

QUICK GUIDE

National Science Foundation (NSF) Supplements

What is a supplement and how do I find out about them? Supplements can be made under an existing NSF award or within a proposal for a new or renewal NSF award. Supplements often extend an existing or proposed award to engage traditionally underrepresented populations in STEM research. The Principal Investigator (PI) should consult with the appropriate program director before submitting a request for supplemental funds.

When do I apply for a supplement? Supplement requests can be made under an existing NSF award or within a proposal for a new or renewal NSF award. In both circumstances, a PI should speak with their program officer before requesting supplemental funds.

SUMMARY OF NSF SUPPLEMENTS

Additional supplement opportunities may be available through individual directorates.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATES (REU)

[REU](#) supports active research participation by undergraduate students in any of the areas of research funded by the NSF. There are two ways to apply for REU funds: (1) REU Sites are independent proposals to initiate and conduct projects that engage several students in research. REU Sites may be single discipline, interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary with a coherent theme. Proposals with an international dimension are welcome. (2) REU Supplements may be included as a component of proposals for new or renewal NSF grants or cooperative agreements or may be requested for ongoing NSF-funded research projects. Dear Colleague Letters (DCLs) often contain additional details or encouragement to apply for Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) from specific directorates:

- Interdisciplinary REU Sites at the Intersection of Computing and Communication Foundations and Mathematics and Statistics ([NSF 23-082](#)).

- REU and RET Supplemental Funding in Computer and Information Science and Engineering ([NSF 23-035](#)).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE FOR TEACHERS (RET)

RET is an NSF-wide opportunity to facilitate professional development of K-12 science teachers through research experience at the cutting edge of science. The Division of Research is particularly interested in encouraging its researchers to build mutually rewarding partnerships with teachers in less well-endowed school districts. DCLs often contain additional details or encouragement to apply for RETs from specific directorates:

- REU and RET Supplemental Funding in Computer and Information Science and Engineering ([NSF 23-035](#)).
- RET Supplemental Funding in Biological Sciences ([18089](#)).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACADEMIC LIAISON WITH INDUSTRY (GOALI)

[GOALI](#) may be used to support projects that seek to stimulate collaboration between academic research institutions and industry. Under this proposal type, academic scientists and engineers request funding either in conjunction with a regular proposal submitted to a standing NSF program or as a supplemental funding request to an existing NSF-funded award. At least one industrial participant must be included in the GOALI activity and must be specified in the GOALI-Industrial PI Confirmation Letter. The industrial participant cannot use or receive any NSF funds. If you are interested in applying for a GOALI, contact the Division of Research for support in negotiating the partnership and establishing intellectual property agreements before submission.

VETERANS RESEARCH SUPPLEMENT (VRS)

[VRS](#) affords veterans who are students, K-12 teachers or community college faculty an opportunity to work with active engineering grantees to conduct basic and/or industrially relevant research to gain a deeper understanding of engineering. Veterans supported by VRS funding may participate in research activities with any active awardees or affiliated member companies supported by engineering programs.

MPS GRADUATE RESEARCH SUPPLEMENT FOR VETERANS (GRSV)

[GRSV](#) is supplemental funding that will support one additional PhD student on any currently active mathematical and physical sciences (MPS) research award as long as the student is a U.S. veteran. The proposed MPS-GRSVs will afford veterans an opportunity to conduct research towards a doctoral degree with an NSF MPS directorate active awardee. Instrumentation acquisition awards, REU awards, etc. are not eligible.

CAREER-LIFE BALANCE (FAMILY LEAVE PROVISIONS)

[This supplemental funding](#) to existing awards may be requested to support the ability of project personnel to address primary dependent care responsibilities, or other family considerations that pose unique challenges to the STEM workforce. For example, existing NSF-wide policies permit the extension of NSF awards for researchers who take a leave of absence for dependent care responsibilities, as well as the use of NSF award funds to replace project personnel during a leave of absence.

NON-ACADEMIC RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

[This supplemental funding](#) broadens research opportunities for graduate students by providing research internships in non-academic settings. The opportunity is open to PIs (and co-PIs) who are supporting graduate students through an active NSF award. A PI for an active Graduate Research Fellowships Program (GRFP) fellowship (not the GRFP fellow) should contact GRFP regarding specific GRFP requirements before submitting a supplemental funding request on behalf of a GRFP fellow. PIs with grants from computer and information science and engineering, mathematical and physical sciences, and integrative activities must follow the special conditions listed in the DCL. Engineering, biological sciences, geosciences, and social, behavioral and economic sciences do not have limitations or special conditions.

NSF-NIST INTERACTION IN BASIC AND APPLIED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

[This supplement](#) is designed to facilitate collaborative research and educational activities among National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) scientific and engineering staff and researchers supported by NSF. Supplemental funding requests for existing NSF awards may be requested for travel expenses and per diem associated with work on-site at NIST to collaborate on research with NIST staff and access specialized research instrumentation available at NIST for NSF-supported PIs, co-PIs, post-doctoral scholars, undergraduate, and graduate students, and other personnel associated with the NSF-NIST collaborative research.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Supplemental funding aimed at encouraging student interest in research:

- [High School Student Research Assistantships \(MPS-High\) supplemental grant](#) aims to foster interest in mathematics and physical sciences for high school students. This grant is generally under \$6,000 per student and should be submitted by a PI.
- [Research Assistantship for High School Students \(RAHSS\)](#) is a supplement for PIs with an active grant from the Directorate for Biological Sciences and aims to foster interest in pursuing biological sciences. This grant is generally less than \$6,000 per student.