Mentor-Connect Technical Assistance for Prospective Principal Investigators

National Science Foundation, Advanced Technological Education Program (NSF ATE)

www.nsf.gov/ate to access current NSF ATE solicitation

Readiness Self-Assessment

This is a self-scoring instrument meant to quickly and easily demonstrate your readiness to develop a proposal in the "Small Grants for Institutions New to ATE" funding category. ***Program Officers report that proposals are most often rejected because the applicants have not addressed the criteria in the solicitation.*** This self-assessment will stimulate a thorough review of the program solicitation, which in turn will contribute to your grant-writing success.

The questions on this self-assessment relate to specific information in the NSF ATE Program Solicitation, 17-568. **This solicitation expires October, 2019.** This self-assessment will be revised thereafter to reflect any changes incorporated in the new solicitation. Please read and review the rules, regulations, and stipulations in the applicable solicitation for the date of your proposal submission. Read it early and revisit it often for improved chances of success with your grant proposal development and submission.

1. What is the maximum amount of funding that can be requested in the "Small Grants for Those New to ATE" category?
    a. $225,000
    b. $2,000,000
    c. $200,000
    d. $20,000

2. First-time applicants to NSF ATE are encouraged to consider which type of ATE funding?
    a. Planning grant
    b. Small grants for institutions new to the ATE program
    c. Regional ATE center
    d. National ATE center

3. What is the maximum duration that can be requested for an ATE Project?
    a. 3 months
    b. 72 months
    c. 30 months
    d. 36 months

4. For an ATE project, the project leadership team (Principal Investigator, Co-Principal Investigator(s), and /or Senior Personnel) must include which of the following?

a. Research university faculty
b. Community college faculty
c. Secondary school teacher(s)
d. Industry partner(s)

5. How many Principal Investigators (PIs) does NSF recognize for a given NSF ATE grant?
   a. 1
   b. 2
   c. 3
   d. 5

6. Who is your main contact at NSF during the proposal development and submission process?
   a. A science associate at the National Science Foundation
   b. The FastLane help desk at NSF
   c. Any program officer at NSF
   d. A program officer from the list of contacts provided for the NSF ATE program

7. Which of the following is **not** a required component when submitting a NSF ATE grant proposal?
   a. Project description
   b. Roster of participating faculty
   c. Data management plan
   d. Project summary

8. What is the page limit for the proposal Project Summary?
   a. 1 page
   b. 2 pages
   c. 5 pages
   d. 3 pages

9. In what month(s) of the year are proposals due in response to the ATE Program solicitation?
   a. April
   b. July
   c. October
   d. April and October

10. PAPPG stands for:
    a. Proposing applicable plans procedures guide
    b. NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures
    c. Grant proposal guide
    d. Policies and procedures guide

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11. Which of the following is NOT included in the Award Information provided in the NSF ATE Program Solicitation?
    a. Estimated number of awards per year
    b. Estimated funding Congress has allocated
    c. Estimated number of first-time applicants to NSF ATE
    d. Estimated funding allocated for grant partners

12. There are 3 major categories for NSF ATE proposals. Which of the following is NOT one of those categories?
    a. ATE project grants
    b. ATE center grants
    c. ATE targeted research grants
    d. ATE collaborative consortium grants

13. Which of the following may NOT be included in an ATE proposal?
    a. Faculty travel
    b. Student recruitment
    c. The modification, construction, or furnishing of laboratories or other buildings
    d. Curriculum revisions

14. What guidance does NSF ATE provide for including references in a proposal?
    a. References should be explained in the project description and are also required to be listed separately.
    b. References may be embedded and explained in the project description but do not need to be listed separately.
    c. References are optional for NSF ATE proposals.
    d. References are not to be included in the project description but should be listed separately.

15. In preparing the required Budget and a Budget Justification for a proposal, NSF ATE provides direction on all but which of the following topics?
    a. Voluntary committed cost sharing
    b. Budget justification for consultants
    c. Budget allocation for project evaluator
    d. Page limit for a budget justification

16. Which of the following is true about "committed cost sharing" in a NSF proposal/proposal budget?
    a. Cost sharing can be included as an unrequested portion of the college's federally-negotiated indirect cost rate.
    b. Cost sharing will make your proposal more competitive.
    c. Cost sharing is encouraged but is not a mandatory requirement.
    d. Voluntary committed cost sharing is specifically prohibited.

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17. The Project Summary should address the disciplinary focus (or foci) of the proposed project, the kinds of activities to be undertaken, and the primary audience to be affected by those activities. What else must be explicitly addressed in the Project Summary in separate statements?
    a. Intellectual merit and broader impacts
    b. Project goals and broader impacts
    c. Intellectual merit and anticipated research outcomes
    d. The name of the Principal Investigator and anticipated impacts on STEM workforce development

18. The online NSF system through which ATE proposals are submitted is called:
    a. Research.gov
    b. FastLane
    c. Grants.gov
    d. SureSubmit.com

19. The person who is authorized to submit a grant proposal electronically for your institution to the National Science Foundation is:
    a. The chairman of the board
    b. The Sponsored Research Officer (SRO)/ Grants Director
    c. The Principal Investigator (PI)
    d. The VP of Institutional Advancement

20. What is the normal amount that may not be exceeded for equipment purchases included in a NSF ATE budget (when the equipment being requested clearly supports and is required for the work of the project)?
    a. $50,000
    b. $100,000
    c. 10% of the overall budget request
    d. $200,000

21. What is the smallest acceptable font size for an NSF ATE Small Grant Proposal?
    a. 4.5 pt. font
    b. 10 pt. font
    c. 12 pt. font
    d. 16 pt. font

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Instructions for Self-Scoring

- Give yourself 1 point for each correct answer.
- Your total determines your score on this self-assessment, and lets you know if you're ready or not to move ahead. Keep re-taking until you have confidence in your ability to navigate and apply information from the NSF ATE Program Solicitation.

17-21 Correct Answers

Congratulations! You have demonstrated that you understand the program solicitation well enough to move forward with developing a proposal. You should continue to revisit the solicitation regularly during the grant development process.

12-16 Correct Answers

You did well but should take note of the sections of the solicitation that cover topics for which you selected an incorrect answer. You should continue to revisit the solicitation regularly during the grant development process.

8-11 Correct Answers

You missed some key points in the solicitation and should read it again thoroughly, with particular attention to sections that address questions for which you selected an incorrect answer. You should continue to revisit the solicitation regularly during the grant development process.

0-7 Correct Answers

Perhaps you have not read the solicitation recently or you did not read it carefully. To be successful, you should spend time reading and understanding this document. You may re-take this assessment at any time to check your understanding. Once you have increased your knowledge of the solicitation, you should continue to revisit this publication regularly during the grant development process.

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Readiness Self-Assessment KEY to Correct Answers

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. B
5. A
6. D
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. B
11. D
12. D
13. C
14. A
15. C
16. D
17. A
18. B
19. B
20. D
21. B

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