NSF REVISES MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

NSF released a revised Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) on October 4, 2012, which incorporates significant revisions to the NSF merit review criteria of **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impacts**.

These revisions are effective for proposals submitted or due on or after January 14, 2013.

For additional resources visit the Merit Review Revisions resource page at: [http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/resources.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/resources.jsp)

**NSB Report on Merit Review Criteria - Conclusions**

- The **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impacts** review criteria together capture the important elements that should guide the evaluation of NSF proposals;
- A set of three Merit Review Principles should be given due diligence by Principal Investigators and reviewers;
- A set of five Merit Review Elements should be considered in the review of both criteria.

**Changes to the Proposal Process**

- Project Summary will contain the following required separate statements
  - Overview of the Project
  - Statement on **Intellectual Merit**
  - Statement on **Broader Impacts**
- Project Description must contain a separate section with a discussion of the **Broader Impacts**
- Proposing organizations must certify that organizational support will be made available as described in the proposal to address the **Broader Impacts** and **Intellectual Merit** activities.
- Annual and Final Reports must address activities related to the **Broader Impacts** criterion that are not intrinsic to the research.

**IMPORTANT LINKS:**

National Science Foundation  

Division of Institution and Award Support  

Policy Office  

NSF Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide  

NSF Merit Review Website  

Revisions to Merit Review Resources  

Questions may be directed to the Policy Office at NSF

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Phone: (703) 292-8243