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- STEM Networking Incentives and Engagement (NETWORKS) - New

Reference is made to LSAMP populations and individuals from groups underrepresented in STEM. These reference: to Blacks and African-Americans, Hispanic and Latino Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaii Pacific Islanders.

Changes/Updates

- Bridge-to-the-Baccalaureate Alliances (B2B) support increases from a maximum of ~ 1.5M over 3 years, to a maximum of ~ 2.0M over 5 years.
- STEM Pathways Implementation-Only (SPIO) alliances are eligible for Bridge to STEM Graduate Degrees in National Priorities: (BD Master's) and Bridge to STEM Graduate Degrees in National Priorities (BD-Doctoral) funding opportunities following the first 5 years of LSAMP support.

Project description page limit designations for the research and institutionalization components are specified for STEM Pathways Research Alliances (SPRA) alliance proposals.

Bridge to the Baccalaureate, STEM Pathways Implementation-Only and STEM Pathways Research Alliance proposals may include support for partnerships with small businesses, particular Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) projects to foster non-academic research experiences for matriculating LSAMP students and research ment

New Project Types:

- Alliance Development Grants (ADG) support the conceptualization and development for new B2B and new alliances.
- Bridge to STEM Graduate Degrees in National Priorities (BD-Master's) projects support cohorts of six students from Master's comprehensive institutions in STEM national priority areas.
- STEM Networking Incentives and Engagement (NETWORKS) projects incentivize the creation and participation of LSAMP populations in STEM networks.

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Cognizant Program Officer(s):

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Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):

- 4+.0+ 6 --- STEM Education

Award Information

Anticipated Type of Award: Standard Grant or Continuing Grant

Estimated Number of Awards: 45 to 60

Anticipated Funding Amount: ~ 3, ,000,000

Estimated program budget, number of awards and average award size/duration are subject to the availability of fu

Eligibility Information

Who May Submit Proposals:

Alliances:

- STEM Pathways Implementation-Only (SPIO): Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two-and-four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members.
- STEM Pathways Research Alliance (SPRA): Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two-and-four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members.
- Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B): B2B Alliances are composed entirely of two-year IHEs. The lead institution must award associate-level degrees in a STEM or STEM-related field. Associate-level degree-granting institutions that award four-year degrees in workforce development areas may be eligible to serve as the lead institution of a B2B alliance. Four-year institutions that award STEM baccalaureate degrees are ineligible to serve as lead institutions for B2B alliances but may be included as partner institutions for articulation purposes as a transfer pathway to four-year STEM degree programs. Funds are not budgeted for four-year institutions in B2B projects. Proposers should contact the LSAMP program staff for any questions on eligibility for B2B alliance support.

Bridges to STEM Graduate Degrees in National Priorities (BD-Master's)

- Master's Comprehensive IHEs as defined by Carnegie Classification only. Carnegie Classification website: <http://www.carnegieclassifications.edu>

Who May Serve as PI:

board. The alliance governing board is a body of upper-level administrators from each partner institution

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI:

## Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions

### A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- Letters of Intent: Not required
- Preliminary Proposal Submission: Not required
- Full Proposals submitted via Research.gov

Proposal Review Information Criteria

Merit Review Criteria:

National Science Board approved criteria. Additional merit review criteria apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

Award Administration Information

Award Conditions:

Additional award conditions apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

Reporting Requirements:

Additional reporting requirements apply. Please see the full text of this solicitation for further information.

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## A. Program Overview

The LSAMP program invests in the nation's colleges and universities to aid student success, directly or indirectly, in STEM pathways, thereby creating a new generation of STEM discoverers for the STEM enterprise nationally and internationally. With a focus on the participation of underrepresented groups, particularly those from named LSA populations, in national priority areas, specifically emerging science and technologies, the program's priorities are

- increase individual student engagement, retention, and completion of baccalaureate degrees for LSAMP populations/
- enable the successful transfer of LSAMP populations from two-year to four-year institutions in STEM degree programs/
- increase access to evidence-based, high quality and highly impactful practices in STEM recruitment and retention/
- facilitate seamless transition of underrepresented groups into STEM graduate programs and subsequent graduate degree completion/
- stimulate new research and learning on broadening participation in STEM disciplines.

These priorities are intended to produce short and long-term outcomes resulting in the successful production of highly competitive and diverse talent for the STEM enterprise while concurrently contributing new knowledge to the field and broadening participation.

Areas of emphasis that respond to national priorities and preparation for emerging sciences, include quantum information science, advanced materials and manufacturing, artificial intelligence, data science and analytics, climate change, cybersecurity, robotics, plant genetics/agricultural technologies, clean energy, and semiconductors/microelectronics.

All proposals for LSAMP support must demonstrate creative and entrepreneurial thinking, innovative strategies, new pedagogies, and partnerships to maximize opportunities that prepare undergraduate and graduate students from LSAMP populations for 21st century STEM careers.

## B. Alliances

LSAMP, at its core, is an alliance-based program that provides student and mentor support beginning at the undergraduate level. K-12 activities should be leveraged through other resources.

An alliance is defined as a group of organizations working together for mutual benefit and support of the goals and objectives of the national LSAMP program. B2B, SPIO and SPRA are alliance-type projects. As a minimum, an alliance must consist of four IHEs. These projects are funded to implement comprehensive evidence-based strategies that ultimately result in the graduation of highly competitive STEM students from LSAMP populations who pursue graduate degrees or careers in STEM fields, particularly in emerging or trending fields of national priority. Other non-academic organizations may also participate in an alliance. Forming an alliance should be intentional and allow for building relationships among institutions.

Alliances should be based on quality, not quantity, of partners and all participating institutions should be able to benefit from this collective arrangement. The number of institutions in an alliance should be commensurate with the scope of the project and the activities proposed should be realistic and beneficial to all alliance members.

LSAMP alliances should directly address recruitment, preparation and retention of LSAMP populations. Alliances are expected to significantly increase the numbers of STEM degrees to students under-represented in STEM fields. The students may include those who transfer from two-year institutions to four-year STEM programs to complete the baccalaureate degree. Students may also enter directly into undergraduate STEM programs from secondary school to complete the STEM baccalaureate degree.

Well-established alliances must also produce and disseminate new scholarly research on broadening participation in STEM disciplines and the nation's STEM workforce for LSAMP populations (or underrepresented and under-served populations in STEM disciplines and the nation's STEM workforce).



### 3. STEM Pathways Implementation-Only Alliances (SPIO)

SPIO alliances are the first implementation projects for new alliances or alliances that have reconstituted its alliance membership and have been funded by the LSAMP program for 10 years or less. See guidance for reconstituted alliances below.

SPIO alliances focus on building and strengthening strategies and collaborative approaches to assist IHEs in diversify the nation's science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce by increasing the number of STEM baccalaureate and graduate degrees awarded to LSAMP populations.

These projects are expected to (a) address the production of highly competitive STEM students at the undergraduate level leading to increases in STEM baccalaureate degrees from LSAMP populations and entry into graduate school, (b) in plans for building upon established strategies and collaborative approaches that have been effective in the recruitment, retention and graduation of LSAMP populations and relative to the evolving state of STEM workforce development (e.g., institutional successes, (e.g., efforts at transforming the academic and/or research environment), in producing highly competitive students from LSAMP populations in STEM disciplines. Activities must include implementation of evidence-based strategies to support successful recruitment, retention and graduation of LSAMP populations in STEM, or adaptation of previously successful approaches for a new institutional context and/or STEM discipline. Although direct support for K-12 activities are not allowable, evidence of linkages to the K-12 community is expected.

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Existing SPIO alliances should leverage their experience and knowledge in implementing an LSAMP project that continually serves as a national model of excellence in increasing STEM B. S. degree production and preparation of highly competitive students from LSAMP populations for entry into STEM graduate programs or STEM careers nationally.

### 4. STEM Pathways Research Alliances (SPRA)

SPRA alliances are successful partnership models of excellence in recruitment and retention practices that have resulted in significant increases in STEM degrees to underrepresented populations in STEM. While continuing to significantly increase STEM degrees to LSAMP populations and preparing students for 21st century workforce or in emerging STEM disciplines and technologies, SPRA alliances are required to address: (1) the continuing production of highly competitive STEM students at the undergraduate level leading to increases in STEM baccalaureate degrees from LSAMP populations and entry into graduate school, (2) the national need for production and dissemination of new scholarly research and broadening participation of racial/ethnic minorities in STEM disciplines and the nation's STEM workforce and, (3) holistically assess the state of institutionalization and sustainability progress for the alliance.

SPRA alliance proposals are required to include a robust broadening participation research component in the form of innovative knowledge-generating research plan that rigorously investigates effective practices or innovations in STEM education grounded in existing theories of student success. The primary purpose of the research component is to produce new knowledge and to disseminate new learning to the nation.

The project description must describe the full methodology of the study(ies), potential types of articles, other products/report types produced from the research and timeline for production and dissemination of BPR activities: research may be related to the proposed alliance strategies for recruiting, retaining, and graduating LSAMP populations in STEM, analysis and studies of practical approaches and practices that the alliance or partners have implemented that led to successful outcomes for underrepresented or under-served populations in STEM or any topic of broadening participation in STEM.

SPRA Page Component Requirements: SPRA proposals must devote 10 pages of the project description to the required research component and three pages to a discussion of institutionalization status. See additional guidance on the preparation of the institutionalization component below.

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Up to 20 pages may be used to develop the SPRA project description. Up to 50 percent of the cumulative budget may be allocated to the broadening participation research and project evaluation components. The budget justification should include a summary cost allocation for these two components.

Existing SPRA alliances should leverage their experience and knowledge in implementing an LSAMP project that continually serves as a national model of excellence in the production and dissemination of broadening participation research to increase the knowledge-base in diversifying the nation's STEM workforce.

#### USEFUL RESOURCES FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH

The National Science Foundation and the Institute of Education Statistics in the U.S. Department of Education develop Common Guidelines for Education Research and Development. The Guidelines describe six types of research studies that can generate evidence about how to increase student learning. For each research type, there is a description of the purpose and the expected and/or theoretical justifications, types of project outcomes, and quality of evidence. The Guidelines and Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQ) can be found on the NSF website with the number [NSF 13-126](#) and [NSF 13-12+](#).

#### 5. Bridges to STEM Graduate Degrees in National Priorities: (BD-Master's and BD-Doctoral) Activity

BD-Master's and BD-Doctoral projects provide financial support (stipends and cost of education) to a critical mass of twelve STEM baccalaureate-degree recipients, respectively, who were active, certified participants in LSAMP program undergraduates. BD participants are funded for the first two years of their graduate studies in STEM.

The goal of the BD-Master's and BD-Doctoral Activity is to prepare students from LSAMP populations for completion of STEM graduate degree programs, particularly the STEM doctoral degree, at Master's comprehensive and doctoral-granting institutions. At the post-baccalaureate level, BD-Master's and BD-Doctoral sites provide necessary academic research and professional development skills that enable participants to successfully persist in STEM graduate degree programs.



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ANTICIPATED AWARDS AND FUNDING LEVELS by PROJECT TYPE

Project Type: Alliance Develop—

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- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) - Two-and-four-year IHEs (including community colleges) accredited in and having a campus located in the US, acting on behalf of their faculty members.
- Non-profit, non-academic organizations: Independent museums, observatories research laboratory professional societies and similar organizations located in the U. S. that are directly associated with educational or research activities.
- For-profit organizations: U.S.-based commercial organizations, including small businesses, with strong capabilities in scientific or engineering research or education and a passion for innovation.

NETWORKS projects are limited to four collaborating organizations per proposal.

#### Who May Serve as PI:

##### Alliance Development Grant (ADG) Proposals

The PI for ADG proposals must be an upper-level administrator/cabinet-level official from the executive leadership (i.e., Provost, Dean, VP of Academic Affairs, etc.) of the institution. A deviation from this requirement for PI designation requires a full justification. Faculty may be listed as Co-PIs.

Alliances: Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B), STEM Pathways Implementation-Only (SPIO) and STEM Pathways Research Alliance (SPRA)

The PI for alliances (B2B, SPIO, and SPRA) should be a cabinet-level official from the executive leadership (i.e., Provost, Dean, VP of Academic Affairs, etc.) of the institution and a member of the alliance governing board. The alliance governing board is a body of upper-level administrators from each partner institution that oversees the alliance. A deviation from this requirement for PI designation requires a full justification. Individuals from partner institutions must be designated as co-PIs on the proposal.

To ensure production of new STEM education research knowledge as a required element of the SPRA project, one or more of the Co-PIs on an SPRA proposal must be a social or data scientist, disciplinary/interdisciplinary education researcher, or evaluator.

##### Bridges to STEM Graduate Degrees in National Priorities (BD-Master's and BD-Doctoral) Proposals

The PI for the BD-Master's and/or BD-Doctoral proposal should be a cabinet-level official from the executive leadership of the institution and a member of the alliance governing board. The alliance governing board is a body of upper-level administrators from each partner institution that oversees the alliance. Co-PIs may be members of the institution's graduate leadership team or STEM faculty. A deviation from this requirement for PI designation requires a full justification. One Co-PI must be the alliance director if the selected BD-Master's or BD-Doctoral site is different from the lead institution. See section V for more information on the requirement to establish a Governing Board.

##### STEM Networking Incentive and Engagement Proposals (NETWORKS)

The PI and Co-PIs for STEM Networking Incentive and Engagement proposals may be faculty members.

#### Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:

Alliance Development Grant (ADG) and Alliance Proposals (Bridge to the Baccalaureate (B2B), STEM Pathways Implementation-Only (SPIO) and STEM Pathways Research Alliance (SPRA)

Only one ADG, B2B, SPIO, or SPRA proposal may be submitted by an eligible (lead) institution (IHE). Alliances (B2B, SPIO, SPRA) may hold only one active alliance award at a time. Institutions partnering in an alliance may not be a formal partner in more than one alliance at the same time. Formal partners are IHEs

participating in an alliance that report enrollment and degree data to NSF. See Section VII on grantee reporting requirements.

Bridges to STEM Graduate Degrees in National Priorities (BD-Master's) Proposals

Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI:

Additional Eligibility Info:



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Proposal title instructions for all LSAMP project types:

- For Alliance Development Grant (ADG) proposals
  - Begin the project title with “ LSAMP ADG: Name of Proposed Alliance”
- For Bridge-to-the-Baccalaureate (B2B) proposals
  - Begin the project title with “ LSAMP B2B: Name of new or existing alliance”
- For STEM Pathways Implementation-Only (SPIO) proposals
  - Begin the project with “ LSAMP SPIO: Name of new or existing alliance”
- For STEM Pathways Research Alliances (SPRA) proposals
  - Begin the project with “ LSAMP SPRA: Name of new or existing alliance”
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STEM PATHWAYS IMPLEMENTATION-ONLY ALLIANCES (SPIO) PROPOSALS

SPIO projects are expected to:

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Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

In addition to the two NSF review criteria of demonstrating intellectual merit and broader impacts of the project, reviewers will be asked to evaluate with careful attention the criteria stated below:

All Alliance Proposals (B2B, SPIO, SPRA): 5 DWLRQDOH IRU DQG FRKHUHQFH RI DOOLDQFH \



## Administrative and National Policy Requirements

### Build America, Buy America

As expressed in Executive Order 14005 [Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers](#) (E.O. 14005), it is the policy of the executive branch to use terms and conditions of Federal financial assistance awards to maximize, consistent with law, the use of goods, products, and materials produced

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