

(OMB) clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by December 21, 2026 to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to address below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including Federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Evidence and Evaluation Measurement Generic Clearance for the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP)

OMB Control No.: 3145-NEW.

Expiration Date of Approval: Not applicable.

Type of Request: Request for approval of a new information collection.

Proposed Project: The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP), is establishing the TIP Evidence and Evaluation Measurement Framework as a generic clearance to support data collection for evidence building, evaluation, and organizational learning. The Framework will encompass information collections across three broad areas of TIP investment: *technology translation*, *workforce development*, and *regional innovation ecosystems*. The generic clearance will provide a common structure for data collection across these three areas while allowing individual data collections to be tailored to their specific purpose, context, and respondent population.

Established by the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, TIP was created to strengthen the Nation's innovation ecosystem. To fulfill this mission, TIP advances three broad strategic priorities: (1) accelerating critical and emerging technologies, (2) building a competition-ready workforce, and (3) expanding the geography of American innovation, all through partnerships that span academia, industry, government, nonprofit organizations, and other sectors. Accordingly, TIP's investments are designed around these strategic priorities to advance technology translation and commercialization,

workforce development, regional innovation, and partnerships.

Across the three areas covered by the Framework, the scope of data collected will be generally similar and will include descriptive and contextual information; customer, participant, and stakeholder experiences and satisfaction; and information on the activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts of TIP investments. For example, within the technology translation area, data may include project and organizational characteristics, intellectual property development, technology validation and testing, commercialization activities, partnerships, follow-on investments, adoption barriers and risks, and other indicators of technology translation. Information collected within the workforce development and regional innovation ecosystem areas will similarly reflect the activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts relevant to those areas.

The Framework will also support the development, testing, and evaluation of data collection techniques and methods, as appropriate to individual projects conducted under the generic clearance. These activities may include, but are not limited to, survey pretesting, pilot testing, focus groups, and testing alternative data collection approaches. Insights obtained through these activities may be used to assess and improve data collection instruments and methods, test alternatives, evaluate current approaches, and inform subsequent data collection and evaluation activities.

The data collected under the Framework is intended to address evidence needs across TIP's investment portfolio. Existing administrative data can provide information about awards and selected outputs but may not capture the activities, experiences, conditions, and outcomes necessary to understand TIP investments and their results. Data collected under the Framework will supplement existing administrative information and contribute to TIP's evidence-building, evaluation, and organizational activities.

Following standard OMB requirements, TIP will submit an individual request to OMB for each information collection undertaken under this generic clearance, and will obtain OMB approval prior to implementation. TIP will provide OMB with the proposed scope of the collection, how it aligns with TIP's three evidence areas covered by the Framework, the associated respondent burden, and a copy of the data collection instrument and related

materials. This approach will provide TIP flexibility to tailor data collection instruments and methods to program objectives and respondent characteristics, and to undertake development and testing activities described above. Together, these flexibilities will strengthen the quality and credibility of the evidence generated under the Framework.

Respondents: The respondents generally have the education and/or experience level commensurate to a university associate professor.

Estimated Number of Annual Respondents: 3,000.

Burden on the Public: Over the three years of the requested generic clearance, TIP estimates that approximately 3,000 principal investigators (PIs) will respond annually, with an average burden of one hour per respondent. This results in an estimated annual reporting burden of approximately 3,000 hours or 9,000 hours over the three-year clearance period. The estimated burden for individual information collections may vary depending on the methods used. For example, focus groups may require longer participation times, while surveys generally require less time. The total cumulative burden associated with all information collections conducted under the generic clearance will not exceed the approved burden estimate.

Dated: October 16, 2026.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,
Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2026-21466 Filed 10-19-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-P

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Agency Information Collection Activities: Comment Request; Grantee Reporting Requirements for the U.S. National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) Program

AGENCY: National Science Foundation (NSF).

ACTION: Notice with comment period.

SUMMARY: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is announcing plans to renew this collection. In accordance with the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are providing an opportunity for public comment on this action. After obtaining and considering public comment, NSF will prepare the submission requesting Office of Management and Budget (OMB) clearance of this collection for no longer than 3 years.

DATES: Written comments on this notice must be received by December 21, 2026, to be assured consideration. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable. Send comments to address below.

Comments: Comments are invited on (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the Agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzanne H. Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation, Randolph Building, 401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; telephone (703) 292-7556; or send email to splimpto@nsf.gov. Individuals who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year (including federal holidays).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Grantee Reporting Requirements for the U.S. National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines (NSF Engines) Program.

OMB Control Number: 3145-0284.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 2026.

Type of Request: Request for approval to renew an information collection.

Proposed Project: The U.S. National Science Foundation Regional Innovation Engines (Engines) program, led by NSF's Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP), is NSF's flagship investment in place-based innovation. Established pursuant to the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, the program invests in regions across the United States to bring together the research, talent, partnerships, and resources needed to turn advances in science and technology into economic and societal benefits. Each NSF Engine serves a defined geographic Region of Service (RoS), the area intended to benefit from the NSF Engine's activities

and investments, and is organized around technologies and challenges important to that region and the Nation.

Specifically, the program seeks to:

- Advance key technology areas critical to U.S. competitiveness;
- Address pressing national and societal challenges;
- Cultivate partnerships across industry, academia, government, nonprofit organizations, civil society and communities of practice;
- Promote economic growth and job creation; and
- Develop the regional workforce and talent needed to sustain innovation.

Each NSF Engine carries out these objectives through three core functions: use-inspired research and development, translation of innovation results to society, and workforce development. Together, these activities are intended to strengthen a RoS's capacity to develop and commercialize new technologies, create and grow businesses, prepare workers for new opportunities, and attract additional investment. Over time, NSF Engines are expected to develop into sustainable regional innovation ecosystems that contribute to economic growth and U.S. competitiveness.

NSF Engines are substantial, long-term investments. Each NSF Engine may receive NSF funding for up to 10 years, based on its performance and progress toward established goals and milestones. As NSF Engines develop, their activities, partnerships, and sources of support are expected to grow and evolve. Regular reporting on a defined cadence helps NSF Engines teams track performance, identify and address issues, and adjust their strategies as needed. At the same time, it allows NSF to assess progress across the portfolio, identify risks and emerging challenges, and make informed program management and funding decisions.

Project Reporting Requirements: NSF is seeking renewed approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the revised *Grantee Reporting Requirements for NSF Engines Program* information collection. The collection consists of four reporting components: (1) Quarterly Reports; (2) the Engine Report Template; (3) the Strategic and Implementation Plan; and (4) the Strategic Growth Plan. Each serves a distinct purpose; together, they provide NSF with information to monitor the implementation, performance, and development of each NSF Engine over the life of the award and the program holistically.

Quarterly Reports will be required in the first quarter (Q1) and third quarter (Q3) of the first year. These reports

provide timely information on NSF Engine operations, implementation, performance, and emerging issues. The two *Quarterly Reports* cover the first year and include the following required narrative sections:

1. Personnel, Governance and Operations;
2. Programmatic Activities; and
3. Partners and New Collaborations.

The *Engines Report Template (ERT)* will be submitted semiannually throughout the ten (10) years of the award in lieu of the NSF Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR). The ERT consists of two components: a tabular component for quantitative information, and a narrative component for qualitative information. The tabular component collects standardized and structured information across 10 areas:

1. Personnel;
2. Programmatic Activities;
3. Research, Development and Translation (RD&T) Outputs;
4. Workforce Development (WFD) Outputs;
5. Innovation Ecosystem Building Actions;
6. Innovation Ecosystem Building Infrastructure;
7. Partners;
8. Non-Partner Commitments and Resources;
9. Risk and Opportunity Register; and
10. Awardee Specified Metrics.

The narrative component provides context for the information reported in these areas, including implementation progress, challenges, and outcomes. Award recipients will also describe significant changes since the previous reporting period and, as applicable, explain deviations from previously established plans. Together, the quantitative and qualitative components allow NSF to track measurable progress while understanding the circumstances affecting an individual NSF Engine's performance.

The *Strategic and Implementation Plan (SIP)* is a forward-looking strategy for the Emergent phase of the award (project years three through five). Each NSF Engine starts development of the SIP in year one and completes it by the end of year two. The SIP is used by NSF to evaluate the NSF Engine for continued support beyond year two. The SIP sections include the following:

- (1) Vision, Mission, Goals and Measurable Metrics;
- (2) Research and Development;
- (3) Translation, including intellectual property strategy;
- (4) Workforce Development;
- (5) Economic Development;
- (6) Governance and Management;
- (7) Partnerships; and

(8) Project Evaluation.

The *Strategic Growth Plan* (SGP) builds upon the SIP and shifts the focus from early implementation to the NSF Engine's longer-term growth and sustainability. Beginning in year four, NSF Engines develop a forward-looking strategy for the Growth phase of the award, with additional planning refinement, and finalization occurring in year five. The SGP addresses:

(1) A strategy for establishing the RoS as a national leader in the NSF Engine's technology area(s);

(2) Strategies for attracting, creating, and supporting businesses in the region;

(3) Goals, strategies, milestones, and measures of progress for research and development, translation, workforce and economic development;

(4) A sustainability plan describing how the RoS will maintain and increase

economic growth beyond NSF funding; and

(5) Strategies for sustaining NSF Engine activities, programs, and other efforts important to continued research, translation, workforce development, and economic growth within the RoS.

Use of the Information: NSF uses the information from these four types of reports to monitor implementation and performance; assess progress toward established goals, milestones, and outcomes; identify risks and areas requiring attention; ensure compliance with award terms and conditions; and support program management, evaluation, and reporting to NSF leadership, the Administration, and Congress.

The reporting requirements also provide a consistent record of how each NSF Engine develops over time. The Quarterly Reports and ERT capture

ramp-up and ongoing implementation and performance to determine whether NSF Engines are advancing their proposed strategies and developing partnerships, capabilities, and resources needed to sustain their regional innovation ecosystems over time. The SIP and SGP provide details to NSF on each NSF Engine's forward-looking plans in order to make decisions about continued funding for the NSF Engine during phase transitions and establish the metrics that will be reported against in future ERTs.

Burden on the Public: The reporting requirements applicable to an individual NSF Engine vary based on its stage of development and year of the award. Table 1 summarizes each reporting component, the anticipated number of respondents and responses, and the estimated burden per response.

TABLE 1—REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND ESTIMATED BURDEN PER RESPONSE

Reporting component	Number of NSF engines reporting	Number of responses per year	Minimum burden per response (hours)	Maximum burden per response (hours)	Respondent types
ERT Reports	21	2	10	20	NSF Engine CEO, Leadership team, Evaluation Lead, Communications Lead.
Quarterly Reports (only in year 1 of the new projects).	12	2	10	20	NSF Engine CEO, Leadership team, Evaluation Lead, Communications Lead.
Strategic and Implementation Plan (SIP).	12	1	Year 1: 40 Year 2: 50	Year 1: 80 Year 2: 100	NSF Engine CEO, Leadership team, Advisory entities.
Strategic Growth Plan (SGP)	21	1	Year 3: 5 Year 4: 50 Year 5: 100	Year 3: 10 Year 4: 150 Year 5: 120	NSF Engine CEO, Leadership team, Advisory entities.

Because the reporting requirements vary over the lifetime of an NSF Engine award, the burden estimates in Table 1 do not apply simultaneously to every NSF Engine. For example, a newly awarded NSF Engine would incur an estimated 80–160 hours of reporting burden in Year 1 for ERT Reports, Quarterly Reports, and SIP; 70–140 hours in Year 2 for ERT Reports and SIP; 25–50 hours in Year 3 for ERT Reports and SGP. This yields an estimated three-year total burden of 175–350 hours per each newly awarded Engine.

Dated: October 16, 2026.

Suzanne H. Plimpton,

Reports Clearance Officer, National Science Foundation.

[FR Doc. 2026–21461 Filed 10–19–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555–01–P

POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket Nos. MC2027–10 and K2027–11; MC2027–11 and K2027–12; MC2027–12 and K2027–13]

New Postal Products

AGENCY: Postal Regulatory Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commission is noticing a recent Postal Service filing for the Commission's consideration concerning a negotiated service agreement. This notice informs the public of the filing, invites public comment, and takes other administrative steps.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments electronically via the Commission's Filing Online system at <https://www.prc.gov>. Those who cannot submit comments electronically should contact the person identified in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section by telephone for advice on filing alternatives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David A. Trissell, General Counsel, at 202–789–6820.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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I. Introduction

Pursuant to 39 CFR 3041.405, the Commission gives notice that the Postal Service filed request(s) for the Commission to consider matters related to Competitive negotiated service agreement(s). The request(s) may propose the addition of a negotiated service agreement from the Competitive product list or the modification of an existing product currently appearing on the Competitive product list.

The public portions of the Postal Service's request(s) can be accessed via the Commission's website (<http://www.prc.gov>). Non-public portions of the Postal Service's request(s), if any,