

Expand Public and Private Partnerships

Goal Leaders: CISE (Calvert) and BIO (Deshler)
Deputy Goal Leaders: CISE (Houghton) and BIO (Bracken)

Theme: General Science, Space and Technology

Overview

Goal Statement

- Expand public and private partnerships to enhance the impact of NSF's investments and contribute to American economic competitiveness and security. By September 30, 2019, NSF's number of partnerships and/or award actions with other federal agencies, private industry, and foundations/philanthropies will grow by 5 percent, relative to the FY 2017 baseline, to make available infrastructure, expertise, and financial resources to the US scientific and engineering research and education enterprise.

Challenge/Opportunity

- Private industry, foundations, and non-profits, together with other federal agencies and international funding organizations, bring additional expertise, resources, and capacity to NSF-funded research. This, in turn, accelerates discovery and translation of research to products and services, and enhances preparation of the future workforce to benefit society and grow the American economy.
- Partnerships require significant time and intellectual capital, as well as strategic foresight, in their development. NSF will improve efficiencies in developing, implementing, and managing partnerships to ultimately grow the number and scope of partnerships and maximize the scientific, economic, and societal impacts of its investments.

Leadership

Co-Leaders: CISE and BIO Division Directors.

Team: Working Group with representatives from across NSF will be established in Q2 FY 2018.



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Goal Structure & Strategies

NSF will pursue the APG by implementing a strategic vision for future partnerships that builds upon existing and emerging experience. NSF will enhance and expand its investments along three axes:

- Research and innovation;
- Research infrastructure; and
- Workforce development.

Toward each axis, NSF will pursue a multipronged strategy aligned with its mission. The elements of this process include:

- Strategically identify opportunities with potential partners (e.g., workshops, meetings, other outreach).
- Work externally as well as internally to efficiently formalize partnerships (e.g., formulate and sign MOUs, streamline MOU processes internally).
- Implement partnerships (e.g., issue new or updated funding opportunities, make awards, execute agreements).

Summary of Progress – FY 18 Q1

Q1

- Directorate leadership was determined.
- Logic model of strategies to achieve the goal was drafted.
- Process for establishing a baseline for NSF's partnerships in FY17 was initiated.
- Multiple Advisory Committees discussed the role of partnerships in NSF's investments (without reference to APG).

In Q2 as of 2/15/18,

- Inventory instrument was piloted in two directorates and issued agency-wide.
- NSF Senior Management team was briefed on APG activities and Action Plan.
- APG Working Group is currently being formed.

Key Milestones

Milestone Summary					
Key Milestone	Milestone Activity	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
Stage 0: Partnerships Inventory and APG Working Group	Start: Q1, FY 2018; End: Q2, FY 2018	On-Track	n/a	APG Leads and Deputies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory instrument issued agency-wide. • APG Working Group Leads and Deputies confirmed. • APG Working Group currently being formed.
Stage 1: Identify Partnership Opportunities.	FY 2018	On-Track	n/a	APG WG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions externally with potential partners and internally regarding strategy.
Stage 2: Formalize Partnerships.	Late 2018	On-Track	n/a	WG + Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing discussions internally regarding optimizing processes.
Stage 3: Implement Partnerships.	No earlier than Q1 FY 2019	On-Track	n/a	WG + Agency	

Key Indicators

- Partnerships and/or Award Actions data will be available after Q2.
- In Q2 and Q3, a survey instrument is being developed and piloted to collect reliable information on the number and types of partnerships and/or award actions in use at NSF. This instrument will establish the FY 2017 value, and will be used each subsequent year to chart progress. More details about measurement methodology will be available in the second half of FY 2018.

Data Accuracy and Reliability

NSF-wide Working Group will determine data sources and the data collection methodology in Q2-Q3 of FY18. The methodology will be consistent across FY17 (baseline year), FY18, and FY19.

Considerations in establishing the methodology include:

- Data quality;
- Verification and validation of data; and
- Identification and mitigation of data limitations.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- Once formalized, partners will be listed here.

Program Activities:

- Participating directorates and offices from within NSF will be listed here.

Regulations:

- N/A

Tax Expenditures:

- N/A

Policies:

- Opportunities to streamline the MOU process will be investigated as part of this APG.
- Best practices for engagement with external stakeholders, including rules of engagement, will be defined and refined.

Other Federal Activities:

- Once formalized, agency partners will be listed here.

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

Discussions about the role of partnerships at NSF have been initiated with multiple Advisory Committees in Q1 FY 2018.