

Section B

Introduction

B.1. Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods

The IIP Program Monitoring Clearance’s goal is to count and describe the universe of IIP-funded research and education projects. The statistical method employed in each collection is that of a census of all IIP-funded projects under the corresponding program for which the collection is being prepared. Data collection is expected to involve all awardees in the program.

The table below shows the total universe and sample size for each of the collections.

Table 4. Respondent Universe and Sample Size of ENG Program Monitoring Clearance Collections

Collection Title	Universe of Respondents	Sample Size
Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)	200	200
Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Longitudinal Collection	700	700
Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Pre-Course Survey Questionnaire	800	800
Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Post-Course Survey Questionnaire	800	800
Partnerships For Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research (PFI:AIR)	200	200
Partnerships For Innovation: building Innovation Capacity (PFI:BIC)	30	30
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)	900	900
SBIR Baseline Monitoring Survey	800	800

B.2. Information Collection Procedures/Limitations of the Study

The data collections in this clearance are expected to use web-based instruments but some could use interviews, either in person or by phone. Each respondent will provide answers once a year during the life of the award. Respondents post-award will be invited to report voluntarily up to four times over the course of 10 years after the award has expired.

IIP understands the limitations of the Program Monitoring Clearance, particularly in terms of using the data to determine program effectiveness. Data collected under this clearance are for monitoring purposes; evaluation studies are cleared under separate OMB requests. However, monitoring systems covered by this request will be explicitly identified as a source of data for independent program evaluations. IIP Program Monitoring Clearance data are not used to determine the ultimate effectiveness of research, but they are a key element in IIP's efforts to manage its program portfolio, to report on agency activities and goals, and to lay the groundwork for future evaluations.

B.2.1. Statistical Methodology for Stratification and Sample Selection

Each of the collections in this clearance request is a census, in which the sample size is the universe. Details on the size of the universe in each collection are included in the burden estimate and in section B.1 above. A census approach to data collection is critical for monitoring of scientific research, particularly fundamental research, due to the uniqueness of each project. The merit review process for each program elicits unique and transformative projects in their contribution and methods. Each project asks a different research question and uses different experimental and theoretical approaches. As such, would be impractical to consider sampling methods that will yield a representative population of the universe of NSF funded research awards.

B.2.2. Estimation Procedure

Not applicable

B.2.3. Degree of Accuracy Needed for the Purpose Described in the Justification

Not applicable

B.2.4. Unusual Problems Requiring Specialized Sampling Procedures

Not applicable

B.2.5. Justification for Data Collection Cycles

In post-award monitoring systems, IIP endeavors to collect data on indicators of outcomes and impacts of investments in research that are unlikely to be realized over the course of the award. These data may include indicators such as publications, patents, and licensing activities, student career choices after participating in the funded research, and technologies

Developed from discoveries made by fundamental research, for example. In many cases, particularly in the case of fundamental research, the most important outcomes of research investments are not expected to be realized for several years after the award has ended, due to the inherent time lag in the transition from discovery to application of research findings. As such, we propose to collect data on these outcomes and impacts of our research investments for up to 10 years post-award. These collections for programs in IIP which are often focused on translation or commercialization of research findings, the important indicators are expected to appear sooner after the award ends. However, due to the burden on the PIs and our expectation that certain outcomes and impacts are more likely to occur at less frequent intervals post-award, in most cases we propose to collect data at 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year intervals post-award, with a fourth data point collected at 10 years post-award for some programs.

B.3. Methods for Maximizing the Response Rate and Addressing Issues of Nonresponse

All potential collections during the life of the award included in this clearance may become part of the reporting required of awardees for specific solicitations or programs. In those specific cases, a high response rate is expected. The pre-and post-survey questionnaires for the I-Corps program will be implemented before and after the teams of grantees undergo training. A high-response rate is also expected in this case.

For post-award monitoring, participation is entirely voluntary. Although there is no penalty for non-participation with data collection requests outside of the life of the award, many respondents are eager to communicate their achievements to NSF program staff in general, so we foresee no obstacles to achieving a high response rate even outside of the life of the award. The table below shows the expected response rates for each of the individual collections based on NSF’s experience with other monitoring systems.

The voluntary nature of the response will be clearly communicated to respondents in each instance.

Table 5. Expected Response Rates for ENG Program Monitoring Clearance Collections

Collection Title	Expected Response Rate
Grant Opportunities for Academic Liaison with Industry (GOALI)	80%
Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Longitudinal Collection	80%
Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Pre-Course Survey Questionnaire	90%

Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Post-Course Survey Questionnaire	90 %
Partnerships For Innovation: Accelerating Innovation Research (PFI:AIR)	80%
Partnerships For Innovation: building Innovation Capacity (PFI:BIC)	80%
Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)	80%
SBIR Baseline Monitoring Survey	90 %

For web-based collection systems, a series of e-mail messages and phone calls, including introductory emails alerting the respondent to the data that will be collected will also be used to follow up with respondents.

B.4. Tests of Procedures or Methods

Test methods used to improve the questions in the ENG IIP Program Monitoring Clearance include feedback from PIs, both as data are collected and during meetings and conferences; review by NSF staff; and testing performed by the data collection system developers. These monitoring collections are based on data collection methods currently used by other NSF groups, and many of the items and response categories follow formats that are already in place.

B.6. Contact Information for Individuals Responsible for Data Collections

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Appendix I – Crosswalk

ENG PROGRAM MONITORING CLEARANCE CROSSWALK

Overview of Types of Data Elements Found in the Tasks Under This Request

Data Elements	GOALI	I-Corps	I-Corps PRE	I-Corps POST	PFI:AIR	PFI:BIC	SBIR
Name (of PI, co-PI, trainees, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Contact Information (email address of PI, co-PI, trainees, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Name of Student’s Advisor/Project Supervisor	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Field/Area of Study/Student Major	X	X			X	X	X
Student Educational Data (e.g., year in school, expected/actual graduation date, GPA, degree held or anticipated – graduate, undergraduate, master’s, PhD, etc.)	X	X			X	X	X
Financial Support Received From Other Sources (e.g., amount and term of support, counts of students receiving support, sometimes with demographic data)	X	X			X	X	X
Partner Organizations or Collaborators	X	X			X	X	X
Number of Project Participants (sometimes with demographic data)	X	X			X	X	X
Educational and Professional Development Activities of Staff and/or Participants	X	X					
Other Project Activities (e.g., outreach, broadening participation activities, etc.)	X	X			X	X	X
Health of Partnerships (IBM 7 Keys to Project Management indicators)						X	

Data Elements	GOALI	I-Corps	I-Corps PRE	I-Corps POST	PFI:AIR	PFI:BI C	SBIR
Degrees Granted/Received (sometimes with demographic data)	X	X			X	X	X
Project Products/Outputs (e.g., proposals submitted, proposals awarded, presentations given, publications, citations, patents awarded, other activities that are not already reported in RPPR)	X	X			X	X	X
Best Practices Described						X	
Changes in Practices Implemented at Respondent Institutions or Elsewhere/Impact on Faculty, Students, Scientific Community	X				X	X	
Project Goals/Targets Established and/or Described and/or Achieved	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Outreach/Dissemination Activities Conducted at or beyond endpoint of award					X	X	
Partner Organizations/Collaborative Projects	X				X		X
Materials Used/Changes Made in Curricula at any level (K12, undergraduate, graduate)	X				X		
Student Career Goals	X	X			X	X	
PI or Trainee recognition, promotions, and awards	X				X	X	
Other Trainee/Student Data	X	X			X	X	X
Other Faculty Data	X	X			X	X	X
Other Activities/Additional Information	X	X			X	X	X
New research directions emerging from funded research	X				X	X	X
Community/relationships between academia-industry, engineering-persons with disabilities, engineering-social/behavioral sciences, etc.	X				X	X	
Licensing activities related to technology/services/processes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Career pathways of each trainee trained under awards	X				X	X	
Technology/service/process/partnership model adopted by others in research community					X	X	
New conferences, societies, committees, journals, disciplines established at intersections of transdisciplinary funded research						X	
Businesses or start-up companies formed around funded research	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Additional awards at NSF or other agencies spawned from the funded research	X	X			X	X	X
I-Corps course satisfaction				X			