Opportunity: NSF 21-606: *Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)*
Due Date: July 25th 2022, Fourth Monday of July

Program: *CAREER*: The Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program is a Foundation-wide activity that offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. Activities pursued by early-career faculty should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research. NSF encourages submission of CAREER proposals from early-career faculty at all CAREER-eligible organizations and especially encourages women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and persons with disabilities to apply.

PECASE: Each year NSF selects nominees for the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from among the most meritorious recent CAREER awardees. Selection for this award is based on two important criteria: 1) innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology that is relevant to the mission of NSF, and 2) community service demonstrated through scientific leadership, education, or community outreach. These awards foster innovative developments in science and technology, increase awareness of careers in science and engineering, give recognition to the scientific missions of the participating agencies, enhance connections between fundamental research and national goals, and highlight the importance of science and technology for the Nation's future. Individuals cannot apply for PECASE. These awards are initiated by the participating federal agencies. At NSF, up to twenty nominees for this award are selected each year from among the PECASE-eligible CAREER awardees most likely to become the leaders of academic research and education in the twenty-first century. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy makes the final selection and announcement of the awardees.

Limitations: An eligible Principal Investigator may submit only one CAREER proposal per annual competition.
Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization: There are no restrictions or limits.
Other Eligibility Criteria:
- 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.)

Format: Standard NSF PAPPG font, format, and line spacing expectations – Click Here

---

Contents

1. **Cover Sheet**.
   - **Program Solicitation Number.** FastLane users: Select the CAREER program solicitation number shown at the beginning of this solicitation from the drop-down menu. Research.gov Users: Select the CAREER program solicitation number in Step 1 of the Prepare New Proposal Wizard (Funding Opportunity). Grants.gov users: The program solicitation will be pre-populated by Grants.gov on the NSF Grant Application Cover Page.
   - **NSF Unit of Consideration.** Select at least one specific core program from the drop-down list in FastLane as the NSF program(s) to consider the proposal. Research.gov users: Select at least one specific core program in Step 2 of the Prepare New Proposal Wizard (Where to Apply). Grants.gov users should refer to Section VI.1.2. of the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide for specific instructions on how to designate the NSF Unit of Consideration. For assistance in determining which program(s) to choose, refer to the NSF Guide to Programs, which provides descriptions of NSF research-supporting programs.
   - **Project Title.** The project title must begin with "CAREER:" and follow with an informative title.
   - **Co-PIs.** No co-PIs are permitted on the Cover Sheet.
2. **Project Summary** (one-page limit): The Project Summary consists of an overview, intellectual merit, and the broader impacts sections.
3. **Project Description** (15-pages): Items A through I in addition to standard and mandatory "Broader Impacts" and "Results from Prior NSF Support" sections.
   - a description of the proposed research project, including preliminary supporting data where appropriate, specific objectives, methods and procedures to be used, and expected significance of the results;
   - a description of the proposed educational activities and their intended impact;
   - a description of how the research and educational activities are integrated or synergistic;
   - a description of other broader impacts, besides the education activities, that will accrue from the project; and
   - results of prior NSF support, if applicable.
4. **References Cited Document**: No page limit

5. **Biosketches**: for the PI and the Co-PI and any senior personnel. NSF set [template](#) or SciENcv. Suggest using the template – it is easy to update.
6. **Current and Pending**: for the PI and the Co-PI and any senior personnel. NSF set [template](#) or SciENcv. Suggest using the template – it is easy to update.
7. **Data Management Plan**: 2-pages, template added
8. **Postdoc Mentoring Plan**: Only if there is a postdoc on the budget; 1-page template added
9. **Facilities Document**: No page limit, no URLs or links allowed
10. **Budget**: In addition to developing a matching budget, allocate some monies to educational activities as well.
11. **Budget Justification**: 5-pages max
12. *Single Copy Documents*
    A. *COA*: for the PI and the Co-PI and any senior personnel. NSF set Excel [template](#).
13. **Letters of Collaboration**: The recommended format for letters of collaboration is as follows: *"If the proposal submitted by [insert the full name of the Principal Investigator] entitled [insert the proposal title] is selected for funding by 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."*
14. <mark>IMPORTANT</mark>: **Department Head Letter** (2-pages): a proposal submitted without this Letter will be returned without review

Merit Review Principles

- **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.

The following elements should be considered in the review for both criteria:

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 organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?