

STEM Learning and Research (STELAR) Center @ Education Development Center

NSF ITEST Solicitation Webinar

Tuesday September 15th, 2015



Who We Are

- STEM Learning & Research Center (STELAR)
- Education Development Center
- Supporting the program and its grantees since 2003
- Available to assist considering submitting an ITEST proposal
- <http://stelar.edc.org>

What We Do

- Facilitate projects' success through **technical support** with a focus on synthesis of findings
- Inform and influence the field of STEM stakeholders by **disseminating** project findings nationally
- Deepen the impact and reach of the ITEST program by **broadening participation** in the ITEST portfolio



Some of Our Activities

- **Webinars:** Effective Dissemination, Designing Research for ITEST Projects, Mentoring Models
- **Monthly Newsletter:** Information to stay updated on all things STEM and ITEST
- **Project Liaisons:** A STELAR staffer who works directly with each project to provide resources and make connections
- **Regional and Thematic Meetings:** A way for current projects to network with each other
- **Management Information System (MIS):** Annual collection of project information about what projects do, who they work with, what they have achieved

Find Resources on STELAR Website

The screenshot shows the homepage of the STELAR website. At the top left is the STELAR logo, which consists of a cluster of colored dots followed by the word "stelar" in a sans-serif font, with "STEM Learning and Research Center" underneath. To the right of the logo are links for "Log in" and "Contact Us". Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "About", "News", "Events", "Blogs", "Projects", and "Resources". The "Home" link is underlined.



The main content area features a "FEATURED OPPORTUNITY" section. It includes the text "CALL FOR PAPERS: IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES" and "Special Issue on Wearable Tech and the Internet of Things in Education/Training". A green button labeled "Learn more »" is positioned below the text. To the right of the text is a photograph of a hand holding a large, orange, felt-like flower with a green stem and leaves. Below the text and button are three small circular icons.

Below the featured opportunity is a light gray banner with the text "Helping prepare a diverse, skilled, and innovative STEM workforce." On the right side of this banner is a search bar labeled "TEXT SEARCH" with a magnifying glass icon and a link for "ADVANCED SEARCH".

At the bottom of the page are four icons with corresponding text labels: a document icon for "ITEST Program Findings", a briefcase icon for "ITEST Proposal Development", a cluster of dots icon for "STELAR Materials", and an envelope icon for "Join Our Mailing List".

Get Ideas for Designing your Proposal

ITEST Proposal Development

Share / Save   

Are you considering submitting a proposal to ITEST? You have come to the right place!
The resources under each heading below provide valuable information to help you develop a competitive proposal:

- The ITEST solicitation webinars provide an overview of the ITEST program as well as details on what to include, and what not to include, in your proposal.
- STELAR themed webinars demonstrate how previous ITEST projects have tackled topics that are of interest to the ITEST program.
- Data and Info Briefs are publications that summarize the activities of the ITEST projects in a given year. Knowing what has been done previously may help you develop an innovative proposal.
- Other publications provide background information on topics that are of interest to the ITEST program.

In addition, we suggest you also peruse the other areas of the STELAR website to learn more about your specific area of interest. We encourage you to browse the [project profiles](#) to see what projects have already been funded; read [ITEST Program Findings](#) to discover what the previously funded ITEST projects have learned from their research and implementation efforts; and search within [resources](#) to find *instruments* and *curricular materials* used and developed by ITEST projects.

+ GET TO KNOW ITEST

+ PREPARE YOUR PROPOSAL FOR SUBMISSION

+ DEVELOP A ROBUST RESEARCH DESIGN

+ CREATE AN EFFECTIVE EVALUATION STRATEGY

+ CONNECT WITH PARTNERS

+ REACH UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

+ DEVELOP THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

Find Project Profiles

Projects

1 - 8 of 19

Search Results

All Projects A-Z

Bioscience

Computer Science

Engineering

Environmental Science

Mathematics

Advancing Geospatial Thinking and Technologies in Grades 9-12: Citizen Mapping, Community Engagement, and Career Preparation in STEM
Given recent advancements in geospatial technologies and the expanding geospatial technology industry, this project is timely in its focus on spatial thinking and strengthening geospatial technology skills among high school students.

[READ MORE »](#)

[Back to the Earth](#)

SEARCH FOR PROJECTS

Multiple criteria within a field is an OR condition. Multiple fields are AND conditions.

- + DISCIPLINE(S)
- + PROJECT PARTICIPANT(S)
- + PROJECT GRADE SPAN(S)
- + PROJECT SETTING(S)
- + STATES WHERE WORK OCCURS
- + PROJECT STATUS

[Apply Filters](#) [Clear Filters](#)

Resource Library – Curricula & Instruments

Resources

1 - 8 of 93 [Download Results](#)

[Events](#) [News](#) [Instruments](#)
[Publications](#) [Opportunities](#) [Curricular Materials](#)

SEARCH FOR RESOURCES
Multiple criteria within a field is an OR condition. Multiple fields are AND conditions.

[+](#) RESOURCE TYPE
[+](#) DISCIPLINE(S)
[+](#) TOPIC(S)

[Apply Filters](#) [Clear Filters](#)

2012 National Survey of Science and Mathematics Education: Science Teacher Questionnaire Instruments
2012 National Survey of Science and Mathematics Education: Science Teacher Questionnaire solicits information regarding K-12 science teachers' opinions, their preparation, and their teacher practice. The questionnaire was developed and...
[READ MORE »](#)

Connect with others via the People Connector

<http://stellar.edc.org/opportunities/people-connector-directory>

People Connector Form

People Connector Directory

STELAR People Connector Directory - Add your Information

The purpose of this directory is to connect individuals looking for partners or tools for their ITEST proposals with those who can provide partnership or tools (e.g., a school district looking for a research methodologist, a community-based organization looking for an external evaluator).

Please complete this form if you are looking for or can provide specific expertise for ITEST proposals. The information you provide will be publicly available and accessible via the STELAR website.

* Required

STEM Learning and Research Center

First name *

Last name *

Email *

Organization / Institution *

City *

State *

Website

Listing Type *

Select one listing type for this submission. If you are both LOOKING FOR and PROVIDING expertise, please complete this form for one, and then submit an additional form for the second.

I am LOOKING FOR expertise

I can PROVIDE expertise

STELAR People Connector Directory

The purpose of the People Connector Directory is to connect individuals looking for partners or tools for their ITEST proposals with those who can provide partnership or tools (e.g., a school district looking for a research methodologist, a community-based organization looking for an external evaluator). The information provided is publicly available and accessible via the STELAR website. You can get notified of additions to the Directory by clicking on 'Tools' and 'Notification Opportunities' above (you must sign in to a google account in order to access the Tools).

Note: STELAR and NSF do not endorse the credibility or expertise of any specific individuals on the compiled list.

Timestamp	First name	Last name	Email	Organization / Institution	City	State	Website	Listing Type	Type of Expertise	Expertise Details
9/8/2014 16:42:48	Anita	Krishnamurthi	akinshnamurthi@atersch	Atterschool Allian	Washington	DC	http://www.atersc	I can PROVIDE expertise	Researcher, Informal ed	Please reach out if you're looking f
9/9/2014 9:07:53	Bonnie	Swan	bonnie.swan@ucf.edu	University of Centri	Orlando	Florida	http://education.u	I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Researcher	Program Evaluation and Education
9/9/2014 9:19:45	Cynthia	Tanaris	tanaris@pitt.edu	University of Pitts	Pittsburgh	PA	http://www.ceac.p	I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Researcher, E	Cynthia A. Tanaris, Ed.D., founde
9/9/2014 12:09:42	Amy	Grack Nelson	agnelson@smm.org	Science Museum	St Paul	MINN		I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Evaluation ins	Expertise in the development and
9/9/2014 17:00:08	Troy	Sadler	sadler@missouri.edu	University of Miss	Columbia	MO	http://education.m	I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator	The ReSTEM Institute: Reimagin
9/10/2014 18:56:16	Vega	Vanessa	vanessa@rockman.com	Rockman et al.	San Francisco	CA	www.rockman.com	I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Researcher, F	Can provide expertise on: evaluat
9/16/2014 10:00:21	Kevin	Glass	glass@educationconnect	Center for Resear	Litchfield	CT	www.education.or	I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator	We can provide both internal and e
9/16/2014 13:14:04	Juan	Concepcion	rubricsolution@gmail.com	Concepcion-Card	Manati	Puert	www.rubricsolutio	I am LOOKING FOR expertise	Evaluator, Informal educ	Proven educational STEM practice
9/17/2014 15:21:28	Kristin	Bass	kristin@rockman.com	Rockman et al	San Francisco	CA	www.rockman.com	I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Evaluation ins	Rockman et al is an independent r
9/17/2014 10:39:14	Karen	Yanowitz	kyanowitz@estate.edu	Arkansas State U	Jonesboro	AR		I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Researcher	I have two ITEST grants and am ve
9/18/2014 16:41:00	Jared	Ozga	jozga@wcs.org	Wildlife Conservat	New York	NY	wcs.org	I am LOOKING FOR expertise	Informal education site,	Looking to forge partnerships with
9/22/2014 15:26:32	Robinson	Robinson	ronrobinson@lewislatimer	Lewis H. Latimer	Chelsea	Mass	www.lewislatimers	I can PROVIDE expertise	Informal education site	I can provide information on how to
10/22/2014 16:12:12	Teresa	Reagan	treagan@ncat.edu	NC A&T State Uni	Greensboro	NC		I am LOOKING FOR expertise	Evaluator	We are searching for an external e
11/12/2014 21:47:15	Aaron	Parker	Aaron.T.Parker@gmail.c	University of Guan	ASAN	Guam		I am LOOKING FOR expertise	Evaluator, Formal educa	Looking for help putting together a
2/17/2015 12:30:42	Jana	Craig-Hare	janach@ku.edu	University of Kans	Lawrence	KS	www.altec.org	I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Researcher, Evaluation instrument	
2/17/2015 16:23:36	Jaelyn	Ocupaugh	jo2424@tc.columbia.edu	Teachers College,	New York	New York		I can PROVIDE expertise	Evaluator, Researcher, Evaluation instrument	

Join our Community of Practice

The screenshot shows a user dashboard for 'Carrie'. At the top, it says 'Welcome, Carrie'. The dashboard is divided into several sections:

- Announcements:** A message welcoming the user to the STELAR Dashboard and explaining that they can add content, join working groups, or suggest content.
- My Profile:** A section with a user icon and two buttons: 'Edit Profile' and 'View Profile'.
- My Projects:** A section with a folder icon and a project titled 'Promoting STEM Career Interest in the Classroom: An Exploratory Study Linking Teacher Professional Development with Changes in Teaching Practices'. It includes three buttons: 'Edit Project', 'View Project', and 'Project Materials'.
- ITEST Learning Resource Center (LRC):** A section with three buttons: 'Edit Project', 'View Project', and 'Project Materials'.
- STEM Learning and Research (STELAR) Center:** A section with three buttons: 'Edit Project', 'View Project', and 'Project Materials'.
- Working Groups:** A section with a plus icon and the text 'Working Groups'. It lists 'Groups to Join' (You belong to all Groups) and 'My Groups' (Research Evaluation, Outreach and Dissemination, Data & Impact).
- Community Search:** A section with a magnifying glass icon, a search input field labeled 'ENTER FIRST OR LAST NAME', and a 'Search' button.
- Share Resources:** A section with eight circular icons for sharing: 'Write a Blog', 'Share a Publication', 'Share a News Article', 'Share an Opportunity', 'Upload an Image', 'Upload a Video', 'Share Curricular Materials', and 'Share an Instrument'.

And lots more!

Resources

1 - 8 of 473

Events	News	Instruments
Publications	Opportunities	Curricular Materials

SEARCH FOR RESOURCES

Multiple criteria within a field condition. Multiple fields are

+ RESOURCE TYPE

+ DISCIPLINE(S)

+ TOPIC(S)

Apply Filters

\$1.1 million grant will fund 3 years of scientific research
News

ITEST project WNY Genetics in Research Partnership has secured funding to enable teachers and high school students from 13 counties in Western and Central New York to conduct scientific research in bioinformatics during the next three years....

STELAR Materials

Share / Save

The ITEST LRC (2003-2012) and the STELAR Center have produced reports, webinars, and other events as resources to all those working to broaden participation in the STEM workforce to traditionally underrepresented populations. Browse the resources, and let us know what else you would like to see by emailing stelar@edc.org.

+ MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (MIS) REPORTS

+ NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

+ THEMATIC HIGHLIGHTS ARCHIVE

+ WEBINAR ARCHIVE

+ CONVENINGS

Dissemination Strategies

Apr | 2015

Dissemination Strategies

Highly effective dissemination strategies are crucial to a project's impact but projects often struggle with how best to synthesize and share findings and to identify which venues to pursue to best reach their target audiences. The resources compiled here share considerations and program strategies related to dissemination, tools and technologies that can be employed, examples of new dissemination venues or modalities such as social media, online journals, and other lessons learned, successes and challenges to effectively disseminating project findings.



Recent Highlights

Mar | 2015

Cyberlearning

Feb | 2015

Research in ITEST

Jan | 2015

Mentoring in ITEST

Dec | 2014

Computer Science Education

Oct | 2014

Working with Diverse

RESOURCES

STELAR Webinar: Effective Dissemination Plans – Success Strategies for Projects and Proposals

(EVENT) Attendees learned how to develop highly effective dissemination plans from seasoned PIs in ITEST and other NSF programs. Presenters shared strategies, lessons learned, ways to leverage technology, and helped to identify non-traditional dissemination venues that are often overlooked.

[READ MORE »](#)

ITEST Conference Symposia for 2015

(NEWS) STELAR collaborated with ITEST projects on a number of conference symposium proposals during 2014 for the 2015 conference year.

[READ MORE »](#)

Project Spotlight: Fueling the Ocean STEM Workforce Pipeline

(BLOG) STELAR recently had the opportunity to interview Bill Zandle from the MATE ROV

Upcoming Opportunities

Call for Papers: IEEE TLT Special Issue on Wearable Tech and the Internet of Things in Education/Training

Due by Monday, June 15, 2015 | [READ MORE »](#)

Journal of Science Education and Technology - ITEST Special Issue Call for Papers

Due by Monday, June 15, 2015 | [READ MORE »](#)

U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference

Due by Monday, June 29, 2015 | [READ MORE »](#)

The Saint Paul Foundation - Advancing Racial Equity Grant Opportunity

Due by Tuesday, June 30, 2015 | [READ MORE »](#)

People Connector Directory for ITEST Proposals

[READ MORE »](#)



STELAR

Monthly Highlight

Dissemination Strategies

[read more »](#)



STELAR Newsletter

News from ITEST, current events, and more.

Current Newsletter »

Newsletter Archives »



Blog



May 27, 2015

Project Spotlight: Barcoding Life's Matrix
STELAR had the opportunity to speak with Ralph Imondi (Coastal Marine Biolabs Integrative

[READ FULL POST »](#)

May 7, 2015

Fostering and Maintaining Students' Interest in Engineering
Dorendetta Cifuentes brings more than

STELAR is on Social Media – Stay in Touch!

Contact us: stelar@edc.org

“Like” us: <https://www.facebook.com/stelarctr>

Follow us: https://twitter.com/STELAR_CTR

Watch us: <https://www.youtube.com/user/stelarcenter>

Find resources: <http://stelar.edc.org/>



Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) Program

Division of Research on Learning
in Formal and Informal Settings

Program Solicitation: NSF 15-599

Proposals Due November 13,
2015

Changes For This Solicitation

- Clarification of expectations for research plans and project evaluation.
- Addition of solicitation specific review criteria related to broadening participation.
- Addition of funding track for an ITEST Resource Center.

Aim of the ITEST Program

Ensure a high-quality STEM workforce by supporting projects that:

- Increase student awareness of career opportunities in STEM and related fields.
- Motivate students to pursue appropriate educational pathways to STEM-related careers.
- Provide technology-rich experiences that develop disciplinary knowledge, practices, and non-cognitive skills needed in STEM fields.

STEM-Related Workforce Fields

- Traditional STEM Disciplines
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Computing, Computer Sciences, Data Analytics, and related fields.
- Professionals at all levels, including technicians, technologists, scientists, engineers, computer scientists, and mathematicians.

ITEST Projects...

- Must involve students.
- Are informed by relevant research.
- Will focus on workforce development for youth or school-to-work transitions.
- Will conduct foundational or design-based research of strategies, conditions and contexts that improve student STEM learning pathways and STEM-focused career preparations and mentorships.

ITEST is particularly interested in:

- Broadening participation of students from groups underrepresented in STEM-related education and career domains.
- Projects that examine various forms of mentorship or the effectiveness of adult volunteers with relevant disciplinary expertise.
- Projects that improve students' critical thinking skills that transfer across disciplines and into career settings.
- Projects that directly involve students with business and industry through partnerships.

“Encouraged” are Projects that...

- Bring together researchers in STEM education, STEM disciplines, career development, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and related fields.
- Engage students in use of cutting-edge technological tools, the computer sciences, or innovative applications of technology for work-based or problem-based learning.

Two Types of Projects Supported

Strategies projects that address the creation and implementation of innovative workforce-related activities or programs.

- Awards for up to \$1.2M for projects lasting up to 3 years.
- Approximately 15-20 projects to be supported.

SPrEaD (**S**uccessful **P**roject **E**xpansion and **D**issemination) projects that support the wider and broader dissemination and examination of innovative strategies.

- Awards for up to \$2M for projects lasting 3-5 years.
- Approximately 5-10 projects to be supported.

Projects must align with one or more of the seven questions listed in the solicitation.

- Experiences that foster student competency, motivation, or persistence.
- Instructional and Curricular Models
- Roles of business and workforce members
- Strategies for parents, mentors, & caregivers
- Strategies for principals, counselors, & other school administrators
- Engaging diverse underrepresented populations



Questions?

Proposals should...

- Draw on existing theory and evidence to design and develop strategies.
- Describe the questions, instruments, methods, and analyses to be used to study the effects of the strategies.
- Describe how the project will collect and interpret evidence that the strategies were implemented as planned and goals achieved [project evaluation].

Strategies projects...

- Should include pilot testing to determine if the new strategies lead to desired outcomes.
- That expand and extend our notions of learning environments are encouraged.
- That include partnerships with schools, colleges, informal learning institutions, businesses, government labs, and community-based organizations are encouraged.

Project Expansion and Dissemination (SPrEaD) Projects

- Study innovative strategies across a wider range of contexts and settings.
- SPrEaD projects document factors that may enhance, moderate, or constrain the effects of strategies designed to enhance student knowledge or disposition toward STEM-related education pathways or careers.

SPrEaD proposals must...

- Describe the innovation and the contexts and conditions for broadening and scaling.
- Present evidence for the feasibility of impacts.
- Explain how the proposed project builds on previous implementations.
- Identify anticipated contributions to knowledge.
- Present a study design capable of generating robust evidence of the strategy's potential.
- Include plans to document fidelity of implementation.
- Involve a partner not previously involved.

Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

In addition to considering the two general Merit Review Criteria, reviewers will also be asked to consider the following three questions relating to broadening participation when reviewing Strategies and SPrEaD proposals:

- Does the proposal include explicit strategies for recruiting and selecting participants from identified groups currently underrepresented in STEM professions, careers, or education pathways?
- Does the proposal identify the specific needs of the underrepresented groups to be served, and does it include specific plans or strategies for addressing or accommodating the particular needs of participants of the identified underrepresented groups?
- Do the planned activities of the proposed project include explicit attention to strategies appropriate to participants' experiences for promoting awareness, interest, or readiness for STEM careers or STEM education pathways?

Resources for Proposal Preparation

- ITEST Program Webpage:
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5467&org=DRL&from=home
- ITEST Solicitation:
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=5467&ods_key=nsf15599
- STEM Learning and Resource Center (STELAR): <http://stelar.edc.org>
- Grant Proposal Guide:
http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg

Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development

- Potential PIs and grant writers are encouraged to use the information in the *Common Guidelines for Educational Research and Development* and the set of NSF FAQs regarding them to help in the preparation of proposals
- The section on “Foundational, Early Stage or Exploratory, and Design and Development Studies” is most relevant to this solicitation.

What are the *Common Guidelines*?

- NSF 13-126 - Joint effort between NSF and the Institute for Education Sciences at the U.S. Department of Education

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13126/nsf13126.pdf>

- NSF 13-127 - Set of FAQs

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13127/nsf13127.jsp>



Questions?



Proposal preparation

Project Summary Suggestions

- **First Sentence**
 - Type of Proposal – Strategies or SPrEaD
- **Second Sentence**
 - STEM or STEM-related areas of emphasis
 - Grade or age level(s) addressed
- **The strategy to be designed, implemented, and evaluated.**
- **Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts**
 - Must include separate statements on each of these two NSB criteria.

Note: The Project Summary is used to group proposals, so should be “descriptive” rather than “persuasive”.

Project Description Should Include...

- Project overview
- Project goals and objectives
- Summary of effectiveness and impact of prior support
- Explanation of principles that guided the project design, informed by the literature
- Detailed work plan with a timeline
- Research plan
- Anticipated results
- External review or evaluation process
- Dissemination plan
- Qualifications of key personnel who will be coordinating the project

Things to Consider Relating to Goals and Objectives

- Why is this project important?
- How will the project attract students or prepare them for the STEM workforce?
- How will it advance knowledge?
- What are the anticipated outcomes and/or products of this project?
- How might these products or findings be useful on a broader scale?

What Have You and Others Done?

What is the context?

- Describe the theoretical and research basis on which the proposal is based.
- Discuss how the proposal is innovative and different from similar research and development projects.
- If you have been funded by NSF, provide evidence about the **effectiveness** and **impacts** of that work (Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts).

How Are You Going To Do It?

- State clear research questions or hypotheses that the project will test.
- Describe the plan for developing, adapting or implementing the proposed innovative strategy.
- Describe the research methods, including data analysis plans, sampling plan, and assessments.
- **Briefly** describe the work plan and timeline.

Who Will do The Work?

- Briefly describe the expertise of the persons included on the proposal and why they are needed:
 - Education researchers and evaluators
 - Teachers
 - STEM-related content experts
- Upload two page bios for all senior personnel

Independent Project Evaluation

A proposal must describe appropriate project-specific independent review and feedback processes.

- The review might include an external review panel or advisory board or a third-party evaluator.
- The review must independent and rigorous
- The proposal must
 - Describe the expertise of the external reviewer(s);
 - Explain how that expertise relates to the goals and objectives of the proposal;
 - specify how the PI will report and use results of the project's external, critical review process.
- There can be different groups providing formative and summative evaluation

How Will Others Learn About The Project?

- Plan and specific strategies for **dissemination** of products or findings to researchers, policy makers, practitioners, and other relevant constituency groups.
- Requirement to provide project data as requested by the STEM Learning and Research (STELAR) Center.

Supplementary Documents

- Letters of collaboration (*commitment*, not *support*) from project partners*
- Data Management Plan
- Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan
- **NO OTHER DOCUMENTS**

*be careful not to include attachments to the letters

Budget

- **Should be consistent with level of work** – you do not have to request the maximum!
- **Two months salary:** No more than two months of salary for senior personnel with **academic** positions on all NSF grants *unless* justified.
- **Indirect cost rates:** Set by the institution and auditors and is non-negotiable.
- **Direct costs:** Not allowed for secretary or services provided through indirect costs.
- **No cost sharing**
- Limited equipment; no undergraduate tuition

Common reasons for proposals to be rated non-competitive

Importance

- Proposed problem not nationally important
- Weak, vague, or no connection to STEM content
- Relevant literatures not cited

Methods

- Inadequate or inappropriate research design
- Vague or inappropriate data collection & analyses
- Too much data being collected
- Appropriate expertise not represented
- Cost at small scale prohibitive when scaled up

Some Things POs Suggest You Avoid

- Ignoring requirements stated in the solicitation or the *Grand Proposal Guide*
- The “Trust Me” approach. Provide citations or evidence for critical assertions made.
- The “Oversell” of yourself or your project; take a neutral tone and let the evidence speak.
- Pages of general, vague, or rambling narrative without precision and details.
- Overemphasis of rationale for the project at the expense of methodology and details of what will actually be implemented.

Reasons for Return Without Review

- Violation of formatting rules of the *Grant Proposal Guide* (e.g. font, page length etc.)
- Failure to address specifically intellectual merit **and** broader impacts in the *Project Summary* and *Project Description*
- Unauthorized documents/data in the appendix or supplementary document section.
- No *Post-doc Mentoring Plan* if post docs are included on budget
- No *Data Management Plan*

Where to Submit

- NSF's FastLane:

<https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/index.jsp>

- Grants.gov:

<http://www.grants.gov>

Note:

- Collaborative proposals must be submitted through FastLane.
- Fastlane will check for required sections of proposals.

Review Criteria

All proposals are reviewed under two criteria: Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact.

- 1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
 - a. advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
 - b. benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
- 2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
- 3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
- 4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or institution to conduct the proposed activities?
- 5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home institution or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities.

For Further Information

- Call **(703) 292-8628**
- Email: **DRLITEST@nsf.gov**
- Contact an ITEST Program Director