

**Overview of the  
Advancing Informal STEM  
Learning  
(AISL) Solicitation  
NSF #21-599  
(replaces #20-607)**

**[https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=504793](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504793)**

Bradley S. Barker, Program Director  
Julie Johnson, Program Director  
Robert Russell, Program Director  
Lori Takeuchi, Program Director

# Updates to AISL Solicitation 21-599

- Deadline to submit proposals is **January 18, 2022**
- There are is no limit to the number of proposals that an organization can serve as lead on
- Allowable materials can now be submitted electronically

# Reminders for AISL Solicitation 21-599

- Proposals must be submitted through [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov) or [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- Any proposal submitted in response to this solicitation should adhere to the revised ***NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)*** ([NSF 22-1](https://www.nsf.gov/pappg))
- [Informal.science.org/projects/funding/nsf-aisl](https://informal.science.org/projects/funding/nsf-aisl)

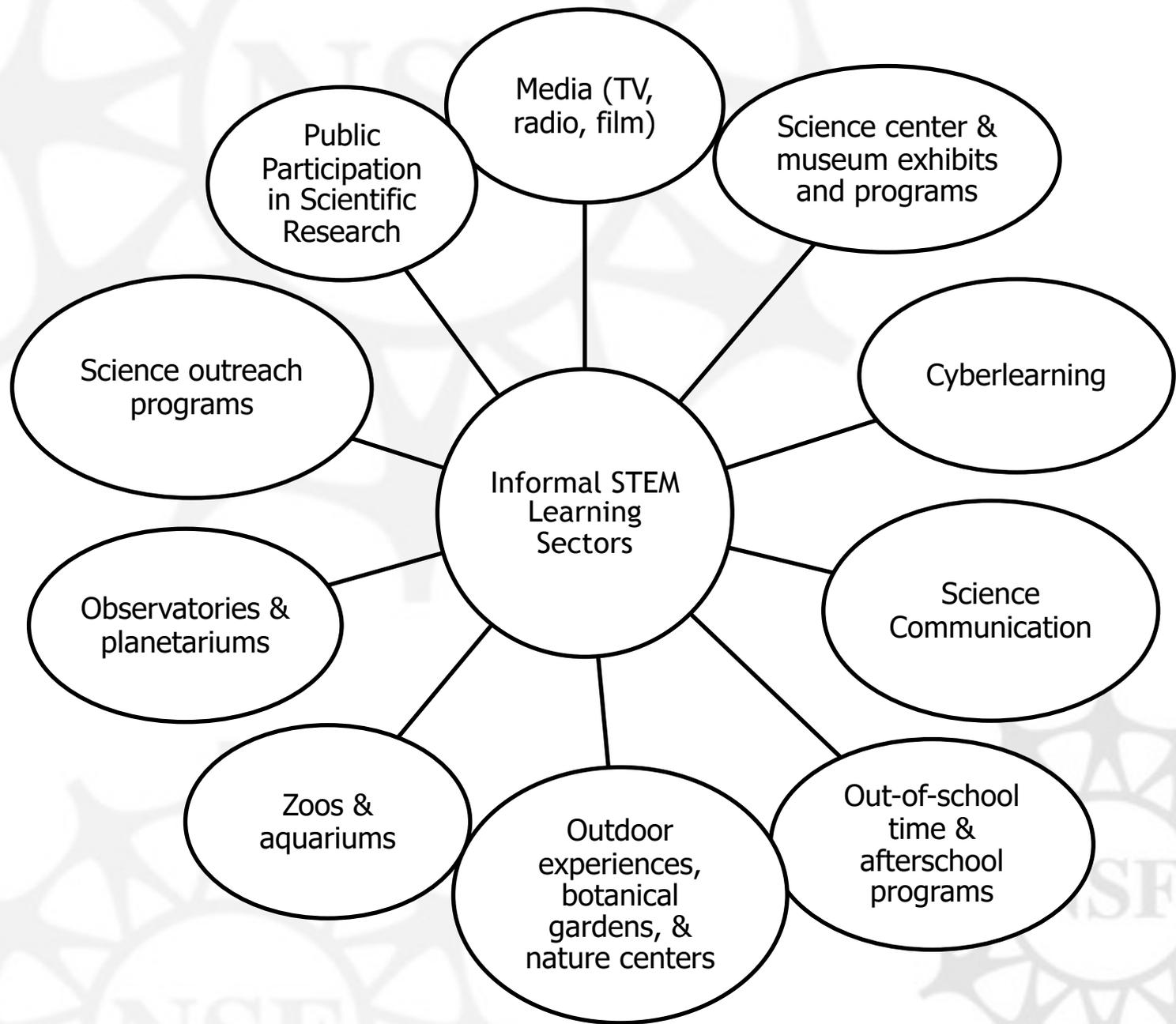
# AISL Program

- ❖ **Advancing** – Innovative projects that advance the field through building knowledge via innovative approaches and research.
- ❖ **Informal** – Learning that is lifelong, life wide, & life deep. Learning that occurs outside formal schooling systems.
- ❖ **STEM** – Not just focused on science, but all of NSF-funded STEM, including social and behavioral sciences.
- ❖ **Learning** – Learning outcomes typically include: interest, engagement, motivation, behavior, identity, persistence, understanding, awareness, knowledge, use of STEM content and practices, and 21st century skills.

# **AISL Program Priorities**

- **Maximizing Strategic Impact**
- **Enhancing Knowledge Building**
- **Promoting Innovation**
- **Advancing Collaboration**
- **Strengthening Infrastructure & Building Capacity**
- **Broadening Participation**

Note: Every project does not need to address every priority. It is typically better to address 1 or 2 priorities well than try to address all in a single project.



# Project Types

- Pilot & Feasibility Studies
- Research in Service to Practice
- Innovations in Development
- Broad Implementation projects
- Literature Reviews, Syntheses, Meta-analyses
- Conferences

Note that Research Coordination Networks (RCN) & conference proposals of up to \$250K can also be submitted to AISL for the January 18, 2022 deadline.

# **Solicitation Specific Review Criteria**

There are additional solicitation-specific criteria for projects in which broadening participation is a primary goal.

# Evaluation in AISL Projects

All AISL project proposals are required to specify the evaluative processes they would employ to achieve the following **two** goals:

- 1. Support iterative improvement.** Evaluative processes should ensure that a project gets appropriate, rigorous, external input throughout the life of the project. Such input is essential for project monitoring, management, and continuous quality improvement. External feedback should enrich (and potentially challenge) teams' perspectives.
- 2. Promote accountability.** Evaluative processes should address questions such as: Is the project addressing its stated goals? What is the quality of the work?

# **Before submitting a full proposal on January 18...**

Proposers are *highly encouraged* to send a 1-2- page concept to [DRLAISL@nsf.gov](mailto:DRLAISL@nsf.gov) in order to meet with a program officer to discuss your idea.

**[DRLAISL@nsf.gov](mailto:DRLAISL@nsf.gov)**