



# Developing Reconnaissance Plans and RAPID Proposals

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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](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
- 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>

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17128/nsf17128.jsp>



## 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
- 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



## Activity: Develop a Reconnaissance Plan and RAPID Proposal

- ◆ Objective:
  - Collaborate with an interdisciplinary group to develop a RAPID proposal and reconnaissance plan.
- ◆ Choose hypothetical hazard event. Some suggestions:
  - Hurricane makes landfall near Mobile, AL
  - Tornadoes touch down in Bethany, Oklahoma
  - Cascadia subduction-zone earthquake with tsunami strike on WA and OR coasts
  - Earthquake in Taiwan resulting in large landslides
- ◆ Get into teams of 4 to 5
- ◆ Complete following worksheet



## Activity Worksheet: Group Prioritizes for Discussion Time Allotted: 30 mins

- ◆ Identify three research questions that can be answered using reconnaissance data.
- ◆ Articulate why the NSF RAPID funding method is required.
- ◆ Identify and prioritize reconnaissance data required to answer research questions.
- ◆ Identify and prioritize NHERI RAPID equipment to be used to collect these data.
- ◆ Describe the reconnaissance plan in a few sentences.
- ◆ Identify at least three logistical challenges associated with travel and data collection.
- ◆ What data processing will be done prior to publication?
- ◆ Are there unique issues associated with data archiving, publication, and dissemination?
- ◆ For foreign RAPID, describe the collaboration with in-country researchers, in-country logistics, how access to the affected locations will be obtained, how approval was obtained from the foreign government to conduct the field work, and how U.S. State Department and U.S. embassy officials were informed.

(Worksheets to be collected then disseminated to all)



## Debrief Questions

- ◆ What was something that your team discussed that you think was particularly interesting?

—OR—

- ◆ What was something that you learned that you think is particularly valuable?