

Funding Opportunity: NSF Issues Dear Colleague Letter for Planning Proposals to Catalyze Innovative and Inclusive Wildland Fire Science through Diverse Collaborations

Lewis-Burke Associates – September 30, 2022

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has released a Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) requesting planning proposals to spur innovative and inclusive wildland fire science through diverse collaborations. The DCL was produced by all eight NSF Directorates, including the new Directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP). This DCL was issued in response to an NSF Wildfire and the Biosphere Innovation Lab event in May 2021 in which participants expressed the importance of improving the effectiveness of translational research to manage wildland fires. Proposals should aim to further wildland fire research using diverse knowledge systems and strong partnerships and are encouraged to advance understanding of wildland fires as “integrated social-cultural-ecological-technological systems” and translate basic knowledge into applicable solutions.

The DCL requires that planning proposals include participants representing a variety of sectors, and encourages proposed activities to involve collaborations between researchers, engineers, educators, the academic community, industry, government, and non-profit organizations. The goal of this initiative is to build fire science research capacity and advance foundational knowledge of the use, causes, and impacts of future wildland fires. The DCL itself does not specify which large NSF funding opportunities this DCL is intending to fund planning grants for. Lewis-Burke Associates has confirmed with NSF leadership that the participating directorates are interested to use submissions in response to this DCL as a signal from the community of which types of large opportunities will be best suited to spur broad partnerships to address the wildland fire challenge.

Due Dates: Planning proposals can be submitted any time before May 31, 2023, though must submit a two-page concept note to wildlandfire@nsf.gov and get concurrence that the concept will be suitable beforehand. Concepts will be reviewed on a rolling basis, so we recommend submitting early.

Award Information: Proposers may request up to \$100,000 per year with project duration of up to two years, for a total of \$200,000 in planning funds.

Eligibility and Proposal Limitations: Submissions to the NSF Tribal Colleges and Universities Program in response to this DCL are restricted to Tribal Colleges and Universities, Alaska Native-serving institutions, and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. An individual may be listed as a lead individual (PI, co-PI, or Senior Personnel) on a maximum of two proposals.

Sources and additional information:

- The full Dear Colleague Letter is available at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2022/nsf22122/nsf22122.jsp>.
- More information on the Wildfire and the Biosphere Innovation Lab is available at <https://wildfire.hub.ki/>.