

NSF's MAJOR RESEARCH INSTRUMENTATION (MRI) Program

The Major Research Instrumentation Program (MRI) serves to increase access to shared scientific and engineering instruments for research and research training in our Nation's institutions of higher education, not-for-profit museums, science centers and scientific/engineering research organizations. The program provides organizations with opportunities to acquire major instrumentation that supports the research and research training goals of the organization and that may be used by other researchers regionally or nationally.

Each MRI proposal may request support for the acquisition (Track 1) or development (Track 2) of a single research instrument for shared inter- and/or intra-organizational use. Development efforts that leverage the strengths of private sector partners to build instrument development capacity at MRI submission-eligible organizations are encouraged.

The MRI program assists with the acquisition or development of a shared research instrument that is, in general, too costly and/or not appropriate for support through other NSF programs. The program does not fund research projects or provide ongoing support for operating or maintaining facilities or centers.

The instrument acquired or developed is expected to be operational for regular research use by the end of the award period. For the purposes of the MRI program, a proposal must be for *either* acquisition (Track 1) *or* development (Track 2) of a single, well-integrated instrument. The MRI program does not support the acquisition or development of a suite of instruments to outfit research laboratories or facilities, or that can be used to conduct independent research activities simultaneously.

Instrument acquisition or development proposals that request funds from NSF in the range \$100,000-\$4 million may be accepted from any MRI-eligible organization. Proposals that request funds from NSF less than \$100,000 may also be accepted from any MRI-eligible organization for the disciplines of mathematics or social, behavioral and economic sciences and from non-Ph.D.-granting institutions of higher education for all NSF-supported disciplines.

Cost-sharing of precisely 30% of the total project cost is required for Ph.D.-granting institutions of higher education and for non-degree-granting organizations. Non-Ph.D.-granting institutions of higher education are exempt from cost-sharing and cannot include it. National Science Board policy is that voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited.

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF AWARDS: 160

ANTICIPATED FUNDING AMOUNT: \$75,000,000. Proposals that request funds from NSF in the range \$100,000-\$4 million may be accepted from any MRI-eligible organization. Proposals that request funds from NSF less than \$100,000 may also be accepted from any MRI-eligible organization for the disciplines of mathematics or social, behavioral and economic sciences, and from non-Ph.D.-granting institutions of higher education for all NSF-supported disciplines. Proposals submitted in response to this program solicitation will be competing for about \$75 million, pending availability of funds and quality of proposals. Up to \$30 million of these funds will be available to support proposals requesting \$1-\$4 million from NSF, depending on overall proposal pressure and quality.

This is a **LIMITED SUBMISSION GRANT OPPORTUNITY** – No more than **three applications** can be submitted **per institution**. If three proposals are submitted, at least one of the proposals must be for instrument development (i.e., **no more than two proposals may be for instrument acquisition**).

TO BE CONSIDERED, please contact OVPR at mserowik@wayne.edu to set up a meeting on or before July 26, 2017 to discuss the details of your proposal. Guidelines for the discussion will be provided in advance. A completed first draft of the proposal will be due in mid-September and provided to an internal review committee, who will select the applications for submission. View [FULL NSF ANNOUNCEMENT](#).