Questions on Customer Satisfaction for NSF-funded Mid-Scale Research

Thank you for participating in the National Science Board's survey.

Please note:

Participation in this survey is voluntary.

Your identity is not linked to your responses. The National Science Board Office, as the survey administrator, will maintain the confidentiality of your responses.

If you are a Vice President/Provost for Research, this survey should take about 10-15 minutes of your time to complete.

If you are a researcher, this survey should take about 10-25 minutes of your time to complete.

<u>Technical Note</u>: You were provided with a unique URL for this survey. If your browser accepts cookies, you will be able to partially compete the survey and finish it at a later time. If your browser does not accept cookies or you delete your cookies, <u>you will lose your responses</u>. If you have any technical questions about the web survey, please contact Dr. Matthew Wilson at mbwilson@nsf.gov or (703) 292-7000.

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 3145-0157. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average less than 25 minutes 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: Reports Clearance Officer, Facilities and Operations Branch, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230.

<u>Mid-Scale Definition</u>: The definition of 'mid-scale' research varies among the NSF directorates that fund research due to differences in each directorate's average award size. For the purposes of this survey, mid-scale research projects are defined as projects with an <u>annual budget for the entire award</u> within the range identified below. These numbers are a rough guide only.

Note that for collaborative awards, please consider the cumulative annual budget of the entire project.

NSF Directorate	Approximate "Mid-Scale" Range
Biological Sciences (BIO)	\$320,000/year - \$1.3 million/year
Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE)	\$230,000/year - \$1 million/year
Education & Human Resources (EHR)	\$350,000/year - \$2.8 million/year
Engineering (ENG)	\$180,000/year - \$4 million/year
Geosciences (GEO)	\$270,000/year - \$3 million/year
Mathematics & Physical Sciences (MPS)	\$156,000/year - \$1.6 million/year
Office of Polar Programs (OPP)	\$440,000/year - \$3 million/year
Social, Behavioral, & Economic Sciences (SBE)	\$156,000/year - \$1.2 million/year
Other Areas Not Listed Above	\$150,000/year - \$3 million/year

***1. Your institution classification:**

0	Doctorate-granting university
0	Master's college or university
0	Baccalaureate college
0	Other (please specify below):

*2. Is your institution a Minority Serving Institution (e.g., Historically Black College and University, Hispanic Serving Institution, Tribal College or University)?

	res
0	No
0	Uncertain/no answer

Customer Satisfaction for NSF-Funded Mid-Scale Research *3. What is your primary position at your institution? Professor Associate professor Assistant professor Lecturer Instructor Researcher Vice-president/provost for research or equivalent position Other administrative position Other (please specify below):

Answer: "Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Lecturer, Instructor, Researcher, and Other (please specify below)," Skip to Q11.

All Other Answers Continue to Next Page.

Solicited: Proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in response to formal NSF solicitations that encourage submission in specific program areas of interest to NSF. They are more focused than program announcements, and usually apply for a limited period of time.

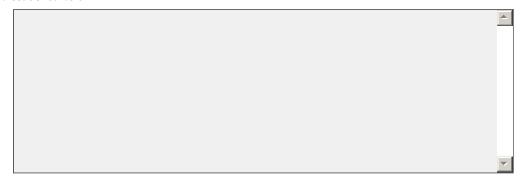
Unsolicited: Proposals submitted to NSF that are not in response to a specific, published solicitation. These proposals are subject only to NSF's *Grant Proposal Guide*. If proposals are submitted to NSF in response to a core program deadline or program announcement rather than a solicitation, they should be considered unsolicited.

Please consider the research faculty at your institution when answering the following question(s).

*4. How satisfied are you currently with the following?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	No opinion/Not applicable
The existing opportunities for solicited midscale research at NSF	O	0	O	0	O	0
The existing opportunities for <u>unsolicited</u> mid-scale research at NSF	0	0	0	O	O	0
The balance between <u>unsolicited</u> and <u>solicited</u> mid-scale research opportunities	O	0	0	O	O	O
The balance between the opportunities for smaller research awards and the opportunities for mid-scale research awards	0	0	O	0	O	0

Optional - If you are dissatisfied with the availability and/or balance of mid-scale opportunities, please comment on why you are dissatisfied below:



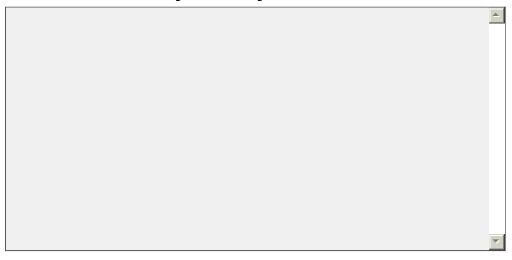
	phasis towards mid-scale research at NSF? In this situation, shifting more funds
	vards mid-scale research could mean more funding for larger, more complex projects,
ut	fewer awards for research overall.
0	Strongly oppose
0	Somewhat oppose
0	Neutral
0	Somewhat favor
0	Strongly favor
0	No opinion/Not applicable
	ional - Assuming that there is no accompanying NSF budget increase, what type(s) of funding mechanisms would best facilitate the earch of your faculty?
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*9. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of NSF's support of research infrastructure as it relates to mid-scale research?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	No opinion/Not applicable
Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	O
Facilities	O	0	0	0	0	O
Support personnel	0	0	0	0	0	O

10. Optional - Please comment on types of infrastructure support that would facilitate the mid-scale research of your faculty:



<u>Mid-Scale Definition</u>: The definition of 'mid-scale' research varies among the NSF directorates that fund research due to differences in each directorate's average award size. For the purposes of this survey, mid-scale research projects are defined as projects with an <u>annual budget for the entire award</u> within the range identified below. These numbers are a rough guide only.

Note that for collaborative awards, please consider the cumulative annual budget of the entire project.

NSF Directorate	Approximate "Mid-Scale" Range
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Other Areas Not Listed Above	\$150,000/year - \$3 million/year

*11. Have you ever submitted a mid-scale research proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF)?



No, but I am interested in mid-scale research opportunities at NSF

No, and I have no interest in mid-scale research at NSF

Answer: "Yes," Continue to Next Page.

Answer: "No, but I am interested in mid-scale research opportunities at NSF," Skip to Q22.

Answer: "No, and I have no interest in mid-scale research at NSF," Skip to Q34.

Customer Satisfaction for NSF-Funded Mid-Scale Research f * 12. Have you ever received funding for mid-scale research at the National Science Foundation (NSF)? O Yes O No Answer: "Yes," Skip to Q15. Answer: "No," Continue to Next Page.

Please refer to the following definitions for the next question(s)

Solicited: Proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in response to formal NSF solicitations that encourage submission in specific program areas of interest to NSF. They are more focused than program announcements, and usually apply for a limited period of time.

Unsolicited: Proposals submitted to NSF that are not in response to a specific, published solicitation. These proposals are subject only to NSF's *Grant Proposal Guide*. If proposals are submitted to NSF in response to a core program deadline or program announcement rather than a solicitation, they should be considered unsolicited.

^k 13. Was the most recent proposa	you submitted to NSF	solicited or unsolicited?
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- Solicited
- O Unsolicited

*14. For your most recent proposal to NSF, what was your requested <u>annual</u> budget for the entire proposal? (For collaboratives, please specify the cumulative annual budget for the entire project)

- C Less than \$100,000/year C \$500-749,000/year C \$2-5 million/year
- C \$250-499,000/year C \$1-1.9 million/year C Uncertain/no answer

Skip to Q23

Please refer to the following definitions for the next questions regarding your <u>most recent</u> mid-scale proposal or award.

Solicited: Proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in response to formal NSF solicitations that encourage submission in specific program areas of interest to NSF. They are more focused than program announcements, and usually apply for a limited period of time.

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*15. Was the most recent mid-scale research proposal you submitted to	NSF solicited or
unsolicited?	

uns	solicited?
0	Solicited
0	Unsolicited

*16. Which NSF organization(s) reviewed your most recent mid-scale research award? (You may select more than one) ☐ Uncertain/no answer ☐ Undergraduate Education EHR/DUE Materials Research MPS/DMR Mathematical Sciences MPS/DMS **Biological Sciences BIO Engineering ENG** Physics MPS/PHY Biological Infrastructure BIO/DBI Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, & Transport Systems Environmental Biology BIO/DEB ☐ Social, Behavioral & Economic **ENG/CBET Sciences SBE** Frontiers Office BIO/EF Civil, Mechanical & Manufacturing ☐ Behavioral & Cognitive Sciences Innovation ENG/CMMI Integrative Organismal Systems BIO/IOS SBE/BCS ☐ Electrical, Communications & Cyber Molecular & Cellular Biosciences Office of Multidisciplinary Activities Systems ENG/ECCS BIO/MCB SBF/SMA ☐ Engineering Education & Centers Social & Economic Sciences SBE/SES ENG/EEC Computer & Information Science & **Engineering CISE** Industrial Innovation & Partnerships Office of the NSF Director OD ☐ Computing & Communication Office of Cyberinfrastructure OD/OCI Foundations CISE/CCF Office of Emerging Frontiers in Research & Innovation ENG/EFRI Computer & Network Systems CISE/CNS Office of Experimental Program To Stimulate Competitive Research OIA/EPSCoR ☐ Information & Intelligent Systems **Geosciences GEO** Office of Integrative Activities OD/OIA CISE/IIS Atmospheric & Geospace Sciences Office of International Science & GEO/AGS **Education & Human Resources EHR** Engineering OD/OISE Earth Sciences GEO/EAR Graduate Education EHR/DGE Office of Polar Programs OD/OPP Ocean Sciences GEO/OCE Human Resource Development EHR/HRD □ National Nanotechnology Coordination Office NNCO **Mathematical & Physical Sciences** Research on Learning in Formal & **MPS** Informal Settings EHR/DRL Other (please specify below) Astronomical Sciences MPS/AST Chemistry MPS/CHE If you selected "other," please explain how NSF reviewed your mid-scale research: Next Page

	what your did/wil	l your <u>most recent</u> mid-sc		
)	2016 or later	C 2009	0	2002
	2015	C 2008	0	2001
	2014	C 2007	O	2000
0	2013	C 2006	0	1990 - 1999
0	2012	C 2005	0	Prior to 1990
0	2011	C 2004	0	Uncertain/no answer
0	2010	© 2003		
		al budget for the entire av	-	llaboratives, please spec
0	Less than \$100,000/year	© \$500-749,000/year	0	\$2-5 million/year
		© \$750-999,000/year	0	\$5 million/year or more
0	\$100-249,000/year	~ Ψ100 000,000/year	C	
	\$100-249,000/year \$250-499,000/year	\$1-1.9 million/year	0	Uncertain/no answer
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0 K1 0	\$250-499,000/year 19. What was your role Principal investigator Co-Principal investigator	S1-1.9 million/year		Uncertain/no answer
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~ 1 ~ 1 ~ 2 ~ 2	\$250-499,000/year I. What was your role Principal investigator Co-Principal investigator Other (please specify below): 20. How many PIs/Co-P	on this award? Ols were involved in the p	roject (includ	ling you)? © 5 or more
0 < 1	\$250-499,000/year 19. What was your role Principal investigator Co-Principal investigator Other (please specify below): 20. How many PIs/Co-P 1	on this award? Ols were involved in the p	roject (includ	ling you)? © 5 or more
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6 1 6 2	\$250-499,000/year 19. What was your role Principal investigator Co-Principal investigator Other (please specify below): 20. How many PIs/Co-P 1	on this award? Ols were involved in the p	roject (includ	ling you)? © 5 or more

*22. If you <u>considered</u> submitting a mid-scale research proposal to NSF in the past 10 years but <u>did not</u>, which of the following barriers, if any, led you to not submit your proposal?

	Major barrier	Minor barrier	Not a barrier	Not applicable
NSF program officers or other staff did not welcome proposals of this kind	0	O	\odot	O
There was a poor match between my idea/proposal and the available NSF programs/solicitations	O	0	O	0
The proposal budget was high	0	O	0	O
The proposal was high risk	0	0	\circ	0
The administrative requirements of NSF were burdensome	0	0	0	0
The research proposal needed a long award duration than was offered by NSF	0	0	0	0
The research area of the proposal may have be unfamiliar to reviewers due to its novelty	0	0	0	0
The research proposal needed expensive instrumentation	O	0	0	0

Optional - Please list below any other barriers or comments on why you did not submit your project to NSF:

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Skip to Q24

*23. If you submitted a mid-scale research proposal to NSF in the past 10 years, what barriers, if any, did you experience? If you have submitted more than one proposal to NSF during this period, please answer based on your typical experience.

Major barrier	Minor barrier	Not a barrier	Not applicable
0	0	0	\odot
O	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	O
0	0	0	0

Customer Satisfaction for NSF-Funded Mid-Scale Research *24. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of NSF's communication with the research community regarding mid-scale research opportunities? Somewhat Somewhat No opinion/Not Very dissatisfied Very satisfied Neutral dissatisfied satisfied applicable 0 0 0 0 0 Timeliness of information received 0 0 0 0 0 0 Clarity of the information received *25. What is the most common way you have heard about NSF mid-scale research opportunities? (You may select more than one answer) ■ NSF email listserv ☐ NSF Website Direct communication with NSF staff Professional/scientific society meeting or newsletter Professional/scientific journal Colleague University sponsored research office Other (please specify below): 26. Optional - Please comment on how NSF could better communicate these mid-scale research opportunities:

*27. In terms of <u>current opportunities</u> for solicited mid-scale research at NSF, what is your opinion on the balance between flexibility and prescription within the solicitation for each of the following?

	Much too prescriptive	Somewhat too prescriptive	About right	Somewhat too flexible	Much too flexible	No opinion/Not applicable
Scientific/topical scope	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ability to collaborate	0	\circ	0	0	\circ	0
Broader impacts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Review criteria	\circ	0	0	0	\circ	0
Education/training	O	0	0	0	0	0
Reporting requirements	0	0	0	0	0	0
Budgeting	0	0	0	0	0	0

Optional - Other comments (please specify below):

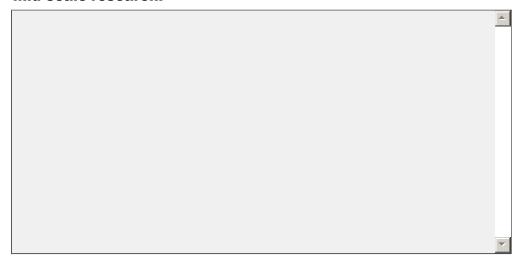


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*28. How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of NSF's support of research infrastructure as it relates to mid-scale research?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	No opinion/Not applicable
Equipment	O	0	0	0	0	O
Facilities	O	0	0	0	0	O
Support personnel	0	0	0	0	0	O

29. Optional - Please comment on types of infrastructure support that would facilitate your mid-scale research:



*30. In the past five years, which of the strategies below have you used in an effort to obtain funding for mid-scale research?

	Yes	No	No answer/Not applicable
Submitted a single mid-scale proposal to NSF	0	0	0
Submitted a single mid-scale proposal to a funding organization other than NSF	\odot	0	\odot
Divided a mid-scale project into several smaller proposals and submitted the smaller proposals to one NSF program over time	0	O	•
Divided a mid-scale project into several smaller proposals and submitted the smaller proposals to more than one NSF program	0	O	O
Divided a mid-scale project into several smaller proposals and submitted to more than one funding organization (including NSF)	0	0	•

Please refer to the following definitions for the next question(s)

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*31. How satisfied are you currently with the following?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	No opinion/Not applicable
The existing opportunities for <u>unsolicited</u> mid-scale research at NSF	O	0	O	O	O	O
The existing opportunities for solicited midscale research at NSF	O	0	0	0	0	0
The balance between <u>unsolicited</u> and <u>solicited</u> mid-scale research opportunities	O	0	0	0	0	0
The balance between the opportunities for smaller research awards and the opportunities for mid-scale research awards	O	0	0	0	0	O

Optional - If you are dissatisfied with the availability and/or balance of mid-scale opportunities, please comment on why you are dissatisfied below:



*32. If there is no accompanying NSF budget increase, what is your opinion on shifting

	nplex projects, but fewer awards for research overall.
	Strongly oppose
0	Somewhat oppose
0	Neutral
0	Somewhat favor
0	Strongly favor
0	No opinion/Not applicable
	onal - Assuming that there is no accompanying NSF budget increase, what type(s) of funding mechanisms would best facilitate your earch at NSF?
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33. Thinking about NSF-funded mid-scale research, how satisfied are you with the following aspects of your home institution's support?

	Very dissatisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Neutral	Somewhat satisfied	Very satisfied	No answer/not applicable
Professional development (e.g., proposal writing training, leadership training)	0	0	0	0	O	0
Help from your office of sponsored research or other administrative organization within your institution	O	O	O	O	0	0
Recognition of contribution to collaborative projects during promotion and tenure review	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fostering multi-disciplinary collaborations	0	0	0	\circ	0	0
Help with the administration and management of the research project	O	0	0	0	0	O
Infrastructure support (e.g., networking capabilities, shared equipment)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Provision of appropriate research space	0	0	0	0	0	O

Optional -	Please comment	on what your	home institution	could do to bett	er facilitate NSF-	funded mid-scale	research?
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Customer Satisfaction for NSF-Funded Mid-Scale Research	
34. Do you have any further comments about mid-scale research at NSF? (Response limited to 1600 characters. Please remember to click "Done" when finished,	
	v.
Finish	