

Dear Colleague,

There are new funding opportunities at NSF that might be of interest to you. They are called the “Big Ideas” and they focus on critical issues in science and society. The purpose of each Big Idea is to motivate dynamic and innovative scholars to create and implement new and potentially transformative interdisciplinary approaches to some very large societal challenges.

I encourage

- every social scientist,
- every behavioral scientist,
- every member of an organization who is willing to collaborate with social or behavioral scientists, and
- every scholar who is looking for new opportunities to advance science in ways that best serve the public to think “big”.

Here are some of the opportunities now available:

- 1) [The Future of Work at the Human Technology Frontier](#): This Big Idea seeks to help society better understand, and more effectively build, the human-technology relationship in the context of work. Relevant activities include assessing the social and behavioral implications of automation; producing new technologies to augment human performance; developing and evaluating mechanisms to foster lifelong and pervasive learning with technology; and many more.

Funding Opportunity:

- [Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Core Research](#) There are three funding options: planning grants, medium projects, and large projects.

Proposal Deadline March 6, 2019

- 2) [Navigating the New Arctic](#): The Arctic is undergoing rapid biological, physical, and social change, not only its shape and surface properties, but also the ways in which humans can interact with it. This Big Idea seeks to help society better understand, and more effectively adapt to how Arctic change will influence communities both in the Arctic and beyond. This initiative is not just for people already studying the Arctic. It is for anyone whose work is potentially pertinent to New Arctic issues.

Funding Opportunity:

- [Navigating the New Arctic Program](#): There are two tracks for proposal: research grants and planning grants.

Proposal Deadline March 4, 2019

See [upcoming virtual office hours](#) and a [webinar recording](#) for more information.

- 3) [Harnessing the Data Revolution \(HDR\)](#): Data are being created, distributed, and used at a scale that is unprecedented in human history. This Big Idea encourages NSF's research community to pursue broad, interdisciplinary research in data science and engineering, and to explore its implications for social interaction and organization. This Big Idea seeks to help society better understand, and more effectively develop, a cohesive, federated, national-scale approach to research data infrastructure, and knowledge needed to empower a 21st-century data-capable workforce. The HDR vision is realized through an interrelated set of activities and funding opportunities. Each of these efforts is designed to amplify the intrinsically multidisciplinary nature of the emerging field of data science.

Multiple Funding Opportunities:

- [Harnessing the Data Revolution \(HDR\): Data Science Corps \(DSC\)](#)

Proposal Deadline February 19, 2019

- [Harnessing the Data Revolution \(HDR\): Institutes for Data-Intensive Research in Science and Engineering - Ideas Labs \(I-DIRSE-IL\)](#): Ideas Lab participants will be selected individually to work in a group with a mentor to develop a full HDR proposal.

Preliminary Proposal Deadline March 4, 2019

A [webinar about these opportunities](#) will occur February 15 at 1pm EST.

- 4) [Mid-Scale Research Infrastructure](#): At NSF, the term “mid-scale” infrastructure refers to projects that, once built, can help many researchers conduct diverse analyses from a single platform. The budget for these projects can range from \$6.0 million to \$70.0 million over a five-year period. This Big Idea is designed to motivate entrepreneurial research teams to create new and innovative research platforms.

Two Funding Opportunities:

- [Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-1 \(Mid-scale RI-1\)](#): for proposals from \$6.0 million to under \$20 million.

Preliminary Proposal Deadline February 19, 2019

- [Mid-scale Research Infrastructure-2 \(Mid-scale RI-2\)](#): for proposals between \$20 million and \$70 million.

Letter of Intent Deadline February 14, 2019

There will be two webinars about both of these opportunities: on [February 6 at 1pm EST](#) and on [February 7 at 1pm EST](#). The password for both events is MSRI2019!

- 5) [Growing Convergence Research](#): Research relying on convergence is needed to solve complex scientific and engineering problems that require integrating knowledge, methods, and expertise from different disciplines and forming novel frameworks to catalyze scientific discovery and innovation. This is research driven by a specific and compelling problem and features deep integration across disciplines.
More details are expected soon.

Two additional Big Ideas do not currently have open funding opportunities; but could be a source of new solicitations in the future.

[Understanding the Rules of Life](#): This Big Idea seeks broad interdisciplinary approaches to understanding the regularities that guide or influence the emergence of observable characteristics, i.e., phenotype, in organisms across the tree of life, including humans. Previously, this program sought proposals in two areas: Epigenetics, and Building a Synthetic Cell. While the subject matter of future calls has not been determined, we anticipate calls that include a significant role for social and behavioral scientists.

[NSF INCLUDES](#): This Big Idea seeks to help scholars develop, implement, and evaluate new ways to transform education and career pathways in ways that broaden participation in science and engineering. The INCLUDES initiative is aimed at expanding the number of underrepresented scientists and engineers within the U.S. scientific workforce. To accomplish this, NSF INCLUDES has supported the development of a national network of a broad array of research centers and sites, both public and private, with varied STEM foci ranging from community water research to environmental engineering.

Please spend a few minutes learning about the Big Ideas. These new funding opportunities, along with NSF's existing social and behavioral science programs, offer exciting opportunities for innovative scholars who are interested in transformative, problem-inspired, basic research. If you have questions about these or other SBE programs, please contact the program officers listed at the bottom of each opportunity's main page.

The Big Ideas offer a great opportunity for social and behavioral scientists to advance science and address important social problems. We would like to see strong proposals from our community in the weeks and months to come.

Sincerely,

Arthur Lupia

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