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## The Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Program

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## Today's hosts

Sandra Welch

Julie Johnson

Lori Takeuchi

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## Submission platforms

Research.gov

- Immediate compliance checking

Grants.gov

- Transfers proposal to NSF for compliance and validation checks; requires 48 hours for compliance checking
- Call 1-800-518-4726 if you have problems submitting or receiving notification of receipt of proposal

**Note that FastLane has been retired as a submission platform.**

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## Grants.gov proposal submissions

- Proposals submitted via Grants.gov must pass through multiple systems for processing.
- Expect three sequential proposal confirmation emails with the subject lines and content as shown in the example email screenshots
- If you do not receive all three emails within a few minutes, an issue has prevented your proposal from being fully processed into NSF systems and you should call the NSF Help Desk for assistance

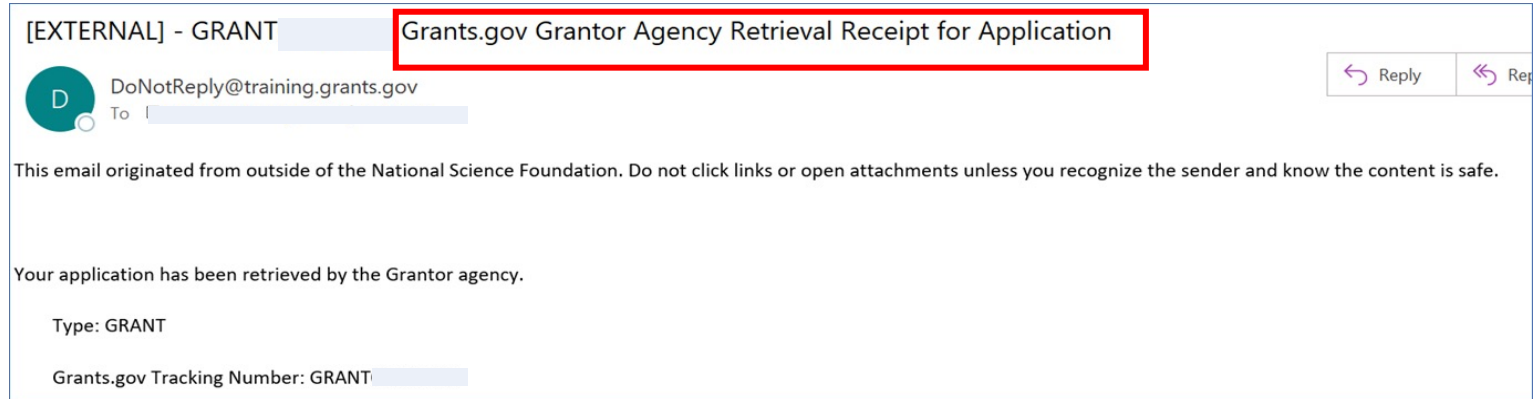
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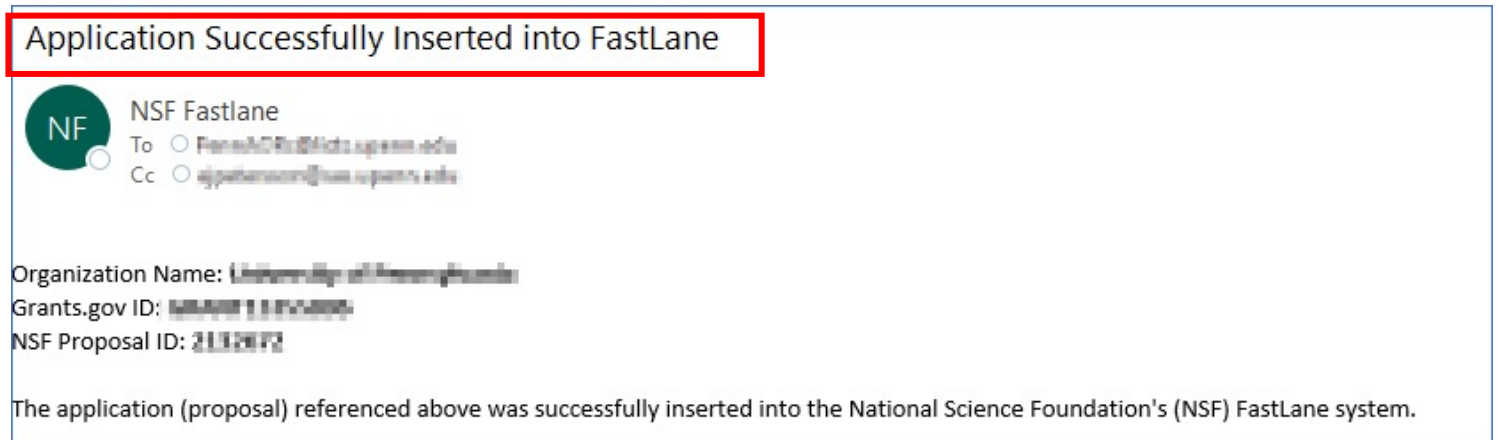


## Grants.gov proposal submissions

**1st email** – Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application confirming Grants.gov received your proposal



**2nd email** – Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application confirming Grants.gov assigned a Grants.gov tracking number



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## Grants.gov proposal submissions

**3<sup>rd</sup> email** – *Application Successfully Inserted into FastLane* confirming NSF received the proposal and assigned a proposal ID. Success!

[EXTERNAL] - GRANT( [REDACTED] ) Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application

 DoNotReply@training.grants.gov  
To: [REDACTED]

This email originated from outside of the National Science Foundation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Grantor agency has assigned the following Agency Tracking Number to your application: **[REDACTED]**.

You will need the Agency Tracking Number when corresponding with the Grantor agency about your application.

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## Need help?

- For IT system-related and technical questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via [rgov@nsf.gov](mailto:rgov@nsf.gov).
- Program-related questions should be addressed to [DRLAISL@nsf.gov](mailto:DRLAISL@nsf.gov)
- Keep track of your Help Desk ticket number and save all emails to/from the Help Desk about your issue
  - If you email the Help Desk, it could take more than one business day for a ticket number depending on Help Desk volume
  - If the issue is urgent, NSF recommends calling the Help Desk to get a ticket number
- Some issues do not have quick turnaround times to resolve. Please do not wait until January 18 deadline to request NSF account reconciliation

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## Common reasons for return without review

- Violation of formatting rules of the PAPPG (font, margins, page length, etc.)

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13127/nsf13127.jsp>

- Resubmission too closely resembles a previous submission to any NSF program
- Failure to address intellectual merit and broader impacts in project summary and description
- Including unauthorized appendix or other supplementary material (e.g., letters of support exceed language specified in PAPPG)
- Including URLs/website links in project description
- Failure to include Data Management or Postdoc Mentoring Plans (if budget includes postdoc)



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## Submit **EARLY**

**The AISL submission deadline is January 18, 2022**

- NSF has strict submission requirements; plan ahead!
- Your submission must be validated & accepted prior to 5pm local to submitting institution
- Your proposal is not submitted if you have not received an official email with an assigned 7-digit proposal number that starts with 22-XXXXX
- Remember, the internet and systems are not immediate

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## Last-minute tips from AISL POs

- Be sure to discuss the sustainability of the project.
- Writing clearly and succinctly is essential. If someone reviews 10 proposals, they could be reading 150 pages of proposal text. Will your project stand out as written?
- Aim to submit your proposal 1-2 days *before* the January 18 deadline.
- Reviewers are not required to read supplemental materials. So include key information in the Project Description, not in Supplemental Materials.
- Present a clear rationale at the start of the proposal outlining what the problem is what the R&D aims to solve.
- Watch recordings of the AISL program office hours on past topics on [informal.science.org](http://informal.science.org).

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## Recipe for a high-quality proposal

- WHY is it of national and societal importance (i.e., motivation)? ONE page
- WHAT is your approach, solution, design, and development, and WHY is your approach uniquely better than other alternatives? SEVEN pages
- HOW will you show that your approach is effective and the extent of effectiveness? FIVE pages
- WILL and HOW will your intervention generalize?