

To: UNC Sponsored Programs and Research Council (SPARC)  
From: Miles Lackey, Director of Federal Relations, University of North Carolina  
Subject: NSF Stimulus Update

Hello Everyone,

I had a conversation with a Senior Advisor to the NSF Director yesterday and she said we could expect to start seeing RFPs posted on the NSF stimulus website by mid to late April. Apparently the process has been delayed because NSF has to get approval from OMB before moving forward on any programs associated with the stimulus package. The official also offered the following information which will be important to keep in mind:

- You can receive NSF funding updates via email by subscribing to the NSF listing at: <http://www.nsf.gov/> (please click on the updates link in the top-right portion of the page)
- NSF will not be using stimulus funding to supplement existing awards, however they may fund previously submitted, yet unfunded proposals.
- NSF will likely issue another Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) RFP. The final stimulus package included \$300 million for the MRI program. Apparently NSF did not receive enough proposals from the Jan. 22 submission to spend all of the \$300 million available through the stimulus package.
  - \* Bottom-line: The MRI program now has a lot of cash on hand and our researchers must be prepared to take advantage of this opportunity.\*
- For research funded through the stimulus, the NSF will primarily provide funding via standard awards instead of continuous awards. What does this mean?
  - Continuous awards provide funding in increments (e.g. a \$400,000 award would be dispersed \$100,000 per year for four years)
  - Standard awards provide the funding all at one time (e.g. a \$400,000 award would be dispersed all at one time, however it would still be spent over four years)

This is all of the information I have thus far for NSF - please stay tuned for more updates. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Miles

\*P.S. All of the actions outlined above have to be approved by OMB; therefore some of this information could change in the coming weeks and months.\*

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