

April 1, 2020

Now Available: NSF-approved Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support Formats

A MESSAGE FROM JEAN FELDMAN, HEAD, POLICY OFFICE, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Dear Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce the availability of both NSF-approved formats for the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of National Science Foundation (NSF) proposals that fall under the revised [Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#) (PAPPG) (NSF 20-1) (see the [February 6, 2020 webinar](#) for complete details on all revisions to the PAPPG).

Although use of an NSF-approved format for submission of these proposal sections is not required until implementation of the revised PAPPG (NSF 20-1) on June 1, 2020, NSF is encouraging proposers to begin using the NSF-approved formats now. NSF values the feedback from the research community, and we would like to hear about your experience with the new NSF-approved formats. Information about how to provide feedback is included below.

Use of an NSF-approved format aims to reduce administrative burden and improve efficiencies by providing proposers with a compliant and reusable way to maintain this information for subsequent proposal submissions to NSF, while also ensuring that the information is submitted in a standard and searchable composition.

NSF-approved Formats

- **SciENCv:** NSF has partnered with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to use [SciENCv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#) as an NSF-approved format for use in preparation of both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of an NSF proposal. SciENCv will produce an NSF-compliant PDF version of the documents which proposers can save and submit as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov. Additional information about the NSF-approved SciENCv formats is available on the NSF [biographical sketch](#) and [current and pending support](#) websites.

The SciENCv tool integrates with ORCID, enabling proposers to populate their Biographical Sketches by importing data directly from their ORCID records rather than having to manually enter all the required information. Additionally, Biographical Sketch data maintained in SciENCv can be quickly and easily updated on an ongoing basis for subsequent proposal submissions.

- **NSF Fillable PDF:** NSF is also providing a fillable PDF as an NSF-approved format for use to prepare both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of an NSF proposal. Proposers can download the respective fillable PDF form from the NSF [biographical sketch](#) and [current and pending support](#) websites and then submit the completed forms as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov. Note that the NSF fillable PDF for the Biographical Sketch does not integrate with ORCID.

It is important to note that **beginning June 1, 2020**, proposers will be required to use one of the NSF-approved formats for both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of NSF proposals. Proposals submitted via FastLane, Research.gov and Grants.gov will be compliance checked to ensure that the documents were prepared in accordance with this new policy.

We Want Your Feedback

Although not required for proposal submission until June 1, 2020, we hope that you will start using the NSF-approved formats for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support as soon as possible. If you have any feedback that would help us make improvements to the two formats in the future, please let us know. Feedback may be submitted by email to policy@nsf.gov or via the [Research.gov Feedback](#) page (select "Biographical Sketch" or "Current & Pending Support" under the Site Area dropdown menu).

Upcoming Webinars

To assist the community about these new requirements and to start using SciENcv now, NSF and NIH are planning to conduct a joint webinar that will include a walk-through of how to prepare the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support documents in SciENcv. Information will be provided as soon as it is available, and we encourage you to [sign up for notifications](#).

We also invite you to participate in the next [NSF Electronic Research Administration \(ERA\) Forum](#) on **May 14, 2020 at 1:00PM – 2:30PM EDT** where we will discuss the NSF-approved format requirements, as well as the new capability to prepare and submit separately submitted collaborative proposals in Research.gov. To sign up for ERA Forum notifications including registration availability for the May 14 event, please send a blank email to NSF-ERA-FORUM-subscribe-request@listserv.nsf.gov and you will be automatically enrolled.

Training Resources

The following training resources are now available, and NSF will continue to keep the community informed as additional resources are released.

Biographical Sketch Resources

- [NSF-Approved Formats for the Biographical Sketch](#) website
- [SciENcv Guidance on Creating an NSF Biographical Sketch](#), including step-by-step instructions and screenshots for each of the four required sections (This is a subsection of the guidance at [SciENcv Help](#).)
- [YouTube Video - SciENcv for NSF Users: Biographical Sketches](#) (This is a **new** video targeted to the NSF research community.)
- [NSF PAPPG \(NSF 20-1\) webinar](#) (recorded February 6, 2020)
- [YouTube Video - SciENcv Tutorial](#)
- [YouTube Video - Integrating with ORCID](#)
- [FAQs on using NSF Fillable PDF](#)

Current and Pending Support Resources

- [NSF-Approved Formats for Current and Pending Support](#) website
- [SciENcv Guidance on Creating an NSF Current and Pending Support document](#), including step-by-step instructions and screenshots for the two required sections (This is a subsection of the guidance at [SciENcv Help](#).)
- [NSF PAPPG \(NSF 20-1\) webinar](#) (recorded February 6, 2020)
- [FAQs](#) addressing policy questions related to the PAPPG (NSF 20-1) clarifications to the current and pending support coverage, as well as questions regarding use of an NSF-approved format for current and pending support
- [FAQs on using NSF Fillable PDF](#)

Questions? Policy-related questions should be directed to policy@nsf.gov. If you have technical or IT system-related questions, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via fastlane@nsf.gov.

Regards,
Jean

Jean Feldman
Head, Policy Office
Division of Institution and Award Support
Office of Budget, Finance & Award Management
National Science Foundation
email: policy@nsf.gov



For more information, please visit the ORA website at www.ora.miami.edu.