

Limited Submission

NSF Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL)

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17573/nsf17573.htm>

WVU Internal Letter of Intent Due: August 30, 2017

Agency Full Proposal Due: November 6, 2017

Synopsis

Over the last several decades there has been a growing understanding and acknowledgment that learning occurs across the lifespan and in places and spaces beyond schools or the school day. The social context has contributed to a changing role of science in people's lives, which has resulted in the shifting dynamics of learning (e.g., do-it-yourself movement, public participation in scientific research, access to low cost, high quality sensors, and other tools to conduct one's own investigations), and interest in the interconnections and interdisciplinary of science with other disciplines (e.g. science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics). In addition, advances in brain research, cognition, and other domains have stimulated interest in expanding notions of how early in life the learning of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) can occur. There is unequal distribution of and access to quality STEM learning experiences for individuals, family, and communities. Likewise, the sectors that comprise the informal STEM education field (e.g., mass media, museums/zoos/aquaria, after school, science outreach, citizen science, cyber-enabled learning, science communication, among others) have professionals of varying knowledge and capacities with respect to teaching and learning STEM.

To promote informal science education the NSF has developed the AISL program with six different project types. Limits for funding requests of AISL proposals are as follows: (1) Pilots and Feasibility projects: up to \$300,000 with durations up to two years; (2) Research in Service to Practice projects: from \$300,000 to \$2,000,000 with durations from two to five years; (3) Innovations in Development projects: \$500,000 to \$3,000,000 with durations from two to five years; (4) Broad Implementation projects from \$1,000,000 to \$3,000,000 with durations from three to five years; (5) Literature Reviews, Syntheses, or Meta-analyses projects up to \$250,000 with durations of up to two years; and (6) Conferences up to \$250,000 with durations of up to two years.

WVU is limited to submission of 3 proposals, thus if you are interested, you must first submit an internal Letter of Intent (LOI). Depending on the response the Research Office may elect to run an internal selection process.

Internal LOI Instructions:

Email to: Deanna.Whorton@mail.wvu.edu with subject line: "NSF: AISL" by the above internal due date

To include:

- PI(s) and Departmental and University Affiliations (include any external partners)
- The Project Type you are considering

Feel free to contact Sheena.Murphy@mail.wvu.edu with questions.