

Effective November 22, 2021, the National Science Foundation (NSF) enhanced the Research.gov Proposal Submission System, NSF Public Access Repository, and NSF.gov Award Search. Here's what to know.

Research.gov Proposal Submission System Enhancements

- Preliminary proposals and full proposals related to a preliminary proposal are now supported in Research.gov. The program solicitation will clearly state whether Research.gov is available for submission.
- Program solicitations that permit a Project Description to exceed 15 pages are now supported in Research.gov. Proposers must follow the Project Description page limit requirements in the program solicitation. Proposers also should be aware that page limit requirements in a solicitation may vary by track or program. For a program solicitation that does not include Project Description page limit instructions, follow the guidance in the [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 22-1).
- Center and Research Infrastructure proposal types are also now available for submission in Research.gov.
- New automated compliance checks and associated error and warning messages for the newly enabled proposal and submission types were also implemented. Error messages will prohibit proposal submission to NSF, whereas warning messages still permit proposal submission. Visit the [Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals](#) page to view the current compliance checks for Research.gov proposals.
- All supported proposal and submission types and the associated compliance checks are also in the Research.gov Proposal Preparation Demo Site. See the demo site frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the Research.gov [About Proposal Preparation and Submission](#) page for information on demo site access and features.
- New FAQs were added to the Research.gov [About Proposal Preparation and Submission](#) page for the above-referenced enhancements, and the [Proposal Submission Capabilities](#) page has been updated to reflect the latest development updates.
- NSF is transitioning all proposal preparation and submission from FastLane to Research.gov by a target date of **December 31, 2022**. NSF funding opportunities are being enabled in Research.gov as new functionality is added, and FastLane will continue to be incrementally removed from funding opportunities as a submission option through December 31, 2022. We invite you to join our System Updates listserv to stay updated on the transition by sending a blank email to system_updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov.

NSF Public Access Repository (NSF-PAR) Enhancements

- NSF-PAR functionality has expanded with the ability for Principal Investigators (PIs) and co-PIs to include NSF-funded datasets in the PAR and associate them with NSF Award IDs as part of a PAR 2.0 pilot.
- The implementation of PAR 1.0 focused on articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and papers in juried conference proceedings. PAR 2.0 is the next stage of a phased implementation adding the capability for public access to datasets by enabling researchers to auto-populate metadata for repositored datasets by means of Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs). NSF-PAR only stores the metadata and DOI and not the dataset itself in the repository.

- Dataset reporting in NSF project reports remains optional and adding datasets to the NSF-PAR is currently **voluntary**. Automatic population of NSF-PAR datasets into NSF project reports will be enabled in the Research.gov Project Reporting System in 2022. **There are no changes at this time to NSF's Public Access policy or project reporting requirements.**
- Training resources including how-to guides with step-by-step instructions on how to associate datasets to NSF Award IDs in NSF-PAR and manage products are available on the Research.gov [About Public Access](#) page. Information about the NSF Public Access Initiative including FAQs is available on the [NSF Public Access Initiative](#) page.
- The PAR 2.0 pilot is anticipated to continue through calendar year 2022. Although not required, we hope that you will start including research datasets in PAR and associating them to NSF Award IDs as soon as possible. NSF is very interested in your feedback during the pilot to help us make improvements before any changes are made to the Public Access policy and project reporting requirements in the future. Feedback may be submitted by email to publicaccess@nsf.gov.

NSF.gov Award Search Enhancements

- NSF has added a predefined "American Rescue Plan Awards" search to the features of [Award Search](#) to quickly and easily identify NSF awards that include funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
- To access and use the new predefined American Rescue Plan search:
 - Open the [Award Search](#) link;
 - Select the "Popular Searches" tab on the top navigation bar; and
 - Click the predefined "American Rescue Plan Awards" search option.
- American Rescue Fund search results can be viewed in text or table formats and are sortable by eight key fields. In addition, the search results can be exported and downloaded, and can be further refined by state, NSF organization, and other fields. Please refer to the [Overview of Search Features](#) for additional details.

Questions? If you have IT system-related questions regarding any of these enhancements, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or to rgov@nsf.gov. Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov.

Regards,
National Science Foundation