

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Federal Agency Name: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

Funding Opportunity Title: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Nuclear Education Program Faculty Development Grants Announcement of Opportunity Fiscal Year 2008

Funding Number: HR-FN208-NED02

Type of Award Instrument/Announcement Type: Grants. Initial Announcement

Topics: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 77.008

Dates: Institutions must submit full proposals by 5 p.m. (ET) on Tuesday, April 1, 2008. NRC will not consider proposals received after that submission deadline.

Proposal Submission: All applicants are required to submit full proposals. The full announcement contains important guidance for the format, content, length, and review criteria for full proposals.

Funding Opportunity Description: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was created as an independent agency by Congress in 1974 to enable the nation to safely use radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes while ensuring that people and the environment are protected. The NRC regulates commercial nuclear power plants and other uses of nuclear materials, such as in nuclear medicine, through licensing, inspection and enforcement of its requirements.

Funding under this opportunity includes support for education in nuclear science, engineering, and related trades to develop a workforce capable of the design, construction, operation, and regulation of nuclear facilities and the safe handling of nuclear materials. The total amount of funding available for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, trade school scholarships, and faculty development grants together in FY08 totals \$15 million.

The Faculty Development Grants Program recognizes the need to attract and retain highly-qualified junior faculty in academic teaching careers. Funding under this announcement is intended to support new faculty in the nuclear-related fields of Nuclear Engineering, Health Physics, and Radiochemistry. The grants specifically target probationary, tenure-track faculty in these academic areas during the first 6 years of their career. Grants could include support for developing proposals for research and small amounts for initiating or continuing research projects in their areas of expertise. Other areas might include course development, equipment stipends, participation in professional society meetings, preparation of papers, travel, and associated expenses. Awards may be increased to the extent that a portion of the award is matched by the institution. The program intends to provide support to enable new faculty to enhance their careers as professors and researchers in the University department where employed.

This announcement is just for faculty development grants. Related announcements for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and trade school scholarships are published

separately. Publishing these announcements does not obligate NRC to fund any specific scholarship, fellowship, trade school scholarship, or faculty development program, or to obligate all or any part of available funds. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to initiate or continue grant activities where funding has been recommended by NRC. The exact amount of funds that NRC may recommend to be granted is determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NRC representatives. Future opportunities for submitting proposals may be available, depending on future NRC funding authorization. NRC only makes awards directly to accredited U.S. institutions of higher education. Individuals cannot apply directly to NRC for these grants.

## **FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT**

### **I. Funding Opportunity Description**

#### **A. Program and Notice Objective**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was created as an independent agency by Congress in 1974 to enable the nation to safely use radioactive materials for beneficial civilian purposes while ensuring that people and the environment are protected. The NRC regulates commercial nuclear power plants and other uses of nuclear materials, such as in nuclear medicine, through licensing, inspection and enforcement of its requirements.

Funding under this program includes support for education in nuclear science, engineering, and related trades to develop a workforce capable of supporting the design, construction, operation, and regulation of nuclear facilities and the safe handling of nuclear materials. This funding opportunity is just for faculty development grants. Related funding opportunities for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, and trade school scholarships are published separately. NRC only makes awards directly to accredited U.S. institutions of higher education. Individuals cannot apply directly to NRC for these grants.

The Faculty Development Grants Program recognizes the need to attract and retain highly-qualified junior faculty in academic teaching careers. Funding under this announcement is intended to support new faculty in the nuclear-related fields of Nuclear Engineering, Health Physics, and Radiochemistry. The grants specifically target probationary, tenure-track faculty in these academic areas during the first 6 years of their career. Grants could include support for developing proposals for research and small amounts for initiating or continuing research projects in their areas of expertise. Other areas might include course development, equipment stipends, participation in professional society meetings, preparation of papers, travel, and associated expenses. Awards may be increased to the extent that a portion of the award is matched by the institution. The program intends to provide support to enable new faculty to enhance their careers as professors and researchers in the University department where employed.

**B. Program Authority:** The Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended.

### **II. Award Information**

#### **A. Funding Availability**

The total amount of funding available for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships, trade school scholarships, and faculty development grants together in FY08 is \$15 million. This announcement is only for faculty development grants. The opportunities for undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships and trade school scholarships grants are published separately. Publishing these announcements does not obligate NRC to fund any specific scholarship, fellowship, trade school scholarship, or faculty development program or to obligate any part of available funds. There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to initiate or continue grant activities where funding has been recommended by NRC. The exact amount of funds that NRC may recommend to be granted is determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NRC representatives. Future opportunities to submit proposals may be available, depending on future NRC funding authorization.

NRC expects to support a limited number of awards of up to approximately \$900,000 per institution through this solicitation. NRC only awards grants directly to accredited U.S. institutions of higher education. It is anticipated that these grants would be used to support probationary faculty in a tenure-track position who would remain with the University over the duration of the grant. Individual faculty members cannot apply directly to the NRC for faculty development grants.

#### B. Faculty Development Grants

Proposals must describe how faculty participants will be selected, what level of support will be provided for participants, what evaluation procedures will be used, and what type of follow-up will be provided as participants work through the development plan. Proposals must also describe how institutions can work toward building institutional capacity once the applicant completes their faculty development activities.

#### C. Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements

Awards are for \$100,000 per year plus up to an additional \$50,000 per year that is awarded to the extent matched by the institution for each of up to two recipients. The maximum amount that NRC will award for a proposal covering two faculty recipients may total up to \$300,000 per year, provided that \$100,000 is fully matched by the institution.

#### D. Due Dates

Full proposals are due by 5 p.m. (ET) on Tuesday, April 1, 2008.

### III. Proposal Submission Information

#### A. Full Proposals

Full proposal packages are available and submitted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Email, facsimile, and hard copy submissions are not accepted.

##### 1. Full Proposal Content

Full proposals are required for all submissions. Full proposal packages are available and submitted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

##### 2. Required Elements for Full Proposals

Full proposals must include the following packaged in the order listed, with the bottom right-hand corner of every page numbered and labeled with the Principal Investigators' last name. All full proposal text must be formatted for 8.5 x 11 inch paper, in an 11 pt. font, with 1-inch margins. Adobe pdf format is preferred.

###### a. Maximum half-page Executive Summary, include:

1. Name of program—Faculty Development Grant Program.
2. Name of institution involved in the proposal.
3. List of names and contact details for each person administering this project.

4. Total dollar funding request for the project.

b. Project Description: The Faculty Development Grants Program recognizes the need to attract and retain highly-qualified junior faculty in academic teaching careers. Funding under this announcement is intended to support new faculty in the nuclear-related fields of Nuclear Engineering, Health Physics, and Radiochemistry. The grants specifically target probationary, tenure-track faculty in these academic areas during the first 6 years of their career. Grants could include support for developing proposals for research and small amounts for initiating or continuing research projects in their areas of expertise. Other areas might include course development, equipment stipends, participation in professional society meetings, preparation of papers, travel, and associated expenses. Awards may be increased to the extent that a portion of the award is matched by the institution. The program intends to provide support to enable new faculty to enhance their careers as professors and researchers in the University department where employed.

Proposals must include and clearly identify the following elements in the Project Description section:

- A description of the proposed faculty development program.
- A description of the selection process that will ensure that best-qualified applicants are selected based on potential capabilities to become tenure or research professors.
- A description of the management and administrative structure and the capability for administering the program.
- An evaluation plan that will provide information on the effectiveness of the project in attracting, preparing, and retaining individuals in educational careers. This plan should include methodologies for measuring the effectiveness of the development program.

Limit the project description to 10 pages, including text. The 10-page limit does not include the Executive Summary, Budget and Budget Narrative, Current and Pending Support, Curriculum Vitae, and required forms.

c. Summary of Relevant Current Funding Support: Grant applicants must provide information on all their current and pending Federal support for ongoing projects and proposals, including potential subsequent funding in the case of continuing grants. The proposed project and all other projects or activities using Federal assistance or that require a portion of time of the principal investigator or other senior personnel must be included.

d. The following forms are required:

1. SF 424 – Application for Federal Assistance. Applicants must enter 77.008 for the CFDA Number.
2. SF 424A – Budget Information.
3. SF 424B – Assurances.
4. SF LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities; (required if participating in Lobbying activities).

#### IV. Institutional Responsibilities

Institutions must require individual recipients to accept the terms as defined. All faculty development plans are expected to include a proposed strategy for attracting, preparing, and retaining faculty. The institution is responsible for monitoring and reporting the effectiveness of the individual development plan.

##### A. Project/Award Period

Awards are for 3 years and may be renewed at the NRC's discretion for an additional 3 years, subject to the availability of funding at renewal.

##### B. Types of Funding Instrument

Awards are funded through grants under the terms of this notice.

##### C. Funding and Award Restrictions

Include a copy of your indirect cost rate agreement.

##### D. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are regionally accredited 4-year U.S. public and private institutions of higher education. Awards are not made to any other form of entity or directly to individuals. Individuals and other entities may not apply directly to NRC for these grants.

##### E. Limit on Number of Proposals per University

Institutions may submit only one proposal for Faculty Development Grants for up to two recipients.

##### F. Cost Sharing

Awards are for \$100,000 per year plus an additional \$50,000 per year is awarded to the extent matched by the institution for each of up to two recipients. The maximum award per proposal is \$300,000 per year, provided that \$100,000 is fully matched by the institution.

##### G. Proposal Submission Information

For program and proposal information, contact John Gutteridge at NRC, 301-492-2313 or via email at [edufaculty@nrc.gov](mailto:edufaculty@nrc.gov). The full announcement can be found at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). NRC does not accept proposals submitted by facsimile, hard copy, or electronic mail.

#### V. Award Information

##### A. Submission Dates and Times

Institutions must submit proposals through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by Tuesday, April 1, 2008. NRC will not consider proposals received after that submission deadline. The date and time receipt indication included with your submission on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) is the basis of determining

timeliness. NRC does not accept proposals submitted by facsimile, hard copy, or electronic mail.

#### B. Procedures for Submitting Proposals

Full Proposals are only accepted through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

#### C. Merit Review Criteria

None.

#### D. Proposal Review Information

NRC evaluates each proposal in a two-part process. First, applications are screened to ensure that they meet the administrative requirements set forth in this Request for Application. Second, proposals meeting the administrative requirements are evaluated by a review panel. Reviewers are selected based upon education and experience in relevant scientific, technical, or academic fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The individual's level of relevant formal scientific, technical, or academic experience and the extent to which the individual is engaged in relevant scientific, technical, or academic activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, technical, or academic fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organization types (e.g., colleges, universities, professional, industry, State and private profit and nonprofit organizations), and geographic locations.

#### E. Full Proposal Criteria:

Multiple independent peer reviewers evaluate and rate each full proposal using the following criteria and weighting values:

1. Capacity and ability of the institution to effectively conduct the program. (20 points)
2. Number and quality of faculty that will be served by the program. (20 points)
3. Quality and feasibility of development strategies. (20 points)
4. Feasibility and completeness of an evaluation plan to measure the effectiveness of the faculty development program. (20 points)
5. Institutional support for the program and the extent to which the institution is committed to making the program an organizational focus. (20 points)

#### F. Review and Selection Process

After receiving full proposals, NRC conducts an initial administrative review to determine compliance with requirements and completeness of the proposal. If proposals are determined to be compliant and complete, peer reviewers then rate the individual proposals using the evaluation criteria and point values provided above. Both Federal and nonfederal experts in the field may be used in this process. Individual peer reviewer's scores are shall be averaged to produce a rank order to present to the selecting official. The selecting official makes awards in rank order except when justification exists to select out of rank order. Investigators may be asked to modify objectives, work plans or budget levels, or provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to the award.

NRC keeps names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. The identities of peer reviewers also remain confidential throughout the entire review process and are not released to applicants.

## G. Selection Factors

The selecting official makes awards in rank order except when selecting out of rank order is justified based on one or more of the following factors:

- Availability of funding.
- Balance/distribution of funds:
  - Geographically.
  - By discipline types.
- Whether this project duplicates other projects funded or considered for funding by NRC.
- Program priorities and policy factors.
- Needs that the Commission determines to be critical to the NRC's regulatory mission.

## H. Anticipated Award Announcement

NRC notifies all applicants of the final recommendation to award or decline funding of proposals via email. Successful applicants also receive written notification from the NRC that their proposals have been funded. Official funding notification from an NRC Grants Officer is the authorizing document that allows NRC to begin funding the project. Notifications are issued via U.S. mail to the authorizing officials at the proposing institutions.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

Successful applicants may be asked to modify objectives, work plans, or budgets prior to final award approval. The exact amount of funds to be awarded, the final scope of activities, and specific NRC cooperative involvement in the activities of each partnership is determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicants and NRC. Successful applicants should not initiate any project activities in the expectation of receiving grant funding until a notice of award document is received from the NRC.

### B. Limitation of Liability

In no event is NRC responsible for proposal costs if this program is cancelled because of other agency priorities identified prior to final grant award. Publishing this announcement does not obligate NRC to award any specific project.

### C. Reporting

Semiannual progress reports must be submitted directly to the NRC Project Manager electronically beginning 6 months after the project's start date. Reports must be received by NRC no later than 30 days after each 6-month project period. A final report is due no later than 90 days after the award's expiration date. NRC expects progress reports to detail activities that

have occurred during the reporting period that correspond with the goals and objectives identified in the narrative, as well as provide specific, project-related information.

## VII. Agency Contacts

### A. Administrative Questions

Nicole Pratt  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Division of Contracts  
Mail Stop T7-I2  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
301-415-0236

### B. Technical Questions

John Gutteridge  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Faculty Development Grants  
Mail Stop GW5 A06  
Washington, DC 20555-0001  
301-492-2313

### C. Email

[edufaculty@nrc.gov](mailto:edufaculty@nrc.gov).

### D. Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

Frequently asked questions can be found on our Web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/grants.html>

## VIII. Other Information

### A. Grants.gov

Proposals must be submitted through grants.gov to be considered for award. You cannot submit a proposal through grants.gov unless you are registered. Please read the registration requirements at [www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp) carefully and start the process immediately. Remember you have to update your CCR registration annually. If you have any questions about your registration, contact the grants.gov helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726.

## B. Registration Requirements

There are several one-time actions you must complete in order to submit a proposal through grants.gov (e.g., obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, register with the Central Contract Registry (CCR), register with the credential provider, and register with grants.gov). Use the grants.gov organization registration checklist to guide you through the process. Designating an E-Business Point of contact (Ebiz OC) and obtaining a special password called an MPIN are important steps in the CCR registration process. Applicants, who are not registered with CCR and grants.gov, should allow at least 15 days for completing these requirements. It is suggested that the process be started as soon as possible.

## C. Important Notice to Potential Applicants

When you have completed the process, you should call the grants.gov helpdesk at 1-800-518-4726 to verify that you have completed the final step (i.e., grants.gov registration).