

# Perceived Barriers to National Science Foundation Funding

The [Evidence Quality and Reach \(EQR\) Hub](#) surveyed community members<sup>1</sup> 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<sup>2</sup>



89%<sup>3</sup>

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.

<sup>1</sup> Community members are individuals who signed up for the EQR Hub mailing list and include both current and aspiring NSF Discovery Research PreK-12 program grantees.

<sup>2</sup> Participants were allowed to skip items. Overall, the number of responses ranged from 85 to 93.

<sup>3</sup> Indicates percentage of respondents who agreed/strongly agreed that the item is a barrier to obtaining NSF funding.

## Resources to Support Grant Success • [cadrek12.org](https://cadrek12.org)

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 \(CADRE\)](https://cadrek12.org) 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.

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