**NSF Grants Policy – Significant Changes Related to Cost Sharing and Data Management**

**Cost Sharing**

Including voluntary committed cost sharing in proposals is prohibited. Proposals should not include any quantified or budgeted cost share in either the formal budget or the proposal narrative. Institutional resources necessary for the project must be described the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section (II.C.2.i). The description should be narrative in nature and must not include any quantifiable financial information. Mandatory cost sharing will only be required when explicitly authorized by the NSF Director and will be specified in the program announcement. The following provides additional guidance regarding the inclusion of cost sharing in NSF proposals.

* Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing will be prohibited in solicited and unsolicited proposals and Line M will be “blanked out” in FastLane.
* Organizations may, at their own discretion, continue to contribute any amount of voluntary uncommitted cost sharing to NSF-sponsored projects. This should be described in the Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources section of the proposal as stated above.
* The Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources section should be used to provide a comprehensive description of all resources (both physical and personnel) necessary for, and available to a project, without reference to cost, date of acquisition, and whether the resources are currently available or would be provided upon receipt of the grant.
* NSF program officers may discuss the “bottom line” award amount with PIs, but may not renegotiate or impose cost sharing or other organizational commitments.
* NSF Program Officers may not impose or encourage programmatic cost sharing requirements.
* There is a continued expectation for grantees to continue the existing practice of sharing in the costs of faculty salaries (i.e. NSF will pay only two months of faculty salary). When proposing faculty or senior researcher time to an NSF award, voluntary committed cost sharing cannot be included. If the institution wants to document unpaid effort for internal purposes, the institution can do so.
* Mandatory NSF-required programmatic cost sharing will rarely be approved for an NSF program. Mandatory cost sharing has been implemented only for the following programs: Major Research Instrumentation Program; Robert Noyce Scholarship Program; Engineering Research Centers; Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers; Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCOR). Cost sharing for these programs must be identified on Line M of the approved budget.

**Special Information and Supplementary Documentation – Data Management and Sharing**

All proposals must describe plans for data management and sharing of the products of research, or assert the absence of the need for such plans. The Data Management Plan will be reviewed as part of the intellectual merit or broader impacts of the proposal or both. There are two pages designated for this purpose with more than two pages counting against the 15 page limit of the project description. FastLane will not allow submission unless the Data Management and Sharing section is complete.

NSF Grants Policy Guide: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf11001/gpg_index.jsp>