Frequently Asked Questions on Current and Pending Support
PAPPG (NSF 20-1)

Effective June 1, 2020

1.   What is the rationale for the requirement to submit Current and Pending Support information?

NSF uses the information submitted in the Current and Pending Support section 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.

2.   Do I report gifts in Current and Pending Support?

If an item or service meets the definition of a gift, it is not reported. A gift includes any gratuity, favor, discount, entertainment, hospitality, loan, forbearance, license, special access, equipment time, samples, research data, or other item having monetary value. A gift also includes services as well as gifts of training, transportation, local travel, lodging, meals, research hours, whether provided in-kind, by purchase of a ticket, payment in advance, or reimbursement after the expense has occurred. A gift by definition is given without expectation of anything in return.

An item or service given with the expectation of an associated time commitment is not a gift and is instead an in-kind contribution and must be reported to NSF. If the in-kind contribution is not intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF but has an associated time commitment, the information must be included as part of the Current and Pending Support section of the proposal. If the in-kind contribution is intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF, the information must be included as part of the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal and need not be replicated in the individual's Current and Pending Support submission.

3.   Do I report in-kind contributions with no associated time commitment in Current and Pending Support?

If the in-kind contributions are not intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF **and** have no associated time commitment, the information is not required to be reported. However, in-kind contributions with no associated time commitment that are intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF must be included as part of the Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources section.

4.   Do I have to include in-kind contributions in both the Current and Pending Support and Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources sections of the proposal?

No. If the in-kind contributions are not intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF but they have associated time commitment, the information must be included as part of the Current and Pending Support section of the proposal. If the in-kind contributions are intended for use on the project/proposal being proposed to NSF, the information must be included as part of the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal and need not be replicated in the individual's Current and Pending Support submission.

5.   Do I report "start-up" packages or academic year salary in Current and Pending Support?

Organizational start-up packages provided to the individual from the proposing organization are not required to be reported. Start-up packages from other than the proposing organization must be reported. Faculty academic year salary is not considered current and pending support in this context.

6.   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 awards grants 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 organization 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.

7.   In lieu of an NSF-approved format, may I use a PDF that I have already created that provides the Current and Pending Support information?

Use of an NSF-approved format for submission of current and pending support information will be required upon implementation of the PAPPG (NSF 20-1), for all proposals submitted or due on or after June 1, 2020. NSF-approved formats include SciENcv and an NSF fillable PDF.

PDFs that have been created outside of an NSF-approved format will not be compliant with NSF policy.

8.   Is it permissible to save Current & Pending Support information in a Word document, then create a new PDF?

Upon implementation of the PAPPG (NSF 20-1), proposers must use an NSF-approved format for current and pending support. The NSF-approved formats include SciENcv and an NSF fillable PDF. Creating a PDF from a Word document will not be compliant with NSF policy.

9.   If Current and Pending Support information is prepared in SciENcv, will the information automatically link to NSF systems?

No, proposers must submit the Current and Pending Support information to NSF after it is prepared in SciENcv. SciENcv will produce an NSF-compliant PDF version of the Current and Pending Support information. Proposers will then have to save this document and submit it as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov.

10.   Will SciENcv paginate the Current and Pending Support document?

Yes. SciENcv will insert pagination in the lower left corner of the Current and Pending Support document.

11.   Will non-compliant Current and Pending Support documents receive an error message in both FastLane and Research.gov?

Yes. Documents will be tagged with identifiers indicating they were prepared in an NSF-approved format. Proposers will receive an error message from FastLane or Research.gov if they prepare documents in a non-approved format.