FY07 Funding Opportunities at NSF and

Proposal Writing Tips

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Math Sciences Priority Area (MSPA)

- Much of the MSPA funds are earmarked for inter-disciplinary research
- Includes joint funding opportunities with every NSF research directorate: BIO, CISE, ENG, SBE, GEO, OPP, MPS (PHY,CHM,AST,DMR)
- Division-wide competition
- Usually large grants, with post-doc and graduate student support
- MSPA is winding down. Half-strength in FY07.
- Only some programs will continue after FY07.

DMS/NIGMS in Math Biology

- Collaboration: DMS and NIH/NIGMS
- Research in math/stat related to biology of interest to NIH/NIGMS (not specific disease)
- New solicitation and deadline are forthcoming
- Deadline (please check often)
- Team? Expected, not required
- Will continue

Math-Geo Collaboration (CMG)

- Collaborative research at the intersection of Math/Stat and Geosciences

- New solicitation will be out soon

- Deadline: Feb 1, 2007

- Budget: TBD

- Team? Required

- Expect to continue at least until FY09

Focused Research Group (FRG)

- Focused Research Groups in the Mathematical Sciences

- Group (at least 3) of researchers all working on the same focused problem

- May be team of all math scientists or team of math scientists and others

- Projects where collective effort is necessary and a breakthrough might be expected

- Letter of intent 3rd Friday in August. Proposal 3rd Friday in Sept.

- Total budget: TBD (about $9M)

- Award size: up to $500K per year

- Prestigious awards

- Expected number of awards: TBD (about 10-12).

- Division-wide competition

Research and Training Groups (RTG)

- One of the workforce programs

- A group of researchers in the same department

- Based in a sub-area of the mathematical sciences or linked by a multidisciplinary theme

- Supports training at educational levels from undergraduate to postdoctoral within that focus.

Career Program

- Goal: Encourage young investigators to develop a research and teaching-oriented career in academia

- 5-year $400K awards.

- Very competitive and prestigious

- PI must be a PhD, untenured, in a tenure-track position; no previous career award.
- Integrate research and education.
- International dimensions encouraged
- Research partners cannot be co-PI's

Note:

- Start early (don't wait until your 5-th year)
- Same proposal can be sent to the regular program with some modification.

Regular Statistics Program

- # Proposals   ~140 (2005)   ~150 (2006)

- # Awards   ~55   (2005)   ~57   (2006)

- #Awards (younger than1997 PhD): 22 (2005)
  #Awards (younger than 1998 PhD): 18 (2006)

Note: The Probability program is about half the size

Important Changes

- Submission window: **Oct 23 – Nov 7.**

- Proposal will be returned without review if received after Nov 7.

- Full panel review

- Only a small number of proposals will be mail reviewed

Warning: grants.gov is coming

- May be enforced for all FY07 proposals

- Your SRO may not be experienced

- Start as early as possible

- Treat Oct 23 as your deadline so you will have two weeks to work with grants.gov

- Do not wait until the last minute!

Tips – write to the panelists

- **What**: interesting, exciting -- *feel good*
- **Why**: important, motivated -- *feel justified*
- **When**: timeliness -- *can't wait*
- **Why Me**: prior support, track record, preliminary results -- *this is the guy!*
- **How**: details, details, details … -- *understand and be able to evaluate*
- Read the solicitation carefully and follow it to the letter. -- *We do check compliances*

Don't

- Don't use small fonts or narrow margins

- Don't use less than 15 pages

- Don't jam in too many ideas or projects

- Don't ask for too much, nor too little

- Don't have typos

- Don't be discouraged if you fail for a couple of times. Keep trying …

Broader Impact

- At least half page

- Societal impact

- Education: course development

- Training: Graduate and undergraduate, minority and female students

- Dissemination: publication, talk, making software available to public, (e.g. R code)

- Be creative

Information

Visit NSF/DMS website for more detailed and updated information and programs and solicitations not mentioned here.

http://www.nsf.gov/div/index.jsp?div=DMS

Happy Writing and Good Luck

Don't blame me if you don't get it

(We just don't have enough money to fund all the proposals that are worth funding)