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| NSF Project Summary Template |

Before you start writing, it's essential to understand the fundamental components that make up an effective NSF project summary. The documents must follow the [NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide](https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/2022-10/nsf23_1.pdf) formatting guidelines and is limited to **no more than one page in length.** At a minimum, your project summary should include:

* A clear and succinct project title.
* An overview of the intended work, including methodology, approach, and significance.
* A description of the intellectual merit of the research.
* A breakdown of the broader impacts of the project.

## Project Overview

Begin with a brief background that establishes the context of the proposed work. Why is the research area significant, and what is the current state of knowledge?Next, clearly state the objectives of your research, outline your research methodology/approach, and state what you intend to accomplish.

Some sample questions you could address:

* What is the knowledge gap?
* What are the overall objectives, the specific objectives, and the proposed research approach?
* What is the research goal and how does it fit with the PI’s long-term research goals?
* How is your proposal creative and original?
* What is the education goal of the proposed project and how does this goal fit with the PI’s long-term educational goals?
* What is the educational approach?
* How are the research and education components integrated?

## Intellectual Merit

The Intellectual Merit criteria seek to determine the extent to which the proposed research advances knowledge. In this section, be specific about what makes your approach innovative and how it will contribute to intellectual understanding within your field. Start by articulating the central hypothesis of your research and provide a rationale for why investigating this question is important. If relevant, discuss any preliminary data that support your approach.

Furthermore, explain the potential benefits and impacts of your work for the scientific community. This can include the development of new methodologies, the opening of new lines of inquiry, or the training of a new cadre of researchers. The key is to convey a clear vision of how your work will contribute to advancing knowledge in your area of study.

Some sample questions you could address:

* What is the current state of knowledge in the field, and where is it headed?
* What gap in the current knowledge will your work fill?
* How are you and/or your organization uniquely positioned to address this issue/challenge/topic?
* Why will your contribution be transformative?
* What will your research do to enhance or enable other research in this field?
* Why is your research important for the advancement of the field?

## Broader Impacts

In this section, outline how your project will benefit society at large. The broader impacts can manifest in various ways, such as addressing societal needs or improving STEM education. Describe any planned outreach activities, partnerships with industry, or potential implications for policy. Discuss how you will disseminate the outcomes of your research to a broader community and engage with stakeholders. Equally important is the discussion of how your project will enhance the infrastructure for research and education.

Some potential questions you could address:

* What are the desired societal outcomes and how will those benefit society at large?
* How will activities result in advancement?
* What are the possible applications of your research—why would the public care?
  + Does it have any economic, environmental, or social benefits?
  + Does it help with the involvement of underrepresented groups in research and education activities?
* How will your proposal benefit your organization?

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| This template is only intended to be used as an example. Not all sample questions and materials will apply to your individual proposal. Please consult the program solicitation for specific requirements, including page limitations, headings/sections, etc. |

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