



NSF Policy on Sexual Harassment, Other Forms of Harassment, or Sexual Assault

From Chapter XI - Other Post Award Requirements and Considerations of Proposal & Award Policies and Procedures Guide

The National Science Foundation (NSF) will not tolerate sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault within the agency, at awardee organizations, or anywhere NSF-funded science and education are conducted.

As the primary funding agency of fundamental science and engineering research in the U.S., NSF is committed to promoting safe, productive research and education environments for current and future scientists and engineers. The Foundation considers the PI/PD and any co-PI/co-PDs(s) identified on an NSF award to be in positions of trust. The PI/PD and co-PI/co-PD and all award personnel must comport themselves in a responsible and accountable manner during the performance of award activities whether at the grantee organization, on-line, or conducted outside the organization, such as at field sites, or facilities, or during conferences and workshops.

The 3,000 U.S. institutions of higher education and other organizations that receive NSF funds are responsible for fully investigating complaints and for compliance with federal non-discrimination laws, regulations and executive orders.

In support of this position, the Foundation has taken steps to bolster our commitment to a safe research environment, including development and implementation of an award term and condition that requires NSF to be notified: 1) of any findings/determinations regarding the PI/PD or co-PI/co-PD that demonstrate a violation of awardee codes of conduct, policies, regulations or statutes relating to sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault; or 2) if the awardee places the PI/PD, or co-PI/co-PD on administrative leave or imposes an administrative action relating to a finding or investigation of a violation of awardee policies, codes of conduct, statutes or regulations relating to sexual harassment, other forms of harassment, or sexual assault. See Chapter VII.B.3 for additional information on the notification process.

NSF expects all research organizations to establish and maintain clear and unambiguous standards of behavior to ensure harassment-free workplaces wherever science is conducted. NSF has developed a sexual harassment website that includes promising practices on policies, effective codes of conduct and standards of behavior, as well as Frequently Asked Questions that respond to inquiries received on this complex topic.

A community effort is essential to eliminate sexual and other forms of harassment in science and to build scientific workspaces where people can learn, grow and thrive.

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg19_1/pappg_11.jsp#XIA1g