**Project Description**

*Address items "a" through "g" below as subsections in the Project Description narrative.*

1. **Overview:**

*Provide a brief description of the objectives of the proposed REU Site, targeted student participants, intellectual focus, organizational structure, timetable, and participating organizations' commitment to the REU activity.*

1. **Nature of Student Activities:**

*Proposals should address the approach to undergraduate research training being taken and should provide detailed descriptions of examples of research projects that students will pursue. So that reviewers can evaluate intellectual merit, this discussion should indicate the significance of the research area and, when appropriate, the underlying theoretical framework, hypotheses, research questions, etc. Undergraduate research experiences have their greatest impact in situations that lead the students from a relatively dependent status to as independent a status as their competence warrants. Proposals must present plans that will ensure the development of student-faculty interaction and student-student communication. Development of collegial relationships and interactions is an important part of the project.*

1. **The Research Environment:**

*This subsection should describe the experience, and the record of the involvement with undergraduate research, of the PI, the faculty who may serve as research mentors, and the institution(s) or organization(s) where the research will occur. The description should include information on the record of faculty/mentors in publishing work involving undergraduate authors and in providing professional development opportunities for student researchers. This subsection should also discuss the diversity of the mentor pool and any plans by which mentoring relationships will be sustained after students leave the REU Site.*

1. **Student Recruitment and Selection:**

*The overall quality of the student recruitment and selection processes and criteria will be an important element in the evaluation of the proposal. The recruitment plan should be described with as much specificity as possible, including the types and/or names of academic institutions where students will be recruited and the efforts that will be made to attract members of underrepresented groups (women, minorities, and persons with disabilities).*

*A significant fraction of the student participants at an REU Site must come from outside the host institution or organization, and at least half of the student participants must be recruited from academic institutions where research opportunities in STEM are limited (including two-year colleges). The number of students per project should be appropriate to the institutional or organizational setting and to the manner in which research is conducted in the discipline. The typical REU Site hosts eight to ten students per year. Proposals involving fewer than six students per year are discouraged.*

*Undergraduate student participants supported with NSF funds in either REU Sites or REU Supplements must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, or permanent residents of the United States.*

1. **Student and Mentor Professional Development:**

*This subsection should describe (1) plans for student professional development, including training in the responsible and ethical conduct of research; (2) training, mentoring, or monitoring that research mentors have received or will receive to help them mentor students effectively during the research experience; and (3) the REU Site's plans for communicating information on expectations of behavior to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all participants.*

*NSF does not tolerate sexual harassment, or any kind of harassment, where NSF-funded activities take place. Proposers are required to have a policy or code of conduct that addresses sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, and sexual assault. Proposers should provide an orientation for all participants in the REU Site (REU students, faculty, postdocs, graduate students, other research mentors, etc.) to cover expectations of behavior to ensure a safe and respectful environment for all participants, and to review the organization's policy or code of conduct addressing sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, and sexual assault, including reporting and complaint procedures. For additional information, see the NSF policies at* [*https://www.nsf.gov/od/oecr/harassment.jsp*](https://www.nsf.gov/od/oecr/harassment.jsp) *and the "Promising Practices" at* [*https://www.nsf.gov/od/oecr/promising\_practices/index.jsp*](https://www.nsf.gov/od/oecr/promising_practices/index.jsp)*.*

1. **Project Evaluation and Reporting:**

*Describe the plan to measure qualitatively and quantitatively the success of the project in achieving its goals, particularly the degree to which students have learned and their perspectives on science, engineering, or education research related to these disciplines have been expanded. Evaluation may involve periodic measures throughout the project to ensure that it is progressing satisfactorily according to the project plan, and may involve pre-project and post-project measures aimed at determining the degree of student learning that has been achieved. In addition, it is highly desirable to have a structured means of tracking participating students beyond graduation, with the aim of gauging the degree to which the REU Site experience has been a lasting influence in the students' career paths. Proposers may wish to consult* [*The 2010 User-Friendly Handbook for Project Evaluation*](https://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/goodbye?http://www.evalu-ate.org/resources/doc-2010-nsfhandbook/) *for guidance on the elements in a good evaluation plan. Although not required, REU Site PIs may wish to engage specialists in education research (from their organization or another one) in planning and implementing the project evaluation.*

1. **Results from Prior NSF Support (if applicable):**

*If the proposal is requesting renewal of an existing REU Site or if the department or center (or similar organizational subunit) that will host the proposed Site has hosted another REU Site during the past five years, the Project Description must include a subsection entitled "Results from Prior NSF Support," which may occupy up to five pages of the 15-page Project Description. This subsection must describe the earlier REU project(s) and outcomes in sufficient detail to permit reviewers to reach an informed conclusion regarding the value of the results achieved. Valuable information typically includes results from the project evaluation; summary information about recruiting efforts and the number of applicants, the demographic make-up of participants and their home institutions, and career choices of participants; and a list of publications or reports (already published or to be submitted) resulting from the NSF award.*

1. **Broader Impacts:**

*The Project Description must contain a separate section labeled 'Broader Impacts'.*

**REQUEST FOR A REU SUPPLEMENT**