Part I - Overview Information

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (http://www.nrc.gov)

Title:
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Funding Opportunity Announcement, Trade School and Community College Scholarship Grant, Fiscal Year (FY) 2015

Announcement Type:
New

Announcement of Opportunity Number:
NRC-HQ-84-15-FOA-0003

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:
CFDA #: 77.008

Key Dates:
Release/Posted Date: March 10, 2015
Application Due Date: April 20, 2015
Earliest Anticipated Start Date: October 1, 2015

You must submit applications in response to this FOA for Federal assistance electronically through Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov) using the SF-424 forms and the SF-424 Application Guide included with this announcement in Grants.gov/Apply for Grants (hereafter called Grants.gov/Apply).

Your application must be successfully received by Grants.gov no later than 5:00 p.m., your local time. If you need information on alternate means of submitting your application, see section IV.3.B.1.

You may NOT submit applications in paper format.

Additional Overview Content

Executive Summary:
The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is an independent agency, established by the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974, tasked with licensing and regulating the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear material to ensure adequate protection of public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment.

Type of Award:
This FOA will result in grant awards.

Funds Available and Anticipated Number or Awards:
The total amount of funding available for trade school and community college scholarships will depend on the agency's final FY 2015 appropriation of funds. NRC expects to support a limited number of trade school and community college scholarship awards. The number of awards for FY 2015 depends on the number, quality, duration and costs of the applications received. Future year awards will depend on annual appropriations.

Budget and Project Period:
Budgets will be approved for up to $150,000.00 total costs (direct costs and associated facilities and administrative costs) per institution through this announcement. Awards are for a project period of 2 years. No scholarship recipient may receive more than $10,000.00 over a 2 year period.

Eligible Institutions/Organizations:
See Section III, 1.A. for eligible institutions.

Eligible Principal Investigators (PIs):
Individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to conduct the proposed project are invited to work with their institution to develop an application.

Number of Applications:
You may submit only one application for a Trade School or Community College Scholarship. One application per institution is allowed.

Continuation Applications:
Not applicable.

Application Materials:
See Section IV.1 for application materials.

Hearing Impaired:
Telecommunications for the hearing impaired are available at: TDD: 301-415-5609.

Table of Contents

Part I - Overview Information

Part II - Full Text of Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

Section II. Award Information

Section III. Eligibility Information

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

Section V. Application Review Information

Section VI. Award Administration Information

Section VII. Agency Contacts

Section VIII. Other Information

Part II - Full Text of Announcement

Section I. Funding Opportunity Description

1. Program Objectives

The program provides funding to support scholarships for nuclear science, engineering, technology, and related disciplines to develop a workforce capable of supporting the design, construction, operation, and regulation of nuclear facilities and the safe handling of nuclear materials.

As a condition for receiving trade school or community college scholarships, recipients must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress in their fields of study, as determined by criteria contained in this announcement and as established by the NRC. The nuclear technology related discipline supported by this funding is intended to benefit the nuclear sector broadly. Consequently, NRC requires trade school and community college scholarship recipients to serve 6 months in nuclear-related employment for each full or partial year of academic support. The employment may be with NRC, other Federal agencies, State agencies, Department of Energy laboratories, nuclear-related industry, or academia in the recipients' sponsored fields of study. NRC may waive, in whole or in part, the service obligation, upon determination that compliance by the individual is impractical. Trade school and community college scholarship recipients who fail to satisfy the service agreement requirements of the program must reimburse the United States Government for the entire amount of the assistance provided them under the scholarship plus interest at a rate determined by the NRC. Recipients must continue to comply with eligibility requirements and institutions must continue to comply with public policy requirements and maintain adequate management systems throughout the period of support. (See Trade School Scholarship Service Agreement at http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/grants.html). **Institutions cannot impose additional requirements to scholarship recipients beyond the NRC Service Agreement.** Service agreements must be signed by recipients, program coordinator and NRC prior to receiving support.

See Section VIII, Other Information, for policies related to this announcement.

Section II. Award Information

1. Type of Award

It is anticipated that this FOA will result in the award of multiple grants.

2. Funds Available

NRC expects to support a limited number of trade school and community college scholarship awards through this FOA to develop a workforce capable of supporting the design, construction, operation, and regulation of nuclear facilities and the safe handling of nuclear materials. Because the nature and scope of the proposals will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary.

Scholarship awards under this FOA are up to $150,000.00 total costs (direct costs and associated facilities and administrative costs) per institution for a project period of two (2) years. No scholarship recipient may receive more than $10,000.00 over a 2 year period.

3. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing is not required. However, institutions are encouraged to leverage NRC funding (non-Federal funds) to enhance the benefits of the NRC grant. For purposes of this announcement, leveraging means additional contributions (either financial or in-kind) that enhance the overall goals of the scholarship or fellowship program. Leveraging may be used to build infrastructure in nuclear and related disciplines and may include a variety of areas ranging from support of students to facility improvements or expansion. A written agreement or letter with a leveraging commitment is required at the time the application is submitted.

Any cost sharing proposed may result in additional points during the peer review process (see Section V.1. Full Review Criteria). The degree and type of leveraging will determine if additional points will be awarded during the peer review process. Recipients are to be careful with providing unrealistic or excessive cost share or match since, at the end of the grant, if the identified match has not been provided, then a portion of the Federal share may be required to be returned to the Government.

Section III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Institutions

You may submit an application(s) if your institution/organization has any of the following characteristics:

- Public/State Controlled Institutions of Higher Education
- Private Institutions of Higher Education
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)
- Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs)
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions

You may submit an application(s) if your institution is a regionally accredited U.S. public or private institution of higher education, as defined in Section 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 USC 1002). Affiliates that manage externally funded programs for Institutions of

Higher Education are eligible to submit applications for this FOA on behalf of the institution; however, award funds are only provided to the institution's project.

Federal agencies are not eligible to receive Federal assistance under this announcement. Individuals and other entities may not apply directly to NRC for these grants.

1.A. Eligible Scholarship Recipients

The trade school and community college scholarship program provides funding to institutions to award scholarships to individuals pursuing certifications or Associates degrees in disciplines that may be beneficial in developing and maintaining a nuclear workforce. Institutions receiving NRC grants must establish programs to monitor the academic progress of the scholarship recipients. Scholarship recipients must demonstrate satisfactory academic progress in their field of study, as determined by criteria contained in this announcement and as established by the NRC.

Scholarship recipients must be United States citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence (i.e., in possession of a currently valid Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551, or other legal verification of such status). Noncitizen nationals are persons born in outlying possessions of the United States (i.e., American Samoa and Swains Island) or individuals lawfully admitted for permanent residence. Recipients must have **full-time** student status or be classified as a full-time student, in accordance with the institutions policies and practices.

NRC requires scholarship students to sign a service agreement to serve six (6) months in nuclear-related employment for each full or partial year of academic support. (See Trade School Scholarship Service Agreement at http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/grants.html) **Institutions cannot impose additional requirements to scholarship recipients beyond the NRC Service Agreement.** Service agreements must be signed by recipients, institution program coordinator and NRC prior to receiving support.

2.B. CITIZENSHIP REQUIREMENT

Fellowship and scholarship recipients must be United States citizens or noncitizen nationals of the United States, or have been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence (i.e., in possession of a currently valid Alien Registration Receipt Card I-551, or other legal verification of such status). Noncitizen nationals are persons born in outlying possessions of the United States (i.e., American Samoa and Swains Island). Recipients must have full-time student status at the grantee or partnership institution. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible.

Section IV. Application and Submission Information

You can download a SF424 Application Package and instructions for completing the SF424 forms for this FOA by linking to http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp and following the directions provided on that Web site. Institutions must complete a one-time registration at Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

If you have questions regarding Grants.gov registration, direct them to: **Grants.gov**

- Contact Center Phone: 800-518-4726
  Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are closed on federal holidays (see Office of Personnel Management Federal Holidays).
- Email Support: Support@grants.gov

The NRC requires all prospective awardees to be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) database prior to award, during performance, and through the end of the project period. You should allow processing time of at least 48 hours, when registering with SAM. If you are not currently registered, we recommend that you consider registering immediately to avoid delays. You obtain registration information at http://www.sam.gov

1. Request Application Information

You must download the SF-424 application forms and instructions for this FOA through Grants.gov/Apply.

2. Application Forms and Content

Prepare your application using the SF424 application form. Both the application form and instructions for completing it can be downloaded from http://www.grants.gov/Apply/.
Approved OMB Grants Management Forms are available on the OMB website, http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/.
The SF424 application has several components. Your application is complete only if it includes the following components:

Required Components:
SF 424 – Application for Federal Assistance - CFDA Number: 77.008
SF 424A – Budget Information - complete Sections A, B, C, D, E and F
SF 424B – Assurances and Certifications
SF LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Allowable Costs: Allowable costs must be consistent with 2 CFR, Subpart E—COST PRINCIPLES be well documented and fully justified for the activities proposed. Grant funds may not be used to supplant funds otherwise available at the applicant institution. These costs include but are not limited to the following: materials, supplies, travel to professional meetings, support to defray student participation expenses, such as student compensation (when appropriate) and other student costs (e.g., fees or books, tuition and lab fees) for no more than $10,000 per student per year. You must provide documentation of tuition rates, if included in the application. It is recommended that you consult NRC contacts identified in Section VII, if there are any questions regarding allowable costs.

Personnel: The Principal Investigator will be solely responsible for planning, directing, and executing the proposed project. Individuals participating in the design and implementation of the grant may request salary and fringe benefits appropriate for the person months devoted to the program. These expenses must be itemized in Sections A and B, as appropriate, of the SF 424A Budget page. Salaries requested may not exceed the levels commensurate with the

institution's policy for similar positions. Mentoring interactions and other activities with students/participants are considered a regular part of an individual's academic duties, then mentoring and other interactions with students/participants are non-reimbursable from grant funds). Limited administrative and clerical salary costs associated distinctly with the program, that are not normally provided by the applicant organization, may be direct charges to the grant only when specifically identified and justified.

Other Program-Related Expenses: Consultant costs, limited equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses **must be justified** as specifically required by the proposed program and must not duplicate items generally available for educational programs at the applicant institution. These expenses must be itemized, as appropriate, in the SF424A object class categories and fully documented in the budget justification. Committed Cost Sharing/Matching becomes an official part of the budget and should be documented on the SF424A and the proposal budget justification page.

Applications Involving Multiple Institutions: When multiple institutions are involved in a cooperative or partnership arrangement, one institution must be designated as the prime institution and funding for the other institution(s) must be requested via a subcontract to be administered by the prime institution. The prime institution should submit its budget using the SF-424A Budget component, including the subcontract(s) total amount. Contractual costs for support services are occasionally sufficiently high to warrant a categorical breakdown of costs. When this is the case, provide detailed information as part of the budget narrative. Letters of commitment between multiple institutions, signed by their respective authorized organization representatives, are required as part of the application.

All other institutions (subcontractors) should complete their individual SF-424A budget forms attached separately, and information concerning the consortium/subcontract budget must be provided in their budget narrative.

Institutional Commitment and Responsibilities: The grantee institution is expected to have or to develop an administrative structure that enables the Principal Investigator, faculty, academic administrators, students, and others involved in the project to interact productively during the award period. Grantee institutions will provide scholarship support to students who successfully compete in a selection process proposed by the institution following NRC-developed guidelines. In a cooperative or partnership arrangement with one or more other institutions, which are permitted and encouraged, the institution receiving the NRC grant is responsible for all students receiving scholarship support within the cooperative or partnership even though the students may be at institutions other than the primary one receiving the grant. Proposing institutions must clearly describe the student support structure, outline plans to manage the program, provide a description of its selection criteria and process, and agree to provide the NRC with a list of students. All participating institutions must agree to provide compliance monitoring of students' academic performance.

Facilities and Administrative (F&A) Costs: A copy of the institution's current rate agreement is required in the application with the budget justification. Recipients will use their negotiated indirect rates. F&A will be allowed in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.306 & 2 CFR § 200.414.

3. Submission Dates and Times

See Section IV.3.A. for details.

3. A. Submission and Anticipated Start Dates

Release/Posted Date: March 10, 2015
Application Due Date: April 20, 2015
Earliest Anticipated Start Date: October 1, 2015

3. A. 1. Application Content

You must download a grant application package from
http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp

Required Elements for Applications

A. Format:

Font Size, Style, and Color

- 11 point, Arial, black color (A Symbol font may be used to insert Greek letters or special characters.)

Page Size and Margins

- Use standard paper size (8 ½" x 11").
- Use one inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right).
- NRC requires all text attachments to the SF424 application forms to be submitted as PDF files. Adobe PDF format is preferred.

Footer

- Each page should include a page number and Principal Investigator's last name in the bottom right-hand corner.

Attachments

- NRC requires all text attachments to the SF424 application forms to be submitted as PDF files. Adobe PDF format is preferred.

B. Executive Summary (half-page maximum):

Describe the proposed project's essential elements. Include the following:

- Descriptive title of proposed project: NOTE: You should describe your Scholarship Program as the Institutions Scholarship Program and not NRC's Scholarship Program.
- Name, address, email address and telephone number of the PI(s).
- Name(s), address, email address and affiliations of other investigator/collaborative personnel who will contribute significantly to the project.
- The project's total funding request.
- Concise statement of the project's objectives and benefits.

C. Project Description:

Applications must include and clearly identify the following elements in the Project Description section:

1. Describe the proposed program including the number and size of the scholarships and associated institutions, if any. State the management structure and the capability for administering the program. Provide a schedule of tuition fees and other pertinent costs for students who would be participating in this program.
2. Describe the recruitment activities and specific marketing strategies designed to attract a large and diverse pool of student applicants. Describe the selection process that will ensure the most qualified student applicants are selected based on academic merit, with consideration given to financial need and the goal of promoting the participation of minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.
3. Identify an evaluation plan that will provide information on the effectiveness of the project in attracting, preparing and retaining individuals in nuclear careers. This plan should include methodologies for measuring the effectiveness of the program. The evaluation plan should include a mechanism for tracking the trade school and community college scholarship students as they fulfill their academic obligation and for reporting to the NRC.
4. State whether or not these scholarships are contemplated as an integrated element of a State or regional strategic plan including innovative approaches covering such arrangements as consortia, partnerships with other institutions (including Minority Supporting Institutions), shared or distance learning programs, etc. Post Secondary Minority Institutions are listed at: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html.
5. State any arrangements with other non-Federal entities that provide additional support, usually in the form of leveraged funding, to the goals of this grant (a written agreement or letter is required with the application).
6. Institutions must agree to require individual trade school and community college scholarship students to accept the service agreement terms as defined in this FOA. (See http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/grants/trade-svc-agreement.pdf at http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/grants.html). **Institutions cannot impose additional requirements to scholarship recipients beyond the NRC Service Agreement.**

The project description (**which is not the same as the evaluation criteria in Section V.1**) is limited to **five (5)** pages or less, including text, tables, and visual materials (e.g., charts, graphs, maps, photographs). The page limit does not include the:

- Executive Summary
- Budget and Budget Narrative
- Current and Pending Support
- Curriculum Vitae
- Past NRC Funding and Summary of Results from Past NRC Funding, if applicable
- Other required forms.

D. Summary of Current and Pending Support:

You must provide information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals, including potential subsequent funding in the continuing grants associated with NRC. Include the proposed project and all other projects or activities using Federal assistance or that require a portion of time of the principal investigator or other senior personnel. Describe the relationship between the proposed project and these other projects and state the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the projects.

E. Curriculum Vitae:

Include a two (2) page maximum vitae for each PI and other senior personnel involved in carrying out the proposal.

F. Detailed Budget Narrative and Application Instructions:

Submit a detailed budget narrative explaining the need for and justifying the costs of the Federal and the non-Federal expenditures as they relate to the proposal objectives. Budget should be labeled with each budget line item and proposed funding.

SF-424, Section A – Budget Summary: Fill in **"NRC-HQ-84-15-FOA-0003"** under the "Grant Program Function or Activity" (Column a). The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number is 77.008 (Column b). Columns (c) and (d) should be left blank. Columns (e) and (f) should include the total Federal and Non-Federal funding for the entire grant period.

List all expenditures in the budget narrative using the same budget categories on SF-424A, Section B (Budget Category). Describe each expense in the budget narrative by object class (e.g., personnel, equipment, travel, and other costs) in the order that they appear on the SF-424A, Section B.

Sub award: A budget narrative is requested for each sub award institution.

The cost sharing amount, if applicable, should be entered in SF-424A, Section C, and "Non-Federal Resources." The total on Section D, Line 14, and Section E, Line 21, equals total project costs.

Include the dollar amounts in the budget narrative/justification and how the dollar amounts were derived. Include detailed descriptions of all cost justifications (see Web site www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/grants/faqs.html for more detail).

The budget narrative attachment/justification submitted with the application must match the dollar amounts on all required forms, i.e. SF-424 and SF-424A, Section F. Please explain each calculation and provide a narrative that supports each budget category as it relates to the project objectives

3.B. Submitting an Application Electronically to the NRC

We encourage applicants to apply early to avoid problems uploading applications to www.Grants.gov. We will make adjustments to the correction window or submission deadlines if necessary to protect applicants' ability to submit on-time.

Electronic submission is required through www.Grants.gov. If you cannot submit through Grants.gov due to transmission issues, applications may be submitted via email to NRC. Contact the Grants.gov Contact Center to document and help resolve the submission issues, then:

1. Document the issue with the NRC Grants Officer listed in Section VII. Agency Contacts; and
2. Include your www.Grants.gov support ticket number with your alternate submission.

3.B.1. Alternate submissions

Email submissions must be sent by the institution's Authorized Organization Official (not the PI) to the Agency Contacts found in Section VII in this announcement. The email subject line should include the Grants.gov support ticket number with your institution's name.

3.C. Application Processing

Applications received will be evaluated by the NRC. Incomplete and non-responsive applications may not be evaluated. If an application is not submitted by the due date and time, the application may be delayed in the review process.

www.Grants.gov will acknowledge receipt of applications. The submitting Authorized Organizational Representative receives the www.Grants.gov acknowledgments. You can track your application at: http://www.grants.gov/assets/TrackingYourApplicationPackage.pdf.

4. Funding Restrictions

All NRC awards are subject to the administrative requirements in accordance with 2 CFR 200 and other considerations described in "The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Standard Terms and Conditions for U.S. Non-Governmental Recipients."

5. Information on Civil Rights Compliance Requirements Imposed as a Condition of Award of NRC Federal Financial Assistance

The NRC assures nondiscrimination in NRC conducted and Federal financially assisted programs and activities. The NRC's Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR) provides applicants/recipients with direction, guidance and technical assistance. SBCR also monitors program activities, conducts compliance reviews, investigates complaints, enforces violations and submits reports to Federal oversight agencies.

5.A. Submit a Standard Form (SF) 424B Statement of Assurances

Statements must be signed by individuals with authority to assure that the recipients' programs comply with Federal civil rights laws, mandates, and NRC regulations.

5.B. Provide Public Notification

Display the NRC's nondiscrimination policy and procedures for filing complaints in prominent locations to inform staff, beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries; disseminate a

nondiscrimination policy statement (e.g., recruitment materials, brochures and other materials, handbooks, applications and postings); and distribute notices regarding programs and activities to eligible populations, including minority and low-income populations; and to Limited English Proficient (LEP) individuals (See LEP Guidance FR Doc 04-4672).

Participate in mandatory NRC Compliance Reviews.

Participate in pre- and post-award compliance reviews.

5.C. Pre-Award Compliance Review

A pre-award compliance review (typically a desk-audit) must be conducted prior to award of NRC financial assistance. Applicants and recipients are required to complete NRC Form SF 781 Parts A, B, and C. If a determination cannot be made from the submitted data, SBCR will take steps to request additional information, which could include conducting an on-site audit or inspection.

5.D. Post Award Audit

Post-award compliance reviews will be based on desk audits and input from advocacy groups, community organizations, and results from ongoing research to identify recipients that should be selected to undergo an on-site audit. The following criteria will be used to help identify recipients for a post-award compliance on-site audit:

- Areas of “questionable” compliance identified in a desk audit;
- Issues raised in a complaint or identified during a complaint investigation (not covered in the scope of the investigation);
- Noncompliance issues raised;
- Amount of program funding ($100K or greater), or size and complexity of the project;
- Geographical areas the agency wishes to target because of known problems beneficiaries are experiencing;
- Problems identified to the agency by other civil rights agencies;
- Problems identified to the agency by community organizations or advocacy groups that are familiar with actual incidents to support their concerns;
- Issues frequently identified as problems faced by program beneficiaries;
- Issues targeted in the agency's strategic plan;
- Problems identified to the agency by its block grant recipients; and/or
- Proximity of the recipient to NRC offices.

Post-award compliance (on-site) audits (sampling not to exceed 10%) encompass a broad review of recipients’ programs and practices to determine actual compliance with regulations, and include:

- Civil rights implementation and enforcement policies and practices;
- Statistical evidence by racial and ethnic minorities based on the recipient’s: (a) staffing patterns, (b) beneficiary program participation rates, and (c) rejection rates;
- Applications or interview materials related to program participation or selection;
- Demographic make-up of the affected community or potential participants;
- Actions to educate the public and affected communities, particularly LEP individuals;

- Any discrimination complaints lodged against the recipient;
- Auxiliary aids, reasonable accommodations, facility accessibility; and
- Any previous findings of compliance or noncompliance related to the recipient.

Post-award compliance (on-site) audits will include:

- Interviews of recipient's officials, representatives, participants or beneficiaries; and review recipients' data collection and analysis used to assess compliance.

- SBCR will issue written results of its compliance findings and issue a written report containing recommendations for achieving compliance.

- Designate Equal Opportunity Coordinators

- Appoint Coordinators (e.g., Title VI and IX, Disability, Age) in order to:

    - Inform those eligible to participate in programs and activities about all available services and their rights under applicable Federal civil rights regulations;
    - Collect data on who is being served by the programs and activities offered;
    - Monitor compliance and alerting recipient officials of any complaints or noncompliance issues that require action;
    - Plan, develop, and implement periodic Equal Opportunity civil rights training;
    - Maintain records and report compliance to SBCR/Outreach and Compliance Coordination Program (OCCP) as required by Agency regulations that are (1) OMB approved and (2) statute requires information/data collections; and
    - Ensure prompt corrective action has been taken to adequately address any deficiencies.

5.E. Submit Compliance Reports

Submit compliance reports throughout the program year and an annual Equal Opportunity compliance report to SBCR no later than December 31 of each calendar year.

5.F. Provide Civil Rights Training

Provide comprehensive civil rights training for existing and new staff for those administering the grant, and periodically retrain existing staff to establish and update their knowledge of Equal Opportunity civil rights statutes and emerging issues.

5.G. Establish Complaint Process

Establish procedures for "processing and disposition" of discrimination complaints. Maintain complaint log, which includes the complainant's: race, color, or national origin; the identity of the recipient; the nature of the complaint and date filed; the investigation completion date; the date and nature of the disposition; and other pertinent information.

5.H. Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is provided by SBCR to assist stakeholders with understanding and complying with regulations. Links are provided to the U.S. Department of Justice website and the following NRC regulations: 10 CFR Part 4--Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs or ...Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance From the Commission; 10 CFR Part 5--Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education ... Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance; 10 CFR § 2.111, 10 CFR Part 2--Rules of Practice for Domestic Licensing Proceedings and...; and 10 CFR § 19.32, 10 CFR Part 19--Notices, Instructions and Reports to Workers: Inspections and Investigations.

OCCP staff is available to provide direction, guidance, and technical assistance to help ensure compliance. OCCP staff can be contacted via email at OCCPrograms.Resources@nrc.gov or by phone at 301-415-7394.

6. Other Submission Requirements and Information

Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP)

The NRC uses ASAP for recipient reimbursement. ASAP is a recipient-initiated payment and information system, designed to provide a single point of contact for the request and delivery of Federal funds. ASAP was developed by the Financial Management Service (FMS) of the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) of Richmond. For information about ASAP, see http://www.fms.treas.gov/asap/. Recipient organizations must be enrolled in ASAP.Gov and their bank account must be linked to the NRC Agency Link Code (31000001) to receive funds.

Organizational Dun and Bradstreet Numbering System (DUNS)

The DUNS (Dun and Bradstreet Numbering System) number on the application must match the DUNS number provided in the SAM database at https://www.sam.gov with http://www.grants.gov.

For additional information, see http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs/obtaining-duns-number.html

If the Payee DUNS for ASAP.Gov is different from the DUNS number provided in the Sam.gov registration, please include the Payee DUNS at the end of the budget narrative under the heading ASAP DUNS. Payments may be delayed if this information is missing in the application.

FedConnect
Applicants are strongly encouraged, however, not required to register with FedConnect at www.FedConnect.net. Applications must be submitted through Grants.gov and may also be submitted through FedConnect. **Please see attached instructions on using FedConnect at:** FedConnect: Ready, Set, Go!

Section V. Application Review Information

1. Full Review Criteria

Applications are evaluated and rated individually by multiple peer reviewers using both Federal and non-Federal experts in the field. **The following criteria items must be addressed and clearly labeled.** These items are used to evaluate applications using the corresponding weighted value.

1. Capacity and ability of the institution to effectively conduct the program. (**25 points**)
2. Type and degree of proposed student support (i.e., mentoring or advisor assistance). (**25 points**)
3. Feasibility and completeness of an evaluation plan to measure the effectiveness of the scholarship program. (**15 points**)
4. Institutional support for the program and plans for sustainability as well as number and quality of students that will be served by the program. (**25 points**)
5. Innovation demonstrated through establishment of consortia, and or partnerships with other institutions to increase the universe of students reached through distance learning, shared courses, facility sharing, etc. (**5 points**)
6. The amount and type of leveraged funding that was initiated due to this announcement. (**5 points**). * To receive total points for this criteria, a well written agreement or commitment letter from nuclear industry partners, national laboratories or institutions must be included as part of the application package.

2. Review and Selection Process

2.A. Review Process

The NRC conducts an initial administrative review to determine that the proposal is complete and complies with the announcement's requirements. Ineligible applications or non-responsive applications may not be reviewed. You may withdraw your application at any time.

The NRC protects the information contained in an application from unauthorized disclosure, consistent with the need for objective review of the application and the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act. However, if a grant is awarded, the Federal government has the right to use or disclose the information to the extent authorized by law.

Applications are peer-reviewed and rated using the evaluation criteria and point values provided above (Section V.1). Both Federal and non-Federal experts may be used in this process. Peer reviewers' identities remain confidential. All peer reviewers must sign a conflict of interest form prior to acceptance as a reviewer. The applications, proposals and associated materials made available to reviewers, including the discussions that take place during review meetings are strictly confidential. Individual peer reviewers' scores are averaged and rated prior to being presented to the selecting official.

2.B. Selection Process

The highest ranked applications will receive priority consideration for award within the available funding. The selecting official makes make final award recommendations. The selecting official generally recommends funding in rank order unless an application is selected because of one of the following factors:

- Availability of funding.
- Support geographic diversity.
- Assure diversity in disciplines.
- Whether the project duplicates other projects NRC is funding or considering funding.
- Program priorities and policy factors.
- Needs that the Commission determines to be critical to the NRC's regulatory mission.
- Applicant's prior award performance.
- Previous expenditures and on-time progress report submissions.
- Limiting the number of multiple NRC grant awards to individual institutions.

The decision not to award a grant, or to award a grant at a particular funding level, is discretionary and is not subject to appeal to any NRC official or board.

3. Earliest Anticipated Start Dates

The earliest anticipated start date for this Funding Opportunity Announcement is October 1, 2015.

Section VI. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Formal notification in the form of a Notice of Grant/Assistance Award will be provided to the applicant organization. The Award signed by the grants officer is the authorizing document, and the grants officer is the only person authorized to obligate monies and permit changes to approved projects on behalf of the NRC. Once all administrative and programmatic issues have been resolved, the NRC issues notifications via email directly to the proposing institutions' authorizing officials.

Selection of an application for award is not an authorization to begin performance. Any costs incurred before receipt of the Notice of Award are at the recipient's risk. See Section IV.5. "Funding Restrictions."

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

"The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Standard Terms and Conditions for U.S. Nongovernmental Grantees" contain the administrative and national policy requirements for all NRC awards, and is located at the end of this FOA.

3. Limitation of Liability

The NRC is not responsible for any proposal costs if agency priorities cause it to cancel this program prior to awarding any grants. Publishing this announcement does not obligate NRC to award any specific project.

4. Reporting

Financial Reports
Federal Financial Reports (SF-425) are semi-annually, for the periods ending March 31 and September 30. Reports are due within 30 calendar days following the end of each reporting period. The reports must be emailed to Grants_FFR.Resource@nrc.gov. The SF-425 forms and instructions are available at the following URL:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms/..

Performance Reports
Performance reports must be submitted semi-annually, for the periods ending March 31 and September 30, or any portion thereof, regardless of the award date. Reports are due within 30 days following the end of each reporting period and must be emailed to Grants_PPR.Resource@nrc.gov.

OMB directed Federal Grant Awarding Agencies to report on specific performance metrics and evaluation methodologies for any education related grant program activities.

The NRC authorizes the use of the following forms for reporting performance. The reports are electronically transmitted to the Agency Contacts listed in the Grant. Three forms that constitute a complete submission and are available at the respective hyperlinks:

SF-PPR
Performance Progress Report Cover Form (Instructions accompany the form). Block 10 of this form should provide a narrative that details activities that have occurred during the reporting period that correspond with the goals and objectives identified in the proposal narrative.
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/grants/approved_forms/sf-ppr.pdf.

SF-PPR-B
Performance Progress Report Program Indicators (Instructions accompany the form)
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/grants/approved_forms/sf-ppr-b.pdf.

SF-PPR-E
Performance Progress Report Activity Based Expenditures (Instructions accompany the form)
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/omb/grants/approved_forms/sf-ppr-e.pdf.Final Reports

Final Reports
A Final Performance Progress Report (SF-PPR, B and E) and Federal Financial Report (SF-425) are required within 90 days after the award has expired, been relinquished, or terminated; to include the submission of a final SF-428, Tangible Property Report, if applicable.

Section VII. Agency Contacts

We encourage your inquiries concerning this funding opportunity and welcome the opportunity to answer questions from potential applicants.

Contact:
NRC Grants Office
M'Lita Carr
Grants Officer
Phone: 301–415-6869
E-mail: MLita.Carr@nrc.gov

Section VIII. Other Information

1. Required Federal Citations

Program Authority: Section 31b and 141b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 as amended.

2. Authority and Regulations

This program is described in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance at http://www.cfda.gov/ and is not subject to the intergovernmental review requirements of Executive Order 12372, amended by E.O. 12416 and supplemented by E.O. 13132. Financial assistance awards are made under the authorization 42 USC 2051. All awards are subject to the cost principles and other considerations described in 2 CFR 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

3. Non-Delinquency on Federal Debt

The Federal Debt Collection Procedure Act, 28 U.S.C. 3201(e), provides that an organization or individual that is indebted to the United States, and has a judgment lien filed against it, is ineligible to receive a Federal grant. NRC cannot award a grant unless the authorized organizational official of the applicant organization certifies, by means of his/her signature on the application, that the organization is not delinquent in repaying any Federal debt. If the applicant discloses delinquency on a debt owed to the Federal Government, NRC may not award the grant until the debt is satisfied or satisfactory arrangements are made with the agency to which the debt is owed.

4. Office of Small Business and Civil Rights (SBCR) Compliance (Promote non-discrimination in NRC assisted programs and activities

Before a grant award can be made, a domestic applicant organization must complete the NRC SBCR pre-award compliance review. **(See** Section IV.5**.)** Organizations must certify compliance in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88352, as amended), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-112, as amended), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (P.L. 92-318, as amended), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (P.L. 94-135), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's
Standard Terms and Conditions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients

Preface

This award is based on the application submitted to, and as approved by, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) under the authorization 42 U.S.C. § 2051(b), pursuant to section 31b and 141b of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and is subject to the terms and conditions incorporated either directly or by reference in the following:

- Grant program legislation and program regulation cited in this Grant and Cooperative Agreement.
- Restrictions on the expenditure of Federal funds in appropriation acts, to the extent those restrictions are pertinent to the award.
- Code of Federal Regulations/Regulatory Requirements – 2 CFR Part 200, Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards.

Any inconsistency or conflict in terms and conditions specified in the award will be resolved according to the following order of precedence: public laws, regulations, applicable notices published in the Federal Register, Executive Orders (E.O.), Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars, the NRC's Mandatory Standard Provisions, special award conditions, and standard award conditions.

Certifications and Representations: These terms incorporate the certifications and representations required by statute, executive order, or regulation that were submitted with the SF424B application through GRANTS.GOV.

I. Mandatory General Requirements

The order of these requirements does not make one requirement more important than any other requirement.

1. Applicability of 2 CFR Part 200

All provisions of 2 CFR Part 200 and all Standard Provisions attached to this grant/cooperative agreement are applicable to the Recipient and to sub-recipients which meet the definition of "Recipient" in 2 Part §200.86, unless a section specifically excludes a sub-recipient from coverage. The Recipient and any sub-recipients must, in addition to the assurances made as part of the application, comply and require each of its sub-awardees employed in the completion of the project to comply with Subpart D of 2 CFR Part 200 and include this term in lower-tier (sub-award) covered transactions.

Recipients must comply with monitoring procedures and audit requirements in accordance with 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F—AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.

2. Award Package

The Recipient is obligated to conduct project oversight as may be appropriate, to manage the funds with prudence, and to comply with the provisions outlined in 2 CFR Part 200. Within this framework, the Principal Investigator (PI) named on the award face page, is responsible for the scientific or technical direction of the project and for preparation of the project performance reports. This award is funded on a cost-reimbursement basis, not to exceed the amount awarded as indicated on the face page, and is subject to a refund of unexpended grant funds to the NRC.

The non-Federal entity alone must be responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements related to its grant award. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the non-Federal entity of any financial or fiduciary responsibilities or obligations arising under its grant, including sub-contracts and sub-awards, or any other contractual or financial obligation. The Federal awarding agency will not substitute its judgment for that of the non-Federal entity unless the matter is primarily a Federal concern. Violations of law will be referred to the local, State, or Federal authority having proper jurisdiction. See 2 CFR § 200.318(k), General Procurement Standards.

Subawards

Appendix II to Part 200 Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards

Sub-recipients, sub-awardees, and contractors have no relationship with NRC under the terms of this grant/cooperative agreement. All required NRC approvals must be directed through the Recipient to NRC. See 2 CFR § 200.318.

Nondiscrimination

This provision is applicable when work under the grant/cooperative agreement is performed in the U.S. or when employees are recruited in the U.S.

The Recipient agrees to comply with the non-discrimination requirements below:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age in any program receiving federal financial assistance.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits recipients from discriminating on the basis of disability in employment (Title I); State and local government services (Title II); and places of public accommodation and commercial facilities (Title III).
- Parts II and III of E.O. 11246, as amended by E.O.11375, 11478, 12086, 12107, 13279, 13665, and 13672, which prohibits federal contractors and federally assisted construction contractors and subcontractors, who do over $10,000 in Government business in one year, from discriminating in employment decisions on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and requires that government contractors take affirmative action to ensure that equal opportunity is provided in all aspects of their employment.
- E.O.13166, “Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency,” which clarifies that national origin discrimination under Title VI includes discrimination on

the basis of limited English proficiency (LEP) and requires that the recipient take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to programs and activities.
- Any other applicable non-discrimination law(s).

Generally, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq, provides that it shall be an unlawful employment practice for an employer to discharge any individual or otherwise to discriminate against an individual with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. However, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-1(a), expressly exempts from the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of religion, a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society with respect to the employment of individuals of a particular religion to perform work connected with the carrying on by such corporation, association, educational institution, or society of its activities.

Modifications/Prior Approval

NRC's prior written approval may be required before a Recipient makes certain budget modifications or undertakes particular activities. If NRC approval is required for changes in the grant or cooperative agreement, it must be requested and obtained from the NRC Grants Officer in advance of the change or obligation of funds. All requests for NRC prior approval, including requests for extensions to the period of performance, must be made, in writing (which includes submission by e-mail), to the designated Grants Officer at least 30 days before the proposed change. The request must be signed by the authorized organizational official. Failure to obtain prior approval, when required, from the NRC Grants Officer, may result in the disallowance of costs, or other enforcement action within NRC's authority.

Lobbying Restrictions

The Recipient will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§ 1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limits the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

The Recipient will comply with provisions of 31 U.S.C § 1352. This provision generally prohibits the use of Federal funds for lobbying in the Executive or Legislative Branches of the Federal Government in connection with the award, and requires disclosure of the use of non-Federal funds for lobbying.

The Recipient receiving in excess of $100,000.00 in Federal funding shall submit a completed Standard Form (SF-LLL), "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities." The form concerns the use of non-Federal funds for lobbying within 30 days following the end of the calendar quarter in which there occurs any event that requires disclosure or that materially affects the accuracy of the information contained in any disclosure form previously filed. The Recipient must submit the SF-LLL, including those received from sub-recipients, contractors, and subcontractors, to the Grants Officer.

Debarment And Suspension – (See 2 CFR Part 180; 2 CFR § 200.205; 2 CFR § 200.113; and 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II.)

The Recipient agrees to notify the Grants Officer immediately upon learning that it or any of its principals:

(1) Are presently excluded or disqualified from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

(2) Have been convicted within the preceding three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, tax evasion, receiving stolen property, making false claims, or obstruction of justice; commission of any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that seriously and directly affects your present responsibility;

(3) Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State, or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (1)(b); or

(4) Have had one or more public transactions (Federal, State, or local) terminated for cause or default within the preceding three years.

(5) The Recipient agrees that, unless authorized by the Grants Officer, it will not knowingly enter into any subaward or contracts under this grant/cooperative agreement with a person or entity that is not included on the System for Award Management (SAM) (https://www.sam.gov).

The Recipient further agrees to include the following provision in any subaward or contracts entered into under this award:

‘Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion

The Recipient certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently excluded or disqualified from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency. The policies and procedures applicable to debarment, suspension, and ineligibility under NRC-financed transactions are set forth 2 CFR Part 180 and 2 CFR Part 200.

Drug-Free Workplace

The Recipient must be in compliance with The Federal Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988. The policies and procedures applicable to violations of these requirements are set forth in 41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106.

Implementation of E.O.13224 – Executive Order on Terrorist Financing

The Recipient is reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the legal responsibility of the Recipient to ensure compliance with these Executive Orders and laws. This provision must be included in all contracts/sub-awards issued under this grant/cooperative agreement.

The Recipient must comply with E.O. 13224, Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions with Persons who Commit, Threaten to Commit, or Support Terrorism. Information about this Executive Order can be found at:
Implementation of Executive Order 13224 Blocking Property and Prohibiting Transactions With Persons Who Commit, Threaten To Commit, or Support Terrorism , amended by E.O. 13268, 13284, and 13372.

Procurement Standards - 2 CFR §§ 200.318-200.326
Sections 200.318 - 200.326 set forth standards for use by Recipients in establishing procedures for the procurement of supplies and other expendable property, equipment, real property and other services with Federal funds. These standards are furnished to ensure that such materials and services are obtained in an effective manner and in compliance with the provisions of applicable Federal statutes and executive orders. No additional procurement standards or requirements will be imposed by the Federal awarding agencies upon Recipients, unless specifically required by Federal statute, executive order, or approved by OMB.

Travel and Transportation
Travel must be in accordance with the Recipient's Travel Regulations or the U.S. Government Travel Policy and Regulations at: www.gsa.gov/federaltravelregulation and the per diem rates set forth at: www.gsa.gov/perdiem, absent Recipient's travel regulations. Travel and transportation costs for the grant must be consistent with provisions as established in 2 CFR § 200.473-474.

All other travel, domestic or international, must not increase the total estimated award amount for the grant.

Domestic Travel:
Domestic travel is an appropriate charge to this award and prior authorization for specific trips are not required, if the trip is identified in the Recipient's approved program description and approved budget. Domestic trips not stated in the approved budget require the written prior approval of the Grants Officer, and must not increase the total estimated award amount for the grant.

All common carrier travel reimbursable hereunder shall be via the least expensive class rates consistent with achieving the objective of the travel and in accordance with the Recipient's policies and practices. Travel by first-class travel is not authorized unless prior approval is obtained, in writing, from the Grants Officer.

International Travel:
International travel requires **PRIOR** written approval by the Project Officer and the Grants Officer, even if the international travel is stated in the approved program description and the approved budget.

The Recipient will comply with the provisions of the Fly America Act (49 U.S.C 40118), as implemented at 41 CFR §§ 301-10.131 through 301-10.143.

Property Standards
Property standards of this award shall follow provisions as established 2 CFR §§ 200.310-200.316.

Intangible Property
Intangible and intellectual property of this award shall generally follow provisions established in 2 CFR § 200.315.

Inventions Report - The Bayh-Dole Act (P.L. 96-517) affords Recipients the right to elect and retain title to inventions they develop with funding under an NRC grant award ("subject inventions"). In accepting an award, the Recipient agrees to comply with applicable NRC policies, the Bayh-Dole Act, and its Government-wide implementing regulations found at Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 401. A significant part of the regulations require that the Recipient report all subject inventions to the awarding agency (NRC) as well as include an acknowledgement of federal support in any patents.

Patent Notification Procedures - If the NRC or its Recipients, without making a patent search, knows (or has demonstrable reasonable grounds to know) that technology covered by a valid United States patent has been or will be used without a license from the owner, E.O.12889 requires NRC to notify the owner. If the Recipient uses or has used patented technology under this award without license or permission from the owner, the Recipient must notify the Grants Officer. This notice does not imply that the Government authorizes and consents to any copyright or patent infringement occurring under the financial assistance.

Data, Databases, and Software - The rights to any work produced or purchased under a NRC federal financial assistance award, such as data, databases or software are determined by Subpart D of 2 CFR Part 200. The Recipient owns any work produced or purchased under a NRC federal financial assistance award subject to NRC's right to obtain, reproduce, publish or otherwise use the work or authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish or otherwise use the data for Government purposes.

Copyright - The Recipient may copyright any work produced under a NRC federal financial assistance award subject to NRC's royalty-free nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish or otherwise use the work or authorize others to do so for Government purposes. Works jointly authored by NRC and Recipient employees may be copyrighted, but only the part authored by the Recipient is protected because, under 17 U.S.C. § 105, works produced by Government employees are not copyrightable in the United States. On occasion, NRC may ask the Recipient to transfer to NRC its copyright in a particular work when NRC is undertaking the primary dissemination of the work. Ownership of copyright by the Government through assignment is permitted under 17 U.S.C. § 105.

Record Retention and Access

Recipient shall follow established provisions in 2 CFR §§ 200.333-337.

Conflict Of Interest

Conflict of Interest standards for this award will follow the Organizational Conflict of Interest (OCOI) requirements set forth in Section 170A of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, and provisions set forth at 2 CFR § 200.112, Conflict of Interest.

Dispute Review Procedures

a. Any request for review of a notice of termination or other adverse decision should be addressed to the Grants Officer. It must be postmarked or transmitted electronically no later

than 30 days after the postmarked date of such termination or adverse decision from the Grants Officer.

b. The request for review must contain a full statement of the Recipient's position and the pertinent facts and reasons in support of such position.

c. The Grants Officer will promptly acknowledge receipt of the request for review and shall forward it to the Director, Office of Acquisition Management Division, unless otherwise delegated, who shall appoint an intra-agency Appeal Board to review a recipient appeal of an agency action, if required, which will consist of the program office director, the Deputy Director of Office of Administration, and the Office of General Counsel.

d. Pending resolution of the request for review, the NRC may withhold or defer payments under the award during the review proceedings.

e. The review committee will request the Grants Officer who issued the notice of termination or adverse action to provide copies of all relevant background materials and documents. The committee may, at its discretion, invite representatives of the Recipient and the NRC program office to discuss pertinent issues and to submit such additional information as it deems appropriate. The chairman of the review committee will insure that all review activities or proceedings are adequately documented.

f. Based on its review, the committee will prepare its recommendation to the Director, Office of Administration, who will advise the parties concerned of his/her decision.

Remedies for Noncompliance
Termination of this award will follow provisions as established and described above in "Dispute Review Process" in 2 CFR §§ 200.338-342.

Performance and Financial Monitoring and Reporting - 2 CFR §§ 200.327-329

Recipient Financial Management systems must comply with the provisions in 2 CFR § 200.302.

- Payment – 2 CFR § 200.305
- Cost Share or Matching – 2 CFR § 200.306
  - Recipients are to be careful with providing excessive cost share or match since at the end of the grant, if the identified match has not been provided, then a portion of the federal share may be required to be returned to the Government.
- Program Income – 2 CFR § 200.307
  - Earned program income, if any, will be added to funds committed to the project by the NRC and Recipient and used to further eligible project or program objectives or be deducted from the total project cost for the grant, as directed by the Grants Officer or indicated in the terms and conditions of the award.

- Revision of Budget and Program Plans – 2 CFR § 200.308
  - The Recipient is required to report deviations from the approved budget and program descriptions in accordance with – 2 CFR § 200.308(b) and request prior written approval from the Project Officer and the Grants Officer.
  - The Recipient is not authorized to re-budget between direct costs and indirect costs without written prior approval of the Grants Officer.

- The Recipient is authorized to transfer funds among direct cost categories up to a cumulative 10 percent of the total approved budget. The Recipient is not allowed to transfer funds if the transfer would cause any Federal appropriation to be used for purposes other than those consistent with the original intent of the appropriation.
- Allowable Costs – 2 CFR §§ 200.401-403

- See section 2 CFR §§ 200.330-332 for Subrecipient Monitoring and Management.

  Federal Financial Reports - In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.327, the Recipient will submit a "Federal Financial Report" (SF-425) on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31, and September 30, or any portion thereof, unless otherwise authorized by the Grants Officer. Reports are due no later than 30 days following the end of each reporting period. A final SF-425 is due within 90 days after expiration of the award. The report should be submitted electronically to: Grants_FFR.Resource@NRC.GOV. ***(NOTE: There is an underscore between Grants and FFR).***

  Performance Progress Reports - In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.328, the Recipient will submit Performance Progress Reports (SF-PPR, SF-PPR-B, and the SF-PPR-E) on an annual basis for the period ending September 30, or any portion thereof, unless otherwise authorized by the Grants Officer. Reports are due no later than 30 days following the end of the reporting period. Performance reports are sent to the Program Officer at the email address indicated in the Notice of Award, and to Grants Officer at: Grants_PPR.Resource@NRC.GOV. ***(NOTE: There is an underscore between Grants and PPR).***

  Final Reports - The Recipient is required to submit final reports, both Financial (SF-425) and Performance (SF-PPR, SF-PPR-B, SF-PPR-E) within 90 days of the grant expiration. In addition to these reports, a final SF-428, Tangible property report, is also required, if applicable.

Period of Performance – 2 CFR § 200.309

The recipient may charge to the Federal award only allowable costs incurred during the period of performance and any costs incurred before the NRC or pass-through entity made the Federal award that was authorized by the NRC or pass through entity.

Unless otherwise authorized in 2 CFR Part 200 or by special award condition, any extension of the award period can only be authorized by the Grants Officer in writing. Assurances of funding from other than the Grants Officer shall not constitute authority to obligate funds for programmatic activities beyond the expiration date.

The NRC Grant Officer may authorize a no cost extension of the period of performance. However, the NRC has no obligation to provide any additional prospective or incremental funding. Any modification of the award to increase funding and to extend the period of performance is at the sole discretion of the NRC.

Automated Standard Application For Payments (ASAP) Procedures

Unless otherwise stated, Recipient payments are made using the Department of Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) system, ASAP.gov, through preauthorized electronic funds transfers. To receive payments, Recipients are required to enroll with the Department of Treasury, Financial Management Service, and Regional Financial Centers, which

allows them to use the on-line method of withdrawing funds from their ASAP established accounts. The following information is required to make ASAP withdrawals: (1) ASAP account number – the award number found on the cover sheet of the award; (2) Agency Location Code (ALC) – 31000001; and Region Code. Recipients enrolled in the ASAP system do not need to submit a "Request for Advance or Reimbursement" (SF-270).

II. Audit Requirements

Audits

Organization-wide or program-specific audits are performed in accordance with the Single Audit Act of 1996, as amended, and as implemented by 2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F—AUDIT REQUIREMENTS. Recipients are subject to the provisions of this subpart if they expend $750,000 or more in a year in Federal awards. See 2 CFR 2 CFR § 200.501.

The Form SF-SAC and the Single Audit Reporting packages for fiscal periods ending on or after January 1, 2008 are submitted online, as follows:

1. Create your online report ID at: http://harvester.census.gov/fac/collect/ddeindex.html;
2. Complete the Form SF-SAC;
3. Upload the Single Audit;
4. Certify the Submission; and
5. Click "Submit."

Organizations expending less than $750,000 a year are not required to have an annual audit for that year but must make their grant-related records available to NRC or other designated officials for review or audit.

III. Programmatic Requirements

Grant Performance Metrics

The Office of Management and Budget requires all Federal Agencies providing funding for educational scholarships and fellowships as well as other educational related funding to report on specific metrics. These metrics are part of the Academic Competitiveness Council's (ACC) 2007 report and specifically relates to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) curricula.

The performance (technical) reports will contain brief information as prescribed in the applicable uniform administrative requirements 2 CFR §200.328. In addition to the customary performance progress report requested on the SF-PPR, SF-PPR-B, and SF-PPR-E forms, OCHCO requires the following metrics to be reported on by the recipients as follows:

Trade Schools and Community College Awards:

1. How many students have been sponsored by NRC funding?
    a. Response is the number of students, for this reporting period and cumulative to the grant.
2. How many students, supported by NRC funding, have received certification or are licensed in their field of study?

   a. Response is the number of students, for this reporting period and cumulative to the grant.
3. How many students, supported by NRC funding, have procured employment in the nuclear industry?
   a. Response is the number of students, for this reporting period and cumulative to the grant.

Unsatisfactory Performance
Failure to perform the work in accordance with the terms of the award and maintain at least a satisfactory performance rating may result in designation of the Recipient as high risk and the assignment of special award conditions. Further action may be required as specified in the standard term and condition entitled "Remedies for Noncompliance."

Failure to comply with the award provisions may result in a negative impact on future NRC funding. In addition, the Grants Officer may withhold payments; change the method of payment from advance to reimbursement; impose special award conditions; suspend or terminate the grant.

Other Federal Awards With Similar Programmatic Activities
The Recipient will immediately notify the Project Officer and the Grants Officer in writing if after award, other financial assistance is received to support or fund any portion of the program description stated in the NRC award. NRC will not pay for costs that are funded by other sources.

Prohibition Against Assignment By The Recipient
The Recipient will not transfer, pledge, mortgage, or otherwise assign the award, or any interest to the award, or any claim arising under the award, to any party, banks, trust companies, or other financing or financial institutions without the written approval of the Grants Officer.

Site Visits
The NRC, through authorized representatives, has the right to make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems and to provide technical assistance as required. If any site visit is made by the NRC on the premises of the Recipient or contractor under an award, the Recipient shall provide and shall require his/her contractors to provide reasonable access to all facilities and provide necessary assistance for the safety and convenience of the Government representative in the performance of his/her official duties.

IV. Miscellaneous Requirements

Criminal and Prohibited Activities
The Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3801-3812), provides for the imposition of civil penalties against persons who make false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims to the Federal government for money (including money representing grant/cooperative agreements, loans, or other benefits).

False statements (18 U.S.C. § 287), provides that whoever makes or presents any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements, representations, or claims against the United States shall be subject to imprisonment of not more than five years and shall be subject to a fine in the amount provided by 18 USC §287.

False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. § 3729 et seq.), provides that suits under this Act can be brought by the government, or a person on behalf of the government, for false claims under federal assistance programs.

Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (18 U.S.C. § 874), prohibits a person or organization engaged in a federally supported project from enticing an employee working on the project from giving up a part of his compensation under an employment contract.

American-Made Equipment And Products
Recipients are encouraged to purchase American-made equipment and products with funding provided under this award.

Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States
E.O. 13043, amended by E.O. 13652, requires Recipients to encourage employees and contractors to enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs when operating company-owned, rented or personally-owned vehicle.

Federal Leadership of Reducing Text Messaging While Driving
E.O. 13513 requires Recipients to encourage employees, sub-awardees, and contractors to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving company-owned, rented vehicles or privately owned vehicles when on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Federal Government.

Federal Employee Expenses
Federal agencies are barred from accepting funds from a Recipient to pay transportation, travel, or other expenses for any Federal employee unless specifically approved in the terms of the award. Use of award funds (Federal or non-Federal) or the Recipient's provision of in-kind goods or services, for the purposes of transportation, travel, or any other expenses for any Federal employee may raise appropriation augmentation issues. In addition, NRC policy prohibits the acceptance of gifts, including travel payments for Federal employees, from Recipients or applicants regardless of the source.

Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) Initiative
Pursuant to E.O.s 13230 and 13270, amended by E.O. 13316 and 13385, 13532, 13592, 13555, 13515, and 13621, NRC is strongly committed to broadening the participation of MSIs in its financial assistance program. NRC's goals include achieving full participation of MSIs in order to advance the development of human potential, strengthen the Nation's capacity to provide high-quality education, and increase opportunities for MSIs to participate in and benefit from Federal financial assistance programs. NRC encourages all applicants and Recipients to include meaningful participations of MSIs. Institutions eligible to be considered MSIs are listed on the Department of Education website: http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/edlite-minorityinst.html

Research Misconduct
Scientific or research misconduct refers to the fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. It does not include honest errors or differences of opinions. The Recipient organization has the primary responsibility to investigate allegations and provide reports to the Federal Government. Funds expended on an activity that is determined to be invalid or unreliable because of scientific misconduct may result in a disallowance of costs for which the institution may be liable for repayment to the awarding agency. The Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White

House published in the Federal Register on December 6, 2000, a final policy that addressed research misconduct. The policy was developed by the National Science and Technology Council (65 FR 76260). The NRC requires that any allegation be submitted to the Grants Officer, who will also notify the OIG of such allegation. Generally, the Recipient organization shall investigate the allegation and submit its findings to the Grants Officer. The NRC may accept the Recipient's findings or proceed with its own investigation. The Grants Officer shall inform the Recipient of the NRC's final determination.

Publications, Videos, and Acknowledgment of Sponsorship

Publication of the results or findings of a research project in appropriate professional journals and production of video or other media is encouraged as an important method of recording and reporting scientific information. It is also a constructive means to expand access to federally funded research. The Recipient is required to submit a copy to the NRC and when releasing information related to a funded project include a statement that the project or effort undertaken was or is sponsored by the NRC. The Recipient is also responsible for assuring that every publication of material (including Internet sites and videos) based on or developed under an award, except scientific articles or papers appearing in scientific, technical or professional journals, contains the following disclaimer:

> "This **[report/video]** was prepared by **[Recipient name]** under award **[number]** from **[name of operating unit]**, Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the **[name of operating unit]** or the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission."

Trafficking In Victims Protection Act Of 2000 (as amended by the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003)

Section 106(g) of the Trafficking In Victims Protection Act Of 2000 (as amended as amended, directs on a government-wide basis that:

> "…any grant, contract, or cooperative agreement provided or entered into by a Federal department or agency under which funds are to be provided to a private entity, in whole or in part, shall include a condition that authorizes the department or agency to terminate the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement, without penalty, if the recipient or any subrecipient, or the contractor or any subcontractor (i) engages in severe forms of trafficking in persons or has procured a commercial sex act during the period of time that the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement is in effect, or (ii) uses forced labor in the performance of the grant, contract, or cooperative agreement." (See 22 U.S.C. §7104(g).)

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION REPORTING

2 CFR § 170.220 directs agencies to include the following text to each grant award to a non-federal entity if the total funding is $25,000 or more in Federal funding.

Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation.

a. *Reporting of first-tier subawards.*

1. *Applicability.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, you must report each action that obligates $25,000.00 or more in Federal funds that does not include Recovery funds (as defined in section 1512(a)(2) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment

Act of 2009, Pub. L. 111–5) for a subaward to an entity (see definitions in paragraph e. of this award term).

2. *Where and when to report.*

i. You must report each obligating action described in paragraph a.1. of this award term to *http://www.fsrs.gov*.

ii. For subaward information, report no later than the end of the month following the month in which the obligation was made. (For example, if the obligation was made on November 7, 2010, the obligation must be reported by no later than December 31, 2010.)

3. *What to report.* You must report the information about each obligating action that the submission instructions posted at *http://www.fsrs.gov* specify.

b. *Reporting Total Compensation of Recipient Executives.*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* You must report total compensation for each of your five most highly compensated executives for the preceding completed fiscal year, if—

i. the total Federal funding authorized to date under this award is $25,000.00 or more;

ii. in the preceding fiscal year, you received—

(A) 80 percent or more of your annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR § 170.320 (and subawards); and

(B) $25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR § 170.320 (and subawards); and

iii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at *http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm*.)

2. *Where and when to report.* You must report executive total compensation described in paragraph b.1. of this award term:

i. As part of your registration profile at *http://www.sam.gov* .

ii. By the end of the month following the month in which this award is made, and annually thereafter.

c. *Reporting of Total Compensation of Subrecipient Executives.*

1. *Applicability and what to report.* Unless you are exempt as provided in paragraph d. of this award term, for each first-tier subrecipient under this award, you shall report the names and total compensation of each of the subrecipient's five most highly compensated executives for the subrecipient's preceding completed fiscal year, if—

i. in the subrecipient's preceding fiscal year, the subrecipient received—

(A) 80 percent or more of its annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts) and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act, as defined at 2 CFR § 170.320 (and subawards); and

(B) $25,000,000 or more in annual gross revenues from Federal procurement contracts (and subcontracts), and Federal financial assistance subject to the Transparency Act (and subawards); and

ii. The public does not have access to information about the compensation of the executives through periodic reports filed under section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m(a), 78o(d)) or section 6104 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. (To determine if the public has access to the compensation information, see the U.S. Security and Exchange Commission total compensation filings at *http://www.sec.gov/answers/execomp.htm*.)

2. *Where and when to report.* You must report subrecipient executive total compensation described in paragraph c.1. of this award term:

i. To the recipient.

ii. By the end of the month following the month during which you make the subaward. For example, if a subaward is obligated on any date during the month of October of a given year (*i.e.,* between October 1 and 31), you must report any required compensation information of the subrecipient by November 30 of that year.

d. *Exemptions*

If, in the previous tax year, you had gross income, from all sources, under $300,000.00, you are exempt from the requirements to report:

i. Subawards,

and

ii. The total compensation of the five most highly compensated executives of any subrecipient.

e. *Definitions.* For purposes of this award term:

1. *Entity* means all of the following, as defined in 2 CFR Part 25:

i. A Governmental organization, which is a State, local government, or Indian tribe;

ii. A foreign public entity;

iii. A domestic or foreign nonprofit organization;

iv. A domestic or foreign for-profit organization;

v. A Federal agency, but only as a subrecipient under an award or subaward to a non-Federal entity.

2. *Executive* means officers, managing partners, or any other employees in management positions.

3. *Subaward:*

i. This term means a legal instrument to provide support for the performance of any portion of the substantive project or program for which you received this award and that you as the recipient award to an eligible subrecipient.

ii. The term does not include your procurement of property and services needed to carry out the project or program (for further explanation, see Sec. __ .210 of the attachment to OMB Circular A–133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations)

iii. A subaward may be provided through any legal agreement, including an agreement that you or a subrecipient considers a contract.

4. *Subrecipient* means an entity that:

i. Receives a subaward from you (the recipient) under this award; and

ii. Is accountable to you for the use of the Federal funds provided by the subaward.

5. *Total compensation* means the cash and noncash dollar value earned by the executive during the recipient's or subrecipient's preceding fiscal year and includes the following (for more information see 17 CFR § 229.402(c)(2)):

i. *Salary and bonus.*

ii. *Awards of stock, stock options, and stock appreciation rights.* Use the dollar amount recognized for financial statement reporting purposes with respect to the fiscal year in accordance with the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123 (Revised 2004) (FAS 123R), Shared Based Payments.

iii. *Earnings for services under non-equity incentive plans.* This does not include group life, health, hospitalization or medical reimbursement plans that do not discriminate in favor of executives, and are available generally to all salaried employees.

iv. *Change in pension value.* This is the change in present value of defined benefit and actuarial pension plans.

v. *Above-market earnings on deferred compensation which is not tax-qualified.*

vi. Other compensation, if the aggregate value of all such other compensation (e.g., severance, termination payments, value of life insurance paid on behalf of the employee, perquisites or property) for the executive exceeds $10,000.00.