NSF Presenter

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Upcoming NSF.gov, FastLane, and Research.gov Extended Outage

• Systems unavailable Friday, November 8 at 8:00 PM EST until Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00 AM EST (Veteran’s Day weekend)
  • No access to NSF website, FastLane, and Research.gov
  • Proposals cannot be prepared or submitted in FastLane or Research.gov
  • Project reports and cash requests cannot be submitted in Research.gov
• NSF is migrating its business applications to a modern and flexible platform, and making updates to correct text errors (e.g., special characters displaying as question marks in proposals and project reports)
• Subscribe to our System Updates listserv to stay in the know! Sign up by sending a blank email to: system_updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov to be automatically enrolled
Agenda

• Why is NSF Modernizing Proposal Preparation and Submission?
• Why Prepare Proposals in Research.gov?
• What Features are Available Today and What’s Ahead?
• Interactive Demo
• Providing Feedback
• Resources for More Information and FAQs
• Q&A
Why is NSF Modernizing Proposal Preparation and Submission?

*Results based on 16,736 responses from the June 2015 survey sent to 116,638 members of the research community

The Problem Statement

FastLane is...

• Limited by outdated technology to add requested features to reduce administrative burden

• Not universally easy to use
Why is NSF Modernizing Proposal Preparation and Submission?

*Results based on 16,736 responses from the June 2015 survey sent to 116,638 members of the research community

Potential Solutions

- Create an easy-to-use, intuitive system using modern industry standards
- Build a flexible platform to enable current and future improved business processes and user experiences (e.g., data pre-population)
- Expand compliance checking
Research Administrators: Why Prepare Proposals in Research.gov?

• More compliance checking
• Immediate compliance feedback within each section
• Reduced need to call the NSF Help Desk for proposal assistance
• Less clutter, more organization
• Better management of personnel and subawardees
• Improved performance
• Less system downtime
• On-screen references to relevant sections of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)
Principal Investigators: Why Prepare Proposals in Research.gov?

In addition to the benefits for Research Administrators:

• Higher quality proposal submissions (e.g., PDF uploads are not altered)

• Avoid Return without Reviews due to formatting issues

• Fast and easy Proposal Wizard
  • Less than five minutes to quickly find funding opportunities, initiate a proposal, and give access to administrative staff
What Features are Available Today and What’s Ahead?

Research.gov Proposal System

Release Timeline

Future Development and Eventual FastLane Retirement
Interactive Demo

• Create New Proposal Wizard
• Main Proposal Page
• Project Summary Upload
• Senior Personnel Documents
• COA Upload
• Budget
• Collaborative Proposal with Subaward

Training Videos for Preparing and Submitting Proposals in Research.gov:

• Initiating a Proposal
• How to Manage Personnel and Senior Personnel Documents
• How to Upload a Collaborators and Other Affiliations Document
• How to Work on a Proposal Budget
• How to Submit a Research Proposal in Research.gov
Providing Feedback

- Influence the future of proposal submission
- Help NSF build Research.gov
Resources for More Information

- Listserv to receive updates on Research.gov and FastLane. Sign up by sending a blank email to: system_updates-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
- Automated Proposal Compliance Checks in FastLane (2019)
- Research.gov About Proposal Preparation and Submission webpage
- Research.gov About Account Management webpage
- NSF Electronic Research Administration (ERA) Forum webpage
- Listserv to receive updates on ERA Forum activities. Sign up by sending a blank email to: NSF-ERA-FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov
If I prepare a proposal in Research.gov, will it be available in FastLane and vice versa?
No, if you prepare a proposal in Research.gov, you will not be able to access or edit it in FastLane and vice versa. Also, it is not possible to transfer proposal information between Research.gov and FastLane.

Why is there a margin error for the PDF I am uploading? My margins are set to one inch.
Word processors convert to PDF files differently, and this can affect the margins. Here are some things to do and check:
• Remove any page numbers
• Review inserted images or shapes

Why do I receive a font warning upon document upload when the font was set to an acceptable font type and size using “Select All”?
A lot depends on the particular word processor used because of how word processors export files to PDF.

Additional FAQs are available on the Research.gov Proposal Preparation Site Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) webpage and on the ERA Forum website.
Questions?

Ask Early, Ask Often!
Appendix
Launch and Enhancements Timeline

- **April 2018** – Initial launch released allowing preparation and submission of full, research non-collaborative proposals, and enabling proposal file updates (PFUs) and budget revisions

- **September 2018** – New enhancements:
  - Additional flexibilities for PDF uploads
  - Support for PDFs generated from LaTeX source documents
  - Compliance checks for fonts and font sizes

- **February 2019** – New enhancements:
  - Capability to delete in-progress proposals, PFUs, and budget revisions
  - Ability for PI to select organization during proposal creation if the PI is affiliated with multiple organizations
  - Enhanced error messages for Collaborators and Other Affiliations (COA) uploads

- **June 2019** – New enhancements:
  - Prepare and submit collaborative proposals with subawards including PFUs and budget revisions
  - SPO/AOR email notifications when PIs enable proposal access
Launch and Enhancements Timeline (cont’d)

- **August 2019** – New enhancements:
  - Ability to delete in-progress collaborative proposals with subawards as well as associated in-progress PFUs and budget revisions

- **September 2019** – New enhancements:
  - SPO/AOR email notifications when PIs enable PFU and budget revision access for collaborative proposals with subawards
  - Rounding issue fixes for the budget amount on the Cover Sheet PDF and the budget months on the Cumulative Budget PDF

- **October 2019** – New enhancements:
  - Simplified way to create and remove subawards for collaborative proposals from one organization
  - Ability to switch between a proposal that is collaborative with a subaward to a non-collaborative proposal and vice versa, after a proposal is created
Research Administrators - Why Prepare Proposals in Research.gov? *(Extended)*

- More compliance checking. Over 75 rules are checked versus 30 checked in Fastlane. Additional checks include fonts, margins, and line spacing.
- Immediate compliance feedback section by section. Discover issues earlier not later. Research.gov provides immediate feedback and alerts, so proposers know a proposal section is compliant before moving on to another section.
- Meaningful, actionable error and warning messages. Stop calling the Help desk for interpretation and resolve issues yourself.
- Less clutter, more organization. Only see relevant sections and actions specific to your proposal. Easily see at one glance which sections are ready and which sections need your attention.
- Better manage personnel and subawardees. Easily assign PIs, Senior Personnel, and other authorized users. Have more control over subawardee information.
- Better performance. Uploads are instantaneous versus 30-90 seconds for each document upload in Fastlane.
- More available hours. Less downtime over the weekends for maintenance.
- Onscreen references to relevant sections of the *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG). Easy access to video job aids, so proposers don't have to go to multiple sites to access guidance and tools.
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Create New Proposal Wizard

- User chooses the applicable proposal type
- The choices shown here will be customized to the funding opportunity

- Indicator shows required proposal setup process steps that address current frustrations with the FastLane Cover Sheet module
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Main Proposal Page

- Inline edit of the title
- Conditionally required sections become required after corresponding data is input
- Required and optional sections are driven dynamically based on the funding opportunity selected
- Quick view and access to the due date of the proposal
- Quick access to link collaborative proposals
- Add and Remove Co-PIs, Senior Personnel, and OAUs
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Proposal Summary Upload

- Immediate feedback on compliance of all documents that are uploaded to the system
- Documents are inspected to ensure machine-readable text for analysis
- Documents are stored on cloud-hosted storage to ensure availability of proposals and scalability for future proposals
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Senior Personnel Documents

- All documents required for senior personnel are consolidated on one screen

- Subaward Sr Personnel
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

**COA Upload**

COA information is extracted from the Excel file in a structured format.
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Budget

- Subaward organization budget listed here
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Budget

- Rows expand and collapse for easy navigation
- All totals are dynamically summed and the total amount is placed on the Cover Sheet
- Multiple years displayed on one screen

Budget(s)

For Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

More years have been added than can fit in the table. Click the arrows in the table headers in years. Total funds requested will continue to show the total for all years in the budget. To view may hide the page’s left navigation menu.

Expands all rows | Collapse all rows

Budget(s)

Personnel Direct Costs

Section

Personnel Year 1 Year 2 Total Funds

A. Senior Personnel

- Ricki Researcher (PI)
- 100,000

B. Other Personnel

- Postdoctoral Scholars
- 12
- 10,000

C. Fringe Benefits

- $0

25
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Collaborative Proposal with Subaward
Appendix – Proposal Submission in Research.gov

Collaborative Proposal with Subaward

- Managing Subaward Personnel is the same as Prime
- Subaward organization Name