NSF Proposal Changes Effective January 14th, 2013

A new version of the NSF *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), (NSF 13-1), has been issued. The PAPPG is comprised of documents relating to the Foundation's proposal and award process and consists of the:

> a. *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG) for guidance on the preparation and submission of proposals to NSF; and
> b. *Award & Administration Guide* (AAG) to guide, manage, and monitor the award and administration of grants and cooperative agreements made by the Foundation.

This new version of the PAPPG will be effective for **proposals submitted or due on or after January 14, 2013**. Significant changes to the PAPPG include:

- Revisions to the NSF Merit Review Criteria which implement the National Science Board's (NSB) recommendations. Changes will affect the:
    - **Project Summary** - FastLane has been modified to display three separate text boxes in which proposers must provide an Overview and address the "Intellectual Merit' and "Broader Impacts" of the proposed activity. Because FastLane will enable the criteria to be separately addressed (still within one page), proposers will no longer need to include separate headings.
    - **Project Description** - In the past, the Project Description needed to include a description of broader impacts as an integral part of the narrative. The Project Description must now contain, as a separate section within the narrative, a discussion of the broader impacts of the proposed activities. This section also was updated to indicate that Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact activities must be described in two separate sections in the summary of Results from Prior NSF Support.

- Instructions for preparation of the **Biographical Sketch** have been revised to rename the "Publications" section to "Products" and amend terminology and instructions accordingly. This change makes clear that products may include, but are not limited to, publications, data sets, software, patents, and copyrights.

- Coverage on compensation of Indirect Costs (also known as Facilities and Administrative Costs (F&A) for Colleges and Universities) has been clarified to specify that, except as noted in the GPG sections on participant support and international travel grants, or as specified in an NSF program solicitation, the applicable indirect cost rate(s) negotiated by the organization with the cognizant negotiating agency must be used in computing indirect costs for a proposal.

- Modification of the **Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources** has been supplemented to indicate that an aggregated description of the internal and external resources that are, or will be available to the project (both physical and personnel) should be provided. A new format for submission of the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources information will be available in FastLane when the PAPPG becomes effective in January 2013. The new format will assist proposers in complying with the NSF cost sharing policy.

- Additional proposal certifications must be submitted by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) covering organizational support of the proposed research, tax obligations/liability and felony convictions.

- Numerous clarifications also have been made throughout the document.

A by-chapter summary of the changes is provided at the beginning of both the *Grant Proposal Guide* and the *Award & Administration Guide* to assist with identifying the changes. Because the revisions to the merit review criteria will have broad repercussions for proposers, reviewers and NSF staff, the Foundation is conducting extensive outreach to the internal and external NSF communities. This purposeful communication is intended to ensure a broad understanding of the revisions to the merit review criteria and provide easy access to supporting materials including:

- A revised [NSF Merit Review website](#) with updated information about the revisions;

- A [resource website for the proposer community](#) containing presentations, fact sheets and other important links; and