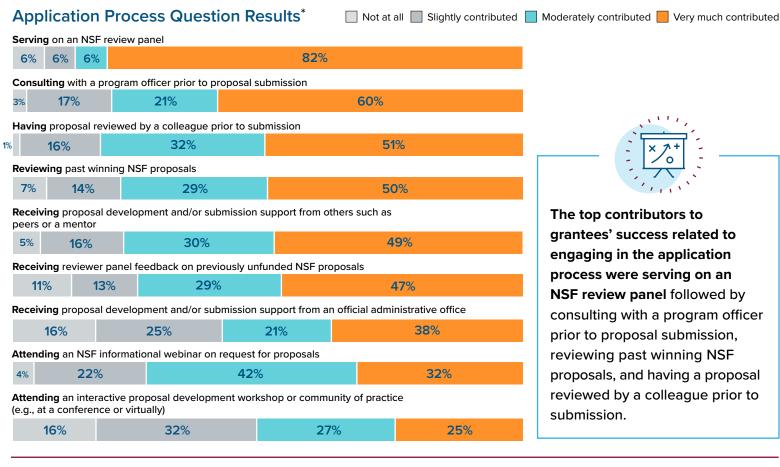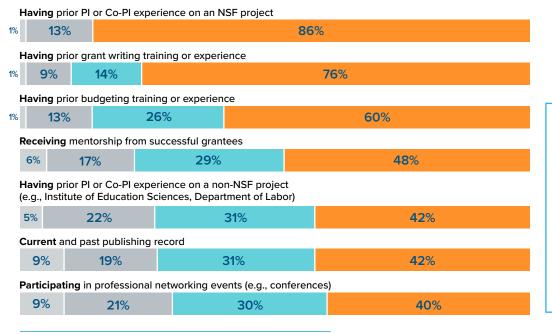# CONTRIBUTING FACTORS to DRK-12 GRANTEE SUCCESS

In fall 2023, the Evidence Quality and Reach (EQR) Hub and Community for Discovering Advancing Discovery Research in Education surveyed **97** **current National Science Foundation Discovery Research PreK-12 (DRK-12) grantees** to understand what they thought contributed to their NSF grant funding success. The survey included questions on their experience with the application process, personal/professional development, and partnerships.

Application Process Question Results*

Legend: ☐ Not at all ☐ Slightly contributed ☐ Moderately contributed 🟧 Very much contributed

Serving on an NSF review panel
6% | 6% | 6% | 82%

Consulting with a program officer prior to proposal submission
3% | 17% | 21% | 60%

Having proposal reviewed by a colleague prior to submission
1% | 16% | 32% | 51%

Reviewing past winning NSF proposals
7% | 14% | 29% | 50%

Receiving proposal development and/or submission support from others such as peers or a mentor
5% | 16% | 30% | 49%

Receiving reviewer panel feedback on previously unfunded NSF proposals
11% | 13% | 29% | 47%

Receiving proposal development and/or submission support from an official administrative office
16% | 25% | 21% | 38%

Attending an NSF informational webinar on request for proposals
4% | 22% | 42% | 32%

Attending an interactive proposal development workshop or community of practice (e.g., at a conference or virtually)
16% | 32% | 27% | 25%

> **The top contributors to grantees' success related to engaging in the application process were serving on an NSF review panel** followed by consulting with a program officer prior to proposal submission, reviewing past winning NSF proposals, and having a proposal reviewed by a colleague prior to submission.

Personal/Professional Development Process Questions Results*

Having prior PI or Co-PI experience on an NSF project
1% | 13% | 86%

Having prior grant writing training or experience
1% | 9% | 14% | 76%

Having prior budgeting training or experience
1% | 13% | 26% | 60%

Receiving mentorship from successful grantees
6% | 17% | 29% | 48%

Having prior PI or Co-PI experience on a non-NSF project (e.g., Institute of Education Sciences, Department of Labor)
5% | 22% | 31% | 42%

Current and past publishing record
9% | 19% | 31% | 42%

Participating in professional networking events (e.g., conferences)
9% | 21% | 30% | 40%

> More than 75% of grantees indicated that having prior PI or Co-PI experience on an NSF grant and **prior grant writing training or experience very much contributed to their ability to secure DRK-12 funding.**

* **Note:** Participants were allowed to skip items. Overall, item nonresponse ranged from 16 to 53.

Partnership Question Results*

Developing partners with K-12 districts and schools

| 1% | 1% | 19% | 78% |

Engaging members of the communities (e.g., students, teachers, underrepresented groups) you propose to work with or study in the project design and implementation

| 1% | 3% | 25% | 71% |

Developing partnerships with other STEM content experts or methodological experts

| 1% | 11% | 26% | 62% |

Developing partnerships with experts from underrepresented institutes (e.g., community colleges, minority serving institutionals)

| 5% | 11% | 33% | 51% |

Developing partnerships with knowledge translation experts to support dissemination and broader impact

| 18% | 18% | 24% | 41% |

The majority of DRK-12 grantees indicated that **developing partnerships with K-12 districts and schools and engaging members of the communities** (e.g., students, teachers, under-represented groups) they propose to work with or study very much contributed to their success.

Resources to Support Grant Success • cadrek12.org

If you are interested in learning more about the Discovery Research PreK-12 program or looking for resources to build your capacity to apply, visit the CADRE website.

Here are a few direct links to get you started!

NSF Proposal Toolkit
Explore NSF funding opportunities for STEM education research, and gather advice for the proposal preparation, submission, and review process.

The DRK-12 Community
Learn about DRK-12 STEM education projects and the people working on them.

CADRE, NSF & NSF Network Events
Browse upcoming events hosted by the NSF network.

EQR Hub STEM Ecosystems Webinar Recording and Slides
Watch this October 2023 webinar on what STEM ecosystems are, how STEM ecosystems can support PreK-12 STEM education research and development projects, and how researchers can get involved.