Below is a summary of the key proposed changes by section; however, we encourage you to become familiar with all the changes:

Grant Proposal Guide

- **NSF Proposal Preparation and Submission,**
  Revised to describe, at the beginning of the chapter, proposal preparation and submission via FastLane and Grants.gov.

- **Format of the Proposal**
  Revised to add instructions that, upon entering the proposal preparation module in FastLane, the PI will be prompted to select the type of proposal being developed

- **Proposal Certifications**
  Includes an addition to the Certification Regarding Conflict of Interest. The language states that if research proceeds without the imposition of conditions or restrictions when a conflict of interest exists, this must be disclosed to NSF via use of the Notifications and Requests Module in FastLane.

- **Sections of the Proposal (Chapter II. C.2)**
  Augmented to include a list of required sections for a full proposal submitted via FastLane. The section also clarifies that, if the submission instructions do not require a section to be provided, the proposer should insert text or upload a document in that section of the proposal that states, “Not Applicable.”

- **Project Summary**
  Clarifies that a Project Summary containing special characters that is submitted as a PDF file in the Supplementary Documentation section must be formatted with separate headings for the overview, statement on intellectual merit, and statement on broader impacts.

- **Results from Prior NSF Support**
  Amended to make clear that in the summary of results of the completed work, the accomplishments related to Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact activities must be separately described under two distinct headings.
• **Unfunded Collaborations**
Revised to explain that any substantial collaboration with individuals not included in the budget should be described in the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section of the proposal and documented in a letter of commitment from each collaborator.

• **Products**
Supplemented with language stating that, if only publications are included, the heading “Publications” may be used for this section of the Biographical Sketch.

• **Participant Support**
Revised to emphasize that indirect costs are not allowed on participant support costs.

• **Other**
Updated to include guidance on the allowability of visa costs on an NSF proposal.

• **Cost Sharing**
Amended to state that, for purposes of budget preparation, the cumulative cost sharing amount must be entered on Line M of the first year's budget.

• **Special Information and Supplementary Documentation**
Revised to: move language regarding letters of support to be co-located with information on letters of commitment; amend language regarding NSF compliance with federal environmental statutes, including that a proposer may be requested to submit supplemental post-proposal submission information to NSF in order that a reasonable and accurate assessment of environmental impact by NSF may be made; and update language on information to be provided regarding international activities.

• **Submission of a Collaborative Proposal from Multiple Organizations**
Supplemented to clarify required sections of the proposal for lead organizations versus non-lead organizations.

• **Proposals for Equipment**
Revised to explain what information should be included in different sections of the proposal.

• **Proposals for Conferences, Symposia and Workshops**
Augmented to explain that such proposals should include a description of plans to identify resources for child care and other types of family care at the conference site to allow individuals with family care responsibilities to attend.

• **Projects Requiring High-Performance Computing Resources**
Updated to describe NSF-supported resources at University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign, and National Center for Atmospheric Research, which are in addition to XSEDE.
Award & Administration Guide

- **Long Term Absence of the PI/PD or co-PI/co-PD**
  Revised to describe the steps that should occur in the event that the PI/PD or co-PI/co-PD will be temporarily working for NSF as an IPA or VSEE.

- **Annual and Final Project Reports**
  Amended to emphasize that annual and final project reports are not cumulative and should be written specifically for the most recently completed budget period, as well as add that reports should be submitted electronically in Research.gov.

- **Final Unobligated Balance**
  Revised to state that, based on final payment amounts submitted through the Award Cash Management Service (ACM$), the final unobligated balance will be computed by NSF and deobligated from the award amount.

- **Conflict of Interest Policies**
  Updated to add language regarding awardee notification to NSF of situations where research will proceed without the imposition of conditions or restrictions when a Conflict of Interest exists.

- **Participant Support Costs, General**
  Revised to add that, for colleges and universities, participant support costs may include fellowships, scholarships, and other forms of student aid; and to emphasize that indirect costs are not allowed on participant support costs.

- **Rental or Lease of Facilities or Special Purpose Equipment**
  Updated to add that rental costs of facilities owned by the awardee or under common control by related parties may be limited to the actual cost of ownership as opposed to fair market rental value.

- **Relocation Costs**
  Updated to add guidance regarding inclusion of visa costs.

- **Provisional Rate**
  Added to define a provisional rate as a temporary rate established to permit funding and reporting of costs pending establishment of a final rate.

- **Non-Discrimination Statutes**
  Amended to include that Executive Order 13166 requires government agencies to take steps to provide meaningful access to its programs and activities to members of the public who are limited in their English proficiency (LEP).

- **Environmental Compliance**
  Added to affirm that, prior to making an award, NSF considers the anticipated environmental impacts associated with the activities described in the proposal. If, while performing the work
required by the award, the awardee learns of any potential or actual unanticipated environmental impacts, the awardee shall immediately notify NSF of such impacts and cease all work anticipated to cause or causing such impacts until NSF has had a reasonable opportunity to assess the situation, comply with all relevant environmental laws, and provide further direction to the awardee.

Questions?
Should you have any questions regarding the impact of any the above changes to the NSF guidelines, please contact the Contracts and Grants Officer assigned to your unit.