

## FY 2007 NCAR DIRECTOR'S OPPORTUNITY FUND

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| ANTICIPATED TOTAL FUNDING:         | \$589,664                                      |
| SUBMISSION DEADLINE:               | <b>Friday, April 7, 2006</b>                   |
| SUBMIT PROPOSAL TO:                | Amy Stephens, NCAR Budget & Planning<br>ML 520 |
| DURATION:                          | 1 or 2 years                                   |
| MAX. REQUEST PER PROPOSAL:         | \$200,000 (total for all years)                |
| COSPONSORSHIP:                     | None Required                                  |
| INTER-DIVISIONAL<br>COLLABORATION: | None Required                                  |

### GENERAL GUIDANCE

The NCAR Director's Opportunity Fund is used to fund highly innovative science and technology, often fundamental, in those disciplines that underpin NCAR's programs. It is open to NCAR's Scientific/Engineering Staff, and participation by early-career scientists is especially encouraged.

- Funding will be limited to startup costs for new or seed activities, including research, education, and facility development projects. On-going costs of existing projects are not eligible.
- Eligible proposals generally cover one year but can extend to two years.
- Inter-divisional collaboration, though encouraged, is not required and will not be part of the review criteria. Proposals can also be individual PI driven; large group participation is not a requirement.
- Proposals should be a maximum of five pages plus a budget table of no more than one page.
- Participation from UOP and EO is encouraged but there must be a lead NCAR PI included in the proposal. Funding will remain in NCAR.
- Postdoctoral Fellows are eligible though the period of performance of the project should not extend beyond the Post doc's Term date. Exceptions must be approved by the applicable Division Director.

## PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

NCAR employees who wish to participate should submit **electronically** a summary proposal (no more than five pages plus a budget page) through their Division Director for submission to the NCAR Budget and Planning Office by April 7, 2006.

The Director of each laboratory will be responsible for reviewing and providing advice but should not eliminate or disallow proposals. Directors of all participating divisions should review any cross-divisional proposals. Division Administrators should ensure that budget tables are correctly completed and the appropriate FY 2007 overhead rates are applied prior to submission.

The proposal should:

1. State the project goals.
2. Outline the proposed methodology.
3. If outside NCAR collaborators are participating in the proposal, include their name, institution, and their specific activities contributing to this project.
4. A detailed budget table should be attached. Please use the proposal template provided by the NCAR Budget and Planning Office. You can access the B&P template at: <http://www.ncar.ucar.edu/bnp/opportunity/index.html>.
5. Provide a list of five reviewers within NCAR/UCAR that would be able to comment on your proposal (above the five + budget page limit).

The main body of the proposal should be a clear statement of the work to be undertaken and should include objectives for the period of the proposed work and expected significance and relation to longer-term goals of the project. The statement should outline the general plan of work, including the broad design of activities to be undertaken, and an adequate description of experimental or theoretical methods and procedures. The statement of work should also indicate any broader impacts of the proposed activity by addressing the following, if relevant:

- Indicate how the project will integrate research and education by advancing discovery and understanding while at the same time promoting teaching, training, and learning;
- Discuss any ways in which the proposed activity will broaden the participation of under-represented groups;
- Discuss how the project will enhance the infrastructure for research and/or education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships;
- Indicate if NCAR Directorate GAUs are requested if needed;
- Indicate how the results of the project will be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding;
- Identify potential benefits of the proposed activity to society at large; and
- Describe the extent of any collaborations and university interactions.

## **REVIEW**

A review panel convened by the NCAR Scientist Assembly Executive Committee and made up of NCAR/UCAR Scientists and Engineers (with no conflict of interest) will provide proposal review and ranking recommendations to the NCAR Director. The NCAR Director will make the final award decisions.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The evaluation criteria for all Opportunity Fund proposals will be the NSF Merit Review Criteria. Below is a more detailed explanation of the NSF criteria based on the NSF Grants Proposal Guide.

Following each criterion are considerations that the reviewer may employ in the evaluation. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. While reviewers are expected to address both merit review criteria, each reviewer will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the proposal.

### **What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

### **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?**

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of under-represented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society? Does the activity support NSF and NCAR's goals in fostering integration of research and education?

## **SCHEDULE**

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|-------------------|--|
| Apr 7:            | Proposals due to Amy Stephens, NCAR Budget and Planning Office. E-mail to <a href="mailto:amys@ucar.edu">amys@ucar.edu</a> in MS Word and Excel formats. |
| Apr 26 – May 31:  | Proposal review period - individual reviewers.   |
| June 7 – June 27: | Review panel meets to finalize award recommendations.  |
| June 30:          | Panel recommendations due to NCAR Director.  |
| July 20:          | NCAR Director announces awards for FY 2007   |
| Nov - Dec:        | NCAR Budget and Planning Office allocate FY 2007 funds.  |