

NSF Collaborative Proposals

A collaborative proposal is defined by the National Science Foundation's Proposal and Award Policies & Procedures Guide (NSF-PAPPG) as a proposal in which "investigators from two or more organizations wish to collaborate on a unified research project". Participation in a collaborative project allows for each organization to bear responsibility for their distinct contribution(s), to the unified project.

Collaborative – one institution

- More F&A is charged to the budget, since OSU collects F&A on each subrecipient's first \$25k proposed/awarded.
- You as a PI are more in charge—you'll have more administration, such as authorizing subawards, reviewing/approving their invoicing, etc., reporting, etc.
- More work on proposal.

And the below is the opposite of the above:

Collaborative – multiple organizations

- Less administration/proposal work for OSU
- OSU is not responsible for monitoring the subawards
- Savings in budget dollars (no F&A budgeted for subrecipients)

PAPPG

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/nsf18_1.pdf

From pages 11 - 27-29.

3. Collaborative Proposals

A collaborative proposal is one in which investigators from two or more organizations wish to collaborate on a unified research project. Collaborative proposals may be submitted to NSF in one of two methods: as a single proposal, in which a single award is being requested (with subawards administered by the lead organization); or by simultaneous submission of proposals from different organizations, with each organization requesting a separate award. In either case, the lead organization's proposal must contain all of the requisite sections as a single package to be provided to reviewers (that will happen automatically when procedures below are followed). All collaborative proposals must clearly describe the roles to be played by the other organizations, specify the managerial arrangements, and explain the advantages of the multi-organizational effort within the Project Description.

a. Submission of a collaborative proposal from one organization

The single proposal method allows investigators from two or more organizations who have developed an integrated research project to submit a single, focused proposal. A single investigator bears primary responsibility for the administration of the grant and discussions with NSF, and, at the discretion of the organizations involved, investigators from any of the participating organizations may be designated as co-PIs. Note, however, that if awarded, a single award would be made to the submitting organization, with

any collaborators listed as subawards. (See Chapter II.C.2.g(vi)(e) for additional instructions on preparation of this type of proposal.)

If a proposed subaward includes funding to support postdoctoral researchers, the mentoring activities to be provided for such individuals must be incorporated in the supplemental mentoring plan outlined in Chapter II.C.2.j.

b. Submission of a collaborative proposal from multiple organizations

Simultaneous submission of proposals allows multiple organizations to submit a unified set of certain proposal sections, as well as information unique to each organization as specified below. All collaborative proposals arranged as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via FastLane. For these proposals, the project title must begin with the words "Collaborative Research." If funded, each organization bears responsibility for a separate award.

Required sections of the proposal differ based on the organization's role. The following sections are required for a collaborative proposal submitted by:

Lead Organization	Non-Lead Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cover Sheet• Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cover Sheet• Table of Contents (automatically generated)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Table of Contents (automatically generated)• Project Description• References Cited• Biographical Sketch(es)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biographical Sketch(es)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget and Budget Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget and Budget Justification• Current and Pending Support• Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current and Pending Support• Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources• Data Management Plan• Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (if applicable)• Collaborators & Other Affiliations Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborators & Other Affiliations Information

See Chapter II.C.2.j for additional guidance on the mentoring and data management plan requirements for collaborative proposals. NSF will combine the proposal submission for printing or electronic viewing.

To submit the collaborative proposal, the following process must be completed:³²

(i) Each non-lead organization must assign their proposal a proposal PIN. This proposal PIN and the temporary proposal ID generated by FastLane when the non-lead proposal is created must be provided to the lead organization before the lead organization submits its proposal to NSF.

(ii) The lead organization must then enter each non-lead organization(s) proposal PIN and temporary proposal ID into the FastLane lead proposal by using the "Link Collaborative Proposals" option found on the FastLane "Form Preparation" screen.

(iii) All components of the collaborative proposal must meet any established deadline date, and failure to do so may result in the entire collaborative proposal being returned without review.

(iv) If funded, both lead and non-lead organizations are required to submit separate annual and final project reports. These reports should reference the work of the collaborative, while focusing on the distinct work conducted at each funded organization.