



Overview of NSF Research Coordination Network (RCN) Solicitation



Directorate for Education & Human Resources
November 2020

About RCNs

- The agency-wide **Research Coordination Network** solicitation is: NSF 17-594:
 - https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11691
- **RCN in Undergraduate Biology Education (RCN-UBE).** DUE participates with BIO in an RCN track that has its own solicitation, with a specific deadline:
 - https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505495&org=DBI&from=home



Synopsis of the RCN Program



Advance a field or create new directions in research or education by supporting groups of investigators to communicate and coordinate their research, training and educational activities across disciplinary, organizational, geographic and international boundaries.



Foster new collaborations, including international partnerships, and address interdisciplinary topics.



Innovative ideas for implementing novel networking strategies, collaborative technologies, and development of community standards for data and meta-data are especially encouraged.



RCN awards are not meant to support existing networks; nor are they meant to support the activities of established collaborations.



Synopsis 2

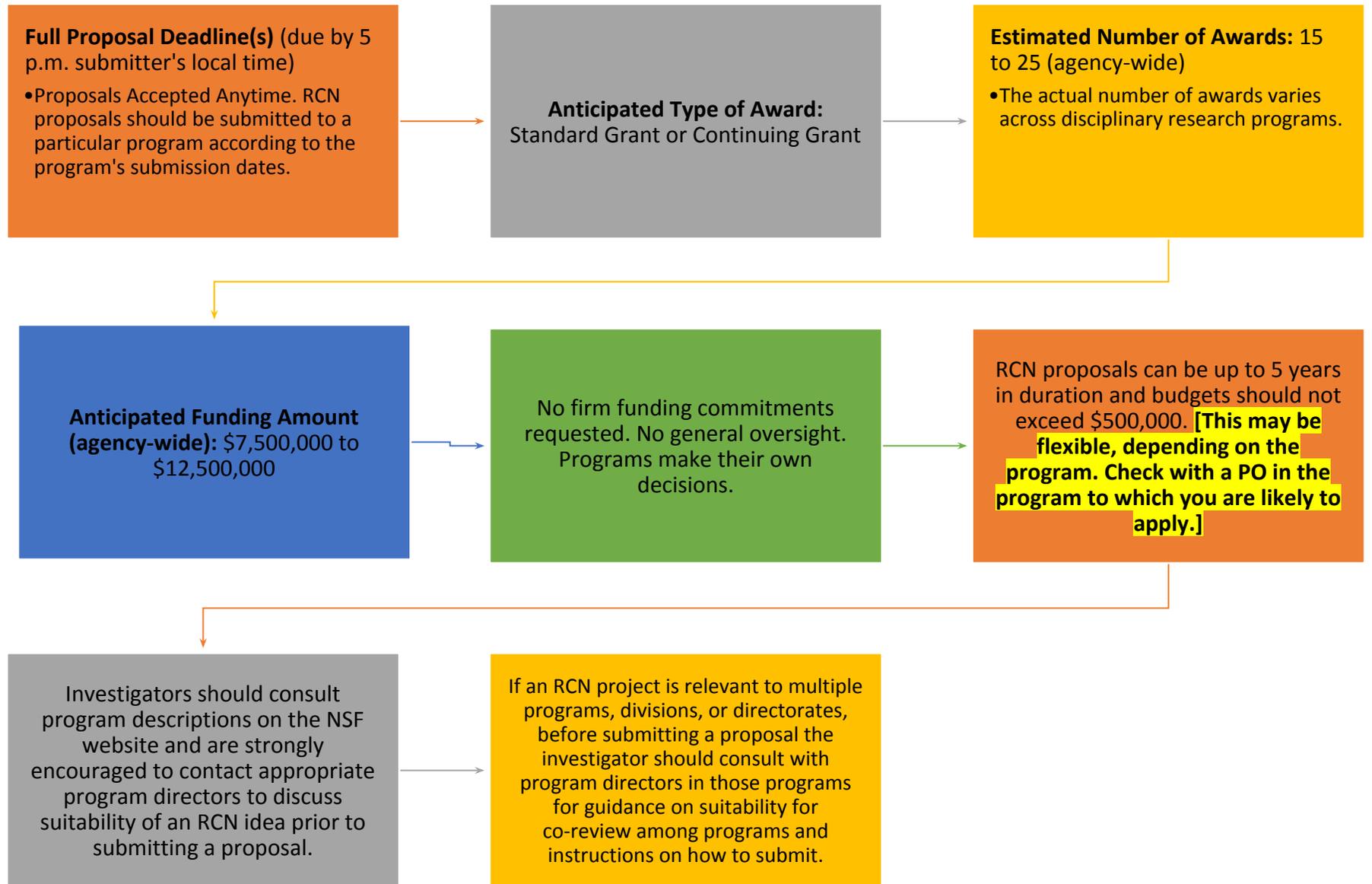
RCN awards do not support **primary** research.

RCN supports the means by which investigators can share information and ideas, coordinate ongoing or planned research activities, foster synthesis and new collaborations, develop community standards, and in other ways advance science and education through communication and sharing of ideas.

Proposed networking activities directed to the RCN program should focus on a theme to give coherence to the collaboration , such as a broad research question or particular technologies or approaches.



Details



Additional details

Proposals may only be submitted by the following:

- Universities and Colleges - Universities and two- and four-year colleges (including community colleges) accredited in, and having a campus located in, the US acting on behalf of their faculty members. Such organizations also are referred to as academic institutions.
- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories, research labs, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. associated with educational or research activities.
- **Organization Limit:** Although the research coordination networks are expected to be multi-organizational, a single organization must serve as the lead and all other organizations as subawardees. Organizations ineligible to submit to this program solicitation may not receive subawards. If they are part of the proposed network, their participation is expected to be supported by non-NSF sources.



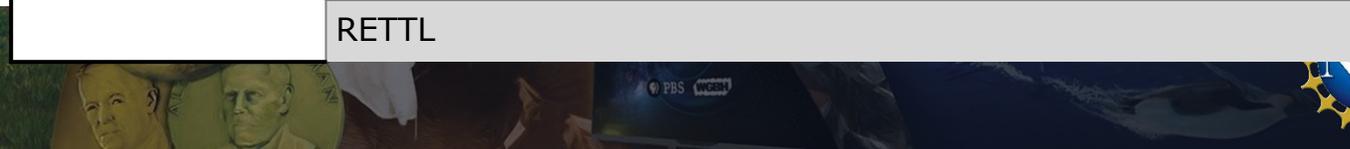
Examples

- A very recent award: **DRL 2005898: Developing a Network to Coordinate Research on Equity Practices and Cultures in STEM Maker Education**
 - https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=2005898&HistoricalAwards=false
- See other examples of RCNs around the agency:
 - The RCN that led to the National Alliance for Broader Impact (NABI), now Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS): https://nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1408736&HistoricalAwards=false
 - https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11691
 - RCN-UBE examples are also included here. More information are on the slides at the end of this deck.



RCNs by EHR Divisions: Points of Contact & Participating Programs

DGE Victor Piotrowski vpiotrow@nsf.gov	CYBER CORPS: Scholarships for Service
	NSF Research Traineeship (NRT)
	Core R&D Programs
	Innovations in Graduate Education (IGE)
DUE Mary Crowe mcrowe@nsf.gov	S-STEM: SCHLR SCI TECH ENG&MATH
	IUSE
	Core R&D Programs
HRD Jessie DeAro jdearo@nsf.gov	AGEP
	HIST BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIV
	TRIBAL COLLEGE & UNIVERS PROGR
	Core R&D Programs
	ALLIANCES-MINORITY PARTICIPATION
	CENTERS FOR RSCH EXCELL IN S&T
DRL Ellen McCallie emccalli@nsf.gov	CS for All
	ITEST
	AISL
	DISCOVERY RESEARCH K-12
	Core R&D Programs
	RETTL



RCN in Undergraduate Biology Education (RCN-UBE)

- https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505495&org=DBI&from=home
- Recent awards are listed near the end of the webpage.



Reminders

- Review NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG)
- Review the solicitation for the RCNs **and** the program you RCN aligns with
 - Take into consideration the priorities of the program you submit your RCN proposal to
 - You will submit your RCN proposal to the program's deadline (e.g. January 12 for AISL)
- RCNs do not support primary research, but should be guided by a topic or question – what will you explore?
- RCNs should have a research focus rather than solely a practice focus
 - But practitioners can be included!
- Not meant for well-established networks
- Contact a Program Officer: share a 1-page concept paper

