



Funding Opportunity: NSF Releases Dear Colleague Letter for Navigating the New Arctic

Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC – February 26, 2018

The National Science Foundation (NSF) released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) soliciting proposals for one of its 10 Big Ideas, Navigating the New Arctic (NNA). This DCL builds on a March 2017 DCL for “Growing Convergence Research” which distributed NNA themed workshops and Research Coordination Networks (RCNs) awards. Although not a dedicated new program, this DCL provides a new emphasis on NNA through a variety of existing funding opportunities.

The DCL invites proposals on a broad range of NNA-relevant topics, including: establishment of observational sites, platforms or networks of sites including sensor-cyber; environmental change and social processes occurring; cyber-physical systems and smart infrastructure, as well as changes to natural ecosystems and the built environment; as well as STEM education through Arctic research activities.

NSF directs proposals to the Geosciences (GEO) Arctic Sciences Section suite of programs that has the flexibility to accept NNA proposals at any time and will coordinate reviews between Arctic Sciences and other directorates. Despite no formal deadlines, proposals for fiscal year (FY) 2018 funding should be submitted by May 1, 2018. NSF encourages NNA proposals with a “systems-based approach” that “leverages large data sets...[and] knowledge co-production with local and indigenous communities.”

Participating directorates include Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Division of Computer and Network Systems (CNS); Engineering (ENG) Division of Civil, Mechanical, and Manufacturing Innovation (CMMI); Biological (BIO) Division of Environmental Biology (DEB); Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES); and the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE). Questions should be directed to specific program officers listed in the DCL.

NNA proposals for Research Coordination Networks (RCNs), conference proposals, Early-Concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) should be submitted to the Arctic Sciences Section for a coordinated review.

Sources and Additional Information:

- The Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) is available at https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18048/nsf18048.jsp?WT.mc_id=USNSF_25&WT.mc_ev=click.
- More information on the 10 Big Ideas is available at https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/big_ideas/index.jsp.