# Perceived Barriers to National Science Foundation Funding

The **[Evidence Quality and Reach (EQR) Hub](#)** surveyed community members[1] to better understand their perceived barriers to obtaining National Science Foundation (NSF) funding. Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed that an item was a barrier to obtaining NSF funding.

## Top barriers to obtaining NSF funding
### identified by the majority of EQR Hub community members[2]

**89%**[3]
**Dedicating enough time**
to develop a proposal

**67%**
**Obtaining enough funding** to support the development of a proposal

**64%**
**Developing partnerships**
with K-12 districts and schools

**63%**
**Obtaining staff**
to assist with proposal writing

**58%**
**Developing partnerships** with experts from underrepresented institutions*
*e.g., community colleges, minority serving institutions*

**58%**
**Receiving mentorship**
from grantees

**58%**
**Receiving proposal submission support** from an official administrative office

These perceived barriers are largely aligned with the **barriers reported by interview participants.**

### Interviewees noted:

" I think the biggest enemy to any of this, whether it's grant writing or events and things like that is just time, **time to process, time to do.**

" It's really **hard to establish a partnership** with the teachers and school principals. I think it's hard to get schools into research [and] into those partnerships.

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

**Here are a few direct links to help you get started!**

### Demystifying How to Participate in NSF Funding

**Learn** from NSF-funded resource center leads about the challenges that applicants face when applying for and securing NSF grants and the strategies their centers have used to help increase participation.

### Contributing Factors to DRK-12 Grantee Success

**Learn** about the factors that current and former DRK-12 grantees say contributed to their success with NSF grant funding.

### 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.