# NSF General Guidelines

## About

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by Congress in 1950 to

supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering.

NSF encourages institutions of higher education (IHEs) that enroll, educate, graduate, and employ individuals who are members of groups underrepresented and/or underserved in STEM education programs and careers to lead, partner, and contribute to NSF opportunities, including leading and designing STEM research and education proposals for funding.

Learn more: [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)](#)

## Helpful Links

- [Research.gov](#)
- [Preparing Your Proposal Budget](#)
- [Allowability of Costs](#)
- [SciENcv](#)
- [Documents Required for Senior Personnel](#)
- [Preparing Your Data Management Plan](#)
- [Research Involving Vertebrate Animals](#)
- [Research Involving Human Subjects](#)

## General Information

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|  | Some NSF proposal types, or funding opportunities, may require submission of a concept outline prior to submission of a full proposal. A concept outline is a concise summary of a project idea that contains information about the prospective PI(s), potentially germane NSF organizational unit(s), project title, keywords, and brief narrative |

| | Designated periods of time during which proposals will be |
| --- | --- |

| | 3-page maximum | Required to use SciENcv Template |
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