

February 22, 2011

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), United States Department of Commerce (DoC)
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET)
- **Announcement Type:** Initial
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** 2011-NIST-RET-01
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 11.609, Measurement and Engineering Research and Standards
- **Dates:** Applications must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Thursday, March 24, 2011. Review, selection, and cooperative agreement award processing is expected to be completed in May 2011. The earliest anticipated start date for awards made under this Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) is July 1, 2011.
- **Proposal Submission Address:**
 - Paper Submission: Dr. Mary Satterfield
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Biochemical Science Division
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 6310
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-6310

Phone: 301-975-5364
 - Electronic submission: www.grants.gov
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** NIST is soliciting applications from eligible U.S. public school districts or U.S. accredited private educational institutions nominating middle school science teachers, who have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute), to participate in the NIST Research Experience for Teachers program (NIST RET or Program). The NIST RET will allow the selected teachers to participate in scientific research with NIST scientists and engineers at the NIST Campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland, that will encourage the teachers to inspire their students to pursue careers in fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The selected teachers will be required to attend the NIST RET during the summer of 2011 (exact dates to be decided by the teachers and scientists).
- **Total Amount to be Awarded:** Approximately \$16,000 for new cooperative agreements may be available.

- **Anticipated Amounts:** NIST plans to award a total of \$16,000 to eligible applicants to support a total of two (2) teachers to attend the NIST RET.
- **Funding Instrument:** Cooperative Agreement
- **Who Is Eligible:** U.S. public school districts and U.S. accredited private educational institutions that are teaching students in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) at the middle school level (Grades 6-8), and whose nominated teachers have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute, are eligible to apply for awards under this Program.
- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** This Program does not require cost sharing.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

NIST is soliciting applications from eligible U.S. public school districts or U.S. accredited private educational institutions that are teaching students in the fields of STEM at the middle school level (Grades 6-8). Such schools must offer instruction in general science fields, including but not limited to earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology. NIST may award funding that will support the attendance of middle school science teachers in the NIST RET for six (6) weeks during the summer of 2011 (exact dates to be decided by the teachers and scientists), at the NIST Campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The NIST RET will enable two (2) qualified middle school science teachers to take advantage of resources from the nation's premier standards and measurement laboratory, NIST. The aim is to provide teachers who have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute an opportunity to further their understanding of how scientific research is performed by participating in research at NIST for six (6) weeks. Selected teachers will work side-by-side with NIST research scientists on projects that combine research with direct applications tailored to developing, maintaining, advancing, and enabling the measurement system for the nation. The research projects in which the teachers engage will be selected to be highly relevant to the teachers' interests and the NIST mission. For more information see <http://www.nist.gov/iaao/teachlearn/>.

The statutory authorities for the NIST-RET are 15 U.S.C. § 272(b)(4) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-2a.

II. Award Information

All funding is contingent upon the availability of fiscal year (FY) 2011 Federal appropriations, which have not yet been made available for the NIST RET. However, NIST plans that a total of \$16,000 may be available in FY 2011 to support a total of two (2) teachers to attend the NIST RET. The actual number of cooperative agreements awarded will depend on the number of teachers selected from each successful applicant U.S. public school district or U.S. accredited private educational institution to participate in the NIST RET. The selected teachers will be required to attend the NIST RET during the summer of 2011 (exact dates to be decided by the teachers and scientists), at the NIST Campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Each teacher selected from each successful applicant U.S. public school district or U.S. accredited private educational institution will receive \$8,000 as a stipend for six (6) full weeks. Neither housing nor travel allowances are provided to the teachers.

The earliest anticipated start date for the awards is July 1, 2011, which should be used as the proposed start date in the applications. The project start date, therefore, must not be earlier than July 1, 2011.

The funding instrument that will be used is a cooperative agreement. NIST will be substantially involved through interactions with the recipient such as on-site collaboration, training of the teacher(s), and limited recipient discretion in the scope of work.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

U.S. public school districts and U.S. accredited private educational institutions that are teaching students in the fields of STEM at the middle school level (Grades 6-8), and whose nominated teachers have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute are eligible to apply for awards under the NIST RET. Such schools must offer instruction in fields of STEM, including but not limited to earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology.

Each applicant U.S. public school district or U.S. accredited private educational institution is limited to nominating no more than one (1) teacher per school for participation in the NIST RET.

Each teacher nominated to participate in the NIST RET from the applicant U.S. public school districts or U.S. accredited private educational institutions must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- a. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident.
- b. Commit six (6) full weeks (Monday through Friday) from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., during the summer of 2011, to participate in the NIST RET, at the NIST Campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland.
- c. Be employed for the 2011-2012 school year to teach middle school (Grades 6-8) science in a U.S. public school district or U.S. accredited private educational institution. The topics taught must include fields of STEM and may include but are not limited to earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology.
- d. Previously successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute.

Applicants are encouraged, but are not required, to nominate eligible teachers from a “high-need school” as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11), which is reproduced in relevant part below:

20 U.S.C. § 1021:

“(11) High-need school.—

(A) In general.--The term ‘high-need school’ means a school that, based on the most recent data available, meets one or both of the following:

- (i) The school is in the highest quartile of schools in a ranking of all schools served by a local educational agency, ranked in descending order by percentage of students from low-income families enrolled in such schools, as determined by the local educational agency based on one of the following measures of poverty:
 - (I) The percentage of students aged 5 through 17 in poverty counted in the most recent census data approved by the Secretary.

- (II) The percentage of students eligible for a free or reduced price school lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.
 - (III) The percentage of students in families receiving assistance under the State program funded under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act.
 - (IV) The percentage of students eligible to receive medical assistance under the Medicaid program.
 - (V) A composite of two or more of the measures described in subclauses (I) through (IV).
- (ii) In the case of--
- (I) an elementary school, the school serves students not less than 60 percent of whom are eligible for a free or reduced price school lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; or
 - (II) any other school that is not an elementary school, the other school serves students not less than 45 percent of whom are eligible for a free or reduced price school lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act.”

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching**

Cost sharing or matching is not required under this Program.

3. **Other**

- a. **Limit on Nominated Teachers.** Each submitting applicant U.S. public school district or U.S. accredited private educational institution is limited to nominating no more than one (1) teacher per school for participation in the NIST RET. Each teacher nominated must have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute.
- b. **Ineligible, Incomplete, and/or Unresponsive Applications.** Applications determined during the initial administrative review to be submitted by ineligible applicants; are incomplete, e.g., missing required forms and/or documents; and/or are unresponsive, e.g., do not address the evaluation criteria, etc., as stated in this FFO, will be eliminated and not receive further review or consideration for funding.
- c. **Pre-Applications.** NIST is not accepting pre-applications under this Program.

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. **Address to Request Application Package**

The standard application package consisting of the standard forms, i.e., SF-424, SF-424A, SF-424B, SF-LLL, and the CD-511, is available at www.grants.gov. The full application package consisting of all of the required forms, i.e., the standard forms plus the NIST-1103, is available at <http://www.nist.gov/iaao/teachlearn/>.

For applicants without Internet access, the full application package may be requested by contacting:

Dr. Mary Satterfield

National Institute of Standards and Technology
Biochemical Science Division
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 6310
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-6310

Phone: 301-975-5364

2. Content and Form of Application Submission

a. Required Forms and Documents

- (1) SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. The list of certifications and assurances referenced in item 21 of the SF-424 is contained in the SF-424B.
- (2) SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs
- (3) SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- (4) SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)
- (5) CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying
- (6) Additional Applicant Information. This is a word-processed document written by the applying U.S. public school district or U.S. accredited private educational institution and must contain the following information in no more than five (5) pages.
 - (a) Description of the applicant's education programs that make it eligible to submit a NIST RET application. Specifically, teaching students in the fields of STEM at the middle school level (Grades 6-8). Such schools must offer instruction in fields of STEM, including but not limited to earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology.
 - (b) Summary list of the teacher(s) being nominated and certification that:
 - i. Each nominated teacher will have teaching responsibilities in fields of STEM at the middle school level (Grades 6-8) in the 2011-2012 school year;
 - ii. Each nominated teacher is a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident; and
 - iii. If applicable, the nominated teacher is from a "high-need school" as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11) (*see also* Section III.1. of this FFO).
 - (c) Address the evaluation criterion of the Applicant's Commitment to Program Goals: The applicant's support of the teacher's intent to use what was learned at NIST as related to the middle school curriculum in the classroom (*see* Section V.1.b. of this FFO).
- (7) NIST-1103, Teacher Application for the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) or the NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET)

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

If submitting the application electronically via Grants.gov, items 2.a.(1) through 2.a.(5) above are part of the standard application package in Grants.gov. Items 2.a.(6) and 2.a.(7) are to be completed and attached as a single PDF document by clicking on "Add Attachments" found in item 15 of the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance.

If submitting an application by paper, all of the required application documents should be submitted in the order listed above.

b. Application Format

- (1) **Bindings.** For paper submissions, staple the original signed application and each of the two copies securely with one staple in the upper left-hand corner.
- (2) **Double-sided copy.** For paper submissions, print on both sides of the paper (front to back counts as two pages).
- (3) **E-mail submissions.** Will not be accepted.
- (4) **Facsimile submissions (fax).** Will not be accepted.
- (5) **Font.** Times New Roman or Arial preferred or equivalent and readable (11-point minimum)
- (6) **Line spacing.** Single.
- (7) **Margins.** One (1) inch top, bottom, left, and right.
- (8) **Number of paper copies.** For paper submissions, one signed stapled original and two stapled copies. If original application is in color, the two copies must also be in color. If submitting electronically via Grants.gov, paper copies are not required.
- (9) **Page layout.** Portrait only.
- (10) **Page limit.** Five (5) pages for Additional Applicant Information.

Page limit excludes: The following forms, including required attachments, are not included in the page limit: SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance; SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs; SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs; SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying; and NIST-1103, Teacher Application for the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) or the NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET).

- (11) **Page numbering.** Number pages sequentially.
- (12) **Paper size.** 21.6 by 27.9 centimeters (8 ½ by 11 inches).
- (13) **Application language.** English.
- (14) **Table of contents.** Do not include; not required. If included, will count toward page limit.
- (15) **Typed document.** All applications, including forms, must be typed; handwritten applications and forms will not be accepted.

3. Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be received by NIST no later than 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Thursday, March 24, 2011. This deadline applies to all modes of application submission, including courier services, express mailing, and electronic.

Applications not received by the specified due date will not be considered and will be returned without review. NIST determines whether the applications submitted by mail have been timely received by the deadline by date and time receipt they are physically received by NIST at its Gaithersburg, Maryland campus. For electronic submissions, NIST will consider the date and time stamped on the validation generated by www.grants.gov as the official submission time.

NIST strongly recommends that applicants do not wait until the last minute to submit an application. NIST will not make any allowances for late submissions, including but not limited to incomplete Grants.gov registration, delays in mail delivery caused by Federal Government security screening for U.S. Postal Service mail, or for delays by guaranteed express mailing and/or couriers. To avoid any potential processing backlogs due to last minute Grants.gov registrations, applicants are highly encouraged to start their Grants.gov registration process at least four (4) weeks prior to the application due date.

Important: All applicants, both electronic and paper submitters, should be aware that adequate time must be factored into applicants' schedules for delivery of their application. Submitters of electronic applications are advised that volume on Grants.gov may be extremely heavy on the deadline date, 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. Submitters of paper applications should allow adequate time to ensure a paper application will be received on time, taking into account that Federal Government security screening for U.S. Postal Service mail may delay receipt of mail for up to two (2) weeks and that guaranteed express mailings and/or couriers are not always able to fulfill their guarantees.

4. Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs)

Applications under this Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372.

5. Funding Restrictions

The NIST RET will not authorize funds for indirect costs or fringe benefits. Additionally, neither housing nor travel allowances are provided.

6. Other Submission Requirements

a. Applications may be submitted by paper or electronically.

(1) Paper applications must be submitted in triplicate (an original and two copies) and sent to:

Dr. Mary Satterfield
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Biochemical Science Division
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 6310
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-6310

Phone: 301-975-5364

- (2) Electronic applications must be submitted via Grants.gov at www.grants.gov.

Submitters of electronic applications 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 an application is received does not provide information about whether attachments have been received. For further information or questions regarding applying electronically for the 2011-NIST-RET-01 announcement, contact Christopher Hunton by phone at 301-975-5718 or by e-mail at christopher.hunton@nist.gov

Applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not 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 three (3) to five (5) business days. If problems are encountered, the registration process can take up to two (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 7:00 a.m. 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 section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times to help ensure your application is received on time.

- b. Any revisions to the submission requirements, including revisions, for any reason, to the due date for applications, will be announced through amendments to this FFO on Grants.gov. Applicants can sign up for Grants.gov FFO amendments, while applicants without access to the Internet can contact NIST and have any changes mailed to them.
- c. Any amendments to this FFO, including to the due date for the applications, will be announced through Grants.gov and will also be posted on the NIST Web site (<http://www.nist.gov/iaao/teachlearn/>). Applicants can sign up for Grants.gov FFO amendments, while applicants without access to the Internet can contact NIST and have any changes mailed to them.

V. Application Review Information

1. Criteria

The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications are as follows:

- a. Evaluation of Teacher's Interest in Participating in the Program as in their respective NIST-1103, Teacher Application for the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) or the NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET): Teachers should

consider and describe how participation in the NIST RET would further their own career goals as well as the program goal of encouraging students to pursue STEM careers, and demonstrate their commitment to full participation in the NIST RET including work in a laboratory environment during the NIST RET. As part of this section, teachers should also demonstrate their interest in and ideas for translating scientific research into activities for use in the middle school classroom.

- b. Applicant's Commitment to Program Goals: The applicant's support of the teacher's intent to use what was learned at NIST as related to the middle school curriculum in the classroom. Applicant's Commitment to Program Goals: The applicant's support of the teacher's intent to use what was learned at NIST as related to the middle school curriculum in the classroom.

Each of these factors is given equal weight in the evaluation process.

2. Selection Factors

The Selecting Official shall select applications for award based upon the rank order of the applications, and may select an application out of rank based on one or more of the following selection factors:

- a. Fit of the teacher's stated interest to the program priorities of NIST (see section V.3. Program Priorities);
- b. Fit of the teacher's interests and abilities to the available project and/or NIST scientists;
- c. Preference may be given to teachers from "high-need schools," as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11) (see Section 406 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-358; 121 Stat. 4004); and
- d. The availability of Federal funds.

3. Program Priorities

All applicable fields of science that complement those of NIST; specifically, these include science related to measurements. More information about those programs can be found on the agency's Web site (www.nist.gov).

4. Review and Selection Process

An initial administrative review of timely received applications will be conducted to determine applicant and teacher eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness. Applications that are ineligible, incomplete, and/or non-responsive will be eliminated from further review. Each of the eligible, complete, and responsive applications will receive three independent, objective reviews, which will include written evaluations and scores, based on the evaluation criteria. The independent reviewers will be NIST employees who are knowledgeable in the scientific areas of the program.

Based on the average of the reviewers' scores, a rank order will be prepared and provided to the Selecting Official for further consideration. In making final selections, the Selecting Official, who is the RET Director at NIST, will select funding recipients based upon the rank order of the applications and the selection factors.

The selection of applications by the Selecting Official is final. NIST reserves the right to negotiate the budget costs with the applicants that have been selected to receive awards. This may include requesting that the applicant remove certain costs. NIST also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant. NIST may select part, some, all, or none of the applications. The final approval of selected applications and award of cooperative agreements will be made by the NIST Grants Officer. The award decision of the NIST Grants Officer is final.

5. Anticipated Announcement and Award Date

Review, selection, and cooperative agreement award processing is expected to be completed in May 2011. The earliest anticipated start date for awards made under this FFO is July 1, 2011.

6. Additional Information

- a. Applicants may not submit replacement pages, missing and/or revised documents to an application once it has been submitted. Any revisions must be made by submission of a new application that must be received by NIST by the submission deadline.
- b. Safety is a top priority at NIST. Teachers participating in the NIST RET will be expected to be safety-conscious, to attend NIST safety training, and to comply with all NIST safety policies and procedures, and with all applicable NIST visitor policies.
- c. One copy of each non-selected application will be retained for three (3) years for record keeping purposes and the other two (2) copies will be destroyed. After three (3) years the remaining copy will be destroyed.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. **Award Notices.** Successful applicants will receive a cooperative agreement award document (CD-450) signed by the NIST Grants Officer. The accompanying cooperative agreement documentation will include the award period, the approved project budget, special award conditions, DoC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, and will incorporate the applicable Federal cost principles, and applicable policy and regulatory references that will govern the award. The cooperative agreement award package will be mailed to the successful applicant via surface mail in duplicate and requires a counter-signature on both copies by an authorized official at the organization. The recipient should retain one (1) original and return one (1) copy to the address listed in the award document. A sample award document, i.e., CD-450 and DoC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (March 2008) are available at:
http://oam.eas.commerce.gov/aboutOAM_organization_GMD.html.
2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements.**
 - a. **DoC Pre-Award Notification Requirements.** The DoC 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.
 - b. **Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN), Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS), and Central Contractor Registration (CCR).** All applicants for Federal financial assistance are required to obtain a universal identifier in the form of DUNS number

and maintain a current registration in the CCR database. On the form SF-424 items 8.b. and 8.c., the applicant's 9-digit EIN/TIN and 9-digit DUNS number must be consistent with the information in 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 number 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. Confirm that the EIN/TIN and DUNS numbers are consistent with the information on the CCR and ASAP.

Per the requirements of 2 C.F.R. part 25, each applicant must:

- (1) Be registered in the CCR before submitting an application;
- (2) Maintain an active CCR registration with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application under consideration by an agency; and
- (3) Provide its DUNS number in each application or proposal it submits to the agency.

Please also see the *Federal Register* notice published on September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55671.

- c. **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 DoC 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.

- d. **Research Projects Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects.** Any application 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 DoC at 15 C.F.R. Part 27. In addition, any application 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) currently registered with DHHS and performed by entities possessing a current, valid Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) from DHHS that are appropriately linked to the IRB that approved the protocol. NIST will not issue a single project assurance (SPA) for any IRB reviewing any human subjects protocol proposed to NIST.

Generally, NIST does not fund research involving human subjects in foreign countries. NIST will consider, however, the use of **preexisting** tissue, cells, or data from a foreign source on a limited basis if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

- (1) The scientific source is considered unique,
- (2) An equivalent source is unavailable within the United States,
- (3) An alternative approach is not scientifically of equivalent merit, and
- (4) The specific use qualifies for an exemption under the Common Rule.

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 DoC 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 DoC 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.

- e. **Research Projects Involving Vertebrate Animals.** Any application 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 Academies Press, 500 5th Street, N.W., Department 285, Washington, DC 20055. In addition, such applications 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.
- f. **Funding Availability and Limitation of Liability.** Funding for the Program listed in this FFO is contingent upon the availability of Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations. NIST issues this notice subject to the appropriations made available under the current continuing resolution funding the Department of Commerce, H.R 3082, “Continuing Appropriations and Surface Transportation Extensions Act, 2011,” Public Law 111-322. NIST anticipates making awards for the program listed in this notice provided that funding for the program is continued beyond March 4, 2011, the expiration of the current continuing resolution. In no event will NIST or the Department of Commerce be responsible for proposal preparation costs if these programs fail to receive funding or are 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.

- a. In lieu of the reporting requirements described in sections A.01 Financial Reports and B.01 Performance (Technical) Reports of the DoC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions dated March 2008 (<http://oamweb.osec.doc.gov/docs/GRANTS/DOC%20STCsMAR08Rev.pdf>), the following reporting requirements shall apply:

- (1) **Financial Requirements – Financial Reports.** Each award recipient will be required to submit an SF-425, Federal Financial Report, within 30 days after the end of the program.
- (2) **Performance (Technical) Report.** Each award recipient shall require the teacher(s) accepted into the NIST RET to submit to his/her institution and to NIST, a brief report (at least one (1) page) on his/her experiences and accomplishments during the program. In addition, the report should describe how the teacher will implement what was learned during the NIST RET experience to the classroom. The report must be submitted on the last day of the teacher's participation in NIST RET. The level of detail should allow for NIST's assessment of the overall success of the program.
- (3) **Program Evaluation.** Each award recipient shall agree upon execution of the cooperative agreement to allow the teacher(s) accepted into the NIST RET to participate on a voluntary basis in program evaluation activities (to include a survey, focus group, phone interview, and/or a classroom observation). Agreement does not guarantee that the assessment activities will occur for all teacher participants. Any assessment activities will be carried out by an independent NIST contractor, maintaining anonymity of the participants.

- b. **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.** In accordance with 2 C.F.R. part 170, all recipients of a Federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, are required to comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-282). In general, all recipients are responsible for reporting sub-awards of \$25,000 or more. In addition, recipients that meet certain criteria are responsible for reporting executive compensation. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should they receive funding. Please also see the *Federal Register* notice published September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55663.

VII. Agency Contacts

Questions should be directed to the following contact persons:

Subject Area	Point of Contact
Programmatic and technical questions	Mary Satterfield Phone: 301-975-5364 Fax: 301-330-3447 E-mail: mary.satterfield@nist.gov
Administrative, budget, and eligibility questions	Barbara Lambis Phone: 301-975-4447 Fax: 301-975-8620

	E-mail: barbara.lambis@nist.gov
Electronic application submission	Christopher Hunton Phone: 301-975-5718 Fax: 301-840-5976 E-mail: christopher.hunton@nist.gov
Grant rules and regulations	Judy Murphy Phone: 301-975-5603 Fax: 301-840-5976 E-mail: judy.murphy@nist.gov