INSPIRE

Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education

Track 1: Continuation of FY 2012 CREATIV
Track 2: Larger “mid-scale” research awards
Director’s Awards: Interdisciplinary single investigators

NSF I/UCRC Annual Meeting
January 10, 2013
Presented by: Carmiña Londoño
U.S. Science Policy: White House Panel Urges Agencies to Take More Risks

by Jeffrey Mervis, Science 7 December 2012;338:1274-1274

President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to Federal Agencies (such as NSF, NIH):

• Conservative merit review process that rewards safe bets; Be bolder
• Too much of federal research spending supports incremental advances
• Need for a bigger commitment to supporting high-risk, interdisciplinary research by investigators with a strong track record
• Current efforts are “a drop in the bucket of total agency funding”
• Adopt “revolutionary ... interdisciplinary ... and people-based awards”

Report: Transformation and Opportunity: The Future of the U.S. Research Enterprise...
Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE)

Goals:

- *Demonstrate that NSF is open to unusually novel cross-disciplinary ideas:* Welcome groundbreaking or unconventional ideas and approaches, and unusually novel, creative interdisciplinary proposals

- *Encourage Program Directors to promote such ideas:* Empower PDs with flexibility and new resources and mechanisms to enable cross-cutting collaboration and risk-taking in developing their awards portfolio
INSPIRE Awards for 2013

Anticipated Funding Amount: $63 million (pending availability of funds)

INSPIRE Track 1 - Provides funding for all NSF-supported areas of science, engineering, and education research; not limited to the exploratory stage (max award $800,000 to $1M; max duration 5 years)

INSPIRE Track 2 - Larger ($1M to $3M) projects

Director’s INSPIRE Awards - INSPIRE Track 1 awards for single investigators. Possible additional $500K.

Solicitation NSF 13-518 released Nov. 23, 2012
INSPIRE Track 1 in 2013

- Open to all NSF-supported areas of science, engineering, and education research – unsolicited, no favored topics
- All INSPIRE awards must meet NSF’s criteria for intellectual merit and broader impacts in addition to being interdisciplinary and potentially transformative
- Track 1 proposals require internal merit review by program directors with external review optional.
- Track 1 provides substantial funding, not limited to the exploratory stage (maximum award $800,000 to $1,000,000; maximum duration 5 years)
- INSPIRE is Not for proposals that are more appropriate for existing mechanisms

*Through inquiry process, PI must have at least 2 program directors’ authorizations in advance in order to submit a proposal*
Director’s INSPIRE Awards:

- Are prestigious individual awards to single-investigator proposals that present ideas for interdisciplinary advances with unusually strong, exciting transformative potential.
- Originate with single-investigator Track 1 LOIs.
- Are nominated by PDs as candidates for Director’s INSPIRE awards.
- The review process is a combination of Track 1 & Track 2.
- Maximum award is $1M plus an additional $500K.
The Track 1 and Director’s Award Process

INSPiRE Track 1 and Director Award
Fiscal Year 2013
INSPIRE Track 2 in 2013

- **Track 2** are "mid-scale" research awards at a larger scale than Track 1; expectations for cross-cutting advances and for broader impacts are greater than in Track 1.
- **Track 2** proposals can request funding for instrumentation if this is justified by the needs of the research, and if the instrumentation itself is highly innovative.
- **Track 2** allows for requests of up to $3,000,000 over a duration of up to five years.
- **Track 2** has a single LOI deadline, round of invitations and full proposal deadline.
- **Track 2** combines external blue-ribbon panel review for high-level transformative impact with PD-directed internal/\textit{ad hoc} review.
The Track 2 Process

INSPIRE solicitation released November 23

Deadline for Track 2 LOIs February 20

NSF LOI screening February 25

Track 2 LOI is not invited to submit full proposal

NSF review March 29

Track 2 LOI is not invited to submit full proposal

NSF decision point March 29

INSPIRE Track 2
Fiscal Year 2013

Blue Ribbon Panel reviews Track 2 full proposals

Invited Track 2 full proposal deadline May 13

NSF decision point July 15

NSF review May 13-July 1

Virtual reverse site visit (as selected) early July

Track 2 full proposal is awarded

Track 2 full proposal is declined
## Comparison of INSPIRE 2013 Tracks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSPIRE</th>
<th>Track 1</th>
<th>Track 2</th>
<th>Director Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FastLane Letter of Intent (LOI) to Working Group</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>Single Process Annually</td>
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<td>LOI Deadline</td>
<td>29-Mar</td>
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<td>Ad Hoc Reviews</td>
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<td>Target Number of Awards</td>
<td>40 to 50</td>
<td>10 to 15</td>
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INSPIRE Working Group

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Resources

INSPIRE Solicitation NSF 13-518

Frequently Asked Questions NSF 13-040

NSF Interdisciplinary Research web site
http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/additional_resources/interdisciplinary_research/

Questions? Thank you!