



Workforce Issuance

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☐ Policy ☒ Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
MassHire Workforce Board Chairs
MassHire Workforce Board Directors
MassHire Career Center Directors
MassHire Fiscal Officers
MDCS Operations Managers

cc: WIOA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
MassHire Department of Career Services

Date: October 9, 2020

Subject: **Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Funding Opportunity**

Purpose: To notify MassHire Workforce Boards, MassHire Career Center Operators and other local workforce partners of a National Science Foundation funding opportunity announced August 29, 2020 on Grants.gov – ***NSF 20-607 Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL)***.

Background: 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.

Funding Opportunity Number: NSF 20-607
Application Deadline: January 12, 2021
Estimated Total Funding: \$30,000,000 - \$39,000,000
Anticipated # of Awards: 58 - 85
Eligible Applicants: Identified in the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG), Chapter I.E.
Unaffiliated individuals are not eligible to submit proposals in response to this solicitation.
Award Funds/Period Performance: Limits for funding requests of AISL proposals:
(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.

Action

Requested: Please share with managers, staff, and partners as appropriate.

Attachment: NSF 20-607 / Advancing Informal STEM Learning