To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office
           Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) NSF 17-573

Date: August 10, 2018

The **Advancing Informal STEM Learning** (AISL) program seeks to advance new approaches to, and evidence-based understanding of, the design and development of STEM learning opportunities for the public in informal environments; provide multiple pathways for broadening access to and engagement in STEM learning experiences; advance innovative research on and assessment of STEM learning in informal environments; and engage the public of all ages in learning STEM in informal environments.

The AISL program supports six types of projects: (1) Pilots and Feasibility Studies; (2) Research in Service to Practice; (3) Innovations in Development; (4) Broad Implementation; (5) Literature Reviews, Syntheses, or Meta-Analyses; and (6) Conferences.

Limits for funding requests of AISL proposals are as follows: (1) Pilots and Feasibility projects: up to $300,000 with durations up to two years; (2) Research in Service to Practice projects: from $300,000 to $2,000,000 with durations from two to five years; (3) Innovations in Development projects: $500,000 to $3,000,000 with durations from two to five years; (4) Broad Implementation projects from $1,000,000 to $3,000,000 with durations from three to five years; (5) Literature Reviews, Syntheses, or Meta-analyses projects up to $250,000 with durations of up to two years; and (6) Conferences up to $250,000 with durations of up to two years. Full program details can be found at:
https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17573/nsf17573.htm.

Full proposals are due to the NSF on November 7, 2018.

This is a limited competition. An institution may serve as lead on no more than three (3) proposals.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please follow this **two-step process****:**

1. By noon on **August 20**, submit an email of interest to limited@unm.edu with:
   a. Your name, department, rank
   b. Names and departments of UNM collaborators
   c. Title of proposal and the type of project
2. By noon on **September 7**, submit a preliminary proposal to limited@unm.edu that includes:
   a. 3-page preproposal, again specifying the title and type of project, as well as addressing the criteria listed below
   b. Draft budget overview
   c. Abbreviated CV for each UNM personnel

All preproposal documents must be in a SINGLE PDF file, 11pt font or larger. No late submissions will be considered.

The 3-page preproposal narrative should include the following information upon which your project will be evaluated:

1. Provide a ***Rationale for the Project*** with respect to strategic impact, knowledge-building, innovation, collaborations, infrastructure and capacity building, and broadening participation. Be sure to address the relevance of informal STEM learning and learning environments to the project.

2. Describe the ***Project Design*** including research foci, methods and analyses, project deliverables and plan for implementation, STEM content area(s), audience(s), and specific information relevant to the AISL project type. Proposals should include a discussion of a strategy for reaching a broad audience along with an estimate of the number of individuals to be served. Ensure that your proposal **identifies the characteristics and needs of the targeted underrepresented groups** (public or professional) to be served as well as plans/strategies for addressing/accommodating the **specific interests, community or cultural perspectives, and/or educational needs of participants** of the identified underrepresented groups.

3. Describe the ***Evaluation Plan*** that will advance the collective understanding of learning STEM in informal environments, including the *evaluative processes you will employ.* This section should ***specify*** how the approaches achieve the project's evaluation goals, ensure iterative improvement, accountability, and how the PI will incorporate results of the project's external, critical review process into the ongoing management of the project.

4. Describe the composition, experience, and expertise of the project's Leadership Team, which, as appropriate for the project, may include senior personnel, subawardees, consultants, and others, in addition to the PI and co-PIs. The information provided should enable reviewers to judge the quality and capabilities of the project team.

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe may be interested.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.