

NSF Directorate for STEM Education Updates

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TCUP Leaders' Forum

October 9th, 2026



U.S. National Science Foundation
Directorate for STEM Education

Organizational Changes at NSF

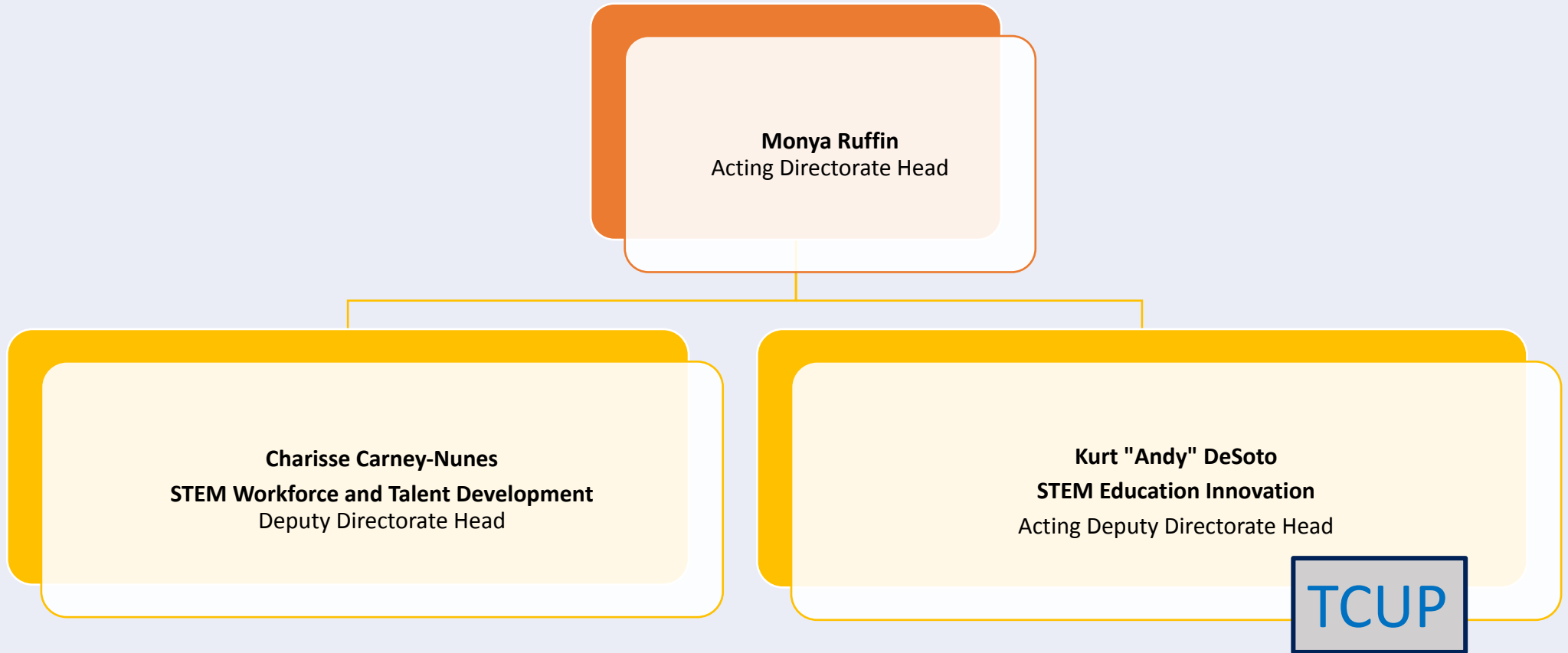
NSF announces organizational realignment

December 15, 2025

To keep America at the forefront of science, engineering and technology, the U.S. National Science Foundation has made some changes in how the agency is structured to increase our efficiency and effectiveness. This new structure empowers our staff and the scientific and research community to be more responsive in a rapidly evolving science and technology environment. These changes reduce the number of layers in the organization, which allows the agency to more effectively interface with our staff, while achieving faster response times for review and making awards.



Directorate for STEM Education



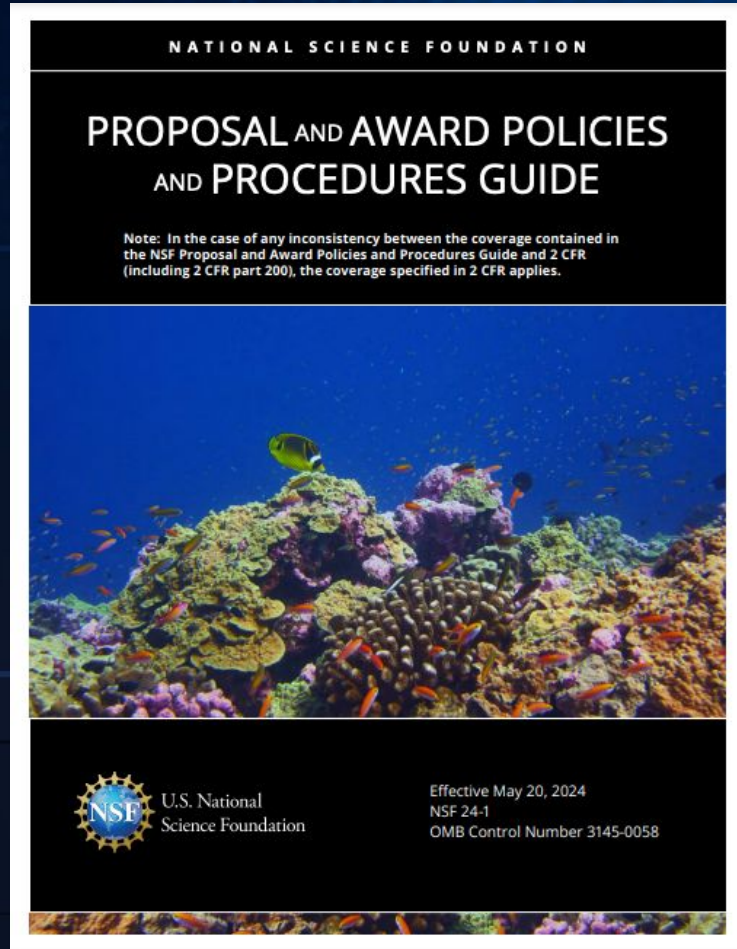


Policy and Program Resources



U.S. National Science Foundation
Directorate for STEM Education

Proposal and Awards Policy Procedure Guide



The PAPPG is updated regularly and provides:

- Information for Proposal Preparation and Submission Guidelines
- Award, Administration and Monitoring Processes for Funded Projects



Program Page & Solicitation

Explore Program Pages

- ✓ Review the program *synopsis* and *due dates*
- ✓ Link to the current solicitation
- ✓ Check the *updates and announcements* for information on upcoming webinars or for links to recordings of past webinars
- ✓ Find *program contact* information
- ✓ Link to *browse projects funded by the program*



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The screenshot shows the NSF STEM K-12 (STEM K-12) program page. At the top, there is a header with the title 'NSF STEM K-12 (STEM K-12)' and a link to 'View guidelines NSF 25-545'. Below the header, there is a navigation bar with links to 'Home', 'Funding at NSF', 'Funding Search', and 'NSF STEM K-12 (STEM K-12)'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Updates and announcements' (listing NSF's implementation of the revised 2 CFR, important information for proposers, and updates to NSF Research Security Policies), 'Synopsis' (describing the program's goals and the NSF STEM K-12 program in the Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings), 'Updates and announcements' (listing the Division of Research on Learning in Formal & Informal Settings FY2026 Funding Opportunities Webinar Resources), 'Program contacts' (providing general inquiries contact information), and 'Awards made through this program' (with links to 'Browse projects funded by this program' and 'Map of recent awards made through this program'). On the right side, there is a sidebar with 'Upcoming due dates' (Full proposal accepted anytime), 'Program guidelines' (Award information, Estimated number of awards), and 'Share' links (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Email). The page is published on August 22, 2025.

NSF STEM K-12 (STEM K-12) [View guidelines NSF 25-545](#)

[Home](#) / [Funding at NSF](#) / [Funding Search](#) / [NSF STEM K-12 \(STEM K-12\)](#) [Print](#)

- 1 NSF's implementation of the revised 2 CFR**
NSF Financial Assistance awards (grants and cooperative agreements) made on or after October 1, 2024, will be subject to the applicable set of award conditions, dated October 1, 2024, available on...
- 1 Important information for proposers**
All proposals must be submitted in accordance with the requirements specified in this funding opportunity and in the NSF [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide \(PAPPG\)](#) that is in effect...
- 1 Updates to NSF Research Security Policies**
On July 10, 2025, NSF issued an [Important Notice](#) providing updates to the agency's research security policies, including a research security training requirement, Malign Foreign Talent...

Supports research and development to advance STEM teaching and learning in K-12 formal and informal settings, leveraging AI and emerging technologies to build knowledge, create tools and strengthen the U.S. STEM education and workforce.

Synopsis

The NSF STEM K-12 program in the Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings (DRL) in the Directorate for STEM Education (EDU) supports fundamental, applied, and translational research that advances STEM teaching and learning and improves understanding of education across the human lifespan and a range of formal and informal settings.

Updates and announcements

Division of Research on Learning in Formal & Informal Settings FY2026 Funding Opportunities Webinar Resources

September 12, 2025

[View more updates](#)

Program contacts

General inquiries may be addressed to telephone: (703) 292-8620, email: STEMK12@nsf.gov.

Awards made through this program

[Browse projects funded by this program](#)

[Map of recent awards made through this program](#)

Upcoming due dates

Full proposal accepted anytime

Program guidelines

Award information

Estimated program budget, number of awards, and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of funds and quality of proposals submitted. It is anticipated that most awards supported by the program will range between \$25,000 and \$750,000, with a typical duration of one to three years. CAREER awards are expected to range between \$500,000 and \$750,000, but CAREER proposals must be submitted to the NSF-wide [CAREER solicitation](#) for the annual deadline.

Estimated number of awards

40

Review full program guidelines and learn how to submit a proposal in the latest solicitation.

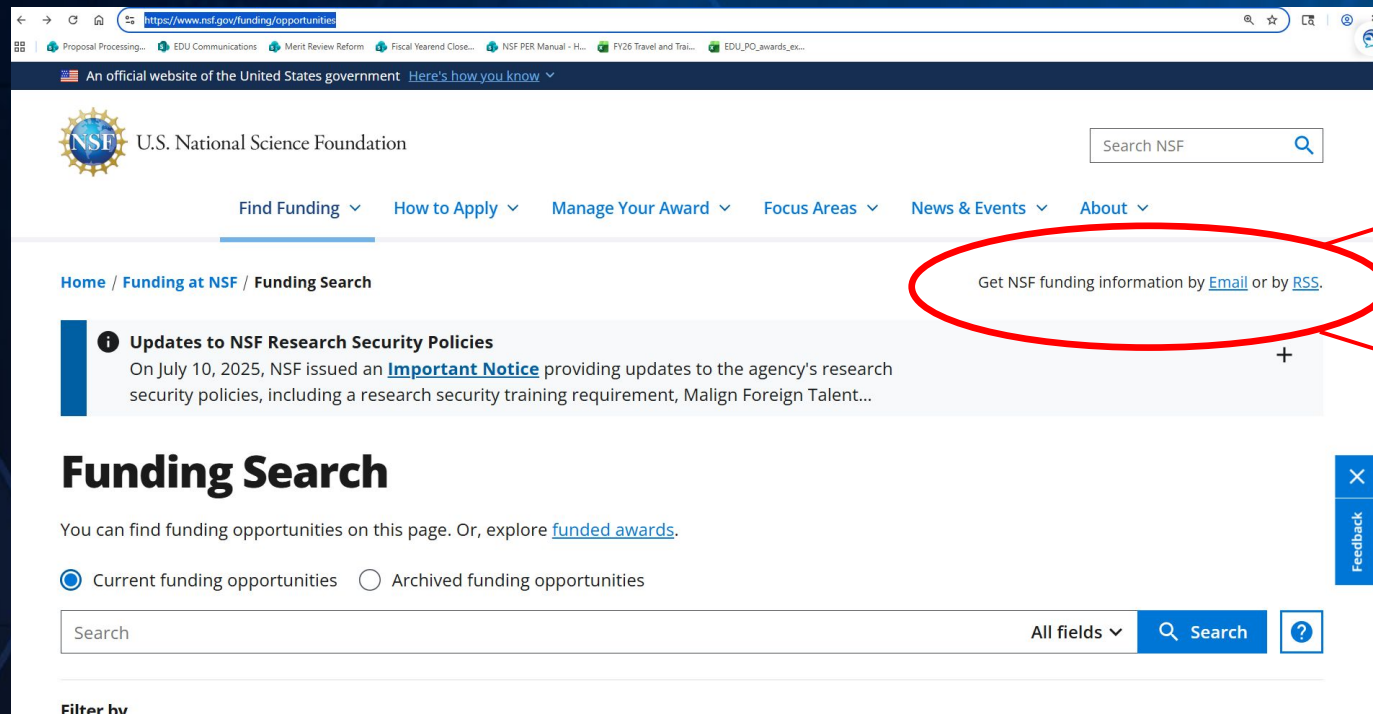
[Read the solicitation NSF 25-545](#)

Share

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Email](#)

Published: August 22, 2025

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities



Get NSF funding information by [Email](#) or by [RSS](#).

Email:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNSF/subscriber/new?category_id=USNSF_C54



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What about *Super* Intelligence?

Executive Order 14434: Inaugurating the Era of Super Intelligence
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/09/inaugurating-the-era-of-super-intelligence/>



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NSF SI Policy: Use of generative artificial intelligence technology in the NSF merit review process

- NSF reviewers are prohibited from uploading any content from proposals, review information and related records to non-approved generative AI tools.
- Proposers are encouraged to indicate in the project description the extent to which, if any, generative AI technology was used to develop their proposal.
- Proposers are responsible for the accuracy and authenticity of their proposal submission, including content developed with the assistance of generative AI tools.

See: <https://www.nsf.gov/news/notice-to-the-research-community-on-ai>



SuperIntelligence-Centered Projects

NSF EDU is extremely interested in proposals that focus on SI workforce development and SI-supported learning.

- Proposals of both types should account, to the extent possible, for the rapid advancement of SI technologies.
- SI supported learning efforts should strive to enhance student thinking and/or instructor capacity, rather than replace those important factors.
- Strong proposals looking to build and implement SI tools consider the project from three perspectives: **user (educator/learner) experience, designer, and researcher.**



Program Officers - We are Here to Help!

- Write a 1 to 2-page summary of your project (overview, major activities, a sense of potential IM and BI).
- Email your summary to either ONE program officer or the contact email for the solicitation. [If you are unsure – email me! mferrara@nsf.gov]
- In the 25 to 30-minute discussion, the goal is not to “sell” your idea, but to ask questions and receive feedback.



Recent Policy and Priority Documents

Science: A New Golden Age

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/science/>

Executive Order 14303: Restoring Gold Standard Science

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/>

Fiscal Year 2028 Administration Research and Development Budget Priorities

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/05/restoring-gold-standard-science/>

NSF Leadership in a New Golden Age of Science

<https://www.nsf.gov/news/nsf-leadership-new-golden-age-science>





Updates on NSF Priorities



<https://www.nsf.gov/updates-on-priorities>



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