

01/17/12

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (FFO)
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Research Experience for Teachers
(NIST RET) Program**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), United States Department of Commerce (DoC)
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET) Program
- **Announcement Type:** Initial
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** 2013-NIST-RET-01
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 11.609, Measurement and Engineering Research and Standards
- **Dates.** Electronic applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 20, 2013. Paper applications must be received by NIST by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 20, 2013. Applications received after the respective deadline will not be reviewed or considered. Review, selection, and award processing is expected to be completed in April 2013. The earliest anticipated start date for awards under this FFO is expected to be June 3, 2013. The selected teachers will be required to attend the NIST RET Program during the summer of 2013 for six (6) continuous weeks (exact dates to be decided by the teachers and NIST scientists and engineers).
- **Application Submission Address:** See Section IV in the Full Announcement Text of this FFO.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** NIST is soliciting applications from eligible public school districts and accredited private educational institutions in the U.S. and its territories nominating science teachers in grades 6, 7, and/or 8, who have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) Program, to participate in the NIST RET Program. The NIST RET Program will allow the selected teachers to participate in scientific research with NIST scientists and engineers at the NIST Campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland.
- **Total Amount to be Awarded:** Up to \$24,000 for new awards.
- **Anticipated Amounts:** NIST anticipates funding individual awards to public school districts and/or accredited private educational institutions in the U.S. and/or its territories to support a total of approximately three (3) teachers at no more than \$8,000 per teacher. NIST will make no more than one award to any public school district or accredited private educational institution selected for award, and any such award will contain funding for the number of teachers selected from that awardee.
- **Funding Instrument:** Cooperative Agreement
- **Who Is Eligible:** Public school districts and accredited private educational institutions in the U.S. and its territories that offer science classes at grade levels 6, 7, and/or 8 (often termed middle school), and whose nominated teachers have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute Program. Such school districts and institutions must offer instruction in general science fields, such as earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology. Individual public school teachers and individual public middle schools are not eligible to submit applications directly to NIST and instead

must be nominated by their school district. Individual teachers at private educational institutions are not eligible to submit applications directly to NIST and instead must be nominated by their private educational institution. The individual teachers that are nominated to participate in the NIST RET Program must meet the eligibility requirements in Section III.1. of this FFO.

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** This Program does not require cost sharing.

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FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

NIST is soliciting applications from eligible public school districts and accredited private educational institutions in the U.S. and its territories that offer science classes at grade levels 6, 7, and/or 8 (often termed middle school). Such school districts and institutions must offer instruction in general science fields, such as earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology. NIST may award funding that will support the attendance of middle school science teachers in the NIST RET Program for six (6) continuous weeks during the summer of 2013 (exact dates to be decided by the teachers and NIST scientists and engineers), at the NIST Campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The NIST RET Program will enable three (3) qualified science teachers in grades 6, 7, and/or 8 to take advantage of resources from the nation's premier standards and measurement laboratory, NIST. The aim is to provide teachers who have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute Program an opportunity to further their understanding of how scientific research is performed by participating in research at NIST for six (6) continuous weeks. Selected teachers will work side-by-side with NIST research scientists and engineers on projects that combine research with direct applications tailored to developing, maintaining, advancing, and enabling the measurement system for the nation. The research projects in which the teachers engage will be selected to be highly relevant to the teachers' interests and the NIST mission. For more information see <http://www.nist.gov/iaao/teachlearn/>.

The statutory authorities for this Program are 15 U.S.C. § 272(b)(4) and 15 U.S.C. § 278g-2a.

II. Award Information

- 1. Funding Instrument.** The funding instrument that will be used is a cooperative agreement. The nature of NIST's "substantial involvement" will generally be collaboration with the recipients in the

scope of work and working jointly with and training the teachers. Additional forms of substantial involvement that may arise are described in the DoC Grants and Cooperative Agreements Manual, which is available at

http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/grants_management/policy/doc_grants_manual/default.htm.

2. **Funding Availability.** NIST plans that a total of up to \$24,000 may be made available in Fiscal Year 2013 to support a total of three (3) teachers to attend the NIST RET Program. NIST will make no more than one award to any public school district or accredited private educational institution selected for award, and any such award will contain funding for the number of teachers selected from that awardee. The selected teachers will be required to attend the NIST RET Program during the summer of 2013 for six (6) continuous weeks (exact dates to be decided by the teachers and NIST scientists and engineers), at NIST in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Each teacher selected from each successful applicant will receive \$8,000 as a stipend for six (6) continuous full weeks through their school district or private educational institution. Neither housing nor travel allowances are provided to the teachers.

III. Eligibility Information

1. **Eligible Applicants.** Public school districts and accredited private educational institutions in the U.S. and its territories that offer science classes at grade levels 6, 7, and/or 8 (often termed middle school) and whose nominated teachers have successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute Program. Such school districts and institutions must offer instruction in general science fields, such as earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology.

Individual public school teachers and individual public middle schools **are not eligible** to submit applications directly to NIST and instead must be nominated by their school district. Individual teachers at private educational institutions **are not eligible** to submit applications directly to NIST and instead must be nominated by their private educational institution.

Each individual teacher nominated to participate in the NIST RET Program from the applicant public school districts and/or accredited private educational institutions in the U.S. and/or its territories must meet all of the following eligibility requirements at the time of application and at the time of award:

- a. Be a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident.
- b. Commit to six (6) full continuous weeks (Monday through Friday) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., during the summer of 2013, to participate in the NIST RET Program, at the NIST Campus in Gaithersburg, Maryland.
- c. Be employed for the 2013-2014 school year to teach science at grade levels 6, 7, and/or 8 in a public school district and/or accredited private educational institution in the U.S. or its territories. The topics taught by each nominee must include science and related fields, such as earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology.
- d. Have previously successfully completed the NIST Summer Institute.

Applicants are encouraged, but are not required, to nominate eligible teachers from a “high-need school” as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11).

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching.** The NIST RET Program does not require cost sharing.
3. **Other**

Pre-Applications. NIST is not accepting pre-applications or white papers under the NIST RET Program.

IV. Application and Submission Information

- 1. Address to Request Application Package.** The full application package, consisting of all of the required forms is available at <http://www.nist.gov/iaao/teachlearn/>. For applicants without Internet access, the full application package may be requested by contacting the NIST personnel listed below.

Dr. Susan Heller-Zeisler, National Institute of Standards and Technology, International and Academic Affairs Office, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 1090, Gaithersburg, MD 20899-1090, Phone: 301-975-3111, Email: szeisler@nist.gov

2. Content and Format of Application Submission

a. Required Forms and Documents

- (1) SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. The SF-424 must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization. The FFO number 2013-NIST-RET-01 must be identified in item 12 of the SF-424. The list of certifications and assurances referenced in item 21 of the SF-424 is contained in the SF-424B.
- (2) SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs
- (3) SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs
- (4) SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)
- (5) CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying
- (6) **Additional Applicant Information.** This is a word-processed document written by the applying public school district or accredited private educational institution in the U.S. or its territories and must contain the following information:
 - (a) Description of the applicant's education programs that make it eligible to submit a NIST RET Program application. Specifically, offering science classes at the grade levels 6, 7, and/or 8 (often termed middle school). Such school districts and institutions must offer instruction in general science fields, such as earth science, physical science, chemistry, physics, and/or biology.
 - (b) Summary list of the teacher(s) being nominated and certification that:
 - i. Each nominated teacher will have teaching responsibilities in science and related fields in grades 6, 7, and/or 8 (often termed middle school) in the 2013-2014 school year. (Applicants must certify to the best current knowledge/plans of the public school district or accredited private educational institution in the U.S. or its territories at the time of application submission.);
 - ii. Each nominated teacher is a U.S. citizen or permanent U.S. resident; and
 - iii. The nominated teacher is from a "high-need school" as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11) (if applicable).
 - (c) Description of how the applicant satisfies the evaluation criterion Applicant's Commitment to Program Goals: The applicant's support of the teacher's intent to use what was learned at NIST as related to the middle school curriculum in the classroom (see Section V.1.b. of this FFO).

- (7) NIST-1103, Teacher Application for the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) or the NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET)

If submitting the application electronically via Grants.gov, items IV.2.a.(1) through IV.2.a.(5) above are part of the standard application package in Grants.gov and can be completed through the download application process. Items IV.2.a.(6) and IV.2.a.(7) must be completed and attached by clicking on "Add Attachments" found in item 15 of the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance. This will create a zip file that allows for transmittal of the documents electronically via Grants.gov. Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions at www.grants.gov to ensure the attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicating an application is received does not provide information about whether attachments have been received.

If submitting an application by paper, all of the required application documents should be submitted in the order listed above.

IMPORTANT: All of the required application documents listed above may only be submitted by a school district or accredited private educational institution in the U.S. or its territories. Submission of separate NIST-1103s without all of the required application documents is not permitted. If NIST receives such submissions, NIST will return them without review.

Teachers interested in the NIST RET Program should contact their schools directly to express their interest. Public schools interested in the NIST RET Program should contact their school district early on to work closely in the preparation of the application, which may only be submitted to NIST by their school district. Private educational institutions should prepare their applications for direct submission to NIST.

b. Application Format

- (1) **Application language.** English.
- (2) **Double-sided copy.** For paper submissions, print on both sides of the paper (front to back counts as two pages).
- (3) **Facsimile submissions (fax).** Will not be accepted.
- (4) **Font.** Easy to read font (10-point minimum). Smaller type may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible.
- (5) **Line spacing.** Single.
- (6) **Margins.** One (1) inch top, bottom, left, and right.
- (7) **Number of paper copies.** For paper submissions, one (1) signed, stapled original and two (2) stapled copies. If original application is in color, the two (2) copies must also be in color. If submitting electronically by Grants.gov, paper copies are not required.
- (8) **Page layout.** Portrait orientation only.
- (9) **Page limit.** Five (5) pages for Additional Applicant Information.

Page limit excludes: The following forms, including required attachments, are not included in the page limit: SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance; SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs; SF-424B, Assurances – Non-Construction Programs; SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; CD-511, Certification Regarding

Lobbying; and NIST-1103, Teacher Application for the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) or the NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET).

- (10) **Page numbering.** Number pages sequentially.
 - (11) **Paper size.** 21.6 by 27.9 centimeters (8 ½ by 11 inches).
 - (12) **Stapled paper submission.** For paper submissions, staple the original signed application and each of the two (2) copies securely with one staple in the upper left-hand corner.
 - (13) **Table of contents.** Do not include; not required. If included, will count toward page limit.
 - (14) **Typed document.** All applications, including forms, must be typed.
- 3. Submission Dates and Times.** Electronic applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, Friday, on Wednesday, March 20, 2013. Paper applications must be received by NIST by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, March 20, 2013.
- Any application not received by the specified due date and time, respectively, will not be considered and will be returned without review. NIST determines whether paper applications have been timely received by the deadline by date and time receipt they are physically received by NIST at its Gaithersburg, Maryland campus. For electronic submissions, NIST will consider the date and time of the Grants.gov application time stamp.
- NIST strongly recommends that applicants do not wait until the last minute to submit an application. NIST will not make any allowances for late submissions, including but not limited to Internet delays or unavailability, delays in mail delivery caused by Federal Government security screening for U.S. Postal Service mail, or for delays by guaranteed express mailing and/or couriers.
- Important:** All applicants, both electronic and paper submitters, should be aware that adequate time must be factored into applicants' schedules for delivery of their application. Submitters of electronic applications are advised that volume on Grants.gov may be extremely heavy on the deadline date, and if Grants.gov is unable to accept applications electronically in a timely fashion, applicants are encouraged to exercise their option to submit applications in paper format. Submitters of paper applications should allow adequate time to ensure a paper application will be received on time, taking into account that Federal Government security screening for U.S. Postal Service mail may delay receipt of mail for up to two (2) weeks and that guaranteed express mailings and/or couriers are not always able to fulfill their guarantees.*
- In the event of a natural disaster that interferes with timely application submissions, NIST may issue an amendment to this FFO to change the application submission due date.
- 4. Executive Order 12372 (Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs).** Applications under this Program are not subject to Executive Order 12372.
 - 5. Funding Restrictions.** The NIST RET Program will not authorize funds for housing nor travel allowances. Additionally, the award for teacher(s) to attend the NIST RET Program does not allow for any indirect costs. Although NIST awards will be made directly to school districts and/or institutions, NIST's intent is that all funding awarded be provided to the selected teachers as stipends.
 - 6. Other Submission Requirements**
 - a. Applications may be submitted by paper or electronically.**

- (1) Paper applications must be submitted in triplicate (an original and two copies) and submitted to the NIST personnel identified in Section IV.1. of this FFO.
- (2) Electronic applications must be submitted via Grants.gov at www.grants.gov, under announcement 2013-NIST-RET-01.
 - a) Submitters of electronic applications should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions to ensure the attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicating a application is received does not provide information about whether attachments have been received. For further information or questions regarding applying electronically for the 2013-NIST-RET-01 announcement, contact Christopher Hunton by phone at 301-975-5718 or by e-mail at christopher.hunton@nist.gov.
 - b) Applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not wait until the approaching due date before logging on and reviewing the instructions for submitting a application through Grants.gov. The Grants.gov registration process must be completed before a new registrant can apply electronically. If all goes well, the registration process takes three (3) to five (5) business days. If problems are encountered, the registration process can take up to two (2) weeks or more. Applicants must have a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number (See Section VI.2.b) and must maintain a current registration in the Federal government's primary registrant database, the System for Award Management (<https://www.sam.gov/>), as explained on the Grants.gov Web site. After registering, it may take several days or longer from the initial log-on before a new Grants.gov system user can submit an application. Only authorized individual(s) will be able to submit the application, and the system may need time to process a submitted application. Applicants should save and print the proof of submission they receive from Grants.gov. If problems occur while using Grants.gov, the applicant is advised to (a) print any error message received and (b) call Grants.gov directly for immediate assistance. If calling from within the United States or from a U. S. territory, please call 800-518-4726. If calling from a place other than the United States or a U. S. territory, please call 606-545-5035. Assistance from the Grants.gov Help Desk will be available around the clock every day, with the exception of Federal holidays. Help Desk service will resume at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time the day after Federal holidays. For assistance using Grants.gov, you may also contact support@grants.gov.
 - c) Information essential to successful submission of applications on the Grants.gov system is detailed in the For Applicants section found in red on the left side of the www.grants.gov home page, and all potential applicants should pay close attention to the information contained therein. The All About Grants, Applicant FAQs, and Submit Application FAQs sections found under the Applicant Resources option are particularly important.
- b. **Amendments.** Any amendments to this FFO will be announced through Grants.gov and posted on the NIST Web site <http://www.nist.gov/iaao/teachlearn/>. Applicants may sign up for grants.gov FFO amendments or may call Dr. Mary Satterfield at (301) 975-5364, to request copies.

V. Application Review Information

1. Evaluation Criteria. The evaluation criteria that will be used in evaluating applications are as follows:

- a. Evaluation of Teacher's Interest in Participating in the Program as demonstrated in their respective NIST-1103, Teacher Application for the NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) or the NIST Research Experience for Teachers (NIST RET): Teachers should consider and describe how participation in the NIST RET Program would further their own career goals, as well as the program goal of encouraging students to pursue careers in science and related fields, and demonstrate the teacher's commitment to full participation in the NIST RET Program, including work in a laboratory environment during the NIST RET Program. As part of this section, teachers should also demonstrate their interest in and ideas for translating scientific research into activities for use in the middle school classroom.
- b. Applicant's Commitment to Program Goals: The applicant's support of the teacher's intent to use what was learned at NIST as related to the middle school curriculum in the classroom.

Each of these factors is given equal weight in the evaluation process.

2. Selection Factors. The Selecting Official shall select applications for award based upon the rank order of the applications, and may select an application out of rank based on one or more of the following selection factors:

- a. Fit of the teacher's stated interest to the program priorities of NIST. NIST program priorities are all applicable fields of science that complement those of NIST; specifically, these include science related to measurements. More information about those programs can be found on the agency's Web site (www.nist.gov).
- b. Fit of the teacher's interests and abilities to the available project and/or NIST scientists and engineers;
- c. Preference may be given to teachers from "high-need schools," as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1021(11)(see Section 406 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111-358, codified at 15 U.S.C. § 278g-2a(c)); and
- d. The availability of Federal funds.

3. Review and Selection Process

- a. **Initial Administrative Review of Applications.** An initial administrative review of timely received applications will be conducted to determine applicant and teacher eligibility, completeness, and responsiveness to this FFO and the scope of the stated program objectives. Applications determined to be ineligible, incomplete, or non-responsive based on this FFO may be eliminated from further review.
- b. **Full Review of Eligible, Complete, and Responsive Applications.** Applications determined to be eligible, complete, and responsive will be separated into teacher/applicant packets and proceed for full reviews in accordance with the review and selection process below:
 - (1) Each NIST RET Program teacher/applicant packet will be reviewed by at least three (3) independent, objective NIST scientists and engineers (federal employees) who are knowledgeable in the subject matter of this FFO and its objectives and who are able to conduct a review based on the evaluation criteria (see Section V.1. of this FFO). Based on the average of the reviewers' scores, a rank order of the teacher/applicant packets will be prepared and provided to the Selecting Official for further consideration.

- (2) In making final selections, the Selecting Official, who is the Biochemical Science Division Scientific Advisor at NIST, will select funding recipients in rank order of the teacher/applicant packets. The Selecting Official may select an application out of rank order based on the selection factors (see Section V.2. of this FFO).

In accordance with the Federal appropriations law expected to be in effect at the time of project funding, NIST anticipates that the selected applicant will be provided a form and asked to make a representation regarding any unpaid delinquent tax liability or felony conviction under any Federal law

NIST reserves the right to negotiate the budget costs with the applicants that have been selected to receive awards, which may include requesting that the applicant remove certain costs. Additionally, NIST may request that the applicant modify objectives or work plans and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. Substitutions for teachers who decline offers will be made from the remaining pool of ranked teacher/applicant packets consistent with the review and selection process (see Section V.3. of this FFO). NIST also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant. NIST may select part, some, all, or none of the applications. The final approval of selected applications and issuance of awards will be by the NIST Grants Officer. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final.

4. Anticipated Announcement and Award Date

Review, selection, and award processing is expected to be completed in April 2013. The earliest anticipated start date for awards made under this FFO is expected to be June 3, 2013.

5. Additional Information

- a. **Safety.** Safety is a top priority at NIST. Teachers participating in the NIST RET Program will be expected to be safety-conscious, to attend NIST safety training, and to comply with all NIST safety policies and procedures, and with all applicable NIST visitor policies.
- b. **Application Replacement Pages.** Applicants may not submit replacement pages and/or missing documents once an application has been submitted. Any revisions must be made by submission of a new application that must be received by NIST by the submission deadline.
- c. **Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants.** Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.
- d. **Retention of Unsuccessful Applications.** One (1) copy of each non-selected application will be retained for three (3) years for record keeping purposes and the other two (2) copies will be destroyed. After three (3) years, the remaining copy will be destroyed.

VI. Award Administration Information

1. **Award Notices.** Successful applicants will receive an award from the NIST Grants Officer. The award cover page, i.e., CD-450, Financial Assistance Award is available at http://ocio.os.doc.gov/s/groups/public/@doc/@os/@ocio/@oitpp/documents/content/dev01_002513.pdf and the DoC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (January 2013) are available at http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/grants_management/policy/documents/DOC_Standard_Terms_and_Conditions_01_10_2013.pdf.
2. **Administrative and National Policy Requirements**
 - a. **DoC Pre-Award Notification Requirements.** The DoC Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements, 77 FR 74634 (December 17, 2012), are applicable to this FFO and are available at <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/12/17/2012-30228/departments-of-commerce-pre-award-notification-requirements-for-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>.

- b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN), Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS), and System for Award Management (SAM)** All applicants for Federal financial assistance are required to obtain a universal identifier in the form of DUNS number and maintain a current registration in the Federal government's primary registrant database, SAM. On the form SF-424 items 8.b. and 8.c., the applicant's 9-digit EIN/TIN and 9-digit DUNS number must be consistent with the information in SAM (<https://www.sam.gov/>) and Automated Standard Application for Payment System (ASAP). For complex organizations with multiple EIN/TIN and DUNS numbers, the EIN/TIN and DUNS numbers MUST be the numbers for the applying organization. Organizations that provide incorrect/inconsistent EIN/TIN and DUNS numbers may experience significant delays in receiving funds if their proposal is selected for funding. Confirm that the EIN/TIN and DUNS number are consistent with the information on the SAM and ASAP.

Per 2 C.F.R. Part 25, each applicant must:

- (1) Be registered in the CCR before submitting a proposal noting the CCR now resides in SAM;
- (2) Maintain an active CCR registration, noting the CCR now resides in SAM, with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or a proposal under consideration by an agency; and
- (3) Provide its DUNS number in each application or proposal it submits to the agency.

The applicant can obtain a DUNS number from Dun and Bradstreet. A DUNS number can be created within one business day. The CCR or SAM registration process may take five or more business days to complete. If you are currently registered with the CCR, you may not need to make any changes. However, please make certain that the TIN associated with your DUNS number is correct. Also note that you will need to update your CCR registration annually. This may take three or more business days to complete. Information about SAM is available at SAM.gov. See also 2 C.F.R. Part 25 and the *Federal Register* notice published on September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55671.

- c. Use of NIST Intellectual Property.** If the applicant anticipates using any NIST-owned intellectual property to carry out the work proposed, the applicant should identify such intellectual property. This information will be used to ensure that no NIST employee involved in the development of the intellectual property will participate in the review process for that competition. In addition, if the applicant intends to use NIST-owned intellectual property, the applicant must comply with all statutes and regulations governing the licensing of Federal government patents and inventions, described in 35 U.S.C. §§ 200-212, 37 C.F.R. Part 401, 15 C.F.R. § 14.36, and in Section B.21 of the DoC Pre-Award Notification Requirements, 77 FR 74634 (December 17, 2012). Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Chief Counsel for NIST, 301-975-2803.

Any use of NIST-owned intellectual property by an applicant is at the sole discretion of NIST and will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis if a project is deemed meritorious. The applicant should indicate within the statement of work whether it already has a license to use such intellectual property or whether it intends to seek one.

If any inventions made in whole or in part by a NIST employee arise in the course of an award made pursuant to this FFO, the United States government may retain its ownership rights in any such invention. Licensing or other disposition of NIST's rights in such inventions will be determined solely by NIST, and include the possibility of NIST putting the intellectual property into the public domain.

- d. Research Projects Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects Including Software Testing.** Any application that includes a teacher's participation in research involving human subjects, human tissue/cells, data or recordings involving human subjects, including software testing, must meet the requirements of the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects ("Common Rule"), codified for the Department of Commerce (DoC) at 15 C.F.R. Part 27. In addition, any such application that includes research on these topics must be in

compliance with any statutory requirements imposed upon the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other Federal agencies regarding these topics, all regulatory policies and guidance adopted by DHHS, the Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal agencies on these topics, and all Executive Orders and Presidential statements of policy on these topics.

NIST reserves the right to make an independent determination of whether an applicant's research involves human subjects. If NIST determines that your research project involves human subjects, you will be required to provide additional information for review and approval. If an award is issued, no research activities involving human subjects shall be initiated or costs incurred under the award until the NIST Grants Officer issues written approval. Retroactive approvals are not permitted.

NIST will accept applications that include exempt and non-exempt human subjects research activities. Non-exempt human subjects research activities will be required to have protocols approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB) currently registered with the Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP) within the DHHS and that will be performed by entities possessing a currently valid Federal-wide Assurance (FWA) on file from OHRP that is appropriately linked to the cognizant IRB for the protocol. Information regarding how to apply for an FWA and register and IRB with OHRP can be found at <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/assurances/index.html>. ***The applicant should clearly indicate in the application, by separable task, all research activities believed to be exempt or non-exempt research involving human subjects and the expected institution(s) where the research activities involving human subjects may be conducted.***

Generally, NIST does not fund research involving human subjects in foreign countries. NIST will consider, however, the use of **preexisting** tissue, cells, or data from a foreign source on a limited basis if all of the following criteria are satisfied:

- (1) the scientific source is considered unique,
- (2) an equivalent source is unavailable within the United States,
- (3) an alternative approach is not scientifically of equivalent merit, and
- (4) the specific use qualifies for an exemption under the Common Rule.

Any award issued by NIST for the program announced in this FFO is required to adhere to all Presidential policies, statutes, guidelines, and regulations regarding the use of human embryonic stem cells. The DoC/NIST follows the NIH Guidelines by supporting and conducting research using only human embryonic stem cell lines that have been approved by NIH in accordance with the NIH Guidelines. Detailed information regarding NIH Guidelines for stem cells is located on the NIH Stem Cell Information website: <http://stemcells.nih.gov>. The DoC/NIST will not support or conduct any type of research that the NIH Guidelines prohibit NIH from funding. The DoC/NIST will review research using human embryonic stem cell lines that it supports and conducts in accordance with the Common Rule and NIST implementing procedures, as appropriate.

Any request to support or conduct research using human embryonic stem cell lines not currently approved by the NIH, will require that the owner, deriver or licensee of the human embryonic stem cell line apply for and receive approval of the registration of the cell line through the established NIH application procedures: http://hescregapp.od.nih.gov/NIH_Form_2890_Login.htm. Due to the timing uncertainty associated with establishing an embryonic stem cell line in the NIH registry, the use of existing human embryonic stem cell lines in the NIH Embryonic Stem Cell Registry may be preferred by applicants or current award recipients. The NIH Embryonic Stem Cell Registry is located at: http://grants.nih.gov/stem_cells/registry/current.htm.

An applicant or current award recipient proposing to use a registered embryonic stem cell line will be required to document an executed agreement for access to the cell line with the provider of the cell line, and acceptance of any established restrictions for use of the cell line, as may be noted in the NIH Embryonic Stem Cell Registry.

If the applicant's application appears to include research activities involving human subjects the following information may be requested during the application review process:

- (1) The name(s) of the institution(s) where the research will be conducted;
- (2) The name(s) and institution(s) of the cognizant IRB(s), and the IRB registration number(s);
- (3) The FWA number of the applicant linked to the cognizant IRB(s);
- (4) The FWAs associated with all organizations engaged in the planned research activity linked to the cognizant IRB;
- (5) If the IRB review(s) is pending, the estimated start date for research involving human subjects;
- (6) The IRB approval date (if currently approved for exempt or non-exempt research);
- (7) If any FWAs or IRB registrations are being applied for, that should be clearly stated.

Additional documentation may be requested, as warranted, during review of the applicant's application, but may include the following for research activities involving human subjects that are planned in the first year of the award:

- (1) A signed (by the study principal investigator) copy of each applicable final IRB-approved protocol;
- (2) A signed and dated approval letter from the cognizant IRB(s) that includes the name of the institution housing each applicable IRB, provides the start and end dates for the approval of the research activities, and any IRB-required interim reporting or continuing review requirements;
- (3) A copy of any IRB-required application information, such as documentation of approval of special clearances (i.e., biohazard, HIPAA, etc.) conflict-of-interest letters, or special training requirements;
- (4) A brief description of what portions of the IRB submitted protocol are specifically included in the applicant's application submitted to NIST, if the protocol includes tasks not applicable to the application, or if the protocol is supported by multiple funding sources. For protocols with multiple funding sources, NIST will not approve the study without a non duplication-of-funding letter indicating that no other federal funds will be used to support the tasks proposed under the proposed research or ongoing project;
- (5) If a new protocol will only be submitted to an IRB if an award from NIST issued, a draft of the proposed protocol may be requested;
- (6) Any additional clarifying documentation that NIST may request during review of applications to perform the NIST administrative review of research involving human subjects.

- e. Research Projects Involving Live Vertebrate Animals.** Any application that includes a teacher's participation in research involving live vertebrate animals, that are being cared for, euthanized, or used by the project participants to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing, must be in compliance with the National Research Council's "Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals," which can be obtained from National Academy Press, 500 5th Street, N.W., Department 285, Washington, DC 20055. In addition, such applications must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.), 9 C.F.R. Parts 1, 2, and 3, and if appropriate, 21 C.F.R. Part 58. These regulations do not apply to proposed research using **preexisting** images of animals or to research plans that do not include live animals. These regulations also do not apply to obtaining animal materials from commercial processors of animal products or to animal cell lines or tissues from tissue banks. ***The applicant should clearly indicate in the application, by separable task, all research activities believed to include research involving live vertebrate animals and the institution(s) where the research activities involving live vertebrate animals may be conducted.***

NIST reserves the right to make an independent determination of whether your research involves live vertebrate animals. If NIST determines that your research project involves live vertebrate animals, you will be required to provide additional information for review and approval. If an award is issued, no research activities involving live vertebrate animals subjects shall be initiated or costs incurred under the award until the NIST Grants Officer issues written approval.

If the applicant's application appears to include research activities involving live vertebrate animals the following information may be requested during the application review process:

- (1) The name(s) of the institution(s) where the animal research will be conducted;
- (2) The assurance type and number, as applicable, for the cognizant IACUC where the research activity is located. [For example: Animal Welfare Assurance from the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) should be indicated by the OLAW assurance number, i.e. A-1234; an USDA Animal Welfare Act certification should be indicated by the certification number i.e. 12-R-3456; and an Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) should be indicated by AAALAC.]
- (3) The IACUC approval date (if currently approved);
- (4) If the review by the cognizant Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is pending, the estimated start date for research involving vertebrate animals;
- (5) If any assurances or IACUCs need to be obtained or established, that should be clearly stated.

Additional documentation will be requested, as warranted, during review of the application, but may include the following for research activities involving live vertebrate animals that are planned in the first year of the award:

- (1) A signed (by the Principal Investigator) copy of the IACUC approved Animal Study Application (ASP);
- (2) Documentation of the IACUC approval indicating the approval and expiration dates of the ASP; and
- (3) If applicable, a nonduplication-of-funding letter if the ASP is funded from several sources.
- (4) If a new ASP will only be submitted to an IACUC if an award from NIST issued, a draft of the proposed ASP may be requested.
- (5) Any additional clarifying documentation that NIST may request during review of applications to perform the NIST administrative review of research involving live vertebrate animals.

- f. Funding Availability and Limitation of Liability.** Funding for the program listed in this FFO is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. In no event will NIST or DoC be responsible for application preparation costs if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of agency priorities. Publication of this FFO does not oblige NIST or DoC to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

3. Reporting

- a. Reporting Requirements.** In lieu of the reporting requirements described in Sections A.01 Financial Reports and B.01 Performance (Technical) Reports of the DoC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions dated January 2013 (http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/grants_management/policy/documents/DOC_Standard_Terms_and_Conditions_01_10_2013.pdf), the following reporting requirements shall apply:

- (1) Financial Requirements – Financial Report.** Each award recipient will be required to submit an SF-425, Federal Financial Report, in triplicate (an original and two (2) copies) within 30 days after the end of the program.

(2) Performance (Technical) Report. Each award recipient shall require the teacher(s) accepted into the NIST RET Program to submit to his/her institution and to NIST, a brief report (at least one (1) page) on his/her experiences and accomplishments during the program. In addition, the report should describe how the teacher will implement what was learned during the NIST RET Program experience to the classroom. The report must be submitted on the last day of the teacher's participation in NIST RET Program. The level of detail should allow for NIST's assessment of the overall success of the program.

b. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. In accordance with 2 C.F.R. part 170, all recipients of a Federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, are required to comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. No. 109-282). In general, all recipients are responsible for reporting sub-awards of \$25,000 or more. In addition, recipients that meet certain criteria are responsible for reporting executive compensation. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should they receive funding. Also see the *Federal Register* notice published September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55663.

VII. Agency Contact(s)

Questions should be directed to the following contact persons:

Subject Area	Point of Contact
Programmatic and technical questions	Mary Satterfield Phone: 301-975-5364 Fax: 301-975-3845 E-mail: mary.satterfield@nist.gov
Technical Assistance with Grants.gov submissions	Christopher Hunton Phone: 301-975-5718 Fax: 301-840-5976 E-mail: christopher.hunton@nist.gov or Grants.gov Phone: 800-518-4726 E-mail: support@grants.gov
Grant rules and regulations	Scott McNichol Phone: 301-975-5603 Fax: 301-840-5976 E-mail: scott.mcnichol@nist.gov

VIII. Other Information

The NIST Summer Institute for Middle School Science Teachers (NIST Summer Institute) Program (Funding Opportunity Number 2013-NIST-SUMMER-INSTITUTE-01) is a program related to the NIST RET Program.