2019 NSF Principal Investigator/Sponsored Project Office Survey Transmittal Email

TO: PIs/co-PIs and SPOs
SUBJECT: FEEDBACK REQUEST: 2019 NSF PI/SPO Survey

Dear Colleague:

You have been selected to participate in a National Science Foundation (NSF) survey because you are a Principal Investigator (PI)/co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) or Sponsored Project Office (SPO) who recently submitted a proposal to NSF. NSF is seeking your feedback on existing FastLane and Research.gov business functionalities as part of the Foundation's multi-year initiative to help PIs/co-PIs and SPOs more efficiently and effectively prepare and submit NSF proposals, manage NSF awards, and conduct business with NSF.

Please click on this [INSERT HYPERLINK] to complete the survey.

The 2019 NSF PI/SPO Survey is a follow-up to the 2015 NSF Proposal Submission Modernization Survey which guided NSF's Proposal Submission Modernization (PSM) efforts. The 2019 PI/SPO Survey will survey PIs/Co-PIs and SPOs on Proposal Submission Modernization to solicit feedback to improve user experience and to decrease administrative burden.

Your input on the 2019 survey is very important and will better inform NSF's understanding of PI and SPO satisfaction and challenges in using NSF systems and will help identify opportunities for improvement.

The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Note that all survey responses will be anonymous, and survey results will be reported in such a way that no single individual can be identified. Your participation is completely voluntary, and your decision to partake or not to partake in this survey will not adversely affect consideration of any pending or future NSF proposals. The survey will close on [INSERT SURVEY CLOSE DATE]

NSF greatly appreciates your feedback which will be consolidated and used to guide continuing IT system modernization efforts. If you have questions or concerns, please contact NSF2019PI_SPO_Survey@nsf.gov.

Thank you in advance for your vital input.

Best regards,
Dorothy Aronson, National Science Foundation, Chief Information Officer
Teresa Grancorvitz, National Science Foundation, Chief Financial Officer
Dale Bell, National Science Foundation, Director Division of Institution and Award Support

2019 NSF PI/SPO Survey

Ongoing feedback from the research community is critical to NSF's continuous IT modernization and is especially important in reducing administrative burden. You have been selected to receive this NSF survey because you have recently submitted an NSF proposal. We would appreciate your taking the time to complete this brief survey. Please answer each question to the best of your ability and note that all information provided will remain anonymous. The survey will be open until [DATE].

Thank you in advance for your assistance!

Section Title: Respondent and Institution Profile

Survey Questions and Answers		
	Questions	**Answers**
1.	In what role do you primarily interact with NSF?	Select only one: • Principal Investigator (PI) / co-Principal Investigator (co-PI) • Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) staff • Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) • Other Authorized User (OAU) • Research Administrator • Grant Writer • Other (Please specify): [TEXT BOX]
2.	Which of the following best describes your current, primary organization?	Select only one: • Doctoral University (Includes institutions that award at least 20 research/scholarship doctoral degrees per year. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.) • Master's College or University (Generally includes institutions that award at least 50 master's degrees and fewer than 20 doctoral degrees per year. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.) • Baccalaureate College (Includes institutions where baccalaureate or higher degrees represent at least 50 percent of all degrees but where fewer than 50 master's degrees or 20 doctoral degrees are awarded per year. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.) • Baccalaureate/Associate's College (Includes four-year colleges that confer more than 50 percent of degrees at the associate's level per year. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.) • Associate's College (Institutions at which the highest-level degree awarded is an associate's

		degree. Excludes Special Focus Institutions and Tribal Colleges.)
		• Special Focus Institution (Institutions where a high concentration of degrees is in a single field or set of related fields. Excludes Tribal Colleges.)
		• Tribal College (Colleges and universities that are members of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.)
		• Institution of primary and/or secondary education (K-12 educational institution)
		• Federally Funded Research and Development Center (FFRDC)
		• Non-profit Research Organization
		• For-profit Organization
		• No Organizational Affiliation / Independent Researcher
		• Other (please specify): [TEXT BOX]
3.	What is the size of your organization? *Do not include student enrollment.*	• 25 or less • 26 to 100 • 101 to 500 • 501 to 1,000 • 1,001 or more
4.	Is your organization a Minority Serving Institution (MSI)? *MSIs include Tribal Colleges or Historically Black Colleges or Universities, or Hispanic-Serving Institutions. These are Department of Education Title IV designations.*	• Yes • No
5.	To which NSF directorates have you submitted proposals?	Select all that apply: • Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO) • Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering (CISE) • Directorate for Education & Human Resources (EHR) • Directorate for Engineering (ENG) • Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) • Directorate for Mathematical & Physical Sciences (MPS) • Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE) • Other (Please Indicate): [TEXT BOX]
6.	Please select your role(s) in proposal preparation and submission at your organization.	Select all that apply: • Write the proposal • Enter proposal information into NSF's proposal submission systems • Coordinate proposal development • Gather proposal information • Review the proposal

		• Submit the proposal

[SURVEY PAGE BREAK]

Section Title: NSF Proposal Preparation and Submission Systems
Questions in this section relate to your use of FastLane and/or Research.gov proposal preparation and submission systems.

Survey Questions and Answers		
	Questions	**Answers**
7.	How often do you typically prepare or submit proposals to NSF?	• 1 to 5 times per year • 6 to 10 times per year • 11 to 15 times per year • 16 to 20 times per year • More than 20 times per year
8.	Have you received an award(s) from NSF?	Please select only one: • I have received an award(s) from NSF • I have submitted a proposal that is currently under review by NSF • I have submitted a proposal, but it was declined or returned by NSF
9.	Do you primarily use another proposal-writing system such as Grants.gov, Kuali, InfoEd, etc. to submit proposals to NSF?	• Yes *[IF ANSWERED → QUESTIONS 26-30]* • No *[IF ANSWERED → QUESTION 10]*
10.	Which NSF systems have you used to submit proposals? *Please note: As part of its IT modernization efforts, NSF launched the new Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System on April 30, 2018, for full, research non-collaborative proposals. A preview of the new system was available to the research community from February 26, 2018 until April 27, 2018.*	Select only one: • *FastLane [IF ANSWERED→QUESTIONS 11-15]* • *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System [(IF ANSWERED→QUESTION 16-18]* • *Both [IF ANSWERED→QUESTION 16-18]*
QUESTIONS FOR FASTLANE ONLY USERS		
11.	How often do you typically prepare and submit NSF proposals using *FastLane*?	• 1 to 5 times per year • 6 to 10 times per year • 11 to 15 times per year • 16 to 20 times per year • More than 20 times per year
12.	Based on the proposals you have recently prepared and submitted using *FastLane*, please respond to the following statements using a rating from 1 (Strongly Agree) to 5 (Strongly Disagree). • FastLane is an easy system to learn to use. • Once learned, FastLane is an easy system to use.	1 – Strongly Agree 2 – Agree 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree 4 – Disagree 5 – Strongly Disagree

	• FastLane webpage layout is intuitive. • FastLane webpages are readable. • When I use FastLane, I am able to efficiently find and complete work. • Overall, FastLane meets my expectations.	
13.	*As part of its IT modernization efforts, NSF launched the new Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System on April 30, 2018, for full, research non-collaborative proposals. A preview of the new system was available to the research community from February 26, 2018 until April 27, 2018.* Please indicate your level of experience with the new *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System*.	Select one: • I did not know the system was available. • I knew the system was available but have not tried the new system. • I tried the new system during the preview release period (February 26-April 27, 2018) but have not used the site to prepare and submit a proposal(s). • I have tried the new system since its full release on April 30, 2018 but have not yet submitted a proposal.
14.	You indicated that you have not yet prepared and submitted a proposal using the new *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System*, please provide additional information regarding why you have chosen not to submit on Research.gov.	Select all that apply: • Proposal Type not yet available on the Research.gov system. • I prefer *FastLane*/I am familiar with FastLane. • I have not had time to learn the new *Research.gov Proposal Preparation* and *Submission System.* • My organization requires me to use *FastLane*. • I attempted to prepare and submit a proposal using the *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System* but could not submit due to compliance check errors. • Other: [Open ended text box]
15.	What would help you to use the new *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System*?	Select up to 3 that apply: [ALL ANSWERS→QUESTION #19] • When the proposal type that I most often submit is available on the new system • When my organization requires me to use the new system • When my organization gives me permission to use the new system • When NSF requires me to use the new system • When additional training and resources such are available • Other: [open ended text box]
QUESTIONS FOR BOTH FASTLANE AND RESEARCH.GOV USERS		
16.	How often do you typically prepare and submit NSF proposals using *FastLane*?	• 1 to 5 times per year • 6 to 10 times per year

		• 11 to 15 times per year • 16 to 20 times per year • More than 20 times per year
17.	How many proposals have you prepared and submitted using the new *Research.gov Preparation and Submission System*?	• 1 • 2 to 5 • 6 to 10 • More than 10
18.	Based on the proposals you have prepared and submitted using NSF'S new *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System*, please respond to the following statements using a rating from 1 (Strongly Agree) to 5 (Strongly Disagree). • The *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System* is easier to learn to use than *FastLane*. • Once learned, the *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System* is easier to use than *FastLane*. • *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System's* webpage layout is more intuitive than *FastLane's* webpage layout. • *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System's* webpages are more readable than *FastLane's* webpages. • When I use the *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System*, I am able to complete work more efficiently than when using *FastLane*. • Overall, the *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System* meets my expectations. [ALL ANSWER→QUESTION #19]	1 – Strongly Agree 2 – Agree 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree 4 – Disagree 5 – Strongly Disagree
EVERYONE		
19.	Currently, you may only submit full, non-collaborative research proposals to NSF in Research.gov. How should NSF prioritize in which order proposal types are developed? *Rank up to **five** types of proposals, with 1 being the highest priority.*	• Rapid Response Research (RAPID) • EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) • Research Advanced by Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering (RAISE) • Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI) • Ideas Lab • Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) • Conference Proposal • Equipment Proposal • Travel Proposal • Center Proposal • Research Infrastructure

		• Collaborative with Separately Submitted Research (Collaborative proposal from multiple organizations) • Collaborative with Subawards (Collaborative proposal from one organization) • Other: [TEXT BOX]
20.	What training resources, if any, would be helpful to you or others at your organization for using NSF's new *Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission System*?	Please select up to three options: • "How-to" manuals, guides, or training kits for organizations • NSF-hosted training or webinars • Additional online training videos demonstrating how to prepare and submit proposals on Research.gov • Research.gov Proposal Preparation and Submission Demonstration Site • Centralizing all Research.gov training resources on one webpage • Other: [OPEN ENDED TEXT BOX]
21.	NSF strives to reduce administrative burden for researchers and administrators. Please rank on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 being most burdensome) the sections and functions associated with NSF proposal preparation and submission that create the most administrative burden for you.	Rank up to five (with 1 being most burdensome): • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • Other Supplementary Documents • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Collaborators and Other Affiliations • Budget Impact Statement • Add/Delete Non co-PI Senior Personnel • Additional Single Copy Documents (e.g., directorate-specific forms) • Change PI • Deviation Authorization • Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources • Link Collaborative Proposals • Proposal Cover Sheet
22.	Which of the following researcher profile management services do you use and would like to see integrated with NSF systems?	• ORCID • SciENcv • Some other service: [OPEN ENDED TEXT BOX] • None

[SURVEY PAGE BREAK]

Section Title: NSF IT System Consolidation

NSF will eventually consolidate FastLane and Research.gov into a unified system to improve your pre-award and post-award experience with NSF. Questions in this section relate consolidating existing FastLane and Research.gov functionalities into a single, integrated IT system for conducting business with NSF.

Survey Questions and Answers		
	Questions	**Answers**
23.	What three adjectives would you use to describe an ideal NSF pre-award and post-award management system?	*Three OPEN-ENDED TEXT BOXES 3 ANSWERS ONLY [limit 20 characters per text box]*
24.	Given the pre-award and post-award functionalities that currently exist on FastLane and Research.gov, what additional features, functionalities, or improvements would you like to see added to a consolidated NSF system?	• [OPEN ENDED TEXT BOX]

[SURVEY PAGE BREAK]

Section Title: NSF Password Recovery

NSF is committed to your account security and privacy. Questions in this section relate to Password Recovery options for NSF Account Management.

Survey Questions and Answers		
	Questions	**Answers**
25.	Would you be willing to provide a personal phone number (mobile) if Research.gov offered password recovery via text message?	• Yes • No
26.	How would you like to retrieve a lost or forgotten password?	• Text Message • Security Questions • Recovery Email
27.	In the past 2 years, how often have you switched your Research.gov profile email address?	• Never • One time • 2-3 times • 4 or more times • Not sure
28.	In the past 2 years, how often have you switched your Research.gov profile phone number?	• Never • One time • 2-3 times • 4 or more times • Not sure
29.	In the past 2 years, how often have you reset your Research.gov password?	• Never • One time • 2-3 times • 4 or more times • Not sure
30.	What type of information have you, or do you plan to add to your profile in Research.gov?	Select all that apply: • My work organization email address • Primary email address (Personal email address) • My work organization phone number (mobile)

			• Personal phone number (mobile)
31.	What challenges do you currently have with the current Password Recovery process?	• [OPEN ENDED TEXT BOX]

[SURVEY PAGE BREAK]

Section Title: NSF General Feedback

Please provide any additional comments regarding your experience with NSF in terms of proposal preparation and submission, reducing administrative burden, and the planned consolidation of FastLane and Research.gov.

Survey Questions and Answers		
	Questions	**Answers**
32.	For proposals of similar size and scope, how much effort does it take to prepare and submit an NSF proposal compared to other federal agencies'?	• More effort • Nearly the same effort • Less effort • NSF is the only federal agency to which I submit proposals
33.	Please provide recommendations or feedback for reducing administrative burden related to preparation and submission of NSF proposals.	[OPEN ENDED TEXT BOX]
34.	Please provide recommendations or feedback related to the consolidation of NSF's FastLane and Research.gov systems for managing pre-award and post-award activities.	[OPEN ENDED TEXT BOX]
35.	Please provide any innovative insights, recommendations, or feedback for improving your experience in preparing and submitting proposals to NSF.	[OPEN ENDED TEXT BOX]

Thank you very much for completing this survey. NSF greatly appreciates your time and feedback as part of our continuing IT systems modernization.

Instructions for completing Request for Approval under the "Generic Clearance for the Collection of Routine Customer Feedback"

TITLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTION: Provide the name of the collection that is the subject of the request. (e.g. Comment card for soliciting feedback on xxxx)

PURPOSE: Provide a brief description of the purpose of this collection and how it will be used. If this is part of a larger study or effort, please include this in your explanation.

DESCRIPTION OF RESPONDENTS: Provide a brief description of the targeted group or groups for this collection of information. These groups must have experience with the program.

TYPE OF COLLECTION: Check one box. If you are requesting approval of other instruments under the generic, you must complete a form for each instrument.

CERTIFICATION: Please read the certification carefully. If you incorrectly certify, the collection will be returned as improperly submitted or it will be disapproved.

Personally Identifiable Information: Provide answers to the questions.

Gifts or Payments: If you answer yes to the question, please describe the incentive and provide a justification for the amount.

BURDEN HOURS:
Category of Respondents: Identify who you expect the respondents to be in terms of the following categories: (1) Individuals or Households;(2) Private Sector; (3) State, local, or tribal governments; or (4) Federal Government. Only one type of respondent can be selected.
No. of Respondents: Provide an estimate of the Number of respondents.
Participation Time: Provide an estimate of the amount of time required for a respondent to participate (e.g. fill out a survey or participate in a focus group)
Burden: Provide the Annual burden hours: Multiply the Number of responses and the participation time and divide by 60.

FEDERAL COST: Provide an estimate of the annual cost to the Federal government.

If you are conducting a focus group, survey, or plan to employ statistical methods, please provide answers to the following questions:

The selection of your targeted respondents. Please provide a description of how you plan to identify your potential group of respondents and how you will select them. If the answer is yes, to the first question, you may provide the sampling plan in an attachment.

Administration of the Instrument: Identify how the information will be collected. More than one box may be checked. Indicate whether there will be interviewers (e.g. for surveys) or facilitators (e.g., for focus groups) used.

Please make sure that all instruments, instructions, and scripts are submitted with the request.