

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 **August 26, 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.