

proposed collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

- Enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submissions of responses.

I. Background

IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the Nation's libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America's museums, libraries, and related organizations through grant making, research, and policy development. To learn more, visit www.imls.gov.

II. Current Actions

The CAP program allows a qualified conservator to study all of a museum's collections, buildings, and building systems, as well as its policies and procedures relating to collections care. Participants who complete the program receive an assessment report with prioritized recommendations to improve collections care. The forms submitted for public review in this Notice are application forms for assessors and participating museums; pre-visit site questionnaires for participating museums; CAP program evaluation forms for participating museums and assessors; and a follow-up survey for participating museums.

Agency: Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Title: IMLS Collections Assessment for Preservation Forms.

OMB Control Number: 3137-0126.

Respondents/Affected Public: Museum professionals and professional conservators.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: TBD.

Frequency of Response: TBD.

Average Hours per Response: TBD.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: TBD.

Cost Burden (dollars): TBD.

Public Comments Invited: Comments submitted in response to this Notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB's clearance of this information collection.

Dated: February 1, 2024.

Suzanne Mbollo,

Grants Management Specialist, Institute of Museum and Library Services.

[FR Doc. 2024-02432 Filed 2-6-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7036-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; Evaluation of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Broader Impacts Review Criterion

AGENCY: National Science Foundation.

ACTION: Submission for OMB review; comment request.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) has submitted the following information collection requirement to OMB for review and clearance under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This is the second notice for public comment; the first was published in the **Federal Register**, and no comments were received. NSF is forwarding the proposed submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for clearance simultaneously with the publication of this second notice.

DATES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be sent within 30 days of publication of this notice to www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. Find this particular information collection by selecting "Currently under 30-day Review—Open for Public Comments" or by using the search function.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Federal holidays).

Comments: Comments regarding (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the NSF, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the NSF's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, use, and clarity of the information on respondents; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology should be addressed to the points of

contact in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section.

Copies of the submission may be obtained by calling 703-292-7556. NSF may not conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless the collection of information displays a currently valid OMB control number, and the agency informs potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information that such persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Evaluation of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Broader Impacts Review Criterion.

OMB Number: 3145-NEW.

Type of Request: New information collection.

Description: NSF is conducting an evaluation to assess (1) how NSF's Broader Impacts review criterion is applied across the Foundation and (2) its effectiveness in meeting the goals established in section 526 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-14) (America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010). This evaluation is congressionally directed in section 10341 of the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors [CHIPS] for America Fund Act 2022. As part of the evaluation, NSF is conducting a literature review, document analysis, extant data analysis, interviews with NSF staff, and focus groups with NSF principal investigators (PIs) and reviewers. NSF will map findings from the evaluation activities to current NSF policies and practices to identify strategies for improving how NSF applies the review criterion.

The subject of this request is related to the planned focus groups with PIs and reviewers. The focus groups will answer the following research questions (RQs):

- RQ1. In what ways do the interpretations of the Broader Impacts review criterion among PIs and reviewers vary, and what factors might contribute to these variations?

- RQ2. How do external reviewers assess the Broader Impact review criterion?

- RQ3. In what ways do PIs and reviewers perceive that variations in interpretation and assessment can advance or hinder the merit review of proposals?

Findings from the focus groups described in this request will be used to inform interpretation of other evaluation

activities within the larger project (including informing interpretation of interviews with NSF staff, document review analyses, and interpretation of extant data analysis of review analyses). For example, we anticipate that participants in these focus groups may raise issues around their understanding and interpretation of Broader Impacts, which can be compared to perceptions that NSF staff report during interviews.

Background

NSF sets forth an ambitious vision for the United States: a nation that leads the world in science and engineering research and innovation, to the benefit of all, without barriers to participation. Toward this end, NSF promotes the progress of science by investing in research and capacity-building activities that expand knowledge in science, engineering, and education. In fiscal year (FY) 2022, NSF evaluated almost 40,000 proposals for research and education activities, making nearly 11,000 new awards totaling more than \$8.5 billion.

At the cornerstone of NSF's mission and its investments is its merit review process. NSF program directors with technical and programmatic expertise lead this process, with support from external experts who help evaluate submitted proposals for two main criteria: (1) Intellectual Merit—the potential to advance knowledge; and (2) Broader Impacts—the potential to contribute to society and achieve specific, desired societal outcomes. With these two criteria, NSF has established a commitment to projects that provide tangible benefits to society beyond advancing knowledge.

It is critically important that NSF implement its merit review process in a

way that is fair, thorough, competitive, and transparent, and that those internal and external to NSF recognize the process as such. However, as NSF noted, PIs and reviewers might lack clarity about the Broader Impacts criterion, despite NSF's efforts to provide additional guidance. NSF has also noted a lack of consistency in how NSF implements the criterion across directorates, divisions, and programs. Specific challenges related to the understanding and application of Broader Impacts include a lack of consensus on how to define Broader Impacts, and a disconnect between the Broader Impacts requirements stated in the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide and how panelists review these activities (National Alliance for Broader Impacts 2018). The purpose of this work, then, is to “assess how the Broader Impact review criterion is applied across the Foundation and make recommendations for improving the effectiveness for meeting the goals established in section 526 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p–14)” (America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010). This evaluation is congressionally directed in section 10341 of the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors [CHIPS] for America Fund Act 2022.

Methodology

Focus groups will be conducted with two types of respondents: PIs and reviewers.

The evaluation will include three PI focus groups of up to seven people each. Participants in these groups will be PIs who submitted a proposal within the

last five years. The study team will select participants via a stratified random sample by NSF directorate, institutional characteristics (such as Carnegie classification, MSI status, and locale), and participant characteristics (such as race/ethnicity, gender, years since terminal degree, and new investigator status). PIs have firsthand experience addressing the Broader Impacts review criterion in their proposals. Among this group, key insights include the following:

1. Questions they have about how to address the Broader Impacts review criterion in their research and proposals.

2. Strategies they have employed as a PI in addressing the Broader Impacts review criterion in their research and proposals.

3. Resources or supports received from their respective institutions for developing well-thought-out proposals that address the Broader Impacts review criterion.

Reviewer focus groups will consist of three focus groups of up to seven people each. Participants in these groups will be people who served on a review panel within the last five years. The study team will select participants via a stratified random sample by directorate and participant characteristics (such as how long they have been reviewing NSF proposals). Reviewers have firsthand knowledge about applying the Broader Impacts review criterion. Among this group, key insights include the following:

1. Interpreting and applying the criterion as a reviewer (and compared with as a PI).

2. Reviewer training and guidance.
Affected Public: NSF reviewers and PIs.

AVERAGE EXPECTED ANNUAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES

Collection method	Estimated lower bound (number of responses)	Estimated upper bound (number of responses)	Estimated average response time (min)	Approximate lower bound response burden (hours)	Approximate upper bound response burden (hours)
Focus groups	4*6=24	7*6=42	90 minutes	(24*90)/60=36	(42*90)/60=72

Respondents: Lower-bound estimate of 24 individuals and upper-bound estimate of 48 individuals.

Average Minutes per Response: 90.

Burden Hours: Lower- and upper-bound estimates of approximately 36 and 72 hours.

Dated: January 3, 2023.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

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BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. CP2022-110]

New Postal Products

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This