

**DOE Office of Science (SC)
Biological and Environmental Research (BER)
Office Hours: FOA application and review
process within BER programs**

July 23, 2024

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Science

[Energy.gov/science](https://www.energy.gov/science)

Office of Science Statement of Commitment & Other Guidance

- **SC Statement of Commitment** – SC is fully and unconditionally committed to fostering safe, diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible work, research, and funding environments that value mutual respect and personal integrity.
<https://science.osti.gov/SW-DEI/SC-Statement-of-Commitment>
- **Expectations for Professional Behaviors** – SC’s expectations of all participants to positively contribute to a professional, inclusive meeting that fosters a safe and welcoming environment for conducting scientific business, as well as outlines behaviors that are unacceptable and potential ramifications for unprofessional behavior.
<https://science.osti.gov/SW-DEI/DOE-Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-Policies/Harassment>
- **How to Address or Report Behaviors of Concern** – Process on how and who to report issues, including the distinction between reporting on unprofessional, disrespectful, or disruptive behaviors, and behaviors that constitute a violation of Federal civil rights statutes.
<https://science.osti.gov/SW-DEI/DOE-Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-Policies/How-to-Report-a-Complaint>
- **Implicit Bias** – Be aware of implicit bias, understand its nature – everyone has them – and implicit bias if not mitigated can negatively impact the quality and inclusiveness of scientific discussions that contribute to a successful meeting.
<https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/article/understanding-implicit-bias>

Housekeeping

During the presentation, submit questions using the Zoom Q&A feature. This is accessible at the bottom of your Zoom window. We will answer these live at the end of the presentation as time permits.

After the presentation if there is time, you can ask your question live by raising your hand in Zoom. We will ask you to unmute to ask your question.

If your question is not answered today, or if you have additional questions about a specific topic, please contact any BSSD or EESSD program manager.

Recordings and slides from office hours will be posted after completion of each office hour.

<https://science.osti.gov/ber/officehours>



DOE is a Mission-Driven Agency

DOE Mission: To ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions. (www.energy.gov/mission)

Office of Science Mission: To deliver scientific discoveries and major scientific tools to transform our understanding of nature and to advance the energy, economic, and national security of the United States. (www.energy.gov/science/mission)

Biological & Environmental Research

Mission: To support transformative science and scientific user facilities to achieve a predictive understanding of complex biological, Earth and environmental systems for energy and infrastructure security, independence and prosperity. (science.osti.gov/ber)



Office of Science Research Portfolio

Advanced Scientific Computing Research

- Delivering world leading computational and networking capabilities to extend the frontiers of science and technology

Basic Energy Sciences

- Understanding, predicting, and ultimately controlling matter and energy flow at the electronic, atomic, and molecular levels

Biological and Environmental Research

- Understanding complex biological, earth, and environmental systems

Fusion Energy Sciences

- Supporting the development of a fusion energy source and supporting research in plasma science

High Energy Physics

- Understanding how the universe works at its most fundamental level

Nuclear Physics

- Discovering, exploring, and understanding all forms of nuclear matter



BER ORG Chart

DOE Office of Science
Harriet Kung, Acting Director

Advanced
Scientific
Computing
Research

Basic Energy
Sciences

Fusion
Energy

**Biological and Environmental
Research**

High Energy
Physics

Nuclear
Physics

Dorothy Koch, Associate Director

Biological Systems Science

Todd Anderson, Director

- Genomic Science
 - Bioenergy Research Centers
- Biomolecular Characterization & Imaging Science
- Facilities & Infrastructure
 - Joint Genome Institute

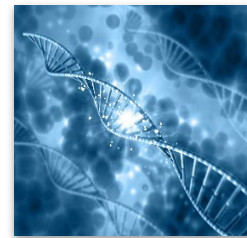
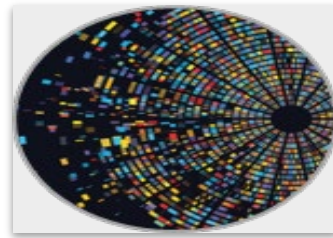
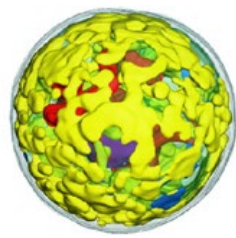
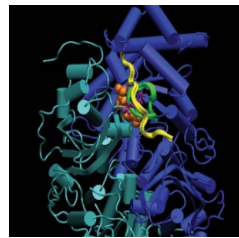
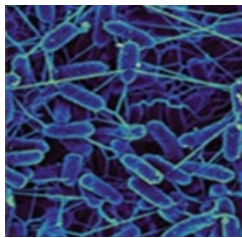
Earth & Environmental Systems Sciences

Gary Geernaert, Director

- Atmospheric System Research
- Environmental System Science
- Earth and Environmental Systems Modeling
- Facilities & Infrastructure
 - Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL)
 - Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM)
 - Data Management

Biological Systems Science Division (BSSD)

Mission: Provide the necessary fundamental science to understand, predict, manipulate, and design biological processes that underpin innovations for bioenergy and bioproduct production and enhance understanding of natural, environmental processes relevant to DOE.



Genomic Science

- Bioenergy
 - Sustainable Bioenergy
 - Plant Genomics
 - Microbial Genomics
- Biosystems Design
 - Secure Biosystems Design
- Environmental Microbiome

Biomolecular Characterization and Imaging Science

- Bioimaging Technologies
 - Quantum Imaging
- Structural Biology
- Cryo-EM Resources

Computational Biology

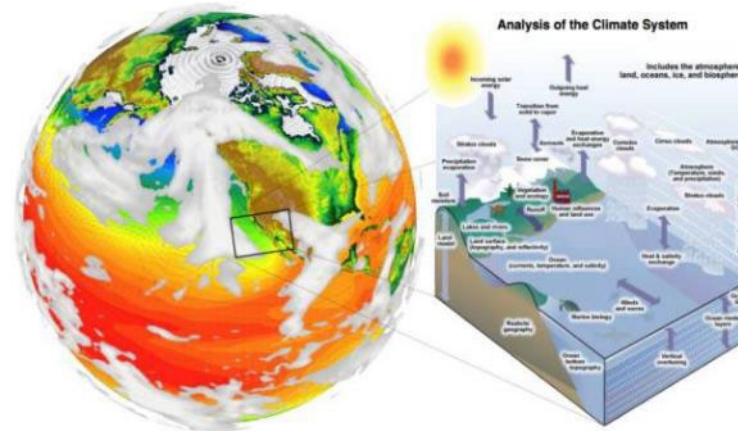
- Systems Biology Knowledgebase (KBase)
- National Microbiome Data Collaborative (NMDC)

Scientific User Facilities

- Joint Genome Institute (JGI)

<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research/bssd>

Earth and Environmental Systems Sciences Division (EESSD)



Atmospheric System Research

- Atmospheric Process Science
- Atmospheric Radiation Measurement (ARM) facility

Earth and Environmental Systems Modeling

- Climate and Earth System Model Development and Analysis

Environmental System Science

- Ecosystem and Watershed Sciences
- Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL)

Data Management for Earth and Environmental Sciences

<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research/eessd>

BER Research Funding Mechanisms

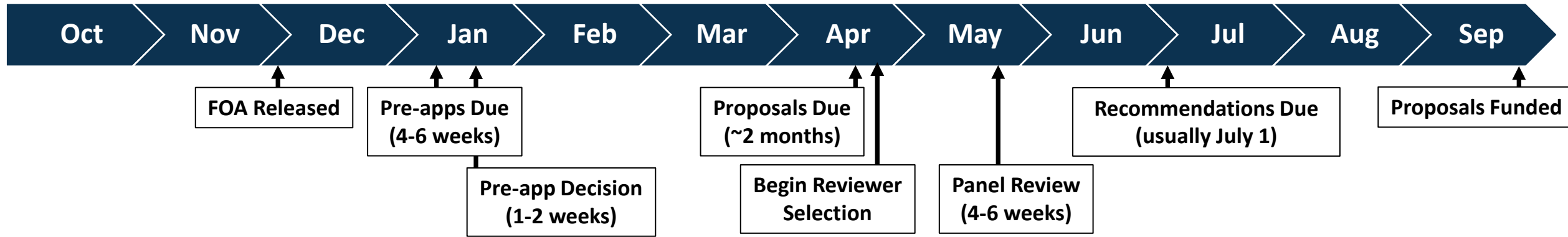
- **Academic Research**
 - Targeted FOAs
 - Continuation of Solicitation
- **National Labs**
 - Science Focus Areas
 - Lab Announcements
 - Other Projects
- **SBIR/STTR**
- **User Facilities**
- **Crosscutting activities**



BER Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

- Solicit basic research from:
 - Typically, academic institutions, private non-profit or for-profit organizations, etc. are eligible to apply, with few exceptions.
 - Specific eligibility criteria are indicated for other Federal Agencies, DOE National Labs, and non-DOE Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs).
- International applications are usually allowed
- FOAs can be:
 - Single-SC program FOAs (targeting a defined theme or focus)
 - Crosscutting SC FOAs (including for Centers/Consortia)
 - Continuation of Solicitation (“Open call”) –BER does not use this FOA except for very specific types of applications.

Typical FOA Timeline and Review Process



Pre-Applications (if required) – Due ~4-6 weeks after FOA released

Response to Pre-Applications – Due ~1-2 weeks after pre-applications submitted

Begin Reviewer Selection – PM develops list of potential reviewers screened for COIs, invitation emails sent

Proposals – Due ~4-10 weeks after pre-application decision made

Panel Review Process

- PM makes proposal assignments and sends with comments on the review process (reminder emails as needed)
- Panel Review run 4-6 weeks after proposals received; PM gives reviewer orientation prior to panel

After Panel Review

- Written reviewer comments and scores, panel discussions, and program policy factors are considered to make recommendations
- PM conducts silent negotiations, prepares selection and declination statements, requests budget changes, prepares documents for management on recommendations
- Traditionally all recommendations are due by July 1

Proposals Funded – DOE contracting offices in Chicago issues the award contracts before September 30 (end of fiscal year)

Preparing to Apply to a FOA

- Familiarize yourself with BER Research Areas
 - <https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research>
 - If questions, contact Program Managers relevant to your research.
- **Read the Funding Opportunity Announcement!**
 - Visit the BER website: <https://science.osti.gov/ber/Funding-Opportunities>
 - **Follow all the instructions**, making sure to meet any formatting requirements and deadlines
 - Use templates provided in FOA instructions.
 - Reach out to the listed Program Manager of the FOA with any questions.
 - Make sure to include all the required documents (e.g., C&P, data management plans, ...).
- Contact your Institution's Research Office about your planned submission. Submission typically is routed by your institution's Sponsored Research Office (SRO) via Grants.gov.
- Ask colleagues and mentors for feedback on your proposal.
 - Ask a colleague in your technical area to provide comments on clarity and logic, including the research plan and methodology
 - Ask a colleague outside your specific research to review the proposal for clarity, logic, and significance.
 - Check for errors, mistakes, omissions, or and other issues.

Do Some Homework

<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Funding-Opportunities>

- About
- Research
- Facilities
- Human Subjects Protection Program
- Science Highlights
- Funding Opportunities**
- Closed Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)
- Closed Lab Announcements
- Topical Funding Opportunity Awards
- Award Search / Public Abstracts 

Review past opportunity announcements.

Look at abstracts for current and previous awards.

<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Community-Resources>

- About
- Research
- Facilities
- Human Subjects Protection
- Science Highlights
- Funding Opportunities
- Biological & Environmental Research Advisory Committee (BERAC)
- Community Resources**
- BER Program Plans and Reports
- BER Workshop Reports
- BER Program Literature
- BER Community Research Infrastructure
- BER User Facility Factsheets

Comm

Look at recent reports from BER-sponsored workshops as well as strategic planning documents.

Program whole.
BER
Workshc
BER I
Program

Do Some Homework

- Make sure your institution is registered with SAM and Grants.gov
- Register/update information in DOE's Portfolio Analysis Management System (PAMS)
 - [Portfolio Analysis and Management System \(PAMS\) | Department of Energy](#)
- Enter your biographical sketches, current & pending support in the Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae (SciENCv) system.
 - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>
- Consider registering an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) for publication and collaboration identification.
 - [About ORCID - ORCID](#)

FOA Title Page

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA) NUMBER:
DE-FOA-0002878**

**FOA TYPE: INITIAL
CFDA NUMBER: 81.049**

FOA Issue Date:	December 1, 2022
Submission Deadline for Pre-Applications:	January 10, 2023 at 5:00 PM ET A Pre-Application is required
Pre-Application Response Date:	January 26, 2023 at 5:00 PM ET
Submission Deadline for Applications:	March 28, 2023 at 11:59 PM ET

Pre-Applications may be required!

Note the deadline, including times and time zones!

Check FOA regularly for amendments

DE-FOA-0002878

FOA TYPE: AMENDMENT 000001
CFDA NUMBER: 81.049

Amendment 000001: This amendment is issued to extend the application deadline to

FOA Description

Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS FOA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Technical/Scientific Program Contact:
Dr. Ramana Madupu
ramana.madupu@science.doe.gov

The FOA will list the Program Staff to contact with questions. Email is almost always more convenient than calling.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

Section 646 of Public Law 95-91, U.S. Department of Energy Organization Act
Section 901, et seq. of Public Law 109-58, Energy Policy Act of 2005

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, codified at 2 CFR 200
U.S. Department of Energy Financial Assistance Rules, codified at 2 CFR 910
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science Financial Assistance Program Rule, codified at 10 CFR 605

You must read the “Summary” and “Supplementary Information” section to understand the scope and requirements.

SUMMARY

The DOE Office of Science (SC) program in [Biological and Environmental Research](#) (BER) hereby announces its interest in receiving applications to support research on the development of bioinformatics and computational applications within the [Biological Systems Science Division](#)'s (BSSD) [Genomic Science Program](#) (GSP) (<http://genomicscience.energy.gov>) mission-space. For this FOA, BSSD solicits applications for the development of novel and innovative computational approaches or applications that have the potential to transform and advance systems biology research of plant and microbial systems relevant to DOE missions in energy security and resilience.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The BER program supports basic research to understand the fundamental nature of biological processes relevant to DOE energy and environmental mission goals. Within BER, the GSP

FOA Description

Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Pay attention to notes about what is “in scope” and “out of scope”

The following topics are not within the scope of this FOA: Applications pertaining to the analyses of animal or human data sets, development of data repositories and projects exclusively focused on data generation.

models to adequately capture transient dynamics, sensitivity to change, and potential state shifts in these critical ecosystems. This solicitation targets critical ecosystems in cold regions, defined by the climatically average presence of snow and/or ice that regularly lasts for several days per occurrence for at least part of the year, including mountain watersheds, boreal forests/peatlands, and high-latitude tundra. Research that focuses primarily on aquatic processes, agricultural systems, forest management, contaminants, engineered or artificial systems, ecosystem services, human interactions, macro-organismal interactions, ocean, studies that primarily focus on remote sensing, or studies that focus primarily on the development and/or parameterization of models without equally contributing new fundamental understanding of ecosystem or watershed processes is out of scope and will not be considered.

Webinars, Office Hours, and FAQs

[Home](#) | [Initiatives](#) | [Funding for Accelerated, Inclusive Research \(FAIR\)](#) | [Funding Opportunities](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Funding Opportunities](#)

[Closed Funding Opportunity Announcements \(FOAs\)](#)

[Topical Funding Opportunity Awards](#)

Funding Opportunities

Additional Funding Opportunity Announcements

Reminder: Submit letters of intent, preapplications, and applications well ahead of stated deadlines.

Note: Department of Energy National Laboratories and other Federal Agencies should read Funding Opportunity Announcements carefully to see if they are eligible to apply to a particular solicitation. DOE National Laboratories may wish to respond to the program announcements listed under Open National Laboratory Announcements.

[FY 2024 Funding for Accelerated, Inclusive Research \(FAIR\)](#)

Announcement Number: DE-FOA-0003207
Post Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024
Close Date: Tuesday, July 23, 2024

- Submission Deadline for Pre-Applications: April 23, 2024 5:00 PM Eastern Time
 - A Pre-Application is required
 - Pre-Applications must be submitted by an authorized institutional representative.
- Pre-Application Response Date: May 28, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time
- Submission Deadline for Applications: July 23, 2024 at 11:59 PM Eastern Time
- An informational webinar was held 3/20. Slides are [here](#). Recording is [here](#).
- Office hours will be held 4/9, 4/17, 7/2, and 7/10 at 2pm ET. Info [here](#).
- Points of contact may be found [here](#).
- Institution designations and classifications may be found [here](#).
- Frequently asked questions may be found [here](#).

Many FOAs have informational webinars available

Some FOAs have scheduled office hours

Often there is a Frequently Asked Question Document

Preparing a Pre-Application

Check for errors !
Submit early !

B. LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) AND PRE-APPLICATION

Pre-applications will be reviewed for responsiveness of the proposed work to the research topics identified in this FOA. DOE will send a response by email to each applicant encouraging or discouraging the submission of an application by the date indicated on the cover of the FOA. Applicants who have not received a response regarding the status of their pre-application by this date are responsible for contacting the program to confirm this status.

Applications that have not been encouraged by DOE may be declined without merit review.

The pre-application must include, at the top of the first page, the following information:

Title of Pre-application
Principal Investigator Name, Job Title
Institution
PI Phone Number, PI Email Address
(for each Co-I, if applicable) Co-Investigator Name, Job Title
Institution

FOA Number: Include the FOA Number indicated on the cover of this FOA

FOA Topic: Include the FOA research topic name and number

The title page should include a list of the names and institutional affiliations of all participating investigators, including collaborators and consultants on the proposed project. The title page will not count toward the pre-application's page limit. The title page must be followed by a clear and concise description of the objectives and technical approach of the proposed research, how the proposed research addresses the FOA research topic, and how ARM-supported observations are integral to the proposed research. The pre-application may not exceed two pages, when printed using standard letter-size (8.5 inch x 11 inch) paper with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). The font must not be smaller than 11 point. Figures and references, if included, must fit within the two-page limit. **The pre-application must demonstrate responsiveness to the objectives of the FOA.**

In addition, the pre-application must include a listing of individuals who should not serve as merit reviewers of a subsequent application. Detailed instructions for how to craft such a listing are provided in [Section VIII](#) of this FOA. Applicants are encouraged to use the collaborator template provided at <https://science.osti.gov/grants/Policy-and-Guidance/Agreement-Forms> when preparing this list. This listing will not count toward the pre-application's page limit. The list of individuals must be converted to a machine-readable PDF file and appended to your pre-application for submission through the PAMS website at <https://pamspublic.science.energy.gov>.

The pre-application must be machine-readable. Do not submit a scanned image of a printed document.

Pay attention to the exact format requested. This is not the same for every FOA. Read the section carefully!

Often there is a 2–3-page limit. References may be included in the page limit.

List of collaborators is mandatory. Check the referenced section to see the criteria for who should be included. SC Template is preferred.

Pre-applications as well as proposals should be machine readable.

Topic must be responsive to FOA.

Pre-Application Submission and Review

- Pre-Applications are submitted through the DOE's Portfolio Analysis Management System (PAMS).
 - [Portfolio Analysis and Management System \(PAMS\) | Department of Energy](#)
 - Check the FOA title page to see whether the lead PI or an institutional administrator must submit the Pre-Application.
 - **DO NOT** submit Pre-Applications through Grants.gov unless the FOA specifically states to do so.
- Pre-Applications are reviewed for responsiveness to the information listed in the Summary and Supplementary Information in the Section I of the FOA.
 - Sometimes Pre-Applications are reviewed for competitiveness, and this will be noted in the FOA language.
- Discouraged applicants receive a system-generated email sent from PAMS stating that BER “has determined that the proposed work does not satisfy the criteria for encouragement specified in the solicitation.”
- Feedback about pre-applications will be provided upon request after award selections have been announced.

Submitting the Application

- Check the FOA again!
 - All proposals are submitted via Grants.gov
- Work with your institution's Sponsored Research Office (SRO) regarding guidelines and timelines
 - Most SROs require significant time to review submissions
 - While in some cases an individual PI may submit a pre-application directly, a PI will almost **never** submit a proposal.

Proposal Narrative

PROJECT NARRATIVE (FIELD 8 ON THE FORM)

The project narrative for Science Research Areas #1 and #2 **must not exceed a page limit of 20 pages** of technical information, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations, when printed using standard letter-size (8.5 inch x 11 inch) paper with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left, and right). **The project narrative page limit for Science Area #3 is 15 pages.** The font of all main text must not be smaller than 11 point. Merit reviewers will only consider the number of pages specified in the first sentence of this paragraph. This page limit does not apply to the Title Page, Budget Page(s), Budget Justification, biographical material, publications and references, appendices, and an optional table of content, each of which may have its own page limit defined later in this FOA.

The Project Narrative comprises the research plan for the project. It should contain enough background material in the Introduction, including a brief review of the relevant literature and any prior research in this area, to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the state of the science. The major part of the narrative should be devoted to a description and justification of the proposed project, including details of the methods to be used. It should also include a timeline for the major activities of the proposed project, and indicate which project personnel will be responsible for which activities. There should be no ambiguity about which personnel will perform particular parts of the project, and the time at which these activities will take place.

The following organization of the Project Narrative is suggested:

- **Background/Introduction:** Explanation of the importance and relevance of the proposed work as well as a review of the relevant literature.
- **Project Objectives:** This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project.
- **Proposed Research and Methods:** Identify the hypotheses to be tested and details of the methods to be used including the integration of experiments with theoretical and computational research efforts.
- **Timetable of Activities:** Timeline for all major activities including milestones and deliverables.
- **Team Management and Responsibilities:** Description of the roles and responsibilities of all research team members (funded and unfunded), including involvement/training of non-PI early career researchers (e.g., students, postdoctoral researchers), when applicable, and plans for communication and coordination among team members.

Always check the page limits which can be different for different topic areas.

Provide sufficient justification for why this research is important and why your team should be funded to do it.

There is usually an overview and suggested organization for the Project Narrative.

Proposal – Additional Sections

- There are other sections required beyond the Proposal Narrative with their own page limits and/or other requirements
 - Check the FOA as these may be different based on the topic.
- Include an up-to-date **list of individuals who should not serve as merit reviewers** for each senior personnel on the proposal.
 - Excel workbook template preferred (https://science.osti.gov/-/media/grants/excel/Collaborator_Template.xlsx)
- Some of these sections, including the DMP and the PIER Plan should be customized for each proposal.
 - For more information on PIER Plans, see <https://science.osti.gov/grants/Applicantand-Awardee-Resources/PIER-Plans>
 - For more information on the DMP, see <https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research/eessd/Data-Management>

APPENDIX 1: BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES CITED

APPENDIX 2: FACILITIES & OTHER RESOURCES

APPENDIX 3: EQUIPMENT

APPENDIX 4: DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN (DMP)

APPENDIX 5: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE RESEARCH (PIER) PLAN

APPENDIX 6: SOFTWARE PRODUCTIVITY AND SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

Budget – Funding

C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE

(See [B. Estimated Funding](#) above.)

The award size will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

A multi-institutional team, whether applied for as a prime applicant with subawards or as collaborative applications, is limited to a request of a total award of no more than \$1,000,000.

Ceiling

Science Research Area 1 and 2: \$1,000,000 total award

Science Research Area 3: \$400,000 total award

Applications requesting more than this amount of support may be declined without further review.

Floor

\$100,000 total award for all Science Research Areas.

Pay attention to the ceiling and floor. If you have subawards, their costs are included in the size of the lead institution's award. Direct and indirect costs are also included in the total award size.

Some FOAs may have different or no ceilings.

When writing the budget justification, make sure the justification matches the order of the budget outline.

Merit Review Criteria

Minimum criterial list (in descending order of importance):

- Scientific and/or technical merit of the project
- Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach
- Competency of personnel & adequacy of proposed resources
- Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget
- Quality and Efficacy of the Plan for Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research

APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED METHOD OR APPROACH

- How logical and feasible are the research approaches?
- Does the proposed research employ innovative concepts or methods?
- Can the approach proposed concretely contribute to our understanding of the validity of the specified scientific hypotheses or questions?
- Are the conceptual framework, methods, and analyses well justified, adequately developed, and likely to lead to scientifically valid conclusions?
- Does the applicant recognize significant potential problems and consider alternative strategies?
- To what degree are ARM observations integral to the proposed research?

Note the 'food for thought' questions under each criteria that reviewers are asked to consider. Make sure to answer these questions in the proposal.

Review Process

- **Initial review by Program Manager (PM).**
 - Proposal contains necessary components.
- **Merit Review Criteria.**
 - Specific criteria are listed in the FOA.
- **Panel Review.**
 - Scientists with diverse expertise and demographics is convened to review the proposals.
 - Each proposal is assigned for in-depth review to at least three reviewers.
 - Ad hoc reviews may be requested is necessary.
 - Each proposal is summarized by one the assigned reviewers.
 - Each reviewer shares his/her comments with the panel.
 - The whole panel discusses the proposal.
 - After panel discussions, assigned reviewers finalize their comments and scores.
 - Scores are usually not shared with the applicant.
- **Funding Recommendations.**
 - PMs recommend proposals for funding based on reviews and program policy factors.
 - PMs may request selected PIs to submit revised budgets and responses to reviews.

Common Shortfalls

- Not giving sufficient details that a panel of diverse expertise can understand the plan.
- Not providing sufficient alternative approaches if proposed experimental plans fail.
- PIER plan is directly the university policy and not tailored to the research proposal team.
- Not providing clearly the significance of the proposed work and contributions of the researchers supporting the project.
- Missing required documents

Tips for applicants after review:

- Read reviews carefully on both funded and declined proposals! Reviewers often have useful suggestions that will strengthen your research.
- Applicants often think “the reviewer just didn’t understand” – this is an indication that you may need to express your ideas more clearly next time.
- You can reach out to PMs to discuss a declined proposal if you have questions – but please use this as a learning opportunity not a complaint session!

Characteristics of Successful Proposals

- Easy to read and well organized
- Objectives and rationale are clearly outlined and responsive to the FOA
- Hypotheses and/or scientific questions are relevant and well formulated
- Research plan is realistic for timeframe, personnel, and budget – not overly ambitious
- Provides the necessary background to establish the research necessity and what fundamental knowledge gaps it is addressing
- Communicates the importance and impact of the research and its relevance to the program
- Includes sufficient preliminary data and/or literature review to support the goals and feasibility of the research
- Appropriately detailed research plan
 - Discussion of potential pitfalls and alternative approaches
 - Not too much technical detail but not too vague
- Appropriate team expertise with additional collaborators if needed

What are “Program Policy Factors”?

The Selection Official may consider any of the following program policy factors in making the selection, listed in no order of significance:

- Availability of funds
- Relevance of the proposed activity to SC priorities
- Ensuring an appropriate balance of activities within SC programs
- Performance under current awards
- Institutional history of training and mentoring early-career researchers
- Providing placement for postdoctoral researchers
- Training graduate students in conduct of basic research
- Presence of tenure-track or tenure-equivalent investigators
- Training the next generation of researchers
- Providing career pathways for the next generation of researchers
- Maximizing the use of DOE user facilities
- Ensuring opportunities to investigators not currently supported by DOE
- Commitment to sharing the results of research
- Promoting the diversity of supported investigators
- Promoting the diversity of institutions receiving awards
- Institutional history of hiring, promoting, and placing scientists from underrepresented communities in the scientific workforce

Help DOE review proposals!

BER conducts peer reviews of funding applications to obtain an independent assessment of the scientific and technical merit of the proposed research. Reviewers are selected based the following considerations:

- Individual reviewers should have the appropriate scientific expertise.
- Conflicts of interest should be avoided.
- Review panels should include an appropriate mix of disciplines.
- Panels should have a balanced demographic diversity, including affiliation, geographic location, research sector, gender, career level, etc.
- Program Managers consider applicants' requests to include or exclude specific individuals as reviewers.

See our user-friendly web form to volunteer and indicate your expertise and interests.

<https://genomicscience.energy.gov/reviewer-application/>

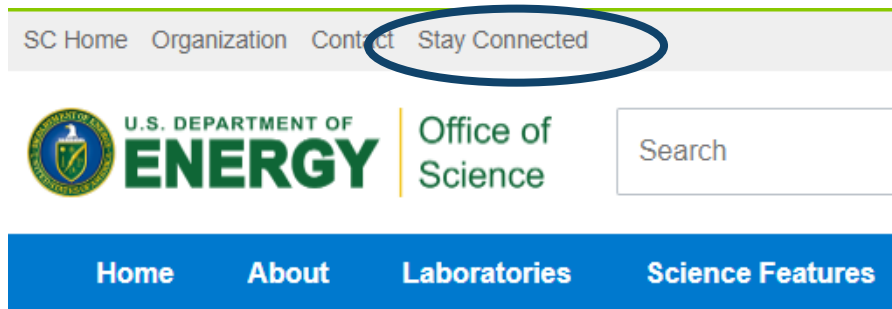


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- Subscribers can sign up to receive items like news releases, meeting announcements, science updates, and funding opportunities from any or all Office of Science Program areas.



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Future Office Hours

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BER Funding Opportunities

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Biological Systems Science Division (BSSD)

Genomic Science Program (GSP)

Bioenergy Research Centers (BRCs)

Bioimaging Research

DOE Systems Biology Knowledgebase (KBase)

DOE National Microbiome Data Collaborative (NMDC)

BER Structural Biology Portal

Joint Genome Institute (JGI)

Earth and Environmental Systems Sciences Division (EESSD)

Atmospheric System Research (ASR)

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<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research/bssd>

<https://genomicscience.energy.gov>

<https://genomicscience.energy.gov/bioenergy-research-centers>

<https://science.osti.gov/ber/bioimaging-research>

<https://www.kbase.us>

<https://microbiomedata.org>

<https://berstructuralbioportal.org>

<https://jgi.doe.gov>

<https://science.osti.gov/ber/Research/eessd>

<https://asr.science.energy.gov>

<https://ess.science.energy.gov>

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Thank you!

