiD Challenge".
- 2. Project Summary (maximum of one page, similar to Statement of Significance portion of the Digging into Data application):** For NSF the Project Summary must consist of an overview, a statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity. The overview includes a description of the activity that would result if the proposal is funded, and a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. The statement on intellectual merit should describe the potential of the proposed activity to advance knowledge. The statement on broader impacts should describe the potential of the proposed activity to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes. The Project Summary should be written in the third person, informative to other persons working in the same or related fields, and insofar as

possible, understandable to a scientifically or technically literate lay reader. It should not be an abstract of the proposal.

3. **Table of Contents (required in the Digging into Data application).** The Table of Contents is automatically generated in FastLane.
4. **Project Description (similar to the Narrative portion of the Digging into Data Application).** In addition to the components required for the T-AP Digging into Data Challenge applications, for NSF the Project Description must also contain, as a separate section within the narrative, a discussion of the broader impacts of the proposed activities. Broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through the activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. The Project Description should also discuss results from any prior NSF support in the last 5 years, as described in the GPG.
5. **References Cited (required in the Digging into Data application).**
6. **Biographical Sketches (equates to the Résumés portion of the Digging into Data application).**
7. **Budget and Budget Justification (required in the Digging into Data application).**
8. **Current and Pending Support (additional NSF requirement).**
9. **Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources (additional NSF requirement).**
10. **Special Information and Supplementary Documentation.**
 - a. **Data Management Plan (maximum of two pages; required in Digging into Data application):** All NSF applications must describe plans for data management and sharing of the products of research, or assert the absence of the need for such plans. FastLane will not permit submission of an application that is missing a Data Management Plan. The Data Management Plan will be reviewed as part of the intellectual merit or broader impacts of the proposal, or both, as appropriate. Links to data management requirements and plans relevant to specific Directorates, Offices, Divisions, or other NSF units are available on the NSF website at: <http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/dmp.jsp>. See [Chapter II.C.2.j](#) of the GPG for further information about the implementation of this requirement.
 - b. **Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan (if funding for postdoctoral researchers is requested; additional NSF requirement):** Each application that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers must include, as a supplementary document, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. FastLane will not permit submission of an application that lacks a Postdoctoral Researcher Mentoring Plan if the budget includes support for a postdoctoral researcher. See [Chapter II.C.2.j](#) of the GPG for further information about the implementation of this requirement.
 - c. **List of Participants (similar to list of participants required in the Project, Management, Dissemination, and Communications Plan of the Digging into Data application):** This information must be submitted to NSF as a Single Copy Document.

V. Application Review

<see RFP>

NSF Merit Review Criteria

All NSF applications are evaluated through the use of the two National Science Board (NSB)-approved merit review criteria: intellectual merit and the broader impacts of the proposed

activities. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

Proposers should familiarize themselves with the Merit Review Principles and Criteria described in [GPG Chapter III.A](#). The following link provides a number of resources for the external community on NSF's Revised Merit Review Criteria:

http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/resources.jsp. Applicants are advised to read through these documents prior to submitting a proposal.

NSF Review Process

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the application should be declined or recommended for award. After programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications. After an administrative review has occurred, Grants and Agreements Officers perform the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at their own risk.

Once an award or declination decision has been made, Principal Investigators are provided feedback about their proposals. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers or any reviewer-identifying information, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

VI. Award Administration Information Addendum

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the application referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (GC-1)*, or Research Terms and Conditions*; and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreements are also administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organizations via e-mail.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at http://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award_conditions.jsp?org=NSF. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827, or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov. More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Award and*

Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants, the Principal Investigator (PI) must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer no later than 90 days before the end of the current budget period for an award. Also, no later than 120 days following the expiration of an award, the PI is required to submit a final project report. This report is reviewed by the award's managing Program Officer; the reporting requirement is met only after the Program Officer has reviewed and approved the report. NSF also requires that PIs submit a non-technical, Project Outcomes Report (POR), for the general public no later than 120 days following the expiration of an award. This report is submitted and posted on the Research.gov website exactly as submitted, without review by a Program Officer.

Failure to provide the required annual or final project reports or the project outcomes report will delay NSF review and processing of any future funding increments as well as any pending proposals for that PI (or any co-PIs).

Reports are submitted through NSF's Project Reporting System, available through Research.gov. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data. Annual and final project reports provide information on:

- **Accomplishments:** What was done and learned?
- **Products:** What has the project produced?
- **Participants and Other Collaborating Organizations:** Who has been involved?
- **Impact:** What is the impact of the project? How has it contributed?
- **Changes/Problems**
- **Special Reporting Requirements** (where applicable): Grantees will be required to submit a white paper, which will be due within ninety days after the end of the grant period. This white paper should document the project, including lessons learned, so that others can benefit. This white paper will be posted on the DiD website.

Submission of the report via Research.gov constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate and complete.

VII. Other Information

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science; [and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school

systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the US. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research. NSF receives approximately 40,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects, of which approximately 11,000 are funded. In addition, the Foundation receives several thousand applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. The agency operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, user facilities, certain oceanographic vessels and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry, US participation in international scientific and engineering efforts, and educational activities at every academic level.

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities to work on NSF-supported projects. See Grant Proposal Guide Chapter II, Section D.2 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals. The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090 and (800) 281-8749, FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

The National Science Foundation Information Center may be reached at (703) 292-5111.

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

To get the latest information about program deadlines, to download copies of NSF publications, and to access abstracts of awards, visit the NSF Website at <http://www.nsf.gov>

Location: 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22230

For General Information: (703) 292-5111

TDD (for the hearing-impaired): (703) 292-5090

To Order Publications or Forms: Send an e-mail to: nsfpubs@nsf.gov or telephone: (703) 292-7827

To Locate NSF Employees: (703) 292-5111

PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; and project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the proposal review process; to proposer institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies or other entities needing information regarding Proposers or nominees as part of a joint application review process, or in order to coordinate programs or policy; and to another Federal agency, court, or party in a court

or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 69 Federal Register 26410 (May 12, 2004). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

Suzanne H. Plimpton
Reports Clearance Officer
Office of the General Counsel
National Science Foundation
Arlington, VA 22230