

Excerpt from the NSF's INCLUDES Alliances RFP (NSF 20-569).

"The most competitive proposals will address the questions and considerations below regarding the five design elements of collaborative infrastructure:

1. "Shared Vision:

- ☐ What broadening participation challenge(s) will be addressed and what is the broader vision of the Alliance for effecting change?
- ☐ What innovative strategies will be used by the Alliance partnership to address the identified broadening participation challenge(s) for the target population(s)?
- ☐ What is the Alliance's plan to incorporate rigorous and innovative research into Alliance activities and contribute to the knowledge base about broadening participation in STEM? This research may be based in methods and theories from the science of broadening participation and include the social, behavioral, learning, economic, or data sciences.
- ☐ What strategies will build upon the previous expertise and efforts of the Alliance partners?
- ☐ How will the Alliance "backbone" or support organization provide support for the broadening participation challenge(s) that will be addressed by the Alliance?

2. Partnerships:

- ☐ What organizations are the proposed partners in the NSF INCLUDES Alliance and why are they important to address the broadening participation challenge(s)?
- ☐ What is the structure of the Alliance's partnerships (i.e. local, regional, national, by disciplinary focus, or by another multisector category)?
- ☐ What mechanism(s) will be used to structure partnerships and clearly communicate the role of each partnering organization?
- ☐ Why is this set of partners the right set to undertake the collaborative activities and effect the identified shared vision?
- ☐ What is the evidence that the partnership will be able to use a collaborative change framework (such as collective impact or networked improvement communities) to achieve the broadening participation goals of the Alliance?
- ☐ What will be each Alliance partner's role and what is the justification for that role, based on expertise?
- ☐ What will be the Alliance's management plan and what will be the role of the Alliance "backbone" or support organization?

3. Goals and Metrics:

- ☐ What is the plan for accomplishing the work of the NSF INCLUDES Alliance to address the identified broadening participation challenge(s), including the Alliance target

population(s), goals, mutually reinforcing activities, measurable objectives and outcomes, and progress indicators?

- How will progress be documented for the diverse groups of activities and partners described above?
- What types of data will be collected and how will data be used?
- How will successfully addressing these objectives position the NSF INCLUDES Alliance for expansion, sustainability, and scale?
- What role will the Alliance "backbone" or support organization play in collecting, coordinating, analyzing, and sharing data from multiple sites and multiple projects? Proposals should address the complex data collection, data management, and data sharing necessary to build and expand the NSF INCLUDES Alliance, including plans for coordinating metrics and feedback measures with the ongoing work of the NSF INCLUDES Coordination Hub, as it manages the NSF INCLUDES National Network.
- Who will be the external evaluator for the Alliance and what is the evaluation plan?

4. Leadership and Communication:

- What organizations and individuals will lead the Alliance and how have they demonstrated capacity and vision to develop, manage, and lead?
- How will the Alliance build capacity for leadership and conflict resolution within and among all partnering organizations?
- How will the Alliance provide for collective leadership among the partnering organizations?
- How will project activities, progress, and achievements be broadly shared in new and creative ways with the target population(s) and other communities of interest? The plan should include sharing Alliance research, evaluation, and knowledge synthesis with the NSF INCLUDES National Network, the NSF INCLUDES Coordination Hub, and other interested stakeholders.
- How will the Alliance "backbone" or support organization leverage technology to facilitate connectivity among the partners?

5. Potential for Expansion, Sustainability, and Scale:

- How will the Alliance's activities contribute to next steps for a research agenda and development plan to expand the Alliance's network of organizations and activities?
- What strategies will be used to advance the expansion, sustainability, and scale of the Alliance by connecting expertise from multiple sectors and other private and public funders? Include mechanisms for other organizations to "join" or connect to the Alliance.
- How will Alliance activities build and manage an ecosystem for sustainable change across the Alliance, including communicating the discoveries of and generating enthusiasm for the broadening participation challenge?

- What will be the overall contribution to broadening the participation of the target population(s) in the nation's scientific workforce?
- How will the Alliance "backbone" or support organization facilitate these efforts and how will sustainability include long-term engagement of the Alliance "backbone" or support organization?
- What is the shared vision for flexibility across the Alliance and Alliance "backbone" or support organization to respond to changes over time as the program evolves and new partners join with different levels of experience in collaborative change strategies and broadening participation in STEM?"