NSF 25-548: Accelerating Research Translation (ART)

Program Solicitation

Document Information

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Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences
Directorate for STEM Education
Office of Integrative Activities

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. submitting organization's local time):

January 15, 2026

Tracks 2 and 5

March 12, 2026

Tracks 1, 3 and 4

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Important Information And Revision Notes

The Accelerating Research Translation (ART) program has been revised, and prospective Principal Investigators (PIs) are encouraged to read the solicitation carefully. Please refer FAQs for NSF ART program for certain terminologies and definitions. Among the changes are the following:

- There are a total of five different Tracks available. These present opportunities for proposals from a wider range of institutes of higher education (IHE) and other organizations.
- Although most of the original solicitation NSF 23-558 is included, there are modifications throughout including a new requirement for a Mentoring Institution (MI).
- The five Tracks offer distinct but interconnected opportunities for accelerating research translation at institutions of higher education with different research translation readiness levels (RTRL).

Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should be submitted in accordance with the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) that is in effect for the relevant due date to which the proposal is being submitted. The NSF PAPPG is regularly revised and it is the responsibility of the proposer to ensure that the proposal meets the requirements specified in this solicitation and the applicable version of the PAPPG. Submitting a proposal prior to a specified deadline does not negate this requirement.

Summary Of Program Requirements

General Information

Program Title:

Accelerating Research Translation (ART)

Synopsis of Program:

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) seeks to increase the scale and pace of advancing discoveries resulting from academic research into tangible solutions that benefit the public. The overarching goal for the Accelerating Research Translation (ART) program is to advance the U.S. scientific and economic leadership by building capacity and increasing the number of robust translational research ecosystems in Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) that span across the full geography of our nation. Innovations can occur anywhere and can be opportunities for creating sustained impacts in every single region of the United States. Achieving translational outcomes as a mechanism to drive sustained economic impacts is the primary aim of the "Accelerating Research Translation" (ART) program.

Led by NSF's Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP) and in collaboration with other NSF directorates and the Office of Integrative Activities, the ART program seeks proposals involving institutional leadership; research translation programs, institutes or centers; technology transfer offices; units responsible for managing research intellectual property (IP); entrepreneurial training teams; and researchers from all scientific, technological and engineering fields in collaboration with one or more of the other target categories mentioned below. This updated ART solicitation expands and builds upon its previous version, NSF 23-558, by implementing Tracks that address varying stages of capacity to accelerate research translation.

The ART program is aimed at providing resources that will ultimately facilitate a wide range of IHEs to achieve research translation, accelerate technology transfer, and create sustained economic and collective impacts across the U.S. It is understood that, like technology readiness levels (TRLs), there is no one measure or a combination of measures that can be used to describe the capacity of or measure the research translation readiness level (RTRL) for an IHE. Some indicators that reflect on RTRL include volume of sustained basic and applied research as measured by research expenditures, robust technology transfer and entrepreneurship related activities (e.g. invention disclosures, patents, licenses, royalties, partnerships with industry, non-profits etc.). Number of start-ups, resources for entrepreneurial and innovation education and training, the presence of a dedicated technology transfer office are also some of the other indicators that reflect on the RTRL.

Some of the criteria that may help identify the RTRL for an IHE are shown in Figure 1. Typically, an IHE with low RTRL is likely to have very few patent, licensing, or start-ups related activities, while as these activities will be at a higher level for an IHE with a medium RTRL, whereas an IHE with high RTRL would likely have established tech transfer office with an an extensive record of technology transfer activities including patenting, licensing and creation of startups, as well as extensive education, training, networking opportunities related to tech transfer and entrepreneurship. For the purpose of this solicitation, the illustration below provides some descriptors that may be useful in deciding which Track may be the best fit for a proposing organization. It is ultimately up to a proposing organization to determine which Track may present the best alignment for their submission.

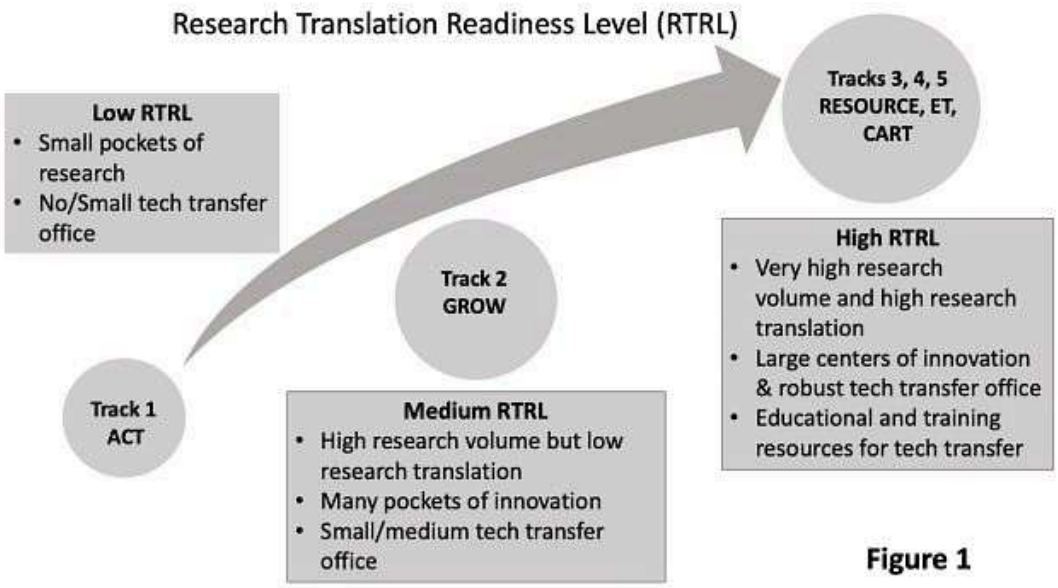

Fig 1: Research Translation Readiness Level

The ART program seeks proposals that have a blend of: (1) activities that will help build and/or strengthen the institutional infrastructure to sustainably grow the institutional capacity for research translation in the short and long terms; (2) educational/training opportunities, especially in engaged scholarship and experiential opportunities for students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty, to become entrepreneurial leads (EL) and/or seek use-inspired- and/or technology transfer- and research translation-oriented careers in the public and/or private sectors; and (3) specific, research translation and technology transfer activities that offer immediate opportunities for transition to practice to create sustained economic and collective impacts. Importantly, NSF's definitions of research translation and technology transfer go beyond a traditional focus on lab-to-market pathways leading to new startups and small businesses; rather, NSF aims to grow capacity at IHEs to achieve the full range of translational impacts emanating from research discoveries and innovations by including civic entrepreneurship; informing standards-setting, policy, and regulatory bodies; scaling rigorous and engaging curricula, instructional material, and pedagogies; and more.

The ART program framework is built around five distinct Tracks that are interconnected. These Tracks are differentiated by the RTRL. Track 1 is designed and intended for IHEs that currently have a low to medium RTRL. The IHEs responding to Track 1 are expected to have on-going research that has potential and opportunity for innovation translation but the infrastructure and the ecosystem for creating such opportunities for research translation are very limited. On the other hand, Track 2 is designed and intended for IHEs with some modest infrastructure and ecosystem that has a high volume of research but overall low level of research translation. Tracks 3 and 4 are designed and intended for IHEs or non-profits that have a significantly higher RTRL (or equivalent experience) and can create and deliver entrepreneurship-, technology transfer related education and training materials and offer related services to IHEs that have a much lower RTRL. Track 5 is designed and intended for providing support to an IHE that can coordinate research translation-related activities for teams across all the other Tracks.

Track 1: Accelerating Technology Transfer (ACT)

- This is an opportunity for only IHEs that have a low to medium level of overall research and can demonstrate potential for identifying and acting on opportunities for economic benefits by starting to build capacity for innovation translation. A Track 1 award is expected to be up to a total of $3 million for a duration of 3 years. The proposal must be led by and focused on outcomes of one IHE. Subject to availability of funds and quality of proposals, NSF plans to make up to 20

awards under the ACT Track. ACT awardees demonstrating strong performance, as demonstrated by successfully meeting evaluation criteria during the award may have an opportunity to receive renewal support for up to 2 more years and total funding up to $1 million, subject to the availability of funds.

Track 2: Growing Capacity for Research Translation (GROW)

- This is an opportunity for only IHEs that currently have a high level of research with a modest research translation infrastructure in place but where the level of research translation remains relatively low. This Track 2 is aimed at IHEs that have a high potential and desire to substantially elevate the overall level of research translation to unleash innovation and create significant opportunities for sustained economic and collective impacts. The proposal must be led by and focused on outcomes of one IHE in partnership with one mentoring IHE with a high RTRL. A Track 2 award may be budgeted for up to a total of $6 million for a duration of 4 years. Subject to availability of funds and quality of proposals, NSF plans to make up to 10 awards under this Track.

Track 3: Technology Transfer Resource Centers (RESOURCE)

- The ART program aims to leverage the experience and resources of IHEs or non-profits with strong research translation capacity (and/or experience) to launch a network of regional Technology Transfer Resource Centers (RESOURCE) that promote regional technology transfer and technology development activities available to multiple IHEs in a region with low or emerging research capacity and little or no dedicated technology transfer or research translation resources. A Track 3 award for a RESOURCE is expected to provide guidance, training, education, and services to other IHEs in a region who have a low RTRL. A Track 3 award is expected to be up to a total of $8 million for a duration of 4 years. Subject to availability of funds and quality of proposals, NSF plans to make up to 5 RESOURCE awards. Some awardees demonstrating strong performance, as demonstrated by successfully meeting evaluation criteria during the award, including progress toward self-sustainability, may have an opportunity to receive renewal support for up to 4 more years and additional funding of up to $2 million, subject to the availability of funds. As noted above, the lead IHE for this Track is expected to be an IHE with a very high RTRL or a non-profit with significant expertise related to technology transfer, entrepreneurship and related areas leading to sustained economic impacts.

Track 4: Education and Training (ET)

- This nationally focused Track invites proposals from IHEs or non-profits with any combination of either a strong, vibrant and established research translation ecosystem, and/or demonstrated experience to develop, evaluate, and deploy educational and training resources related to entrepreneurship, technology transfer and related activities. The beneficiaries for these education and training resources to be developed will be lower RTRL IHEs located anywhere in the United States (including but not limited to Track 1 and Track 2 awardees). Track 4 awards may be budgeted up to a total of $3 million for a duration of 3 years. Subject to availability of funds and quality of proposals, NSF plans to make up to 4 ET awards. Some awardees demonstrating strong performance, as demonstrated by successfully meeting evaluation criteria during the award, including progress toward self-sustainability, may have an opportunity to receive renewal support for up to 2 more years and additional funding up to $2 million (subject to the availability of funds), to scale up the deployment and adoption of the developed resources and training materials nationally.

Track 5: Coordinating Accelerating Research Translation (CART)

- This Track invites proposals from IHEs or non-profits for the creation of a unifying center that will facilitate the development of an integrated platform for coordinating, evaluating, and monitoring

the progress being made by teams that are supported under both Tracks 1 and 2. The CART awardee would also coordinate activities to be carried out under awards pursuant to Tracks 3 and 4. The Track 5 CART cooperative agreement award may be budgeted up to a total of $3 million for a duration of 5 years. Subject to availability of funds and quality of proposals, NSF plans to make up to 2 awards under the CART Track. Some awardees demonstrating strong performance, as demonstrated by successfully meeting evaluation criteria during the award, including progress toward self-sustainability, may have an opportunity to receive renewal for up to 5 more years and additional funding up to $3 million, subject to the availability of funds. Proposals for this Track must be led by one IHE with a high RTRL with significant expertise and experience in areas related to technology transfer, intellectual property management, entrepreneurship as well as initiatives and programs directed at sustained economic and collective impacts.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

Please note that the following information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

- Pradeep Fulay, telephone: (703) 292-2445, email: art@nsf.gov
- Hina Mehta, telephone: (703) 292-8084, email: art@nsf.gov

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):

- 47.041 --- Engineering
- 47.049 --- Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- 47.050 --- Geosciences
- 47.070 --- Computer and Information Science and Engineering
- 47.074 --- Biological Sciences
- 47.075 --- Social Behavioral and Economic Sciences
- 47.076 --- STEM Education
- 47.079 --- Office of International Science and Engineering
- 47.083 --- Office of Integrative Activities (OIA)
- 47.084 --- NSF Technology, Innovation and Partnerships

Award Information

Anticipated Type of Award: Standard Grant or Continuing Grant or Cooperative Agreement

Estimated Number of Awards: 40

NSF anticipates making up to: 20 Track 1 awards, 10 Track 2 awards, 5 Track 3 awards, 4 Track 4 awards, and 2 Track 5 awards, depending on the quality of submissions and the availability of funds.

Anticipated Funding Amount: $178,000,000

Estimated program budget, number of awards, and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds and quality of proposals received.

Eligibility Information

Who May Submit Proposals:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research laboratories, professional societies and similar organizations located in the U.S. that are directly associated with educational or research activities.
- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two- and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the U.S., acting on behalf of their faculty members. Each IHE that is part of a university system is eligible to submit a separate proposal if it has its own leadership team, sponsored research office (SRO) or equivalent, and own governing structure.

  Please note additional eligibility requirements stated for submission of proposals to different Tracks noted in this solicitation.

Who May Serve as PI:

The PI, Co-PIs, or any other senior/key personnel must hold an appointment at an organization that is eligible to submit as described under "Who May Submit Proposals."

Having a representative of the IHE's technology transfer office (if in place) or its equivalent unit as designated by its administrative regulations, bylaws, or otherwise, having responsibility to manage research intellectual property (IP) serve as a PI or at least a Co-PI is strongly encouraged.

Researchers with primary appointments at overseas branch campuses of U.S. institutions of higher education are **not** eligible.

Researchers from foreign academic institutions who contribute essential expertise to the project may participate as senior/key personnel or collaborators but may not receive NSF support.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

- An eligible IHE can submit a maximum of one proposal for Track 1 or 2 (but not both).
- For Tracks 3, 4, and 5, an eligible organization can submit a maximum of one proposal per Track.
- Applicants eligible for Tracks 1 and 2 cannot submit proposals for Tracks 3, 4 and 5 and vice versa.
- A Mentoring Institution (MI) for Track 2 is eligible to submit a proposal for Tracks 3, 4, or 5.
- If more than one proposal is submitted from an institution in a specific Track, the first proposal submitted from that institution will be considered, and remaining proposals for that Track will be returned without review.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI:

- There are no restrictions or limits.

Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Not required
- **Preliminary Proposal Submission:** Not required
- **Full Proposals:**
  - Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov: *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) guidelines apply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.
  - Full Proposals submitted via Grants.gov: *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov* guidelines apply (Note: The *NSF Grants.gov Application*

Guide is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide).

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:**

  Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:**

  Not Applicable

- **Other Budgetary Limitations:**

  Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. submitting organization's local time):

  January 15, 2026

  Tracks 2 and 5

  March 12, 2026

  Tracks 1, 3 and 4

Proposal Review Information Criteria
Merit Review Criteria:

National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review criteria apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

Award Administration Information
Award Conditions:

Additional award conditions apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

Reporting Requirements:

Additional reporting requirements apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

I. Introduction

The U.S. innovation economy is primarily driven by research outcomes that are successfully translated into practice across various economic, technology, and public policy sectors. Over the last several decades, a large proportion of such transformational research outcomes has emerged from federally funded research at U.S. Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs). Despite this, at many IHEs, there is still significant room to create, support and build capacity to enable and grow a vibrant research translation ecosystem. Advancing U.S. scientific and economic leadership requires an increase in the number and capacity of robust research translation ecosystems in IHEs in our nation. The ART program seeks to achieve this goal by building, growing, and sustaining the institutional capacity needed to increase the scale and pace of translation of innovative ideas and knowledge, especially stemming from federal investments, into tangible products, services, tools, and methods that will ultimately create lasting economic impacts. Specifically, the primary goals of this program are to create, build, and sustain the capacity and infrastructure for research translation at IHEs located in all different geographies across the United States and to enhance their role in regional innovation ecosystems. In addition,

this program seeks to effectively train undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty in research translation, entrepreneurship, technology transfer-related areas, and community-engaged scholarship, benefiting individuals by providing the skills, networks and resources to engage with opportunities across a much wider range of career options.

This solicitation seeks proposals aimed at creating resources that will ultimately assist and facilitate research translation, accelerate technology transfer, and create sustained economic and collective impacts at a wide range of IHEs across all geographies of the United States. As mentioned earlier, the ART program is built around five distinct but interconnected Tracks. Details on each of these Tracks, including guidance on proposal preparation, are described in the sections that follow.

II. Program Description

Track 1: Accelerating Technology Transfer (ACT):

This Track seeks to increase the capacity of only IHEs with low to medium RTRL. IHEs that are a good fit for this Track are those that have a low to moderate level of research activity and are in a position to identify high-promise discoveries/innovations, solicit disclosures of such discoveries/innovations, evaluate those discoveries/innovations and their product or service markets for protectability and product-market-fit potential, and protect IP thereby incentivizing and initiating a pipeline for subsequent translation activity to de-risk technologies, conduct proof-of-concept work, and advance technologies through partnership or new venture creation. Developing the building blocks for identification, pipeline development, evaluation, and IP protection activity is the primary aim of the ACT Track. Specifically, the primary goals of this Track are to build capacity and infrastructure for technology transfer units to develop a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, grow innovation management capacity and process-supported pipelines to feed into robust research translation programs at IHEs, and enhance IHEs' roles within their regional innovation ecosystems. It is a goal for awardees of this Track to develop technology transfer capacity such that, when the IHE develops higher research capacity, it may be better prepared for the Track 2 opportunity described below. In addition, the ACT Track seeks to effectively train and create experiential opportunities for students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty to perform innovation evaluation, market research and product-market-fit assessment for technology transfer, benefiting them across a range of career options.

A particular intent of ACT Track is to support IHEs that desire to build the necessary infrastructure to conduct technology transfer but need resources and tools to build awareness, policies, processes, innovator relationships, evaluation capabilities, and IP protection capabilities. The ACT Track is not intended as a resource for building licensing, venture investment, or startup development resources. Instead, this Track's focus is on innovation harvesting, invention evaluation, product-market-fit activities, and IP protection activities to grow an innovation translation pipeline that can ultimately be- served by programmatic activities that are the focus of Tracks 3 and 4 described below.

A part of the funding provided for this could be used for necessary and reasonable patenting-related costs. This will enable the lead IHE (with a low to medium RTRL) to grow its overall research, IP pipeline, build partnerships with industry, increase capacity and prepare for next innovation translation steps such as de-risking, proof of concept, customer discovery, pathways development, and acceleration (that are the focus of Track 2 described below). The lead IHE could recruit Innovation Fellows, consultants, technology scouts, mentor-in-residence and other experts as needed. Sub-awards to other IHEs are not encouraged.

Proposals submitted to ACT Track should clearly address the following:

a. **Big picture vision and goals**: The current status of the RTRL. Why does the lead IHE believe that it is a good candidate for this Track? What are the resources available for technology transfer, entrepreneurship and related areas at the IHE? Why does the IHE believe in the need to start building and strengthening the research translation pipeline and ecosystem? What is the lead IHE's unique value proposition based on the opportunities for regional economic impacts?

b. **Opportunities and gaps:** A description of what are the opportunities and gaps with respect to building awareness, policies, processes, innovator relationships, evaluation capabilities, and intellectual property protection to perform innovation harvesting and portfolio development to grow a research translation pipeline.

c. **Strategy and Approach**: What is the IHE's strategy and approach in achieving the goals related to increasing the overall RTRL? What specific steps will the IHE take? These should be described in detail. This should include a description of steps that will be taken for creation of a campus culture that values, encourages, incentivizes (e.g. faculty, post-doc, students recruiting), and rewards (including but not limited to tenure and promotion) use-inspired research and translation of research for sustained impacts.

d. **Engagement**: Plans for engagement and strategies for students, postdoctoral researchers and faculty to develop pathways for their careers in areas related to entrepreneurship and technology transfer for economic impacts. Activities could include, but are not limited to, student engagement or "Fellows" programs of established and successful technology transfer or equivalent office including especially the students' involvement in the evaluation, patent and market research and product-market-fit analysis process.

e. **Outcomes**: What are the expected outcomes for the IHE because of the infusion of resources that will enable activities that will be undertaken? What are the short-term (3-4 years) expected outcomes and the long-term (5-10 years) benefits to the IHE?

f. **Evaluation plan**: How will the IHE measure/capture the progress being made i.e. plans for an evaluation? How will the results of the evaluation be used for making adjustments that can lead to improved outcomes and benefits?

g. **Sustainability plan**: How will the IHE sustain the momentum and continue to build its ecosystem for research translation beyond NSF funding period?

h. **Timeline**: A detailed timeline for important activities.

Track 2: Growing Capacity for Research Translation (GROW)

This Track is aimed at IHEs that have a relatively high level of research with a modest research translation infrastructure in place but relatively low research translation readiness level (RTRL) and the potential to elevate it substantially. This Track is aimed at IHEs that: (a) recognize and are ready to unleash the existing innovation potential to create sustained economic and collective impacts, and (b) build, strengthen and sustain the overall institutional capacity to accelerate the pace and level of research translation. This Track is not intended to support IHEs that already have high RTRL.

Proposals submitted in response to this Track should describe:

a. **Big picture vision and goals and strategy**: Why does the lead IHE believe that it is a good candidate for this Track? i.e. why does it consider itself to be an IHE with a high research and low research translation entity and even more importantly why does the IHE, including its leadership, believes that scaling research translation across the entire IHE is a high priority. What is the unique value proposition based on the opportunities for specific regional impacts? A description of short-term (3-4 years) outcomes expected and the long-term benefits resulting from the establishment of the proposed Track 2 program.

b. **Strategy and Approach**: What is the IHE's strategy and approach in achieving the goals related to increasing the overall RTRL? What specific steps will the IHE take? A detailed plan to develop institutional capacity and infrastructure for research translation and technology transfer activities in the short term (during the four-year duration of the award) and the long term (5-10 years). Discuss: (i) the challenges and opportunities that exist at the proposing IHE for significantly boosting capacity for research translation, well above the existing level; (ii) the evidence-based and outcome-oriented mechanisms that will be deployed for capacity-building activities aimed at identifying and evaluating more fundamental research discoveries for translation, increasing the pipeline of research translation activity and accelerating research translation across multiple scientific disciplines at the entire institution in the long term, including the creation and expansion of research translation and technology transfer infrastructure for identifying promising research and receiving and evaluating more invention disclosures, as well as changes to promotion and tenure criteria to support parity between fundamental and research translation activities; (iii) creation of a campus culture that values, encourages, incentivizes (e.g., faculty,

postdoctoral researchers, students recruiting), and rewards (including but not limited to tenure and promotion) use-inspired research and translation of research for sustained impacts, (iv) and external partnerships along with a plan to sustain and grow them; (v) a plan for tracking and measuring the impact of the support from the ART program; and (vi) a plan to develop the internal network of ambassadors at the institution, including how such a network will be formed, who will be on the leadership team, what activities will be undertaken by this network, and how the institution will leverage network effects of this cohort to increase translation activities across the institution. In particular, a proposal should address how it plans to achieve the following activities:

- "Innovation harvesting" and "faculty relationships building," as a Year 1 initiative that continues throughout the 4-year award. This milestone should be shown by increased invention disclosures evidencing increased trust of faculty in capacity and infrastructure.
- "Invention evaluation" to focus on qualification of the increased pipeline, as a Year 2 focus that continues throughout the 4-year award. This milestone should be evidenced by increased assessment feedback to innovators, in addition to research and customer discovery outputs evidencing increased capacity to make informed decisions.
- "Partnering and team building capacity," with emphasis on graduate student and postdoctoral researchers. This milestone should be evident by increased external partnerships and graduate student involvement as entrepreneurial leads and team members.

c. **Seed translational research projects:** The proposal should identify and fund at least two active Seed Translational Research Projects (STRPs) selected from across the full spectrum of research activities supported within the lead institution. The STRPs should be based within the lead IHE. The total funding for all the seed projects throughout the award duration cannot be more than 50% of the total budget for the entire project. In general, a STRP candidate would be an innovation that has emerged from prior fundamental research with a clear underlying analytical and/or experimental proof of concept that has been completed.

   The STRP should have a justifiable path of achieving a prototype or a tangible outcome in an accelerated manner (< 2 years) that can be demonstrated in an environment relevant to the intended usage of innovation. Thus, an STRP is deemed to be highly focused, with a clearly defined path for tangible deliverables, a timeline, and an exit strategy. The STRP description should provide details on how customer identification, user-centered design, development, validation, and testing of prototypes for specific potential customers will be performed and outline anticipated sustained economic and collective impact. Each STRP is expected to be supported for up to two years.

   The progress of each STRP should be monitored, and decisions will need to be made on whether the project should receive additional funding beyond an initial period based on progress made. IHEs should also have a process and plans for identifying subsequent STRPs to support throughout the award period.

d. **ART Ambassadors**: The proposal should describe a plan for the lead IHE to create a team of ART Ambassadors – a group of individuals who would provide advocacy for the importance and impact of research translation at the IHE. In addition to the PI and Co-PIs, NSF expects senior administrators, technology transfer officers, and entrepreneurs to be a vital part of an "ART Ambassadors" team. The PI is the lead ART Ambassador and can also designate anyone in a senior leadership position actively engaged in boosting the efforts related to research translation as an ART Ambassador. The leader of each STRP and its core team members, including undergraduate and graduate students and/or postdoctoral researchers, are considered "ART Ambassadors." The collective goal for the institutional ART Ambassadors network will be to help grow the institution's overall ecosystem and translation infrastructure. Under the PI and co-PIs leadership, this group of ambassadors will also build bridges with ambassadors from other institutions supported by the ART program and explore and develop connections with other research programs and organizations focused on boosting research translation activities and innovation capacity.

e. **Mentoring Institution**: This Track requires the lead institution to partner with a mentoring institution (MI) that has a considerably higher RTRL. The MI must have established infrastructure and expertise in transitioning fundamental research into practice to create sustained impact. It is expected that MI will offer the

expertise/resources to translational capacity-building activities at the institution leading the Track 2 project. It is preferred that the MI is identified in the proposal preferably and be in the same region or state as the lead institution. The proposal should clearly describe how the mentoring arrangement with the MI will work, the specific tasks the MI will aid in, and the short- and long-term benefits for the proposing/lead institution. The primary beneficiary of this partnership should be the lead institution. An appropriate IHE may serve as a MI to multiple IHEs submitting proposals to this program.

f. **Evaluation plan**: How will the IHE measure/capture the progress being made i.e. plans for evaluation by an organization be? How will the results of the evaluation be used for making adjustments that can lead to improved outcomes and benefits?

g. **Sustainability plan:** How will the lead organization sustain the activities, the momentum and continue to strengthen the regional ecosystem for research translation beyond NSF funding.

h. **Timeline:** A detailed timeline for different activities to be undertaken.

Track 3: Technology Transfer Resource Centers (RESOURCE):

The goal for this Track is for an IHE or a non-profit (referred as lead organization hereafter) with considerable expertise in technology transfer and entrepreneurship to launch a regional Technology Transfer Resource Center (RESOURCE). The proposal to this Track should be led by a single IHE that has a high RTRL or a non-profit organization with relevant technology translational experience. As the financial, regulatory, and administrative requirements of generating, protecting, and capitalizing on intellectual property become more robust and complex, many institutions with limited resources need this capacity to become effective in supporting faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and students who would benefit from being (or are) engaged in entrepreneurship and technology transfer-related activities. The lead organization should propose the establishment of a RESOURCE that will provide technology transfer-related services to multiple other low-RTRL IHEs in the RESOURCE region who would be the members and primary beneficiaries/users of the RESOURCE. The RESOURCE would provide them with access to resources, knowledge, processes, tools, templates, and established programs that may be leveraged to serve, support, and create efficiencies by creating easy access. The lead organization may recruit, as consultants or experts, experienced regional technology transfer program managers that currently provide centralized technology transfer services to multiple IHEs in their region.

Proposals submitted in response to this Track should describe:

a. **Need**: Why does the lead organization believe in the need to start building a RESOURCE and how it can contribute to strengthening the regional research translation ecosystem?

b. **Opportunities and gaps**: What is the unique value proposition based on the opportunities and gaps for specific regional impacts.

c. **Strategy and Approach**: What is the proposed RESOURCE's strategy and approach in achieving the goals related to increasing the strength of regional ecosystem for research translation? What specific steps will the RESOURCE take? These should be described in detail.

d. **Resources and training**: What kinds of resources and training will the lead organization provide to many other IHEs in the region? It is expected that about 50% of the annual budget for the RESOURCE will be used every project year in direct support of regional activities to promote entrepreneurship and identify opportunities for technology transfer. For Track 3, the lead organization must budget and recruit the equivalent of a full-time staff person dedicated to meet the increased needs of providing technology transfer related services to IHEs with low RTRL. A part of the funding provided for this should be used for necessary and reasonable patenting-related costs for innovations stemming from the beneficiary IHEs served by the RESOURCE.

e. **Outcomes**: What short-term (3-4 years) outcomes are expected and what long-term (5-10 years) benefits will result from the establishment of the proposed RESOURCE?

f. **Evaluation plan:** How will the lead organization measure/capture the progress towards outcomes being made by the RESOURCE? What is the project evaluation plan? How will the results of the evaluation be used for making adjustments that can lead to improved outcomes and benefits?

g. **Sustainability plan**: How will the lead organization for the RESOURCE sustain the activities, the momentum and continue to strengthen the regional ecosystem for research translation beyond NSF funding period?

h. **Timeline**: Provide a detailed timeline for different activities to be undertaken.

Track 4: Education and Training (ET):

The goal for this Track is the development of resources for formal or informal education and training related to the broad areas related to research translation, entrepreneurship, technology transfer, startup formation, commercialization, industry collaboration, product development, as well as engaged scholarship, all aimed ultimately at creating sustained economic impacts. This Track invites proposals from IHEs or non-profits (referred as lead organization hereafter) with any combination of either a strong, vibrant and established research translation ecosystem, and/or demonstrated experience to develop, evaluate, and deploy educational and training resources related to entrepreneurship, product development, technology transfer, industry partnership, and related activities. The primary beneficiaries for the education and training resources to be developed will be IHEs that have a low RTRL, focused on researchers, entrepreneurs, as well as licensing professionals in industry. It is expected that these resources developed from projects supported under this Track will be useful and catalytic for the ART awardee institutions currently in the cohort and those that will become part of future cohorts.

Some examples of activities that could fall under the projects supported under this include, but are not limited to, development of new courses, training materials or redesigning courses, and training or teaching materials that will acquire knowledge and skills related to research translation and the innovation workforce. The training and courses could contribute to the creation of skilled workforce for commercialization, tech transfer, and startups which are critical components of building a robust innovation ecosystem. By providing training in intellectual property (IP), licensing, technology transfer, product development, and industry collaborations, the programs can prepare individuals to engage in high-wage STEM jobs. These could be modular in design and targeted at different constituencies including early career as well as established faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, industry partners, small businesses, and interested entrepreneurs in accelerating research translation in collaboration with IHEs to understand and participate in research translation ecosystem and innovation management. Courses/modules could also be specifically aimed at persons in senior leadership positions (department chairs, associate deans, deans, vice presidents etc.) with an interest toward institutional level issues such as, but not limited to, research security, export control, management of open-source projects, IP, and developing partnerships with industry, non-profits, and public sector organizations. Experiential trainings / courses could be offered in the areas of IP protection strategies at various stages of commercialization, licensing negotiations strategy, IP negotiations strategy to create successful IHE / industry partnerships, and product development strategy with a focus towards understanding RTRL. Collaborative arrangements with NSF I-Corps are welcome so as to avoid duplication of efforts related to this Track.

A small sample of some of the areas that Track 4 proposals could address are shown below-

For IHE Leadership

- Building innovation infrastructure
- Growing research translational capacity
- IP policy development, negotiations and contracts
- Technology marketing, IP licensing and spin offs
- New ventures and partnership creation
- Building incubators and accelerators

For faculty, post-doctoral researchers, and students

- Technology transfer—overview, why and how
- Creating sustained impacts by translational research
- Fundamentals of intellectual property

- Entrepreneurship and startup overview
- Consulting and contract services

Note that these are just examples and are for illustrative purposes only . Development of any creative, novel, and fresh approaches that address the need for developing these resources that will be useful to Track 1 and 2 ART awardees (current and future) that are looking to grow their research translation is strongly encouraged.

Proposals submitted in response to the ET Track should clearly describe:

a. **Overall approach and strategy**: What is the overall approach and strategy in the development of these educational and training resources? Also, explain why the underlying topics are important for the stakeholders and why proposed methods of training/communication are an effective way.

b. **Resources and content already in place**: Please provide specific details on what resources are already available, and how they will be modified specifically for Track 1 and 2 ART awardee team members. It is not necessary to develop the training/educational materials de novo although that can also be supported if the resources do not currently exist and there is a need.

c. **Packaging of resources**: How will the existing resources such as courses, training materials be modified and packaged, along with those that may have to be developed, into different curricula/courses/modules for different stakeholders (e.g. members of senior leadership teams, faculty, post-docs, graduate students) timelines for delivery, recognizing that the timelines for these could be very different for different groups? The lead organization does not have to develop educational and training courses for every stakeholder right away.

d. **Delivery methods**: How will the training materials be delivered (in-person, hybrid, virtual) and which IHE would participate in pilot testing?

e. **Dissemination methods**: How will the education and training materials from the project be disseminated? How will they be made available in the short term (3-4 years) and the long-term (5-10 years) for the benefits to those using these resources?

f. **Evaluation plan**: A methodology to evaluate the effectiveness of education and training for accelerating research translation should be developed. How will the effectiveness of the educational and training resources developed be measured/captured? How will the feedback received ultimately be incorporated and then tested again to improve the efficiency and student outcomes of the project? What is the project evaluation plan? How will the results of the evaluation be used for making adjustments that can lead to improved outcomes and benefits?

g. **Sustainability plan**: In the long term, how will the lead organization leading the development of these courses/training materials sustain the momentum and continue to offer and expand the availability for other IHEs with a low RTRL beyond NSF funding period?

h. **Timeline**: Provide a detailed timeline for different activities to be undertaken.

Track 5: Coordination for Accelerating Research Translation (CART):

The goal for this Track is to support creation of a central hub that will nationally facilitate and coordinate: (a) the development of education and training resources covered in Track 4, (b) development of a community of practice focused on research translation; (c) the creation of an integrated platform for coordinating, evaluating, and monitoring the progress being made by teams that are supported under Tracks 1, 2, and 3; and (d) the creation of an ART Ambassadors Network for the Track 2 program participants. The lead organization for this Track should be an IHE or a non-profit with a demonstrated record for entrepreneurship and technology transfer related activities and the ability to coordinate and facilitate complex, interdisciplinary projects and activities at multiple organizations including IHEs, non-profits, foundations, and private sectors. The lead organization can work/partner with other IHE or non-profits as it sees appropriate.

Proposals submitted for this Track should describe the following:

a. **Overall approach and strategy**: What will be the overall approach and philosophy in development of a unified coordination structure?

b. **Experience**: Provide specific details on the lead IHE experience and expertise in managing technology transfer, entrepreneurship related areas including actual technology transfer related transactions such as IP generation, licensing, management as well as delivery of educational and training materials, and working with a wide range of stakeholders including but not limited to faculty, students, senior leadership at different organizations, working with private sector, non-profits etc. In other words, the proposal for this Track should make a compelling case as to why the IHE leading this activity is highly qualified for leading this effort.

c. **Leadership team**: Explain the overall structure for the coordination effort, including who will be the lead, what will be the role of different key members of the core team and areas of responsibility for each one.

d. **Coordination of activities:** What kind of platforms will be created in order to coordinate the activities among ART Tracks 1, 2, 3, and 4 awardees? Describe this in detail.

e. **Scaling research translation**: Describe how the CART will use its resources, experience, partnerships with other organizations including foundations, professional societies etc., and the power of networking to help scale research translation across the entire spectrum of IHEs to promote creation of a campus culture that values, encourages, incentivizes (e.g. faculty, post-doc, students recruiting), and rewards (including but not limited to tenure and promotion) use-inspired research and translation of research for sustained economic or collective impacts.

f. **Evaluation plan**: How will the lead IHE conduct a project evaluation of its effectiveness on an on-going basis? How will the results of the evaluation be used for making adjustments that can lead to improved outcomes and benefits?

g. **Timeline**: Provide a detailed timeline for different activities to be undertaken.

Role of ART leadership teams including PIs and Co-PIs

For Tracks 1 and 2, the PI and Co-PIs will all be the key members for building, accelerating, scaling, and sustaining research translation activities at the awardee institution. In addition to the PI, up to four other individuals can serve as Co-PIs. They, as a team (that would include some of the senior members of the IHE leadership) must have the knowledge, vision, and drive to build the capacity and infrastructure needed to accelerate the institution's research translation activities. The PI is expected to have the trust of the senior leadership team at the IHE to achieve the ART related goals for the entire IHE. It is expected that the PI will have strong leadership and communication skills. The PI will be expected to directly and fully engage in the activities needed to help initiate, facilitate, monitor, coordinate and sustain ART activities.

For Track 2, leadership teams will help establish an independent, fair, and transparent process in selecting STRPs over the award duration and champion the program internally and externally. As the lead ambassador, the PI will set up the ART Ambassadors network and provide a clear vision to establish its activities and work with others to ensure they are coordinated. The ART team members (including Co-PIs and Senior Personnel) and other ambassadors will be expected to be primarily in one of the two areas of responsibility: (1) those primarily involved in a broader range of capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening the overall research translation ecosystem at the institution in the short and long terms, including development of a culture that encourages, incentivizes, and rewards use-inspired research and research translation for sustained economic impacts, the development of translation infrastructure in the institution, training of graduate and undergraduate students and mentoring of postdoctoral researchers; and (2) those primarily involved in conducting research translation activities in the STRPs.

For Track 3, the leadership team is expected to have the trust of the senior leadership teams at the lead organization as well as all other participating IHEs that are expected to be the beneficiaries to achieve the RESOURCE related goals for the *entire* region. PI is expected to have strong leadership and communication skills. The leadership team will be expected to directly and fully engage in the center activities needed to help initiate, facilitate, monitor, coordinate, and sustain activities related to ensure that the participating IHEs have access to resources, knowledge, processes, tools, templates, and established programs that they can leverage. The PI and the senior members of the IHE leading the RESOURCE must create an infrastructure that will serve, support, create efficiencies for, and train the RESOURCE-supported institutions.

For Track 4, the PI is expected to have the trust of the senior leadership teams at the lead organization as well as other participating IHEs that are expected to be the beneficiaries to achieve the education and training resources that will be

developed. It is expected that the PI will have strong leadership and communication skills. The PI will be expected to directly and fully engage in the activities needed to help develop, pilot, test and ultimately deliver the education and training resources developed by the team. The PI should ensure that the participating IHEs have access to the resources developed and that the feedback they provide is incorporated in making any modifications. The PI and the senior members of the organization leading the ET team must create an infrastructure that will serve, support, create efficiencies for, and train the supported institutions and develop plans for wider scale deployment.

For Track 5, the PI is expected to be a strong leader and must have the trust of the senior leadership at the lead IHE as well as all other participating IHEs that are part of the ART program. The PI is expected to be someone who has proven experience and direct knowledge of the kinds of challenges and opportunities that exist relative to growing and nurturing entrepreneurship, technology transfer related activities at a wide range of IHE. It is expected that the PI will have strong leadership and communication skills. The PI should also be able to work with a range of constituencies that form the broader ART network.

For all Tracks, a representative of the IHE's technology transfer office or its equivalent unit, as designated by its administrative regulations, bylaws, or otherwise, having responsibility to manage research IP is strongly encouraged to be a PI or at least a Co-PI on the proposal.

III. Award Information

Estimated program budget, number of awards and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds.

IV. Eligibility Information

Who May Submit Proposals:

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research laboratories, professional societies and similar organizations located in the U.S. that are directly associated with educational or research activities.
- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two- and four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in the U.S., acting on behalf of their faculty members. Each IHE that is part of a university system is eligible to submit a separate proposal if it has its own leadership team, sponsored research office (SRO) or equivalent, and own governing structure.

  Please note additional eligibility requirements stated for submission of proposals to different Tracks noted in this solicitation.

Who May Serve as PI:

The PI, Co-PIs, or any other senior/key personnel must hold an appointment at an organization that is eligible to submit as described under "Who May Submit Proposals."

Having a representative of the IHE's technology transfer office (if in place) or its equivalent unit as designated by its administrative regulations, bylaws, or otherwise, having responsibility to manage research intellectual property (IP) serve as a PI or at least a Co-PI is strongly encouraged.

Researchers with primary appointments at overseas branch campuses of U.S. institutions of higher education are **not** eligible.

Researchers from foreign academic institutions who contribute essential expertise to the project may participate as senior/key personnel or collaborators but may not receive NSF support.

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

- An eligible IHE can submit a maximum of one proposal for Track 1 or 2 (but not both).
- For Tracks 3, 4, and 5, an eligible organization can submit a maximum of one proposal per Track.
- Applicants eligible for Tracks 1 and 2 cannot submit proposals for Tracks 3, 4 and 5 and vice versa.
- A Mentoring Institution (MI) for Track 2 is eligible to submit a proposal for Tracks 3, 4, or 5.
- If more than one proposal is submitted from an institution in a specific Track, the first proposal submitted from that institution will be considered, and remaining proposals for that Track will be returned without review.

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI:

- There are no restrictions or limits.

Additional Eligibility Info:

Please note additional eligibility requirements stated for submission of proposals to different Tracks noted in this solicitation.

V. Proposal Preparation And Submission Instructions

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Full Proposal Preparation Instructions: Proposers may opt to submit proposals in response to this Program Solicitation via Research.gov or Grants.gov.

- Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG). The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg. Paper copies of the PAPPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov. The Prepare New Proposal setup will prompt you for the program solicitation number.
- Full proposals submitted via Grants.gov: Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation via Grants.gov should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov*. The complete text of the *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* is available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: (https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide). To obtain copies of the Application Guide and Application Forms Package, click on the Apply tab on the Grants.gov site, then click on the Apply Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Application Instructions link and enter the funding opportunity number, (the program solicitation number without the NSF prefix) and press the Download Package button. Paper copies of the Grants.gov Application Guide also may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov.

In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

Collaborative Proposals. All collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations must be submitted via Research.gov. PAPPG Chapter II.E.3 provides additional information on collaborative proposals.

See PAPPG Chapter II.D.2 for guidance on the required sections of a full research proposal submitted to NSF. Please note that the proposal preparation instructions provided in this program solicitation may deviate from the PAPPG instructions.

- Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov: *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) guidelines apply. The complete text of the PAPPG is available electronically on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.

Full Proposals submitted via Grants.gov: *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for the Preparation and Submission of NSF Applications via Grants.gov* guidelines apply (Note: The *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide i*s available on the Grants.gov website and on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=grantsgovguide).

In determining which method to utilize in the electronic preparation and submission of the proposal, please note the following:

· **Collaborative Proposals:** Collaborative proposals arranged as separate submissions from multiple organizations will **not** be accepted in response to this solicitation. PAPPG Chapter II.D.3 provides additional information on collaborative proposals. If multiple organizations are involved in a proposal, the submission must take the form of a single proposal from a lead institution with subawards to participating institutions.

The following information supplements the standard PAPPG or NSF Grants.gov Application Guide proposal preparation guidelines:

1. **Title:** The proposal title should begin with "ART Track **X: XXXX**", followed by a colon (:), and then the title of the project. The letter " **X: XXXX**" shown here should be replaced by Track number (1-5) and the acronym for the Track. For example, a proposal submitted to Track 2, the title will begin with "ART Track 2: GROW:".

2. **Project Summary and Keywords:** A one-page Project Summary should be provided, which consists of three parts: (1) a project overview, (2) a statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and (3) a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity. For Track 2: GROW proposals only, the last line of the Project Summary should have a list of six keywords. The first two keywords must denote the NSF Directorates that are the most relevant to the initial cohort of seed translational research projects (STRP) described in the proposal from this list: BIO, CISE, EDU, ENG, GEO, MPS, OIA, SBE. Do **not** include TIP as one of these Directorates.

3. **Project Description:** This section is limited to a maximum of 15 pages. A proposal submitted to the ART Program must fully address all the components described in the Program Description section of this solicitation for each respective Track:

   In addition, the following sections will also be required in the Project Description:

   Broader Impacts: The Project Description should contain a separate section labeled 'Broader Impacts'.

4. **Results from Prior NSF Support:** In cases where the PI or any Co-PI has received more than one NSF award (excluding amendments to existing awards), please report only the award most closely related to the proposal. Please refer to the PAPPG, Chapter II.D.2.

Supplementary Documents:

Supplementary Documentation: The items permitted in the Supplementary Documents section are-

1. **Statement from IHE: For Tracks 1, and 2**, there should be a Statement from the IHE's Vice President or Vice Provost (or equivalent) attesting to their current research translation readiness level (RTRL) as well as the motivation and desire of the IHE to elevate the level of research translation for sustained economic and collective impact across the entire organization. This statement should be no more than 2 pages and it should describe the institution's current levels of fundamental and research translation activities, and their respective capacity and infrastructure for translational activities using multiple evidence-based methods and metrics. It should be certified by the Vice President of Research or someone in an equivalent role at the institution.

2. **Letters of Collaboration (LOC): For all Tracks,** up to three (3) Letters of Collaboration (LOC) can be included and uploaded as Supplementary Documents. These letters should be from external contributors or stakeholders to the ART project activities. Each letter should be limited to one page in length. It should clearly describe how the organization providing the letter plans to make specific contributions to the ART project activities (including short- and long-term) and their unique value proposition for the project. The LOC must contain the letter writer's name, affiliation, and organization. Care should be taken so that these letters are not seen as a letter of

recommendation or an endorsement. Letters of support or other forms of endorsement or recommendations are **not** permitted.

3. **Consolidated List of Personnel (required): For all Tracks,** the Consolidated List of Personnel (CLP) is a spreadsheet listing all key personnel, subaward and collaborators, consultants, etc., involved in the project. The spreadsheet template can be downloaded from the ART program webpage. Please read the instructions carefully. Using the Excel file template, compile information for all people identified in the proposal as: "PI or co-PI" (i.e., those listed on the cover page); "Other Senior Personnel,"; "Sub-awardee Personnel,"; or "Other Personnel" who have a biographical sketch included in the proposal; or "Collaborators" (Letters of Collaboration). Only one spreadsheet should be submitted per proposal. If you are unsure of whether to include someone in the Consolidated List of Personnel Spreadsheet, we recommend to include the person. The purpose of this document is to assist the program in managing reviewer selection.

After the proposal is submitted and a proposal number is obtained, **please email a copy of the CLP spreadsheet (as a spreadsheet and not a PDF) to art@nsf.gov.** Please send this in within two business days of your proposal submission. This file should be labeled as " **CLP_PI First Name_PI Last Name_Proposal Number**" (e.g., CLP_Jennifer_Smith_12345). In this filename, include only the numeric part of your NSF proposal number.

4. **Graduate student and postdoctoral researcher Mentoring Plan**: Each proposal that requests funding to support postdoctoral researchers or graduate students must upload under "Mentoring Plan" in the supplementary documentation section of Research.gov, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. In no more than one page, the Mentoring Plan must describe the mentoring that will be provided to all postdoctoral researchers or graduate students supported by the project, regardless of whether they reside at the submitting organization, any subrecipient organization, or at any organization participating in a simultaneously submitted collaborative proposal. Please note that separate plans are not required for postdoctoral researchers or graduate students. The plan may, however, specify how different components of the mentoring program will be enacted for the two types of researchers. Proposers are advised that the Mentoring Plan must not be used to circumvent the 15-page Project Description limitation. The Mentoring Plan should reflect how mentoring will be appropriate for the specific roles of graduate students or postdoctoral researchers in the ART project.

5. **Data Management and Sharing Plan:** In accordance with the guidance in the PAPPG, proposals must include a Data Management and Sharing Plan of no more than two pages (in the Data Management Plan section in Research.gov or as a Supplementary Document in Grants.gov). The Data Management and Sharing Plan must be substantive and specific to the project and should address all project-relevant aspects of security and data privacy.

Checklist:

To assist proposal preparation, the following checklist is provided as a reminder of some important items that should be checked before submitting a proposal to this solicitation. For the items marked with "(RWR)," the proposal will be returned without review if the required item is non-compliant at the submission deadline. Note that these are requirements unique to this solicitation; for other return-without-review requirements, see the PAPPG.

- (RWR) The maximum budget shown on the Cover Sheet and on the budget, sheets **must** not exceed the ceiling stated for a Track in this solicitation.
- (RWR) For Tracks 1 and 2, a statement from the IHE attesting to their current RTRL and their motivation for scaling research translation for the entire IHE be included with content as described in this section.
- (RWR) A Consolidated List of Personnel (CLP) list submitted as a Supplementary **Document must be emailed** to art@nsf.gov with a subject line "CLP_PI First Name_PI Last Name_Proposal Number".
- (RWR) Collaborative proposals submitted as separate submissions from multiple organizations will **not** be accepted in response to this solicitation. They will be returned without review.

B. Budgetary Information

Cost Sharing:

Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

Other Budgetary Limitations:

Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

Budget Preparation Instructions:

The budget should address:

- **Salary:** Salary of **a**ny staff who will assist in the scoping and/or development of ART related activities, including the principal investigator (PI) and Co-PIs, postdoctoral researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, developers, and marketing, administrative, and/or legal professionals. Time needed for training activities of personnel involved should be budgeted.
- **Project Coordinator:** For Tracks 2, 4, and 5, given the multi-faceted nature of the range of activities, a full-time, experienced project manager/coordinator/facilitator should be budgeted and recruited. For Track 3, the lead organization must budget, and recruit equivalent of a full-time staff person dedicated to meet the increased needs of providing technology transfer related services to IHEs with low RTRL.
- **Patenting Costs:** For Tracks 1 and 2, direct costs of up to $100,000 total over the entire duration of the project (up to four years) may be budgeted to: a) defray internal costs incurred by awardee's technology transfer office during the evaluation and protection of STRP IP, and/or b) secure the services of one or more third-party service providers to assist in the evaluation and protection of the STRP IP. Filing fees for provisional, non-provisional and PCT applications are allowable only if paid to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). No foreign patenting costs are allowed.
- **Setup costs:** Costs incurred for the organization-wide coordination and governance approach, any necessary infrastructure, market analysis, and customer-discovery activities are allowed.
- **Subawards:** For Track 2, one subaward of up to 10% percent of the total proposal requested budget for the entire project (inclusive of direct and indirect costs) per year to one mentoring IHE with a well-established record for research translation related activities and a well-resourced technology transfer operation is required. This subaward will be to support activities that will be useful to the proposing institution to build and grow its capacity for research translation. Additional subawards can be made to other organization types. The total budgeted amount for all subawards must not exceed 20% of the total budget requested. For Track 3, it is expected that about 50% of the total budget will be used every project year in direct support of activities at IHEs with low RTRL to promote, entrepreneurship, IP generation (including US patent costs), and identifying opportunities for technology transfer and sustained economic impact. For Tracks 4 and 5, additional subawards can be made to other organizations as needed as long as the total cost of such sub-awards does not exceed 50% of the total budget.
- **Equipment purchase:** For Track 2 only, funding can be used for the acquisition of smaller pieces of equipment up to a total of $50,000 per year that may help accelerate testing, add a unique capability to an equipment that's already in place or equipment that can enable rapid development of a prototype. ART funding is **not** to be used to build, construct, acquire, or renovate physical place or laboratory space. Similarly, ART funding is not to be used for purchase or acquisition of major pieces of equipment or instrumentation.
- **Annual ART cohort meeting:** For all Tracks, the budget should set aside funds of $10,000 per year to cover the cost of attending an annual ART meeting. NSF plans to hold this meeting in person. The PI and at least two Co-PIs should plan on attending this meeting. Attendance by graduate and undergraduate students and postdoctoral researchers is also encouraged. The purpose of this annual meeting will be to provide a platform for exchanging ideas on challenges and opportunities, most efficient approaches for building institutional capacity in a holistic

way, and network with other ART participants as well other organizations/firms/investors. The annual meeting will also be an opportunity for students as well as postdoctoral researchers to learn about different ways to recognize overall benefits of research translation, and ways get actively involved in research translation activities during the very early stages of their careers.

C. Due Dates

- **Full Proposal Deadline(s)** (due by 5 p.m. submitting organization's local time):

January 15, 2026

Tracks 2 and 5

March 12, 2026

Tracks 1, 3 and 4

D. Research.gov/Grants.gov Requirements

For Proposals Submitted Via Research.gov:

To prepare and submit a proposal via Research.gov, see detailed technical instructions available at: https://www.research.gov/research-portal/appmanager/base/desktop?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=research_node_display&_nodePath=/researchGov/Service/Desktop/ProposalPreparationandSubmission.html. For Research.gov user support, call the Research.gov Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 or e-mail rgov@nsf.gov. The Research.gov Help Desk answers general technical questions related to the use of the Research.gov system. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this funding opportunity.

For Proposals Submitted Via Grants.gov:

Before using Grants.gov for the first time, each organization must register to create an institutional profile. Once registered, the applicant's organization can then apply for any federal grant on the Grants.gov website. Comprehensive information about using Grants.gov is available on the Grants.gov Applicant Resources webpage: https://www.grants.gov/applicants. In addition, the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide (see link in Section V.A) provides instructions regarding the technical preparation of proposals via Grants.gov. For Grants.gov user support, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 or by email: support@grants.gov. The Grants.gov Contact Center answers general technical questions related to the use of Grants.gov. Specific questions related to this program solicitation should be referred to the NSF program staff contact(s) listed in Section VIII of this solicitation.

Submitting the Proposal: Once all documents have been completed, the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must submit the application to Grants.gov and verify the desired funding opportunity and agency to which the application is submitted. The AOR must then sign and submit the application to Grants.gov. The completed application will be transferred to Research.gov for further processing.

The NSF Grants.gov Proposal Processing in Research.gov informational page provides submission guidance to applicants and links to helpful resources including the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide, Grants.gov Proposal Processing in Research.gov how-to guide, and Grants.gov Submitted Proposals Frequently Asked Questions. Grants.gov proposals must pass all NSF pre-check and post-check validations in order to be accepted by Research.gov at NSF.

When submitting via Grants.gov, NSF strongly recommends applicants initiate proposal submission at least five business days in advance of a deadline to allow adequate time to address NSF compliance errors and resubmissions by 5:00 p.m. submitting organization's local time on the deadline. Please note that some errors cannot be corrected in Grants.gov. Once a proposal passes pre-checks but fails any post-check, an applicant can only correct and submit the in-progress proposal in Research.gov.

Proposers that submitted via Research.gov may use Research.gov to verify the status of their submission to NSF. For proposers that submitted via Grants.gov, until an application has been received and validated by NSF, the Authorized Organizational Representative may check the status of an application on Grants.gov. After proposers have received an e-mail notification from NSF, Research.gov should be used to check the status of an application.

VI. NSF Proposal Processing And Review Procedures

Proposals received by NSF are assigned to the appropriate NSF program for acknowledgement and, if they meet NSF requirements, for review. All proposals are carefully reviewed by a scientist, engineer, or educator serving as an NSF Program Officer, and usually by three to ten other persons outside NSF either as *ad hoc* reviewers, panelists, or both, who are experts in the particular fields represented by the proposal. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with oversight of the review process. Proposers are invited to suggest names of persons they believe are especially well qualified to review the proposal and/or persons they would prefer not review the proposal. These suggestions may serve as one source in the reviewer selection process at the Program Officer's discretion. Submission of such names, however, is optional. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts of interest with the proposal. In addition, Program Officers may obtain comments from site visits before recommending final action on proposals. Senior NSF staff further review recommendations for awards. A flowchart that depicts the entire NSF proposal and award process (and associated timeline) is included in PAPPG Exhibit III-1.

A comprehensive description of the Foundation's merit review process is available on the NSF website at: https://www.nsf.gov/funding/overview.

A. Merit Review Principles and Criteria

The National Science Foundation strives to invest in a robust and diverse portfolio of projects that creates new knowledge and enables breakthroughs in understanding across all areas of science and engineering research and education. To identify which projects to support, NSF relies on a merit review process that incorporates consideration of both the technical aspects of a proposed project and its potential to contribute more broadly to advancing NSF's mission "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; to secure the national defense; and for other purposes." NSF makes every effort to conduct a fair, competitive, transparent merit review process for the selection of projects.

1. Merit Review Principles

These principles are to be given due diligence by PIs and organizations when preparing proposals and managing projects, by reviewers when reading and evaluating proposals, and by NSF program staff when determining whether or not to recommend proposals for funding and while overseeing awards. Given that NSF is the primary federal agency charged with nurturing and supporting excellence in basic research and education, the following three principles apply:

- All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
- NSF projects, in the aggregate, should contribute more broadly to achieving societal goals. These "Broader Impacts" may be accomplished through the research itself, through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. The project activities may be based on previously established and/or innovative methods and approaches, but in either case must be well justified.
- Meaningful assessment and evaluation of NSF funded projects should be based on appropriate metrics, keeping in mind the likely correlation between the effect of broader impacts and the resources provided to implement projects. If the size of the activity is limited, evaluation of that activity in isolation is not likely to be meaningful. Thus, assessing the effectiveness of these activities may best be done at a higher, more aggregated, level than the individual project.

With respect to the third principle, even if assessment of Broader Impacts outcomes for particular projects is done at an aggregated level, PIs are expected to be accountable for carrying out the activities described in the funded project. Thus,

individual projects should include clearly stated goals, specific descriptions of the activities that the PI intends to do, and a plan in place to document the outputs of those activities.

These three merit review principles provide the basis for the merit review criteria, as well as a context within which the users of the criteria can better understand their intent.

2. Merit Review Criteria

All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of the two National Science Board approved merit review criteria. In some instances, however, NSF will employ additional criteria as required to highlight the specific objectives of certain programs and activities.

The two merit review criteria are listed below. **Both** criteria are to be given **full consideration** during the review and decision-making processes; each criterion is necessary but neither, by itself, is sufficient. Therefore, proposers must fully address both criteria. (PAPPG Chapter II.D.2.d(i). contains additional information for use by proposers in development of the Project Description section of the proposal). Reviewers are strongly encouraged to review the criteria, including PAPPG Chapter II.D.2.d(i), prior to the review of a proposal.

When evaluating NSF proposals, reviewers will be asked to consider what the proposers want to do, why they want to do it, how they plan to do it, how they will know if they succeed, and what benefits could accrue if the project is successful. These issues apply both to the technical aspects of the proposal and the way in which the project may make broader contributions. To that end, reviewers will be asked to evaluate all proposals against two criteria:

- **Intellectual Merit:** The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge; and
- **Broader Impacts:** The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

The following elements should be considered in the review for both criteria:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to
    a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
    b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through the activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. NSF values the advancement of scientific knowledge and activities that contribute to achievement of societally relevant outcomes. Such outcomes include, but are not limited to: improved STEM education and educator development at any level; increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology; improved well-being of individuals in society; development of a globally competitive STEM workforce; increased partnerships between academia, industry, and others; improved national security; increased economic competitiveness of the United States; and enhanced infrastructure for research and education.

Proposers are reminded that reviewers will also be asked to review the Data Management and Sharing Plan and the Mentoring Plan, as appropriate.

Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

The proposals submitted in response to NSF ART program will also be evaluated for additional criteria to determine the merit of the proposed project.

- **Track alignment:** For all Tracks: Does the lead organization and the overall proposal show a strong alignment with the intent of the Track to which it is submitted? The ART program will support only those proposals that show a clear and strong alignment with the goals of the Track to which they are submitted to.
- **Increased Capacity for Research Translation**: For Tracks 1 and 2, does the proposal clearly define as to how the IHE will increase its RTRL over the course of the award and then sustain and grow beyond the award duration? Does the proposal make a compelling case that makes it clear that the team has strong support from the institutional leadership and the goal is to scale research translation across the entire IHE (and not just in one or two disciplines)?
- **Enhance capacity for research translation in the region:** For Track 3, does the proposal present a compelling case that the lead organization will help boost the capacity for research translation for the region it intends to engage? Does the proposal present a clear plan for which other low RTRL IHEs will be engaged and how? Does the proposal make clear provisions for directing resources to directly support research translation at other low RTRL IHEs? Does the proposal provide a sustainability plan for the RESOURCE well beyond the duration of the support from ART? Does the RESOURCE leverage other resources and infrastructure to its advantage?
- **Education and training:** For all Tracks: Does the proposal describe how undergraduate, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and faculty would be trained and/or provides access to resources for education related to entrepreneurship, technology transfer, as well as activities related to sustained economic and collective impact? For Track 4, is there a clear plan for generation, testing, revision, and dissemination of the education and training materials?
- **Coordination for Accelerating Research Translation:** For Track 5, does the proposing lead organization have the experience and a demonstrated track record in areas related to entrepreneurship, technology transfer, development of educational and training resources to lead the coordination effort? Does the proposal clearly describe a coordination structure? Is there a clear plan for how the proposing organization plans for developing a community of practice focused on research translation? Does the proposal describe a clear plan for conducting the complex tasks related to ensuring the different efforts conducted under Tracks 1,2, 3, and 4 are coordinated?

B. Review and Selection Process

Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be reviewed by

Ad hoc Review and/or Panel Review, or Reverse Site Review.
Note that reviewers for Track 2 GROW panels may be given an opportunity to recommend a meritorious proposal that has not received consensus support from the panel but that they believe is worthy to be included among other proposals deemed meritorious by the panel. The cognizant NSF Program Officer(s), however, are ultimately responsible for all award recommendations.

Reviewers will be asked to evaluate proposals using two National Science Board approved merit review criteria and, if applicable, additional program specific criteria. A summary rating and accompanying narrative will generally be completed and submitted by each reviewer and/or panel. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

After scientific, technical and programmatic review and consideration of appropriate factors, the NSF Program Officer recommends to the cognizant Division Director whether the proposal should be declined or recommended for award. NSF strives to be able to tell proposers whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months. Large or particularly complex proposals or proposals from new recipients may require additional review and processing time. The time interval begins on the deadline or target date, or receipt date, whichever is later. The interval ends when the Division Director acts upon the Program Officer's recommendation.

After programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements or the Division of Acquisition and Cooperative Support for review of business, financial, and policy implications. After an administrative review has occurred, Grants and Agreements Officers perform the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at their own risk.

Once an award or declination decision has been made, Principal Investigators are provided feedback about their proposals. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers or any reviewer-identifying information, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Officer. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

VII. Award Administration Information

A. Notification of the Award

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See Section VI.B. for additional information on the review process.)

B. Award Conditions

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award notice, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award notice; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (GC-1)*; and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award notice. Cooperative agreements also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Financial and Administrative Terms and Conditions (CA-FATC) and the applicable Programmatic Terms and Conditions. NSF awards are electronically signed by an NSF Grants and Agreements Officer and transmitted electronically to the organization via e-mail.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Website at https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/award_conditions.jsp?org=NSF. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (703) 292-8134 or by e-mail from nsfpubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the NSF *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) Chapter VII, available electronically on the NSF Website at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Build America, Buy America

As expressed in Executive Order 14005, Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers (86 FR 7475), it is the policy of the executive branch to use terms and conditions of Federal financial assistance awards to maximize, consistent with law, the use of goods, products, and materials produced in, and services offered in, the United States.

Consistent with the requirements of the Build America, Buy America Act (Pub. L. 117-58, Division G, Title IX, Subtitle A, November 15, 2021), no funding made available through this funding opportunity may be obligated for infrastructure

projects under an award unless all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States. For additional information, visit NSF's Build America, Buy America webpage.

Special Award Conditions:

In compliance with the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, Section 10636 (Person or entity of concern prohibition) (42 U.S.C. 19235): No person published on the list under section 1237(b) of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999 (Public Law 105-261; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) or entity identified under section 1260H of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (10 U.S.C. 113 note; Public Law 116-283) may receive or participate in any grant, award, program, support, or other activity under the U.S. National Science Foundation Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships. See here for more details.

NSF ART awards will be made as grants (standard or continuing grant increments) or cooperative agreements. The cooperative agreements will include Special Terms and Conditions relating to the period of performance, statement of work, awardee responsibilities, NSF responsibilities, joint NSF-awardee responsibilities, funding and funding schedule, reporting requirements, Senior Personnel, and other conditions. NSF may also undertake steps to conduct external evaluation of the progress made and the associated activities supported by this program.

For awards made as cooperative agreements, towards the end of the first year and every year after that, the PI and Co-PIs may be required to participate in a project evaluation meeting held online or at NSF. The purpose of this meeting is for an external panel and NSF to assess the progress the awardees have made toward advancing project goals via a well-functioning team. Each awardee team will prepare briefing material (expected to be ten pages or less) describing its accomplishments and make a short presentation followed by questions and answers. The reviewers from a panel will evaluate the team's progress toward its stated goals and progress toward creating deliverables. Considering reviewers' input and the team's history in successfully addressing program feedback, NSF will decide whether the IHE will receive funding for the following year.

- The awardee must comply with all guidance, including guidance conveyed through Frequently Asked Questions, as amended during the performance of this award, for awardee workplace locations published by the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force (Task Force Guidance) at https:// www.saferfederalworkforce.gov/contractors/
- Awardees will be required to include appropriate acknowledgment of NSF support in any publication (including World Wide Web pages) of any material based on or developed under the project, in the following terms: "This material is based upon work supported *by the National Science Foundation ART program under Award No. (Grantee enters NSF award number)."*

Awardees also will be required to orally acknowledge NSF support using the language specified above during all news media interviews, including popular media such as radio, television, and news magazines.

C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the Principal Investigator must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer no later than 90 days prior to the end of the current budget period. (Some programs or awards require submission of more frequent project reports). No later than 120 days following expiration of a grant, the PI also is required to submit a final annual project report, and a project outcomes report for the general public.

Failure to provide the required annual or final annual project reports, or the project outcomes report, will delay NSF review and processing of any future funding increments as well as any pending proposals for all identified PIs and co-PIs on a given award. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

PIs are required to use NSF's electronic project-reporting system, available through Research.gov, for preparation and submission of annual and final annual project reports. Such reports provide information on accomplishments, project participants (individual and organizational), publications, and other specific products and impacts of the project. Submission of the report via Research.gov constitutes certification by the PI that the contents of the report are accurate

and complete. The project outcomes report also must be prepared and submitted using Research.gov. This report serves as a brief summary, prepared specifically for the public, of the nature and outcomes of the project. This report will be posted on the NSF website exactly as it is submitted by the PI.

More comprehensive information on NSF Reporting Requirements and other important information on the administration of NSF awards is contained in the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) Chapter VII, available electronically on the NSF Website at https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg.

NSF may require additional reporting requirements for the ART program, including metrics for success, which will be provided later. Additional reporting conditions may also apply pursuant to approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

VIII. Agency Contacts

Please note that the program contact information is current at the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

General inquiries regarding this program should be made to:

- Pradeep Fulay, telephone: (703) 292-2445, email: art@nsf.gov
- Hina Mehta, telephone: (703) 292-8084, email: art@nsf.gov

For questions related to the use of NSF systems contact:

- NSF Help Desk: 1-800-381-1532
- Research.gov Help Desk e-mail: rgov@nsf.gov

For questions relating to Grants.gov contact:

- Grants.gov Contact Center: If the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AOR) has not received a confirmation message from Grants.gov within 48 hours of submission of application, please contact via telephone: 1-800-518-4726; e-mail: support@grants.gov.

Please address any program-related inquiries to art@nsf.gov.

IX. Other Information

The NSF website provides the most comprehensive source of information on NSF Directorates (including contact information), programs and funding opportunities. Use of this website by potential proposers is strongly encouraged. In addition, "NSF Update" is an information-delivery system designed to keep potential proposers and other interested parties apprised of new NSF funding opportunities and publications, important changes in proposal and award policies and procedures, and upcoming NSF Grants Conferences. Subscribers are informed through e-mail or the user's Web browser each time new publications are issued that match their identified interests. "NSF Update" also is available on NSF's website.

Grants.gov provides an additional electronic capability to search for Federal government-wide grant opportunities. NSF funding opportunities may be accessed via this mechanism. Further information on Grants.gov may be obtained at https://www.grants.gov.

About The National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent Federal agency created by the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended (42 USC 1861-75). The Act states the purpose of the NSF is "to promote the progress of science;

[and] to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare by supporting research and education in all fields of science and engineering."

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants and cooperative agreements to more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations and other research organizations throughout the US. The Foundation accounts for about one-fourth of Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF receives approximately 55,000 proposals each year for research, education and training projects, of which approximately 11,000 are funded. In addition, the Foundation receives several thousand applications for graduate and postdoctoral fellowships. The agency operates no laboratories itself but does support National Research Centers, user facilities, certain oceanographic vessels and Arctic and Antarctic research stations. The Foundation also supports cooperative research between universities and industry, US participation in international scientific and engineering efforts, and educational activities at every academic level.

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities to work on NSF-supported projects. See the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* Chapter II.F.7 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090 and (800) 281-8749, FIRS at (800) 877-8339.

The National Science Foundation Information Center may be reached at (703) 292-5111.

The National Science Foundation promotes and advances scientific progress in the United States by competitively awarding grants and cooperative agreements for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.
To get the latest information about program deadlines, to download copies of NSF publications, and to access abstracts of awards, visit the NSF Website at https://www.nsf.gov

- **Location:** 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22314
- **For General Information** (NSF Information Center) **:** (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**

  Send an e-mail to: nsfpubs@nsf.gov

  or telephone: (703) 292-8134
- **To Locate NSF Employees:** (703) 292-5111

Privacy Act And Public Burden Statements

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; and project reports submitted by proposers will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff

assistants as part of the proposal review process; to proposer institutions/recipients to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies or other entities needing information regarding proposers or nominees as part of a joint application review process, or in order to coordinate programs or policy; and to another Federal agency, court, or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See System of Record Notices, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records." Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to:

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