

# Alliances For Graduate Education And The Professoriate (AGEP)

---

## Program Solicitation

*NSF 01-138*

DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

**FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE(S) :**

**October 16, 2001 (Annual Deadline for all FYs beyond will be October 16th.)**



**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**



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 Web Site at:

<http://www.nsf.gov>

- **Location:** 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22230
- **For General Information (NSF Information Center):** (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired)** (703) 292-5090 or (800) 281-8749
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**
  - Send an e-mail to: [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov)
  - or telephone: (703) 292-7827
- **To Locate NSF Employees:** (703) 292-5111

# SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

---

---

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Program Title:** Alliances For Graduate Education And The Professoriate (AGEP)

**Synopsis of Program:**

**Cognizant Program Officer(s):**

- Dr. Roosevelt Y. Johnson, Program Director, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Division of Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703)292-4669, e-mail: [ryjohnso@nsf.gov](mailto:ryjohnso@nsf.gov).

**Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):**

- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources

## ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Organization Limit:** Limited to alliances consisting of two or more doctoral degree granting institutions serving SMET graduate education needs. One institution must be designated as the lead institution for the project. Secondary partner institutions (non doctoral granting) may participate in an alliance as subawardees. An institution may be a primary member in only one alliance.
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** The Chief Academic Officer of the lead Institution should serve as the Principal Investigator. Individual investigators are ineligible for support.
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** Only one proposal may be submitted per alliance.

## AWARD INFORMATION

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Cooperative Agreement
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** Two-four awards anticipated in FY 2002.
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** Approximately \$1-2 million pending availability of funds in FY 2002.

# PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

## *A. Proposal Preparation Instructions*

- **Full Proposals:** Deviations From Standard Preparation Guidelines
  - The program announcement/solicitation contains deviations from the standard Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

## *B. Budgetary Information*

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is required (Percentage).
- **Cost Sharing Level/Amount:** 30
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** None
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

## *C. Deadline/Target Dates*

- **Letters of Intent (*optional*):** None
- **Preliminary Proposals (*optional*):** None
- **Full Proposal Deadline Date(s):**

October 16, 2001 (Annual Deadline for all FYs beyond will be October 16th.)

## *D. FastLane Requirements*

- **FastLane Submission:** Required
- **FastLane Contact(s):**
  - Victoria Smoot, Financial Operations Specialist, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Division of Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703)292-4677, e-mail: [vsmoot@nsf.gov](mailto:vsmoot@nsf.gov).

# PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

- **Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review considerations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

## **AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

- **Award Conditions:** Additional award conditions apply. Please see the program announcement/solicitation for further information.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Additional reporting requirements apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The U.S. continues to suffer from a long-standing underrepresentation of minorities among science, mathematics and engineering doctorates. This untapped talent has serious consequences for the nation's ability to compete in a world economy driven by technological advances, as well as for a large segment of the nation's citizens who suffer loss of opportunity. This underrepresentation is evident in all sectors: academe, industry, and government.

The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program is intended to increase significantly the number of students receiving doctoral degrees in the sciences, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SMET), with special emphasis on those population groups underrepresented in these fields. In addition, since lack of role models and mentors in the professoriate constitutes a significant barrier to producing minority SMET graduates, NSF is particularly interested in increasing the number of minorities who will enter the professoriate in these disciplines. Specific objectives of the AGEP program are (1) to develop and implement innovative models for recruiting, mentoring, and retaining minority students in SMET doctoral programs and (2) to develop effective strategies for identifying and supporting underrepresented minorities who want to pursue academic careers.

Over the years, both government and private sectors have invested significant resources to increase minority representation in advanced SMET study and careers. While some exemplary programs exist, limited progress has been made overall.

## **II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

**GOAL...** The goal of the AGEP program is to increase the number of minority students pursuing advanced study, obtaining doctoral degrees, and entering the professoriate in SMET disciplines. Alliances participating in this program are expected to engage in comprehensive institutional cultural changes that will lead to sustained increases in the conferral of SMET doctoral degrees, significantly exceeding historic levels of performance.

**ALLIANCES...** Alliances consisting of two or more doctoral degree granting institutions serving the SMET graduate education needs of minorities are eligible to submit proposals. One institution must be designated as the lead institution for the project. Institutions in the U.S. and its territories having documented success in translating minority matriculates into degree recipients are strongly encouraged to participate. A single institution may participate in only one alliance. Through the alliance, it is anticipated that the strengths of the respective individual institutions will be maximized to serve the AGEP program goals. Alliance commitment will be assessed with respect to willingness and ability of participating institutions to align relevant financial and operational resources to the goals articulated by this program. To ensure commitment and the potential for success, the Chief Academic Officer from the lead institution should serve as the Principal Investigator (PI).

**ACTIVITIES...** The proposal should clearly describe strategies to ensure effective recruitment, mentoring, retention, and degree completion of minority students. Strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) support for students to attend conferences,
- 2) coordinated recruitment among partner institutions,
- 3) proactive use of faculty in student recruitment,
- 4) development of systemic mentoring and mentor training,
- 5) faculty and student exchange programs,
- 6) specific preparation for the professoriate, and
- 7) more effective career counseling and career placement.

In support of the activities described above, the program provides funding in a variety of cost categories, including:

- 1) provision for faculty release time,
- 2) program coordination and clerical support (partial),
- 3) special workshop / seminar support costs,
- 4) faculty / student travel between institutions (e.g., recruitment, joint research, etc.)
- 5) peer mentoring stipends, and
- 6) evaluation and assessment costs (partial).

Under the AGEP program, NSF intends to support a portfolio of projects that serve as effective models for addressing these issues. Proposals should clearly describe strategies for increasing minority student admissions; for creating supportive environments for these students at both the institutional and departmental levels; as well as for developing student interest in, and preparation for, academic careers (teaching and other faculty roles). Relevant strategies may include, for example, developing partnerships with undergraduate institutions that produce large numbers of minority SMET majors (e.g., Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs), Tribal Colleges); providing minority undergraduates with enriched academic and research experiences that place strong emphasis on obtaining doctorates and pursuing academic careers; and/or developing student networks or mentoring programs at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels. Projects are also strongly encouraged to develop linkages with the NSF-supported the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) projects, which also produce large numbers of minority SMET graduates. The activities described are merely illustrative of the broad range of activities that are possible under the AGEP program.

The AGEP program stresses the building of a well-documented knowledge base of successful strategies. Awardees will be required to participate in a program-level evaluation by which NSF can assess quantitative gains in relevant measures for minority students and make qualitative assessments of the process of change. Shortly after awards have been made, project evaluators will be asked to assist a NSF contractor in developing a program evaluation that will mutually benefit the agency and project participants. AGEP projects are expected to have the capability of collecting and analyzing data derived from program evaluation activities.

PROJECT EVALUATION... It is expected that each AGEP project will complement its efforts with its own formative evaluation. This evaluation should be the basis for strengthening implementation over the course of the project and for annual reporting to NSF that will be used to justify continued investment in the project. Proposals should provide suggestions of

objectives, benchmarks, and indicators of progress that will inform reviewers of the proposers' understanding of essential factors for judging accountability, both quantitative (minority enrollment and Ph.D. production) and qualitative (the process of change in organizational culture). This evaluation must show an effective process by which student progress will be assessed on an annual basis.

**ALLOWABLE STUDENT SUPPORT...** Student support is allowable, but AGEP is not intended to be a fellowship program. If financial support is requested, proposals must clearly explain the need being addressed, as well as student recruitment, selection and accountability criteria. Allowable student support is limited to financial support for employing team building principles (e.g., collaborative learning experiences, small group clustering in academic sections, structured work-study groups), individual skill development (e.g., participation in special seminars and colloquia), involvement in research (e.g., stipends or salary for academic-year or summer research programs, and related personal career counseling and mentoring), and other activities designed to enhance student experiences and student/faculty/mentor interaction. AGEP will also provide direct support to enable students to attend summer enrichment activities and to participate in other activities throughout the academic year. Please note that student support can only be provided to U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent U.S. residents.

**PAST PERFORMANCE INFORMATION...** To aid reviewers in assessing past performance of proposing institutions, proposals should include the following baseline data over the 1994-present time period (for U.S. citizens, nationals, and permanent U.S. residents only):

- the sum and the average of the numbers of minority SMET Ph.D. conferrals per year as well as the sum and the averages of minority SMET graduate enrollments for each SMET department, disaggregated by population subgroup (e.g., African American, Hispanic, and Native American);
- annual total and minority baccalaureate and master's degree conferrals for SMET departments of the submitting alliance institutions and,
- annual numbers of underrepresented minority students who have left the same programs without completing their degrees.

### **III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

**ELIGIBLE FIELDS AND DISCIPLINES...** Projects involving any of the SMET fields normally supported by NSF are eligible.

Projects are expected to be comprehensive, broadly covering SMET departments. All participating departments must be explicitly identified in the proposal. Individual institutions, single graduate departments, and individual investigators are ineligible for support under the AGEP program.

### **IV. AWARD INFORMATION**

AGEP awards are up to five years in duration, and only one AGEP award is allowable per

alliance. Awards will be made up to a level of \$500,000 per year, with the funding level depending on numbers of students served and factors related to the project design. The purpose of these awards is to catalyze changes in institutional, departmental, and organizational culture and practices that will result in significant increases in the recruitment, retention, degree conferral, and SMET career (especially academic) entry of minority students.

## **V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS**

### **A. Proposal Preparation Instructions**

#### **Full Proposal:**

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement/solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF Web Site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpg>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

Full proposals must contain the following elements in the order indicated. Proposals that do not strictly adhere to the specified page limitations (given below) will be ineligible for consideration and will be returned without review. The proposals should be prepared and submitted in accordance with specific guidelines provided in this document and the general guidelines provided in the Grant Proposal Guide (NSF 01-2). Specifically, the proposal should include the following:

1. Cover Sheet for Proposals with Institutional Certifications should specify "AGEP" at the beginning of the title and list the solicitation number NSF 01-138 in the appropriate box. Select Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) as the appropriate NSF program and Division of Human Resource Development (HRD) as the NSF division to be entered on the proposal cover sheet.
2. Project Summary. Provide a brief (200 words or less) description of the project, clearly stating objectives and strategies to be employed.
3. Project Description. The narrative (not to exceed 15 single-spaced typed pages) presents most of the information that determines whether an award will be made.

Proposals should clearly articulate project objectives, planned outcomes with respect to recruitment, retention, and degree conferral of minority students; project monitoring guidelines; and how outcomes will be measured.

Proposals should:

- a) demonstrate understanding of issues and awareness of, and coordination with, related programs;
- b) describe proposed activities, indicating unique aspects of the project and logic underlying its development;
- c) state plans for institutionalization of these strategies after NSF support ends;

- d) provide baseline statistics and describe anticipated project impact;
- e) identify major project participants (alliance partners and key personnel), clearly articulating their capabilities and roles;
- f) describe plans for coordination and management of activities;
- g) describe grantee contributions to the project in terms of support for activities; and
- h) describe indicators and other evaluative information for monitoring annual progress.

If the prospective PI or Co-PI(s) received support for related NSF activities within the past five years, a brief description of project(s) and outcome(s) must be provided in sufficient detail to enable reviewers to assess the value of results achieved. Projects should be identified by NSF award number, amount, period of support, title, summary of results, and list of publications and formal presentations that acknowledge the NSF award. Descriptions of prior NSF support should be limited to five pages and must be included as part of the 15-page limit.

Alliance institutions that are award recipients of NSF programs that promote involvement of minorities in higher education must describe the value-added and complementarity of these efforts. Such programs include the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP), Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST), Historically Black College and Universities-Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP), and Minority Institutions of Excellence (MIE).

4. Biographical Sketches. Biographical sketches of key project personnel (each no more than two pages in length) should highlight relevant experience in recruiting, academic and career mentoring, and producing minority SMET Ph.D. recipients and knowledge of research methodologies, higher education, minority participation in advanced SMET study and workforce entry, etc. Up to 10 major relevant publications may be listed for each of the key personnel.

5. Timeline for Major Project Benchmarks. Upload this timeline as a file into Supplementary Docs in FastLane. (1 page maximum)

6. Budget and Allowable Costs. The budget should be prepared using the Budget Form available in FastLane. Signed budgets should be prepared for each year of support requested, and a cumulative budget for all years of support requested. No funds for faculty research or faculty salaries may be requested. While provision of limited student support is allowable, the AGEP program is not intended to be a fellowship program. Signed annual and cumulative budgets and budget justifications should also be included for each proposed subaward.

Students receiving support must be citizens, nationals, or permanent residents of the U.S. Limited funds intended to partially defray the costs of research by students may be requested.

Annual budgets should include requests for funds to support annual visits to NSF in Arlington, VA for (1) the PI and lead representatives from the alliance and (2) project evaluators.

7. Budget Justification. A brief justification for funds in each budget category should be provided. This section (three pages maximum) should also include details of institutional cost-sharing, and of other sources of support. Details of institutional cost sharing and other sources of support in the proposal will be referenced and included as a condition of an award resulting from

this solicitation. See the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG, NSF 01-2) for allowable cost-sharing activities. The proposed cost sharing must be shown in the NSF FastLane budget form.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program solicitation number (NSF 01-138) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207). Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

## **B. Budgetary Information**

Cost sharing at a level of 30 percent of the requested total amount of NSF funds is required for all proposals submitted in response to this solicitation. The proposed cost sharing must be shown on Line M on the proposal budget. Documentation of the availability of cost sharing must be included in the proposal. Only items which would be allowable under the applicable cost principles, if charged to the project, may be included in the awardee's contribution to cost sharing. Contributions may be made from any non-Federal source, including non-Federal grants or contracts, and may be cash or in kind (see OMB Circular A-110, Section 23). It should be noted that contributions counted as cost sharing toward projects of another Federal agency may not be counted towards meeting the specific cost sharing requirements of the NSF award. All cost sharing amounts are subject to audit. Failure to provide the level of cost sharing reflected in the approved award budget may result in termination of the NSF award, disallowance of award costs and/or refund of award funds to NSF.

*Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:* None

*Other Budgetary Limitations:* None

## **C. Deadline/Target Dates**

Proposals must be submitted by the following date(s):

### **Full Proposals by 5:00 PM local time:**

October 16, 2001 (Annual Deadline for all FYs beyond will be October 16th.)

A proposal can not be processed until the complete proposal (including the signed Cover Sheet) has been received by NSF. A proposal is considered "submitted" when the proposal, including the Project Description, has been transmitted to NSF. The receipt date will be the date the sponsored projects office transmits the proposal to NSF.

## **D. FastLane Requirements**

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this Program Solicitation through the FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. For FastLane user support, call 1-800-673-6188 or e-mail [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov).

*Submission of Signed Cover Sheets.* The Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must electronically sign the proposal Cover Sheet to submit the required proposal certifications (see Chapter II, Section C of the Grant Proposal Guide for a listing of the certifications). The AOR must provide the required certifications within five working days following the electronic submission of the proposal. Further instructions regarding this process are available on the FastLane website at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>.

## **VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION**

### **A. NSF Proposal Review Process**

Reviews of proposals submitted to NSF are solicited from peers with expertise in the substantive area of the proposed research or education project. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. NSF invites the proposer to suggest at the time of submission, the names of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer. Special efforts are made to recruit reviewers from non-academic institutions, minority-serving institutions, or adjacent disciplines to that principally addressed in the proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed against the following general review criteria established by the National Science Board. Following each criterion are potential considerations that the reviewer may employ in the evaluation. These are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. Each reviewer will be asked to address only those that are relevant to the proposal and for which he/she is qualified to make judgements.

#### **What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

#### **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Principal Investigators should address the following elements in their proposal to provide reviewers with the information necessary to respond fully to both of the above-described NSF merit review criteria. NSF staff will give these elements careful consideration in making funding

decisions.

### ***Integration of Research and Education***

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

### ***Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities***

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

### **Additional Review Criteria**

Proposals are expected to demonstrate:

- knowledge of those factors affecting the successful transition of minority students from undergraduate through graduate study and academic career entry in SMET fields;
- prior success in dealing with affective (non-academic) components of graduate education that are necessary to ensure success of minority students in obtaining SMET doctoral degrees;
- potential for successfully aligning similar existing programs (NSF-supported or otherwise) within, or outside of, the alliance to ensure a comprehensive, integrated effort; and,
- ability to provide quality educational and research opportunities that will prepare students for successful SMET careers (e.g., interdisciplinary research, use of information technology, communications skills).

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and signed by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

## **B. Review Protocol and Associated Customer Service Standard**

All proposals are carefully reviewed by at least three other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular field represented by the proposal. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement/solicitation will be reviewed by Panel Review.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

In most cases, proposers will be contacted by the Program Officer after his or her recommendation to award or decline funding has been approved by the Division Director. This informal notification is not a guarantee of an eventual award.

NSF is striving to be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months for 70 percent of proposals. The time interval begins on the date of receipt. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

In all cases, 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 and 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 its own risk.

## **VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **A. Notification of the Award**

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program Division administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See section VI.A. for additional information on the review process.)

### **B. Award Conditions**

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 proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (NSF-GC-1)\* or Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Terms and Conditions \* and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreement awards also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions (CA-1). Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF awards to organizations that have electronic mail capabilities and have requested such notification from the Division of Grants and Agreements.

\*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Web site at [http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants\\_gac.htm](http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants_gac.htm). Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-7827 or by e-mail from [pubs@nsf.gov](mailto:pubs@nsf.gov).

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions is contained in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* (GPM) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpm>. The GPM is also for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

### **Special Award Conditions**

It is anticipated individual that Cooperative Agreements will have special conditions depending on the nature of the project.

### **C. Reporting Requirements**

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the PI must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period.

All project annual reports and final report requirements are included in the terms and conditions of the formal Cooperative Agreement.

Within 90 days after the expiration of an award, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented an electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane. This system permits electronic submission and updating of project reports, including information on project participants (individual and organizational), activities and findings, publications, and other specific products and contributions. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

## **VIII. CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

General inquiries regarding Alliances For Graduate Education And The Professoriate should be made to:

- Dr. Roosevelt Y. Johnson, Program Director, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Division of Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703)292-4669, e-mail: [ryjohnso@nsf.gov](mailto:ryjohnso@nsf.gov).

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- Victoria Smoot, Financial Operations Specialist, Directorate for Education and Human Resources, Division of Human Resource Development, 815, telephone: (703)292-4677, e-mail: [vsmoot@nsf.gov](mailto:vsmoot@nsf.gov).

## IX. OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF *Guide to Programs* is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. The NSF *Guide to Programs* is available electronically at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter.

Many NSF programs offer announcements or solicitations concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the *Guide to Programs* will be announced in the NSF *E-Bulletin*, which is updated daily on the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin>, and in individual program announcements/solicitations. Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's *Custom News Service* (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm>) to be notified of new funding opportunities that become available.

The AGEP Program is among those that target underrepresented minorities in science, engineering, mathematics, and technology and that promote innovation in education for all students. Other related programs include the following: Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP), Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST), Historically Black Colleges and Universities-Undergraduate Program (HBCU-UP), Collaborative Integration of Research and Education (CIRE), and Integrated Graduate Education Research and Training (IGERT).

### ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Awardees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement/solicitation for further information.

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 or (800) 281-8749, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at [plainlanguage@nsf.gov](mailto:plainlanguage@nsf.gov).

## **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; 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 applicant 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 needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; 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," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid 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 this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, Information Dissemination Branch, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation (3145-0058), 725 17th Street, N.W. Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

*OMB control number: 3145-0058.*