

National Science Foundation (NSF) Cost Sharing Policy Guidance

Campus Applicability	This procedure applies to the Storrs Campus, School of Law, School of Social Work and all other campuses except for UConn Health.
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The National Science Board issued a report entitled “*Investing in the Future: NSF Cost Sharing Policies for a Robust Federal Research Enterprise*” (NSB 09-20, August 3, 2009), which contained eight recommendations for NSF regarding cost sharing. NSF revised its policy, effective January 18, 2011, in order to implement the Board’s recommendations.

NSF policy states that the inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited in all proposals except when required in the NSF solicitation. Please refer to the [NSF Policy Statement](#) here: http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2009/nsb0920/nsb0920_2.pdf

National Science Foundation Cost Sharing Policies links:

[Overarching Policies on Cost Sharing](#)

[FAQs on Cost Sharing](#) - updated January 2013

Examples of NSF Programs with Mandatory Cost Sharing

- Innovation Corps Program (I-Corps)
- Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Program
- Robert Noyce Scholarship Program
- Engineering Research Centers
- Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers
- Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

What about situations where senior project personnel (including the PI and any co-PIs) want to donate time to the project and not request salary support? How should this be reflected on the budget?

(From NSF FAQ, January 2013)

Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited for proposals submitted or due on or after January 18, 2011, unless otherwise specified in the solicitation. Specifying person-months but requesting no salary support on the budget would constitute voluntary committed cost sharing and therefore is not allowed. For consistency with the NSF cost sharing policy, if person months will be requested for senior personnel, a corresponding salary amount must be entered on the budget. If no person months and no salary are being requested for senior personnel, they should be removed from section A of the budget. This can be done by clicking on the name(s) in the NSF budget format and then clicking "Check to remove". Their name(s) will remain on the Cover Sheet and the individual(s) role on the project should be described in the Facilities, Equipment and other Resources section of the proposal. This section should contain an aggregated description of the resources that the organization and its collaborators will provide to the project (both physical and personnel), should it be funded. The description should be narrative in nature and must not include any quantifiable financial information. A biographical sketch and Current and Pending Support information also are still required for the senior personnel.

For proposals requesting no effort and salary on the budget, awardees must be aware that should an award be made, they remain subject to the provisions of OMB M-01-06 "*Clarification of OMB A-21 Treatment of Voluntary Uncommitted Cost Sharing and Tuition Remission Costs*," regarding requirements for committing and tracking "some level" of faculty (or senior researcher) effort as part of the organized research base.

University Guidance: For the above situation, the voluntary uncommitted cost share will be tracked to meet federal requirements as described in the OMB clarification letter.