

NEWS

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Announcements

Important Changes to NSF's PAPPG: Mentoring Plan

The National Science Foundation's newest PAPPG took effect on May 20, 2024. Proposals that request funding to support **one or more graduate or postdoctoral students** must now upload a **1-page Mentoring Plan** describing the mentoring activities offered.

Please see the [Mentoring Plan Template](#) on ERAD's website for more information.

Funding Opportunities

Solar Technologies' Rapid Integration and Validation for Energy Systems (STRIVES)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

Concept Paper Due July 25, 2024

Areas of Interest: energy efficiency, sustainable engineering, solar energy engineering, electric & hybrid vehicles, emission control

Project Amount Range: \$1,000,000 - \$3,000,000 USD

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO), and Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO) is issuing a funding opportunity which will provide up to \$31 million to advance clean energy technologies and build a clean and equitable energy economy.

Specifically, SETO's STRIVES will fund research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) projects to improve power systems simulation software tools and demonstrate new models for systems operations to optimize inverter-based resources (IBRs) and distributed energy resources (DERs), including solar, wind, energy storage, and other technologies such as buildings and electric vehicles.

Projects must be applicable to one of the following topic areas:

1. Robust Experimentation and Advanced Learning for Distribution System Operators
2. Improved Simulation Tools for Large-Scale IBR Transient and Dynamic Studies

Read more about this opportunity [here](#).

COmpact Front-end Filters at the ELe ment-level (COFFEE) Program, Technical Area 2

Department of Defense - Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)

Proposal Due August 2, 2024

Areas of Interest: electrical and systems engineering, high-performance radio frequency (RF) filter technology, signal processing

The advance toward active electronically scanned arrays (AESAs) has increased AESA capabilities but left them vulnerable to interference. To prevent the impact of interferers, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) set out to develop compact, high-performance radio frequency (RF) filter technology through COFFEE TA1.

DARPA's second initiative, COFFEE TA2, will capitalize on the breakthroughs in RF filter size and technology by integrating COFFEE filters into models that demonstrate interference suppression. Proposals should incorporate frequencies from 2 to 18 GHz, and participants must show how they will achieve the disruptive potential of COFFEE technology through their exemplar filters. Such exemplars ought to demonstrate manufacturability and a high degree of disruption potential that departs from current filter design practices.

Note: Individuals who did not participate in the original COFFEE BAA TA1/TA3 are still eligible to submit proposals for TA2.

Read more about the solicitation [here](#).

Best Practices

Agency-Required Diversity Plans: NIH's PEDP & DOE's PIER

With NSF's recent efforts to increase participation and diversity in STEM, more federal agencies are beginning to follow suit. In 2021, NIH introduced a [Plan for Enhancing Diverse Perspectives \(PEDP\)](#), which aims to increase diversity among students and researchers, partnering institutions, and study participants. Similarly, all DOE Office of Science and National Lab funding solicitations are now requiring applicants to submit a [Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research \(PIER\)](#) plan in their proposal narratives.

When developing a diversity plan, funders want to see applicants incorporate **well-planned, strategic activities** to enhance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in their research. Once you identify perspectives that would enhance your project, it's best to consider *how* you might engage outside stakeholders and organizations.

Specific diversity needs and goals will vary among research and institution types, yet all plans should involve proactive steps and clear tasks. Below are some example elements to include in your diversity plan, according to each funding agency.

Suggested PEDP Elements

- Participation of investigators from diverse backgrounds
- Engagement with various types of institutions and organizations

- Training, mentoring, and professional development opportunities designed to engage diverse stakeholders
- Cross-disciplinary collaboration
- Inclusion of community-based partners to ensure research goals and community values align

Visit NIH's [PEDP Key Elements and Examples](#) page for more.

Suggested PIER Elements

- Institutional strategies to enhance recruitment of students and researchers
- Strategies to create and sustain an inclusive, safe, and professional environment among research personnel
- Training, mentoring, and professional development opportunities

Visit DOE's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page for more resources on developing your PIER plan.

Adapted from the May 2024 edition of the [Research Development & Grantwriting Newsletter](#).

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