

FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers

Overview Information

1. Federal Agency Name: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Department of Commerce
2. Funding Opportunity Title: NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers
3. Announcement Type: Initial Announcement
4. Funding Opportunity Competition Number: 2010-SI-01
5. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.609
6. Dates: 26 April 2010, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Executive Summary: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announces the availability of Federal assistance for educational institutions to provide limited support for middle school science teachers to attend the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers. Teachers from qualified applicants should be involved in teaching areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at the middle school level (grades 6-8), including, but not limited to, earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology. This program responds to a need for these targeted teachers to receive instruction and activities that will encourage them to inspire students to pursue careers in STEM fields.

Full Text of Announcement

a. Funding Opportunity Description:

Statutory Authority: 15 U.S.C. § 278g-2a, 15 U.S.C. 272(b)(4)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is soliciting applications from qualified public school districts or accredited private educational institutions that are teaching students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) at the middle school level (Grades 6-8). Such schools may offer instruction in general science fields including earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology. NIST will award funding that will support the attendance of middle school teachers in the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST SI), to be held July 6-19, 2010 to be held at the NIST Gaithersburg, Maryland, campus.

The aim of the NIST SI is to increase teachers' understanding of the subjects they teach, provide materials and resources to implement what they have learned at NIST in the classroom, enhance their enthusiasm for science, and provide them the opportunity to develop an on-going network with the scientists and engineers at NIST, who would be available for consultation even after the NIST SI has ended.

The NIST Summer Institute is a hands-on workshop where middle school science teachers are able to take advantage of resources from the nation's standards and measurement laboratory, the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The workshop will provide teachers with instructional materials and ideas to use in their teaching, and will emphasize the measurement science done at NIST. The aim is to take a selection of the cutting-edge research at NIST and help the teachers translate this through hands-on activities into classroom-based learning modules. In addition to ideas and activities to incorporate into lesson plans, teaching tools are directly provided to allow the teachers to demonstrate to their students the activities that they select from this workshop. The program will provide a world-class opportunity for those teaching our nation's next generation of scientists to learn more about the subjects they teach and the research in those subjects at NIST, and offer a platform from which teachers can inspire their students to pursue STEM careers.

Teachers representing successful applicants will be supported via a small stipend, awarded through their respective school district or private educational institution.

b. Award Information:

The selected teachers from successful applicant school districts or private educational institutions will be required to attend the NIST SI from July 6-19, 2010 at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD.

Funds budgeted for payments to teachers under this program are stipends, not salary, and are intended to provide limited support for attending the two- week SI. The actual number of awards made under this announcement will depend on availability of funding, but it is planned that a total of \$40,000 will be awarded to support a total of twenty teachers to attend the NIST SI from July 6 – 19, 2010. Each teacher will be funded \$2000 as a stipend, to be awarded through cooperative agreements to their respective local school district or private educational institutions. Neither housing nor travel allowances are provided. The earliest anticipated start date for the awards is June 21, 2010, and this date should be used as the proposed start date on proposals unless otherwise directed by the NIST Office of International and Academic Affairs.

The funding instrument will be a cooperative agreement. NIST will be substantially involved due to interaction with the recipient such as on-site collaboration, involvement in training recipient personnel, and limiting recipient discretion in the scope of work

c. Eligibility Information:

1. Eligible Applicants

The NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers grant program is open to public school districts and private educational institutions teaching at the middle school level. Such schools may offer instruction in, but not limited to, earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology. Participating teachers from the applicant school districts or private educational institutes must be U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents.

Teachers proposed within the application for participation in the NIST SI must be employed for the 2010-2011 school year to teach middle school science or math (grades 6, 7, and/or 8) in a public or private school. The topics taught may include earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology.

2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing and matching are not required under this program.

d. Application and Submission Information:

1. Address to Request Application Package

Users of Grants.gov (www.grants.gov) will be able to download a copy of the application package, complete it off line, and then upload and submit the application package and associated proposal information via the www.grants.gov website.

For electronic submission – Applicants should follow the application Instructions provided at Grants.gov when submitting a response to this funding opportunity.

For paper submission – Applicants are required to submit one (1) signed original and (2) two copies of the full application. An application kit, containing all required forms and certifications, may be obtained by accessing the following website: <http://www.nist.gov/oiaa/>

A paper copy of the application kit may be obtained by contacting Susan Heller-Zeisler, Office of International and Academic Affairs, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mailstop 1090, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20899-1090; Tel.: (301) 975-3111; e-mail: szeisler@nist.gov

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

All proposals are to be submitted to Susan Heller-Zeisler, Office of International and Academic Affairs, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mailstop 8190, Gaithersburg, Maryland, 20899-1090; Tel.: (301) 975-3111; e-mail: szeisler@nist.gov.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Applications, paper and electronic, must be received no later than 26 April 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. This deadline applies to any mode of proposal submission, including courier, delivery service, express mailing, and electronic.

Important: The submitters of all applications, both electronic and paper, should be aware that adequate time must be factored into applicant schedules for delivery of the application. Submitters of electronic applications are advised that volume on grants.gov is currently extremely heavy, and if Grants.gov is unable to accept applications electronically in a timely fashion, applicants are encouraged to exercise their option to submit applications in paper format.

Applications must be received on time, as the review process is expected to begin shortly after the deadline.

4. Intergovernmental Review

Executive Order 12372: Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, ``Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

5. Funding Restrictions

The NIST SI will not authorize funds for indirect costs or fringe benefits.

6. Other Submission Requirements

Paper applications should be sent Susan Heller-Zeisler, Office of International and Academic Affairs, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mailstop 1090, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-1090; Tel.: (301) 975-3111; e-mail: szeisler@nist.gov

Applications may be submitted electronically via <http://www.grants.gov>. Any revisions to the submission requirements, including revisions, for any reason, to the due date for applications, will be announced through amendments to the FFO in Grants.gov and in the Federal Register when applicable. Applicants can sign up for Grants.gov FFO amendments, while applicants without access to the Internet can contact the program and have any changes mailed to them.

Instructions for Applying Electronically for the NIST Announcement 2010-SI-01

The following forms are available as part of the Grants.gov application kit and can be completed through the download application process.

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424A, Budget Information – Nonconstruction Programs
- SF-424B, Assurances – Nonconstruction Programs
- CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)

The list of certifications and assurances referenced in item number 21 of the SF-424 is contained in the SF-424B.

In addition to these forms, a word-processed document listing the names of the nominated teachers for the application should be included. Please attach the word-processed document to the application in Grants.gov by clicking on the "Add Attachments" oblong found in field 15 of the SF-424 form.

In order for an application to be considered complete, it must meet all the application documentation requirements stated in this Federal Funding Opportunity notice.

Applicants may choose to scan or create the necessary documents and then attach them to the application in www.grants.gov.

If you choose to apply via Grants.gov, all requirements of the application described above must be also be included. Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions to ensure the attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicating a proposal is received does not provide information about whether attachments have been received. For further information or questions regarding applying electronically for the 2010-SI-01 announcement, please contact Christopher Hunton at 301-975-5718, e-mail address Christopher.Hunton@nist.gov

Applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not to wait until the approaching due date before logging on and reviewing the instructions for submitting an application through Grants.gov.

The Grants.gov registration process must be completed before a new registrant can apply electronically. If all goes well, the registration process takes from 3 to 5 business days. If problems are encountered, the registration process can take up to 2 weeks or more. Applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number and must be registered with the Federal Central Contractor Registry and with a Credential Provider, as explained on the Grants.gov web site. After registering, it may take several days or longer from the initial log-on before a new Grants.gov system user can submit an application. Only authorized individual(s) will be able to submit the application, and the system may need time to process a submitted application. Applicants should save and print the proof of submission they receive from Grants.gov. If problems occur while using Grants.gov, the applicant is advised to (a) print any error message received, and (b) call Grants.gov directly at 800-518-4726 for immediate assistance. Assistance from the Grants.gov Help Desk will be available around the clock every day, with the exception of Federal holidays. Help Desk service will resume at 7:00am Eastern Time the day after Federal holidays. For assistance using the Grants.gov, you may also contact support@grants.gov.

Please refer to important information in the “Submission Dates and Times” above to help ensure your application is received on time.

1. Selection Process

Upon receipt of an application submitted by an eligible institution, NIST will assign each teacher proposed for participation in the NIST SI an identification code without bias. NIST will fill the 20 available slots for the Summer Institute by randomly selecting from the assigned codes using a blind selection process. The amount of the grant awarded to an institution will be determined by the number of teachers who are selected from that institution’s application.

The final selection of institutions and awarding of grants will be made by the NIST Grants Officer in Gaithersburg, Maryland, based on compliance with application requirements, as published in this notice, and applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Unsatisfactory performance on any previous Federal award may result in an application not being considered for funding. Applicants may be asked to provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. The decision of the Grants Officer is final. Applicants should allow up to 45 days processing time. The decision of the Grants Officer is final.

f. Award Administration Information

1. Award Notices

Each successful awardee will receive a cooperative agreement award document from the Grants Officer. The document will be mailed via surface mail in triplicate. The recipient should have an authorized official at the organization sign and return two copies to the address listed in the award document. The award document will also include the standard terms and conditions, general terms and conditions, and special award conditions that are applicable.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements: The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and

Cooperative Agreements, which are contained in the *Federal Register Notice* of February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), are applicable to this solicitation. On the form SF-424 items 8.b. and 8.c., the applicant's 9-digit Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN) and 9-digit Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number must be consistent with the information on the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) (www.ccr.gov) and Automated Standard Application for Payment System (ASAP). For complex organizations with multiple EIN/TIN and DUNS numbers, the EIN/TIN and DUNS numbers MUST be the numbers for the applying organization. Organizations that provide incorrect/inconsistent EIN/TIN and DUNS numbers may experience significant delays in receiving funds if their proposal is selected for funding. Please confirm that the EIN/TIN and DUNS number are consistent with the information on the CCR and ASAP.

Use of NIST Intellectual Property: If the applicant anticipates using any NIST-owned intellectual property to carry out the work proposed, the applicant should identify such intellectual property. This information will be used to ensure that no NIST employee involved in the development of the intellectual property will participate in the review process for that competition. In addition, if the applicant intends to use NIST-owned intellectual property, the applicant must comply with all statutes and regulations governing the licensing of Federal government patents and inventions, described at 35 U.S.C. §§ 200-212, 37 C.F.R. Part 401, 15 C.F.R. Part 14.36, and in Section B.21 of the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements, 73 Fed. Reg. 7696 (February 11, 2008). Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Counsel for NIST, 301-975-2803.

Any use of NIST-owned intellectual property by a proposer is at the sole discretion of NIST and will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis if a project is deemed meritorious. The applicant should indicate within the statement of work whether it already has a license to use such intellectual property or whether it intends to seek one.

If any inventions made in whole or in part by a NIST employee arise in the course of an award made pursuant to this notice, the United States government may retain its ownership rights in any such invention. Licensing or other disposition of NIST's rights in such inventions will be determined solely by NIST, and include the possibility of NIST putting the intellectual property into the public domain.

Initial Screening of all Applications: All applications received in response to this announcement will be reviewed to determine whether or not they are complete and responsive to the scope of the stated program objectives. Incomplete applications will not be included for random selection. The Program Office will retain one copy of each incomplete application for three years for record keeping purposes. The remaining copies will be destroyed.

Research Projects Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects: Any proposal that includes research involving human subjects, human tissue, data or recordings involving human subjects must meet the requirements of the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects, codified for the Department of Commerce at 15 C.F.R. Part 27. In addition, any proposal that includes research on these topics must be in compliance with any statutory requirements imposed upon the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other federal agencies regarding these topics, all regulatory policies and guidance adopted by DHHS, the Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal agencies on these topics, and all Presidential statements of policy on these topics.

NIST will accept the submission of human subjects protocols that have been approved by Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) registered with DHHS and performed by entities possessing a current, valid

Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) from DHHS. NIST will not issue a single project assurance (SPA) for any IRB reviewing any human subjects protocol proposed to NIST.

President Obama has issued Executive Order No. 13,505 (74 FR 10667, March 9, 2009), revoking previous Executive Orders and Presidential statements regarding the use of human embryonic stem cells in research. On July 30, 2009, President Obama issued a memorandum directing that agencies that support and conduct stem cell research adopt the “National Institutes of Health Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research” (NIH Guidelines), which became effective on July 7, 2009, “to the fullest extent practicable in light of legal authorities and obligations.” On September 21, 2009, the Department of Commerce submitted to the Office of Management and Budget a statement of compliance with the NIH Guidelines. In accordance with the President’s memorandum, the NIH Guidelines, and the Department of Commerce statement of compliance, NIST will support and conduct research using only human embryonic stem cell lines that have been approved by NIH in accordance with the NIH Guidelines and will review such research in accordance with the Common Rule and NIST implementing procedures, as appropriate. NIST will not support or conduct any type of research that the NIH Guidelines prohibit NIH from funding. NIST will follow any additional policies or guidance issued by the current Administration on this topic.

Research Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals: Any proposal that includes research involving vertebrate animals must be in compliance with the National Research Council's “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” which can be obtained from National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20055. In addition, such proposals must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.), 9 C.F.R. Parts 1, 2, and 3, and if appropriate, 21 C.F.R. Part 58. These regulations do not apply to proposed research using pre-existing images of animals or to research plans that do not include live animals that are being cared for, euthanized, or used by the project participants to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing. These regulations also do not apply to obtaining animal materials from commercial processors of animal products or to animal cell lines or tissues from tissue banks.

Limitation of Liability: Funding for the programs listed in this notice is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations. In no event will NIST or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of agency priorities. Publication of this announcement does not oblige NIST or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.”

3. Reporting

In addition to the Financial and Programmatic Reporting requirements described in the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions dated March, 2008, which can be found on the Internet at: <http://oamweb.ossec.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/DOC%20STCsMAR08Rev.pdf>, the following reporting requirements apply:

(a) Financial Requirements – Financial Reports

The successful applicants will be required to complete a SF-425, Federal Financial Report. In addition, each teacher will be required to complete a short summary of their experience in the Summer Institute, which will be made a part of the official award file and will take the place of the Final Project/Performance report required as part of the closeout procedures of any award.

(b) Programmatic Requirements – Performance (Technical) Reports

Unless otherwise specified in the award provisions, each teacher shall submit to his or her institution and to NIST, a brief report on their experiences and accomplishments during the program within 30 days after the end of the program. The level of detail should allow for NIST's assessment of the overall success of the program and the potential renewal of the application. Reports should be submitted in electronic format, where possible; otherwise, hard copy reports may be sent to the Program Officer, Susan Heller-Zeisler.

g. Agency Contact(s):

Program questions should be addressed to Susan Heller-Zeisler, Office of International and Academic Affairs, National Institute of Standards and Technology, 100 Bureau Drive, Mailstop 1090, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-1090; Tel.: (301) 975-3111; E-mail: szeisler@nist.gov. The NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers program website is: <http://www.nist.gov/oiaa/>. All grants-related administrative questions concerning this program should be directed to Judy Murphy, NIST Grants and Agreements Management Division at (301) 975-5603 or by e-mail at judy.murphy@nist.gov. For assistance with using Grants.gov, contact support@grants.gov.