

# Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Current and Pending Support

April 20, 2022

Information regarding NSF pre-award and post-award disclosures relating to the biographical sketch and current and pending support is available on the [Policy Office website](#). The site includes a table which identifies where these disclosures must be provided in proposals as well as in project reports. The disclosure table is updated periodically, therefore individuals are encouraged to bookmark the [NSF Pre-award and Post-award Disclosures Relating to the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support](#) website to ensure they are accessing the current table.

## **1. If an individual designated as senior personnel on a project does not have effort in a given year, how does this relate to reporting “person months committed to the project” in current and pending support?**

The *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG), [Chapter II.C.2.h](#) states “Current and pending support includes all resources made available to an individual in support of and/or related to all of his/her research efforts, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value.” Senior personnel are required to provide “the number of person-months (or partial person-months) per year to be devoted to the project by the individual.” NSF uses the information provided to assess the capacity of the individual to carry out the research as proposed, as well as to help assess any potential overlap/duplication with the project being proposed.

Person-month information included in current and pending support may differ from the person-months requested on the budget for a given project.

It is important to note that NSF is not asking for how much time is specified on the budget for a particular individual(s); rather, for their Current and Pending Support submission, how much time the individual(s) is/are planning to spend to complete the scope of work on the proposed project and/or award. If the individual(s) will be spending time on the proposed project or award, then that time must be reported in Current and Pending Support.

## **2. How should individuals report projects that exceed five years in current and pending support?**

For projects that exceed five years, individuals should report on the next five years of the project in current and pending support. For example, if the individual is in year three of a ten-year award, they would report on years three through seven.

## **3. The NSF-approved current and pending support formats require us to provide person-months per year committed to the project, however, our organization’s fiscal year spans two calendar years. Which year should we include when reporting person-months per year?**

If you are reporting person-months that span two calendar years, you should enter the latter year. For example, if your entry covers your organization’s fiscal year of July 2021 through June 2022, you would enter 2022 for the year and include the corresponding person-months as defined and used by your organization in proposals submitted to NSF.

**New 4. How should person-months be reported when an organization’s fiscal year extends beyond the end date of the award?**

Given that the date entered in the year field cannot exceed the last year of the award, person-months information should be aggregated into the last year of the award. For example, if the award end date is August 2022 and the organization’s fiscal year runs from July 2021 to June 2022, the person-months for July and August 2022 should be aggregated and shown in the entry for 2022.

**5. How can an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) “certify” representations that its employees may make regarding current or pending support based on information not available to the organization?**

In most cases, NSF accepts proposals from and makes awards to an organization, not to an individual. In submitting a proposal and/or accepting federal funds under a grant instrument, proposers/grantees assume legal and financial responsibility and accountability for the content of the submitted proposal, any awarded funds, and the performance of the grant-supported activity.

As such, proposers/grantees are responsible for all information and data provided to the federal agency under the proposal or grant agreement and may need to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the information that its employees provide to the AOR in order to appropriately comply with NSF’s policies on reporting current and pending support. NSF does not dictate the terms of or interfere with the employment relationship between the grantee and its employees. Organizations will need to establish whatever internal communication or other processes they believe are necessary in order to provide the required current and pending support information.

**6. What is the scope of “research endeavors” that must be reported in current and pending support? For example, a trainee’s research that will result in their dissertation is not part of the PI’s individual research endeavors, correct? Should only the research endeavors of an individual be reported and not all the research in their lab?**

“Research endeavors” in the context of the guidance provided in PAPPG [Chapter II.C.2.h](#) does refer to the endeavors *of the particular individual*. The current and pending support information that must be provided is all planned, pending, and current support that is either provided directly to the individual, or to the individual through their organization in support of that individual’s research endeavors. Therefore, a trainee’s research does not need to be reported.

**New 7. Are honorarium services or payments related to research activities and if not, how do they apply?**

Services and/or payments related to research oversight, research supervision, and co-authoring research papers, are not considered honoraria, but rather research funding.

**8. If my organization serves as a subawardee, in the ‘Total Award Amount’ field of current and pending support, should I list the total amount requested for my subaward or the total award amount for the overall project?**

The total award amount requested or received by the subawardee organization must be provided in Current and Pending Support.

**New 9. If my organization serves as a subawardee, in the ‘Overall Objectives’ field of current and pending support, should the objectives for the entire project be entered or only those for my organization’s part of the project?**

The subawardee should only describe the objectives of their portion of the project in the ‘Overall Objectives’ field.

**10. I have received funding classified as ‘confidential’ per the client. Must I include information for the confidential project in the current and pending support section of the proposal?**

Yes, if your organization seeks NSF funding, the information must be disclosed. Section 223 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law No: 116-283 (01/01/2021)) and [NSF policies](#) require disclosure, even if such funding is deemed confidential.

To the extent allowed by law, NSF does not publicly disclose any information regarding pending proposals. With regard to proposals that receive NSF funding, NSF typically does not disclose information in the proposal regarding current and pending support from non-U.S. Government sources. NSF needs the information in the current and pending support section of the proposal to assess PI capacity and potential overlap/duplication.

**11. Do I list my proposed project on the Current and Pending Support information?**

Yes, in addition to ongoing projects and proposals currently under consideration from whatever source, the current and pending support information also must be provided for this proposed project and listed as “Pending”. See PAPPG [Chapter II.C.2.h](#) for additional guidance.

**12. If there will be no effort in a given year (i.e., year 2 of a 3-year project) by an individual listed as senior personnel, what, if anything, should be reported in current and pending support for that year?**

In instances when senior personnel are not actively working on a project during each year, only years in which they are committing time should be listed. In the example above, only years 1 and 3 would be entered in current and pending support. Year 2 would not be listed.

**13. Must the objectives of all current and pending projects/proposals be included in the current and pending support information, or do we only list the objective of the proposal being submitted?**

The brief statement of the overall objectives is required for all current and pending projects/proposals and/or in-kind contributions listed.

**New 14. A project that was listed as “pending” has since been awarded. Do we need to notify NSF that this project has been funded?**

A change in active other support must be reported to NSF when the annual or final project reports are due. Additional information is available on the [Research.gov About Project Reports website](#).

**New 15. Does effort prior to the current year need to be included for each activity on the current and pending support document?**

Only current and future effort should be included in current and pending support.

**New 16. The “For comment” draft of the PAPPG states that proposers are required to submit current and pending support information via SciENCv only. Are proposers no longer permitted to use the NSF fillable PDF format?**

Current and pending support information may currently be provided through use of either SciENCv or the NSF fillable PDF format. Upon implementation of the next PAPPG (NSF 23-1), submission of this information will be required through use of SciENCv only. Use of the NSF fillable format will no longer be permitted.