

Why a Newsletter? Community Outreach

The Economics Program Directors have decided to start a regular newsletter that will reach out to the academic community and disseminate information about the program. Our aim in doing this is to provide you with information about new research opportunities, new datasets that are available as a result of NSF funded research, and summary reports that we think might be of interest to economists. A regular feature will be a summary of the briefing that the Economics Program provides to department chairs at the AEA meetings.

We expect to send the newsletter out at least once a year. Since we hope that the information is useful to all economists, we plan to email it to all department chairs, as well as all people who reviewed for us in the past five years.

Department Chairs' Briefing



DAN NEWLON
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Your colleagues should not overreact to the news about cuts in NSF's budget. We expect no cuts in core social science program budgets and substantial increases in funding for interdisciplinary initiatives in 2005.

The competition for funding from the Economics Program has eased somewhat because the Economics Program is using the tough budget norms of the late nineties in negotiating awards. We expect this situation to continue for at least another year.

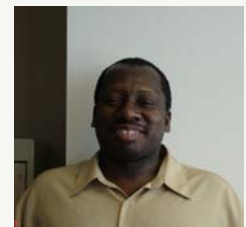
Interdisciplinary research – especially collaboration across disciplinary lines – is strongly encouraged. The Economics Program will at the margin give preference to proposals that are co-funded by other programs. Special initiatives such as Human and Social Dynamics (HSD), Mathematical Social and Behavioral Sciences (MSBS), and Shared Cyberinfrastructure offer attractive funding opportunities for interdisciplinary teams.

Eligibility rules for NSF graduate fellows have changed. See below for additional information. Please encourage your colleagues to register in the panelist database at

<http://www.nsfgradfellows.org/panelist/>

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Information on new research opportunities on page 2
- ◆ Graduate Fellowships and program budget norms on page 3
- ◆ Data sources and workshops of interest on page 4



ROBBIE BROWN
PROGRAM
ASSISTANT

New Solicitations

Next Generation Cybertools

This solicitation invites proposals for "information infrastructure testbeds", each of which would include the development of the next generation of cybertools applied to data from various sources collected in two areas of research fundamental to social and behavioral scientists: organizations and individuals. It is envisioned that proposals for the "organization information testbed" will address three components:

- the development of tools that facilitate the integration of qualitative and quantitative information from heterogeneous sources, multiple media, and/or multiple modes;
- investment in basic research that addresses the protection of the confidentiality of respondents in computerized, widely accessible databases; and
- the development of incentives, standards and policies for collecting, storing, archiving, accessing, and publishing research results using organization-relevant information.



JULIA LANE
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

It is envisioned that proposals for the "individual information testbed" should concern cybertools that can be applied to both large scale and distributed data-sets. Proposals should address cybertools that

- facilitate automatic collection, integration, annotation, archiving, accessing, and analyzing of existing distributed data sets and/or
- extensive audio and video recordings and details of physical artifacts, while paying special attention to
- the protection of the confidentiality of participant identity in widely accessible, computerized databases.

This is one of the first steps in developing a new broadly-based scientific community that leverages existing investments in cyber-infrastructure.

The anticipated funding amount is \$4 million, the solicitation number is NSF 05-563 and the due date is May 30, 2005. The contact person is Julia Lane (jlane@nsf.gov). For more information see the URL:

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13553&org=SBE&from=home

There are likely to be more investments in this area in the future: we will keep you apprised of events.

Mathematical Social and Behavioral Sciences

This solicitation invites submission of research proposals for projects that advance the mathematical or statistical foundations of research in the social, behavioral, or economic sciences. The resulting research is expected both to further understanding of social and/or behavioral science phenomena and to address a topic of interest to the mathematical sciences. **Collaborations involving mathematicians or statisticians with social, behavioral, or economic scientists are especially encouraged.** Proposals for workshops or symposia that foster the interaction of social, behavioral, and/or economic scientists with mathematicians and/or statisticians also are welcome. The anticipated funding amount is \$3 million, the solicitation number is NSF 05-542 and the due date is April 5, 2005. The contact person is Cheryl Eavey (ceavey@nsf.gov). The URL is:

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=11683&org=SBE&from=home

New Solicitations (continued)

Dynamic Data Driven Applications Systems

This solicitation focuses explicitly on Dynamic Data Driven Applications Systems (DDDAS), computing applications in which the computational and experimental measurement aspects are dynamically integrated. The basic idea is to support applications in real time in which complex dynamic models are reestimated from ongoing data collections. The contact person is Dan Newlon (dnewlon@nsf.gov). The solicitation number is NSF 05-570 and the deadline date is June 13, 2005.

The URL is http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=13511&org=NSF&from=fund. You'll also find information at <http://www.cise.nsf.gov/dddas>.

What You Need to Know About NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

The NSF's Graduate Research Fellowships are administered by the Division of Graduate Education. Between 15 and 20 economists receive Fellowships each year; Fellows receive 3 years of support, with a stipend of \$30k per year and an additional \$10.5k towards tuition. Eligibility is restricted to US citizens and permanent residents who have completed no more than 12 months of (full time) graduate study. This means that seniors, recent graduates planning to start grad school, first year graduate students and students in the first semester of their second year of study may apply; there are also special eligibility rules for students enrolled in joint bachelors/masters programs. Applications are due in November, and Fellows are announced in March.



NANCY LUTZ
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Applicants are evaluated by an interdisciplinary panel of social scientists, who consider the applicant's intellectual merit and potential for broader impacts. Geographic diversity – the applicant's high school state -- is also considered (this is mandated by Congress specifically for this program). For more information, see

http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201&org=DGE&from=home. You'll also find information at <http://www.nsfgradfellows.org>

What You Need to Know About Economics Program Budget Norms

Despite flat budgets and a relatively high number of submissions, there was a modest increase in last year's funding rate from 20.4% in 2003 to 24.7% in 2004. This was achieved by returning to the very tough budget norms used in the late nineties. The current budget norms are:

- \$20,000 per year for a single investigator award or \$15,000 per year per investigator for a multiple investigator award;
- \$20,000 per year for Research Assistant stipend, including fringe benefits, and tuition remission;
- \$1,000 per year for travel; and \$500 per year for other direct costs.

These norms are informal guidelines used by NSF staff to consistently negotiate awards in a tough fiscal climate. Investigators should request the funding needed to do the proposed research and ask NSF program officers to reconsider if budget cuts will compromise the research.

NSF Funded Data Sources

This section is set aside to inform you of examples of new datasets that are becoming available as well as NSF funded conferences and workshops. In the future, we will call attention to other examples.

The Panel Study of Income Dynamics:

The PSID is a nationally representative longitudinal study of nearly 8,000 families. It has followed the same families and individuals since 1968, and collects data on economic, health and social behavior. It now includes two Child Development Supplement (I in 1996-1998 and II 2002-2003). These data are linked to a wide variety of other datasets—including the Common Core of Data (CCD) on schools. Check out

<http://psidonline.isr.umich.edu>

The LEHD Program at the U.S. Census Bureau

The LEHD (Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics) Program is an NSF initiated program at the US Census Bureau. It is the first large-scale matched employer-employee dataset in the United States, and combines federal and state administrative data to create a series of confidentiality protected products useful to economists: Check out <http://lehd.dsd.census.gov> for

- Measures of job creation, job destruction, hires, separations and earnings by age and sex by detailed NAICS code and detailed geography (county, metropolitan area, and Workforce Investment Area)
- A prototype new mapping application that captures worker flows by place of residence and place of work

Microdata sets at the establishment level which can be accessed through the Research Data Center Network (which is also NSF funded). More information available at <http://www.ces.census.gov>.

NSF Funded Workshops of Interest

SBE/CISE workshop: March 15 and 16 (<http://vis.sdsc.edu/sbe/about>)

The goal of this is to provide substantive and useful feedback to NSF on programs, and activities for which the Social, Behavioral and Economic (SBE) and Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) communities can partner together to build, deploy, and use Cyberinfrastructure. Two specific goals were identified: i) to identify a Cyberinfrastructure research, experimentation, and infrastructure path for the two communities and provide a framework for projects and efforts in this area, and ii) provide a venue for community building within these communities, and in particular a venue for a multi-disciplinary synergistic community which leverages the perspectives and research of both constituencies. Check out the website for more information.

CeMENT workshops

NSF's ADVANCE program works to increase the representation and advancement of women in academic careers in science and engineering. ADVANCE and the Economics Program are jointly funding a series of mentoring workshops conducted by CSWEP (the AEA's Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession). The CeMENT workshops help junior economists overcome the tenure hurdle, with a special focus on addressing the unique challenges that women face at the beginning of their careers. The regional CeMENT workshops help junior faculty in institutions where tenure is based on teaching, research, and service. The next regional workshop will be held at the 2005 Western Economic Association Meetings; applications are due by March 14, 2005. See <http://www.cswep.org/mentoring/register.htm> for more information and for application instructions.