# Pilot Funding for New Initiatives (Pfund)

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions asked in response to the **FY 2009-10 Pfund RFP** as of **September 25, 2009**.

**Last day to ask questions about the RFP: October 5, 2009**

**Proposal deadline: October 8, 2009**

1. **Q.** I am an assistant professor but I am not in the tenure track yet. Can I still apply to the Pfund program if my co-PI is a tenured associate professor?

   **A.** Pfund awards are intended for single investigators. The applicant must be tenure-track or tenured.

2. **Q.** Some faculty members from non-traditional sciences at our institution are interested in applying to the Pfund program. While their research does fall under NSF's purview, would these disciplines be considered for Pfund? For example, one faculty member researches risk management, which falls under NSF's Division of Social and Economic Sciences. Is this eligible, or will the Pfund program only support "hard" sciences?

   **A.** All disciplines supported by NSF are eligible.

3. **Q.** What is the overall research or program focus for this cycle of the LA EPSCOR program?

   **A.** The Pfund proposals do not have to be aligned with an overall research focus for EPSCoR. Any discipline that is supported by NSF is eligible.

4. **Q.** Would Kinesiology research be an appropriate topic for a Pfund proposal?

   **A.** The Pfund program is limited to the science and engineering research disciplines supported by NSF. For more information about which disciplines are supported by NSF please visit: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/aboutfunding.jsp. It is up to the proposer to make the case that the proposed research is among the disciplines supported by NSF.

5. **Q.** The Pfund RFP states that the project description should include "a statement of work, listing the major research tasks to be carried out, a timeline for accomplishing the tasks, and expected outcomes". For that statement, which timeline and tasks should be listed? The plan for the one-year PFund period or the multi-year plan for the proposed research activity?

**A.** The tasks, timeline, and expected outcomes for the one-year Pfund period should definitely be listed; a statement of plans for the post-award period is optional, but desirable.

6. **Q.** The RFP states that Individuals who hold a regular tenured or tenure-track S&E position at any Louisiana public institution of higher education, or at any Louisiana higher education institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, are eligible to apply. My department does not have a tenure system, so we don't have tenured or tenure-track positions. Is this a problem?

   **A.** The Pfund program is open only to tenure-track faculty, or tenured faculty seeking to investigate new areas that require a shift in their current research direction. Research faculty who are not tenured or tenure-track are not eligible.

7. **Q.** Does medically-related clinical research count as science & engineering?

   **A.** This program is limited to the science and engineering research disciplines supported by NSF. While NSF does support research that can be considered as pertaining to the medical realm, it does not support clinical research.

8. **Q.** A faculty member in the College of Education who teaches future teachers about science methods in the classroom is interested in applying for a Pfund award. Is he eligible to apply?

   **A.** He would be eligible if he is either a tenure-track or tenured faculty member and the proposed research is in an area that is supported by the National Science Foundation. The principal investigator (PI) will need to fill in blocks on the proposal cover page indicating the NSF program that would most likely fund the particular research and the NSF directorate, division, and program area. It is up to the PI to make the case that the proposed research is in an area supported by NSF.

9. **Q.** Can funds from a Pfund grant be used for travel beyond the contract duration?

   **A.** Only expenditures made during the contract period are reimbursible.

10. **Q.** Under current and pending support, do I list support for the PFund project only?

    **A.** Below are instructions on how to complete the Current and Pending Support form, which have been excerpted from the NSF Grant Proposal Guide:

    "This section of the proposal calls for required information on all current and pending support for ongoing projects and proposals, including subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. All current project support from whatever

source (e.g., Federal, State**,** local or foreign government agencies, public or private foundations, industrial or other commercial organizations) must be listed. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the PI and other senior personnel must be included, even if they receive no salary support from the project(s). The total award amount for the entire award period covered (including indirect costs) must be shown as well as the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project, regardless of source of support."

11.    **Q.** Concerning the budget page, what the difference is between Travel costs under section E and travel costs under section F? Do I need to separate the travel costs (air fair, lodging, and food) for myself and any other participants (ie. students) that accompany me?

**A.** Participant support costs (Section F) are those costs paid to (or on behalf of) participants in meetings, conferences, symposia, and workshops. Registration fees, travel allowances, manuals and supplies, and tuition and stipends may be regarded as participant support costs.  So, unless you are planning a workshop or conference, the travel budget should go in regular travel, Section E.