National Science Foundation (NSF)

Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

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About SBE

- 1 of 7 NSF Directorates
- Funds more than 50% of federally funded basic research in SBE fields in academic institutions
- Most of the funds go to peer-reviewed grants to individuals and small groups
- Also provides funding to major surveys; to collect data on the nation’s science and engineering enterprise
Social and Economic Sciences (SES)

- Decision, Risk, & Management Science
- Economics
- Law & Social Sciences
- Methodology, Measurement, & Statistics
- Political Science
- Science of Organizations
- Science Technology, & Society
- Sociology
Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)
- Archaeology
- Cultural Anthropology
- Biological Anthropology
- Geography & Spatial Sciences
- Cognitive Neuroscience
- Developmental & Learning Sciences
- Endangered Languages
- Linguistics
- Perception, Action, & Cognition
- Social Psychology
National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES)

- Nation’s primary source of data and analysis on the science & engineering enterprise
- Designs, supports, and directs about 11 periodic surveys, other data collections & research projects
  - Major surveys on innovation in business
- 30 publications yearly
- Congressionally-mandated publications:
  - Science & Engineering Indicators
  - Women, Minorities, and Persons with Disabilities in Science and Engineering
SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities (SMA)

- Science of Science and Innovation Policy (SciSIP)
- Science of Learning Centers (SLC)
- Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Sites
- SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (SPRF)
  - Broadening Participation
  - Interdisciplinary Research
- Interdisciplinary Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (IBSS)
2013 NSF Themes for SBE

- Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES)
- Cyberinfrastructure Framework for 21st Century Science and Engineering (CIF21)
- Expeditions in Education (E²)
- Comprehensive National Cybersecurity Initiative (CNCI)
NSF Major Investments and SBE

- Innovation Corps Program (I-Corps)
- Integrated NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education (INSPIRE)
- Build on Core Programs to Support Innovative Science
Other SBE Priorities and Investments

- Cognitive Science and Neuroscience
- International activities
- Science of Learning Centers
- Science of Science and Innovation Policy
- Science of Broadening Participation
- NCSES research program
- CAREER
- Cyberlearning: Transforming Education
- Enhancing Access to the Radio Spectrum
SBE FY13 Investments in CIF21

- Community Development
- Access to SBE-supported surveys
- Advanced Computing Infrastructure
- Building Community and Capacity for Data-Intensive Research (SBE/EHR)
SBE FY13 Investments in SEES

- Water Sustainability and Climate
- Coupled Natural and Human Systems
- Sustainability Research Networks
- SEES Fellowships
- Sustainable Energy Pathways
- Decision making, coastal communities, vulnerability, and resilience
Secure and Trustworthy Cyberspace (SaTC):
- Fund research to enable a cybersecure society via the production of high-quality digital systems and a well-trained workforce

SBE focus: To understand and, if possible, predict:
- Prevention, attack, and/or defense behaviors
- Design of incentives, markets, or institutions
- Motivations of individuals
Innovation Corps (I-Corps)

- Assesses the readiness of emerging technology concepts to transition into new products
- Brings together technological, entrepreneurial, and business know-how to move discoveries towards commercialization

SBE focus:
- Strengthen collaboration between social scientists and practitioners
- Improve social science students' understanding of innovation
INSPIRE (second year pilot program)
- Interdisciplinary and potentially transformative
- Internal merit-reviewed by program directors
- Open to all NSF-supported fields—no favored topics
- Substantial funding; not limited to exploratory stage

SBE Focus:
- Support interdisciplinary research and training aligned with the SBE Transformed Portfolio, SBE 2020
SBE 2020 Themes

- Population change: family, migration, aging
- Disparities: health, gender, race and ethnicity, education and more
- Communication, language, brain, behavior
- New technology, social media and social networks
A Few Tips

- Check NSF Awards Database for funded projects in your field(s) – ask university SPO for help
- Get Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval early; at least have it pending at submission
- Monitor the progress of your proposal through NSF FastLane – do not contact your PO
- For FastLane issues contact FastLane Help Desk - do not contact your PO
- For budget guidelines, eligibility and other clarifications on program solicitation, ask university SPO for help before contacting your PO
- Contact PO for questions on suitability of your research project, review process and criteria, etc.
Read carefully the program description and/or solicitation
Email appropriate persons to ask questions, if any
Make sure your proposal complies with the program requirements
Submit proposal well before the deadline

Questions?
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Thanks!