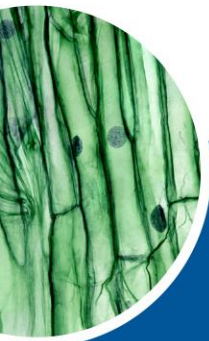




S-STEM Resource & Evaluation Center (REC)

**2025 S-STEM Proposal Preparation Webinar
Featuring Panel Discussion
Tracks 1, 2, & 3 Focus**



NSF AWARD #2224093: AAAS-NSF S-STEM
Resource & Evaluation Center

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

Housekeeping



Please type your questions into the “Q&A” box and “upvote” questions asked by others that are also of interest to you.



Today’s slides and recording will be posted on the event page of the S-STEM REC website.



Live ASL interpretation is available.



Click the "Live Transcript/CC" icon to access closed captioning.



Contact Jamila Blake in the chat or at jblake@aaas.org for technology questions or issues



Please take our post event survey to provide feedback on this webinar!

Agenda

I. AAAS S-STEM REC Overview & Resources

II. 2025 S-STEM Program/Solicitation Highlights

III. Panel Introductions & Opening Question Responses

IV. Q&A

Disclaimer

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DUE-2224093.

Any opinions, findings, interpretations, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this material are those of its authors and do not represent the views of the AAAS Board of Directors, the Council of AAAS, AAAS' membership or the National Science Foundation.



NSF AWARD #2224093

AAAS S-STEM Resources & Evaluation Center (REC)

The S-STEM REC seeks to cultivate a network of S-STEM stakeholders and promote the exchange of ideas, resources, opportunities, and knowledge related to the effective strategies and practices to increase the number of talented low-income students obtaining degrees in STEM and entering the STEM workforce.

AAAS S-STEM REC works to:



Increase the effectiveness of the S-STEM Portfolio



Build the capacity of S-STEM Network Programs



Build the capacity of S-STEM Scholars



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S-STEM REC Team



NSF SCHOLARSHIPS IN STEM NETWORK SOLICITATION



S-STEM REC

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MNA



Quality Education for Minorities (QEM) Network

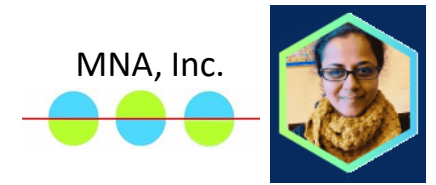


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S-STEM REC Research & Evaluation Technical Assistance



**Tips on Developing Your
Research and Evaluation Plans for the
2025 S-STEM Grant Proposal**

**Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. ET
Feb. 13 at 2:30 p.m. ET**

[Webinar Materials](#)

[Guidebook: Preparing Research and Evaluation
Plans for NSF S-STEM Grant Proposals](#)

**Developing and Using a Logic Model
or Theory of Change in Your
NSF S-STEM Proposal**

**Feb. 4 at 1 p.m. ET
Feb. 18 at 1 p.m. ET**

[Webinar Materials](#)

[Evaluation Technical Assistance Request Form](#)



2025 NSF S-STEM Solicitation & Resources

NSF 25-514



[SOLICITATION](#)



[OVERVIEW
WEBINAR](#)



[FAQS](#)

NSF Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (S-STEM)

Overview of S-STEM Track 1

Deadline: March 4, 2025



Directorate for STEM Education (EDU)
Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE)

S-STEM Program Goals

- Provide scholarships to **academically talented, domestic low-income students with demonstrated financial need** pursuing a degree in an S-STEM eligible discipline.
- Adapt and implement evidence-based curricular and co-curricular activities to support S-STEM Scholars. These should include cohort building and faculty mentoring.
- Increase retention, student success, and graduation of these low-income students in STEM.
- Test strategies for systematically supporting student academic and career pathways in STEM in ways that align with institutional contexts and resources.
- Disseminate findings related to the supports and interventions undertaken by the project.



Expected Scholar Outcomes

It is anticipated that S-STEM Scholars will achieve one of the following by the end of the scholarship award period (up to 5 years per degree):



Attain an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree in an S-STEM eligible discipline and enter the workforce or a graduate program in STEM.

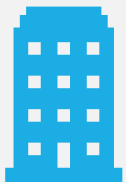


Transfer from an associate to a baccalaureate degree program or advance from an undergraduate to a graduate program.

The S-STEM Program Encourages:



The use of **data analytics** to **examine patterns** in institutional data and **predict successful completion** of academic and career pathways.



Proposals that incorporate strong campus partnerships across departments/colleges, student affairs, admissions, financial aid, and other areas of the institution.



Proposals that build on institutional strengths and address documented institutional needs (e.g. via institutional needs assessments or scans)

Summary of Program Changes and Important Info

- The deadline for Tracks 1, 2 & 3 proposals is March 4, 2025. Collaborative Planning Grants are no longer accepted.
- Maximum award amount for Track 1 has changed to up to \$2,000,000. At least 50% of the total budget request must be allocated to scholarships.
- Evaluation plan logic models must be included as a supplementary document.
- The required data table summarizing the pool of potential scholars at each participating institution must be included as a supplementary document.



Reminder of Previous Program Changes

- Maximum scholarship amounts increased to \$15,000/year undergrad and \$20,000/year graduate (master's or Ph.D)
- Maximum duration of scholarships increased to 5 years per degree.
- Scholarship Calculation: scholarships should meet students' unmet need, up to the max allowable amount. S-STEM remains a last-dollar scholarship. The calculation of scholars' unmet need now reflects the Student Aid Index, which replaced EFC starting in the 2024-25 FAFSA.
- Involvement of Financial Aid Offices: must be part of determining the definition of low-income, scholars' eligibility, and scholarship amounts.
- Project Viability: proposers should demonstrate that comparable numbers of eligible students have enrolled in the disciplines/degrees.



Common Requirements for Tracks 1, 2, and 3

All proposals should include a **literature review** that establishes the basis for the proposed evidence-based activities. Institutional needs assessments can also be used to justify activities.

All proposals are expected to develop and support **student cohorts** and provide S-STEM Scholars with **faculty mentors**. **These activities are critical.** However, remember that activities that are not degree requirements cannot be required of scholars. It can be beneficial to describe training or support for mentors, if applicable.

Every Track 1, 2 and 3 proposal should describe a **clear and specific evaluation plan** to be executed by an **evaluator that is external to the project, but not necessarily external to the institution.**



Track 1: Institutional Capacity Building

Up to 6 years and \$2,000,000

50% of Total Budget Devoted to Scholarships (Budget Line F.1)

Eligibility: Single Institutions of Higher Education that have not had active funding from the NSF S-STEM or STEP programs in the 5 years prior to the submission deadline.

The project principal investigator (PI) must be a STEM faculty currently teaching in one of the S-STEM eligible disciplines pursued by the proposal's potential Scholars or a STEM administrator who has taught in one of those disciplines in the past two years.

If not serving as PI, a STEM administrator (department head or above) should also be a member of the project leadership.

Faculty members from all departments or academic units involved should have a role in the project either as Co-PIs, senior personnel, or Scholar mentors.



Track 1: Institutional Capacity Building

Additional Considerations

Initial Planning Period: Track 1 proposals must detail an initial planning/self-study period to further develop institutional capacity before awarding scholarships. Activities during this period should align with the goal of increasing the capabilities of the project team and institution to engage and serve the needs of S-STEM scholars

This planning period should last between 6 and 12 months and should be described in a supplemental document (titled “Track 1 Planning”) of no more than 4 pages. This document should include defined activities, a clear timeline, and designated roles for members of the project leadership team in the planning process.

To facilitate this planning work, Track 1 proposals are required to allocate at least 50% of the total request towards scholarships, vs. the 60% requirement described in earlier solicitations.



Track 2: Implementation Projects

Up to 6 years and \$2,000,000

60% of Total Budget Devoted to Scholarships (Budget Line F.1)

Eligibility: Single Institutions of Higher Education. If the project focuses on student transfer or progression to graduate school, two or more institutions could partner.

The project principal investigator (PI) must be a STEM faculty currently teaching in one of the S-STEM eligible disciplines pursued by the proposal's potential Scholars or a STEM administrator who has taught in one of those disciplines.

If not serving as PI, a STEM administrator (department head or above) should also be a member of the project leadership.

Faculty members from all departments or academic units involved should have a role in the project either as Co-PIs, senior personnel, or Scholar mentors.



Knowledge Generation: Track 1 and 2

Track 1 and 2 proposals are **scholarship-intensive**.

Formal **research** activities are not required. Track 1 and 2 proposals should center on supporting the successful degree completion of Scholars and their progress towards graduate study and/or the workforce.

Proposals can utilize non-scholarship funds to provide additional support for Scholars (e.g. research opportunities, internships, travel to conferences).

Proposals must generate new knowledge via **robust project evaluation** and include **substantive dissemination plans**.



Track 3: Inter-Institutional Consortia

Up to 6 years and \$5,000,000

60% of Total Budget Devoted to Scholarships (Budget Line F.1)

Eligibility/Focus: Multi-institutional collaborations that focus on a common interest or problem.

Track 3 proposals should include a **strong and mutually beneficial collaboration across all institutions involved** in the consortium, providing equivalent benefit to all institutions.

The PI of a track 3 proposal must be one of:

- (a) a faculty member currently teaching in one of the S-STEM eligible disciplines;
- (b) a STEM administrator (department head or above); or
- (c) a researcher whose expertise is in institutional, educational, or social science research in higher education.



Track 3: Inter-Institutional Consortia

All Track 3 projects should engage in **high-quality research** to advance understanding of how to adapt, implement and scale up effective evidence-based programs and practices designed to foster positive outcomes for low-income students in STEM.

This research is led by PIs, Co-PIs, or senior personnel who are faculty in social sciences or educational research. The faculty involved in the research component of Track 3 proposals cannot act as external evaluators for the project or work.

The S-STEM program welcomes all appropriate theoretical frameworks and methodological approaches for research projects in Track 3 proposals.



Thank You!

U.S. National Science Foundation



Insights from Panelists



Elise N. Lockwood
Professor
Oregon State University
NSF Program Director 2021-2024



Yvette E. Pearson
Associate Dean
University of Texas at Dallas
NSF Program Director 2013-2016



David R. Brown
Emeritus Professor
Southwestern College
NSF Program Director 2012-2015

Q&A

Please use the Q&A feature to submit your questions and “upvote” other questions. We will try our best to verbally answer questions, but we may answer you in the Q&A feature, so keep an eye out.



Provide Your Feedback on Today's Event!

Survey Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/mhpdn6yh>





Connect with the AAAS S-STEM REC!

Explore: <https://sstemrec.aaas.org/>

Get on our Mailing List: <http://eepurl.com/grH5C9>

Connect on LinkedIn: [s-stem-program](#)

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