

RAPID NHERI
Natural Hazards Reconnaissance

Proposal Preparation

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NSF RAPID Grants Overview

- ◆ Available as a funding mechanism in most NSF programs (see the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guidelines (PAPPG), NSF 18-1, https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg18_1/index.jsp, Section II.E.2, Rapid Response Research (RAPID))
- ◆ Up to 1 year performance period
- ◆ Up to \$200,000 (some programs typically support <\$50K for post-disaster reconnaissance)
- ◆ Proposals having an urgency with regard to:
 - Availability/perishability of or access to:
 - Data, facilities, or specialized equipment

NSF RAPID Grants Overview

- ◆ Often in response to hazard events
 - No specific submission timeframe or deadline
- ◆ NSF Dear Colleague Letters (DCL) may be used to alert community to RAPID funding mechanism
 - Generally used for major disaster
 - May have a target deadline
- ◆ PIs **MUST** discuss proposals with Program Officer prior to submitting or the proposal will be returned without review
- ◆ Generally, RAPID awards for geotechnical engineering reconnaissance only after completion of more immediate, NSF-supported GEER field work



NSF RAPID Grants Overview

- ◆ Program officers can make decision w/o external review
- ◆ Can take 4-6 weeks to process and award funding

Examples of NSF Dear Colleague Letters (DCL)

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2011/nsf11049/nsf11049.jsp>

NSF 11-049

Dear Colleague Letter: Guidance on Submission of RAPID Proposals to ENG, CISE, and OISE on the 2011 Earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand

This document has been archived.

Dr. Subra Suresh, Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), has issued a [Dear Colleague Letter \(DCL\)](#) concerning the acceptance of proposals to conduct research on the effects of the February 21, 2011 magnitude 6.3 South Island of New Zealand (Christchurch) earthquake, and the March 11, 2011 magnitude 9.0 earthquake near the East Coast of Honshu (Tohoku), Japan with the ensuing tsunami and nuclear power plant crises. In response to this, the Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), the Directorate for Engineering (ENG), and the Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE) are issuing this letter to provide context and clarification for the types of proposals for investigatory research being entertained, together with guidance on the process to submit proposals to these specific directorates. Researchers interested in submitting proposals to other directorates or offices should contact cognizant NSF program officers directly.



RAPID Proposal Preparation

- ◆ Email NSF Program Officer 1-page summary ASAP prior to submission (RAPID proposal should not be submitted unless invited by a Program – or else RWR)
 - Ask whether there is a related DCL or more appropriate program
 - Inside the U.S.: Address collaborators, logistics, protocols, equipment, adherence to laws, access to affected locations (e.g., federal, state, and local government investigators on-site, building owners), and safety
 - Outside the U.S.: Address in-country collaborators, logistics, protocols, and equipment; adherence to in-country laws; access to affected locations; U.S. State Department and country embassy contacts and notifications; and safety



RAPID Proposal Preparation

- ◆ Review criteria (typically internal NSF; rarely external review)
 - Standard criteria: Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts
 - Any additional criteria in the DCL
 - Clear description of why proposed research is urgent
 - Why RAPID award is most appropriate funding mechanism
 - Budget consistent with project scope
- ◆ Project Description (see NSF PAPPG, NSF 18-1, for proposal preparation requirements)
 - Up to 5 pages
 - All other standard NSF formatting requirements apply

