

## FY 2014-15 Social Science NSI: Questions and Answers

**1. What is the anticipated amount of funding available for the Social Science NSI? How much could be available for individual projects?**

The NSGO intends to invest \$2 million each year for 2014 and 2015 in this national strategic investment, but these funds are contingent upon the Network's overall budget. The level of the subsidy for each project could be up to 50% of federal funding, but the exact proportion is a function of the overall Network demand on the funds. If there is more than \$4M of social science research proposed annually or the Network's budget decreases, then the subsidy could be less than 50%.

**2. What are the requirements for matching funds?**

Same as with core funds – 50% match is required.

**3. How will the logistics of communicating the list of social science projects to the NSGO work?**

By November 1, 2013, Sea Grant Programs must submit the electronic 90-2 (available at [pier.seagrants.noaa.gov](http://pier.seagrants.noaa.gov)) as a part of their omnibus proposal. Social science research projects (exclusively social science or integrated projects) should have a project ID that begins with "**R**" and be identified through the "Classification Code" of "**220 Social Science**." It is not necessary that 220 Social Science be the primary code (listed first) to be considered for the subsidy. Additional instructions for adding a classification code are available in the spreadsheet or by contacting your program officer.

If an integrated research project has a partial social science component, indicate the proportion of the project that is social science on the "TableOfContents" sheet in the column titled "COMMENTS." Please use the format Social Science NSI XX% (e.g., "Social Science NSI 60%"). Please use that exact language. If you want to add additional comments about that project, put the "Social Science NSI XX%" comment first.

**4. Do outreach or education projects count as "social science" in the Social Science NSI? What about Program Development projects?**

The NSI is designed to encourage social science research. "Social science" projects could include outreach components, but such projects should be able to present the project and findings in peer-review journals. For projects to be eligible for the social science NSI, there needs to be evidence of anticipated scientific contribution and peer-review journal publication. Moreover, only projects selected through a research competition are eligible. Program Development projects are not eligible.

**5. What happens if programs have funding from other sources in an RFP that includes social science aspects?**

Only Sea Grant funds are eligible to be offset by the social science NSI. Sea Grant funded regional social science is eligible, but match or leveraged funds are not eligible.

**6. I will write the letter of intent before I know the outcome of the Social Science NSI. So, how do I write a letter on intent, if I don't know how much of a return I will get on my social science proposals?**

Conditional statements in letters of intent may be useful: "with a 50% social science subsidy, we recommend funding the following...."

**7. Who decides if the proposals I put forward for the Social Science NSI are indeed social science?**

There will be no technical review of the proposals you put forward, however, the NSGO will check to ensure that the proposals put forward are indeed social science (e.g., are the study subjects humans or the work address the implications for people). If you disagree with the NSGO's determination, you can petition Leon for a final decision.

**Questions: Contact Chris Hayes at 301-734-1057 or [Chris.Hayes@noaa.gov](mailto:Chris.Hayes@noaa.gov)**