

## DEFINITIONS

For definitions of terms used in this section, see section 7001 of Pub. L. 110-69, set out as a note under section 1862o of this title.

**§ 1862o-8. Pilot program of grants for new investigators**

**(a) In general**

The Director shall carry out a pilot program to award 1-year grants to individuals to assist them in improving research proposals that were previously submitted to the Foundation but not selected for funding.

**(b) Eligibility**

To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an individual—

(1) may not have previously received funding as the principal investigator of a research grant from the Foundation; and

(2) shall have submitted a proposal to the Foundation, which may include a proposal submitted to the Research in Undergraduate Institutions program, that was rated excellent under the Foundation's competitive merit review process.

**(c) Selection process**

The Director shall make awards under this section based on the advice of the program officers of the Foundation.

**(d) Use of funds**

Grants awarded under this section shall be used to enable an individual to resubmit an updated research proposal for review by the Foundation through the agency's competitive merit review process. Uses of funds made available under this section may include the generation of new data and the performance of additional analysis.

**(e) Program administration**

The Director shall carry out this section through the Small Grants for Exploratory Research program.

**(f) National Science Board review**

The Board shall conduct a review and assessment of the pilot program under this section, including the number of new investigators funded, the distribution of awards by type of institution of higher education, and the success rate upon resubmittal of proposals by new investigators funded through such pilot program. Not later than 3 years after August 9, 2007, the Board shall summarize its findings and any recommendations regarding changes to, the termination of, or the continuation of the pilot program in a report to the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

(Pub. L. 110-69, title VII, §7021, Aug. 9, 2007, 121 Stat. 685.)

## CODIFICATION

Section was enacted as part of the America COMPETES Act, also known as the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act, and not as

part of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 which comprises this chapter.

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**§ 1862o-9. Broader impacts merit review criterion**

**(a) In general**

Among the types of activities that the Foundation shall consider as appropriate for meeting the requirements of its broader impacts criterion for the evaluation of research proposals are partnerships between academic researchers and industrial scientists and engineers that address research areas identified as having high importance for future national economic competitiveness, such as nanotechnology.

**(b) Report on broader impacts criterion**

Not later than 1 year after August 9, 2007, the Director shall transmit to Congress a report on the impact of the broader impacts grant criterion used by the Foundation. The report shall—

(1) identify the criteria that each division and directorate of the Foundation uses to evaluate the broader impacts aspects of research proposals;

(2) provide a breakdown of the types of activities by division that awardees have proposed to carry out to meet the broader impacts criterion;

(3) provide any evaluations performed by the Foundation to assess the degree to which the broader impacts aspects of research proposals were carried out and how effective they have been at meeting the goals described in the research proposals;

(4) describe what national goals, such as improving undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education, improving kindergarten through grade 12 science and mathematics education, promoting university-industry collaboration, and broadening participation of underrepresented groups, the broader impacts criterion is best suited to promote; and

(5) describe what steps the Foundation is taking and should take to use the broader impacts criterion to improve undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education.

(Pub. L. 110-69, title VII, §7022, Aug. 9, 2007, 121 Stat. 686.)

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**§ 1862o-10. Advanced information and communications technology research**

**(1) In general**

As part of the Program described in title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.), the Foundation shall support basic research related to advanced information and communications technologies that will contribute to enhancing or facilitating the availability and affordability of advanced communications services for all people of the United States. Areas of research to be supported may include research on—

- (A) affordable broadband access, including wireless technologies;
- (B) network security and reliability;
- (C) communications interoperability;
- (D) networking protocols and architectures, including resilience to outages or attacks;
- (E) trusted software;
- (F) privacy;
- (G) nanoelectronics for communications applications;
- (H) low-power communications electronics;
- (I) implementation of equitable access to national advanced fiber optic research and educational networks in noncontiguous States; and
- (J) such other related areas as the Director finds appropriate.

**(2) Centers**

The Director shall award multiyear grants, subject to the availability of appropriations and on a merit-reviewed competitive basis, to institutions of higher education, nonprofit research institutions affiliated with institutions of higher education, or consortia of either type of institution to establish multidisciplinary Centers for Communications Research. The purpose of the Centers shall be to generate innovative approaches to problems in information and communications technology research, including the research areas described in paragraph (1). Institutions of higher education, nonprofit research institutions affiliated with institutions of higher education, or consortia receiving such grants may partner with 1 or more government laboratories, for-profit entities, or other institutions of higher education or nonprofit research institutions.

**(3) Funding allocation**

The Director shall increase funding for the basic research activities described in paragraph (1), which shall include support for the Centers described in paragraph (2), in proportion to the increase in the total amount appropriated to the Foundation for research and related activities for the fiscal years 2008 through 2010.

**(4) Report to Congress**

The Director shall transmit to Congress, as part of the President's annual budget submission under section 1105 of title 31, a report on the amounts allocated for support of research under this section for the fiscal year during which such report is submitted and the levels proposed for the fiscal year with respect to which the budget submission applies.

(Pub. L. 110-69, title VII, § 7024(b), Aug. 9, 2007, 121 Stat. 689.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The High-Performance Computing Act of 1991, referred to in par. (1), is Pub. L. 102-194, Dec. 9, 1991, 105 Stat. 1594. Title I of the Act is classified generally to subchapter I (§5511 et seq.) of chapter 81 of Title 15, Commerce and Trade. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 5501 of Title 15 and Tables.

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**§ 1862o-11. Evaluation and report**

The Director shall establish metrics to evaluate the success of the programs established by the Foundation for encouraging individuals identified in section 1885a or 1885b of this title to study and prepare for careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, including programs that provide for mentoring for such individuals. The Director shall carry out evaluations based on the metrics developed and report to Congress annually on the findings and conclusions of the evaluations.

(Pub. L. 110-69, title VII, § 7031(b), Aug. 9, 2007, 121 Stat. 711.)

CODIFICATION

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**§ 1862o-12. Hispanic-serving institutions undergraduate program**

**(a) In general**

The Director is authorized to establish a new program to award grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 1101a of title 20) to enhance the quality of undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education at such institutions and to increase the retention and graduation rates of students pursuing associate's or baccalaureate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

**(b) Program components**

Grants awarded under this section shall support—

- (1) activities to improve courses and curriculum in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics;
- (2) faculty development;