



PO Seminar
Japan Science and Technology Agency

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National Science Foundation



Role of NSF Program Officer

Formulate, plan and execute program activities

- Review and evaluate proposals
- Decide on proposals declination and recommendation
- Evaluate progress of awarded projects
- Monitor program statistics related to science and budget
- Maintain liaison with applicants, grantees, the research community, and other government agencies
- Participate in NSF-wide initiatives

Advisor to higher level management

- Serve on NSF-wide and interagency committees to develop programs and initiatives
- Participate in program and budget development

Continue active participation in own discipline



Role of the NSF Program Officer

Program officers (PO) manage:

Core program: Long-term program that considers all ideas initiated by investigators within certain topics in a discipline. Topics of research evolve with scientific advances

Special programs focus on mechanisms to conduct investigations, usually combining scientific and educational activities, i.e., CAREER, Advance, Science and Technology Centers, Major Research Instrumentation.

Priority/Initiative Area: a research program with a focused agenda to advance the frontier of a specific science area through support of challenging ideas, creative people, and effective tools. The program has a finite duration, usually five years, i.e., Biocomplexity in the Environment, Nanoscale Science and Engineering, Mathematical Sciences



Management Instrument: Proposal

Proposal Type:

Standard proposal and collaborative proposal (External Evaluation; >90% of all proposals)

Small Grants for Exploratory Research (SGER, internal evaluation)

Proposals for workshops or planning activities (internal evaluation)

Supplement to an award (internal evaluation)

Biological Databases and Informatics

Program Announcement

NSF 02-058

Replaces Document *nsf9991*



National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Division of Biological Infrastructure

Full Proposal Target Date(s):

Second Monday in January

Second Monday in July

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Information

Program Title:

Biological Databases and Informatics

Synopsis of Program:

The mission of the Biological Databases and Informatics Program is to encourage new approaches to the management, analysis, and dissemination of biological knowledge that will enable both the scientific community and the broader public to gain maximum benefit and utility.

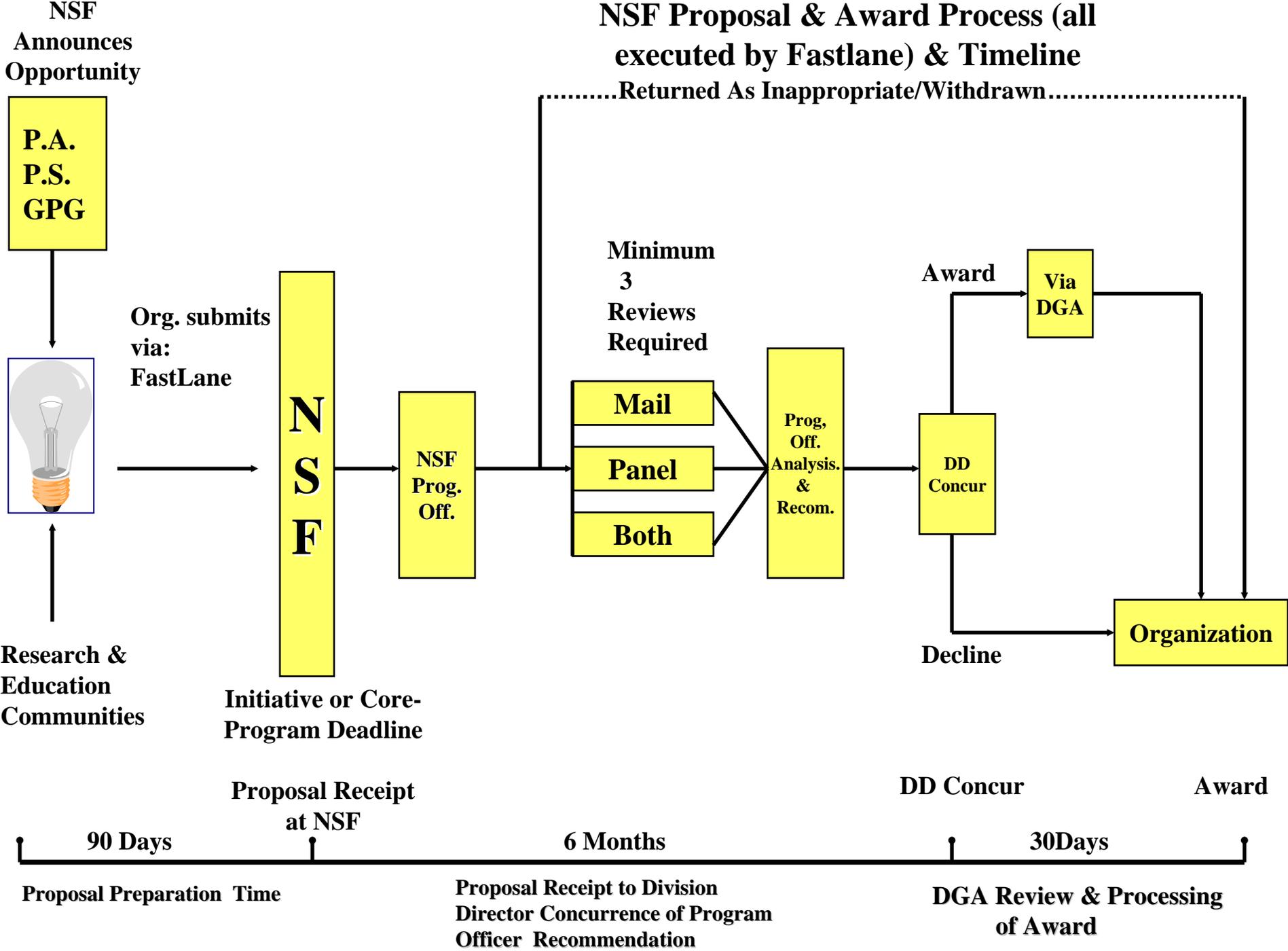
Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Gerald F. Guala, Program Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences, Division of Biological Infrastructure, 615 N, telephone: (703) 292-8470, fax: (703) 292-9063, email: gguala@nsf.gov
- Manfred D. Zorn, Program Director, Directorate for Biological Sciences, Division of Biological Infrastructure, 615 N, telephone: (703) 292-8470, email: mzorn@nsf.gov

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

- 47.074 --- Biological Sciences

NSF Proposal & Award Process (all executed by Fastlane) & Timeline





Program Activities: Proposal Evaluation

PO conducts program activities in an efficient and ethical manner

The merit review process:

- Selection of appropriate ad-hoc mail reviewers for each proposal (3 reviews minimum)
- Selection of appropriate panelists for proposals in a round or competition

Conflict of interest and confidentiality:

- Exclude evaluators with potential bias; e.g., institution affiliation, collaborators, advisor and advisee, family
- Anonymity of evaluators
- Secrecy of panel deliberation

The purpose is to preserve the trust of the scientific community and the general public in the integrity and evenhandedness of the NSF process



Program Activities: Proposal Recommendation

Factors considered in the decision-making process:

- Evaluation by either mail reviewers or the panel, or both
- PO's analysis and judgment
- High risk, high return
- Balance among subfields, and institution type and location
- Balance among principal investigators (PIs) of competitive proposals
- Budget considerations

Proposal Recommendation:

- PO writes review analysis and recommendation
- PO communicates decision to PI
- PO discussed scope of work and budget
- Division Director evaluates/concurs with recommendation
- Division of Grants and Agreements awards funds



Appealing a Proposal Declination

Proposals declined or considered unacceptable

- 1) PI may require additional information from the PO or Division Director
- 2) PI may request in writing, within 90 days after the date of the declination letter or return, that the Assistant Director reconsider the action to determine whether it received a fair and reasonable review, both substantively and procedurally.
- 3) PI's Institution may request, within 60 days after the determination by the Assistant Director, further reconsideration by the NSF Deputy Director.



Program Activities: Monitoring Scientific Results

Daily communication with PIs and applicants to advise on programmatic matters

Evaluation of annual and final reports of awards submitted by PI

Receives reprints and pre-prints of publications, and provides assistance in the preparation of NSF press releases

Participation in scientific societies' annual and special meetings

Preparation of annual report on “nuggets” or significant results published in the current year that are communicated to Congress and used in the budget request



Program Evaluation

Programs evaluate their work and the work of those supported through:

- Peer Review of proposals, including “Results of Previous Research”; annual and final reports; site visits
- Committees of Visitors (COV)
- Advisory committee for the directorate
- Self-evaluation
- Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)



Program Activities: Long-Range Planning

- Support of community-based workshops, panels, and planning meetings, which commonly generate reports
- Planning of major collaborative research projects, often with other programs in the division and international groups
- Integration through the National Academy of Science and other professional organization efforts
- Disciplinary long-range planning and priority setting through NSF advisory committees
- Directorate long-range planning and priority setting
- Integration into NSF-wide planning and priority setting mechanisms.



Priority Area: Creation and Management

A research program with a focused agenda to advance the frontier of a specific science area through support of challenging ideas, creative people, and effective tools. Program is multidisciplinary and has a limited duration.

Management by a team of POs, who commonly manage core programs in related scientific disciplines. Thus, the PA provides additional funding to the core-program community

The PA may disappear, evolve into a new core program, or the PA science may be absorbed into existing core programs