

## Pilot Funding for New Initiatives (Pfund)

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions asked in response to the **FY 2011-12 Pfund RFP** as of **November 1, 2011**.

**Last day to ask questions about the RFP: November 1, 2011**

**Proposal deadline: November 7, 2011**

1. **Q.** *The RFP states that award dollars may be used to support students, travel and the purchase of scientific equipment and supplies. Can I propose to use funds to travel to multiple conferences/meetings or is it limited to travel to only one destination?*  
**A.** Travel is not limited to one destination, but any travel requested should be justified in your proposal.
  
2. **Q.** *Can I request funds to cover a one-week intensive training workshop? This workshop deals specifically with the new area of expertise I want to become proficient in and the research I will be proposing.*  
**A.** This would be an allowable request.
  
3. **Q.** *Regarding the note after item II.B.1 in the Pfund guidelines, is the provision of the list of prospective reviewers required? And is there a preferred/acceptable number of reviewers?*  
**A.** The instructions on the Cover Sheet mention that a list of at least five prospective reviewers be provided.
  
4. **Q.** *Regarding the note after item II.B.1 in the Pfund guidelines, is it possible to include reviewers from the State of Louisiana?*  
**A.** The instructions mention that the reviewers must be from out of state.
  
5. **Q.** *Including following the guidelines, what is your advice to make the proposal most fundable?*  
**A.** We can only provide answers to specific questions concerning the RFP, and are unable provide advice as you suggest. Proposers should carefully study the RFP before preparing proposals.
  
6. **Q.** *Are there any very distinguishable differences (specific characterizations and inclusions) between a good proposal and a funded proposal?*  
**A.** It is impossible to distinguish such differences between hypothetical proposals.

7. **Q.** *I am considering responding to the Pfund RFP. However, because it is co-sponsored by NSF, I have a question. My research is generally on (biological sciences area). The present proposal however, has major implications for understanding and treating (specified disease). I have heard that NSF does not fund disease-related research. Should I apply for a Pfund grant?*

**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 the responsibility of the proposer to make the case that the proposed research is among the disciplines supported by NSF.

NSF does not normally provide support for research with disease-related goals, including work on the etiology, diagnosis, or treatment of physical or mental disease, abnormality, or malfunction in human beings or animals, or clinical trials; however, the NSF does support research in biomedical engineering and research that, because of its fundamental science content, may be applicable to disease problems.

8. **Q.** *I would like to confirm that expenses in the additional categories listed on the PFUND budget form (including but not limited to consultants, publication costs and participant costs) can be charged to PFUND projects. The only category specifically disallowed is salaries for investigators and post-docs. Is this correct, or are the only allowable budget categories limited to student support, travel, supplies and purchase of scientific equipment?*

**A.** The only categories specifically disallowed are salaries for investigators and post-docs. Budget requests in other budget categories are acceptable.

9. **Q.** *I have a question about the review process. Should the text be written for both experts and non-experts in the field? Will the proposal be evaluated by internal reviewers as well as external reviewers?*

**A.** The proposals will be evaluated by external reviewers only. Note that applicants are required to provide names of out-of-state scholars who are qualified to evaluate the proposal.

10. **Q.** *I am interested in writing a Pfund proposal but am concerned about the eligibility requirements. My institution currently does not have a tenure system in place, therefore I am not tenure-track or tenured. Would I be allowed to submit a Pfund proposal?*

**A.** Eligibility for Pfund is limited by the RFP to either tenured or tenure-track faculty, so you would not be able to submit a proposal.

11. **Q.** *I was recently promoted with tenure to Associate Professor; however this will not take effect until (date in January, 2012). When I prepare my Pfund Proposal, should I do so as a tenured applicant or as a tenure track applicant?*

**A.** You should submit the proposal as a tenured professor, as that will be your status during the contract period.

12. **Q.** *Can you provide the historical funding rates for the program? Also can you provide any insight into the funding allocated for the 2011-2012 cycle?*

**A.** The table below shows the funding rates for the past three years:

year	# submitted	# funded	% success rate
2009	98	36	36.7%
2010	139	61	43.8%
2011	120	47	39.2%

Approximately forty (40) awards are expected to be made in FY2012.

13. **Q.** *Can you provide some additional guidance on the level of detail required for the question on the Pfund cover sheet concerning possible NSF funding? For example would it be acceptable to answer the questions as follows: NSF Directorate – Biological Sciences, NSF Division – Molecular and Cellular Biosciences, and NSF Program Area – Biology? Is it necessary to add sub-disciplines and include the specific type of NSF proposal such as RUI, etc.?*

**A.** The level of detail in your example (directorate, division, program area) is acceptable. You do not need to provide subdisciplines or specific types of proposals.