

Sponsor/Title: National Science Foundation (NSF) - NSF 26-507: National Science Foundation Fostering Networks to Develop Emergent and Responsive Solutions Foundry (NSF Finders Foundry)

External Link:

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-finders-foundry-national-science-foundation-fostering-interdisciplinary/nsf26-507/solicitation>

Funding Opportunity Number: NSF 26-507

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1), Planning Proposal and, if awarded a Planning award, one Development proposal.

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:

<https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/>

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-04-13

Sponsor Application Planning Proposals Deadline: 2026-05-27

Sponsor Application Development Proposals Deadline: 2026-11-18

Synopsis of Program: The NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY program supports collaboration among K-12 educators, technologists, parents or guardians, and researchers, to develop innovative solutions to persistent challenges in learning and workforce development. These challenges are identified by K-12 students, families, and educators. The program aims to create and scale evidence-based practices, tools, and technologies that improve learning outcomes and prepare students for a digital, Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven future.

A key focus is early exposure to AI to build curiosity, understanding, and readiness for future careers. The program encourages partnerships to co-design responsive, technology-based solutions between key sectors – schools, universities, industry, government, and nonprofits – and our nation's families.

NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY program includes two phases: Planning and Development. Planning proposals help teams explore one of several focus areas. Only teams awarded Planning grants may submit Development proposals, which support the growth and implementation of promising ideas.

The program aligns with national priorities, including the [Executive Order 14277, "Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth"](#) (April 23, 2025), and the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022, [Public Law 117-167](#), Sections 10381-10383 and 10395.

Program Description: The program is implemented in two phases: Planning and Development. Planning proposals support early-stage collaboration among interdisciplinary teams. Each team must include at least one K-12 educator, one technologist, one researcher, and at least one parent or guardian of a student that is impacted by the selected challenge and that is not represented in the former three roles. These teams must use the NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY Dashboard to select a challenge track and co-design a wireframe to describe their technological solution. Funded activities may include stakeholder engagement, data collection, pilot testing, and early validation. A successful Planning proposal must outline a clear scope of work, define roles and responsibilities, and include measurable goals and outcomes.

Only teams that receive Planning awards are eligible to submit Development proposals. Based on continuous input from K-12 learners, parents or guardians, and educators, Development proposals focus on building and refining prototypes. Development projects are expected to demonstrate progress through key milestones: wireframe validation, prototype testing, and MVP deployment. Teams will present their innovations at a public showcase that encourages broad adoption.

The NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY program invests in a wide range of research, including design-based implementation research, efficacy studies, and translational research. It encourages connections to other NSF programs such as Translation to Practice (TTP), Pathways to Enable Open-Source Ecosystems (POSE), Innovation Corps (I-Corps™), and Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR). These programs collectively enable a set of translational pathways that help teams move from concept to widespread use, ensuring that innovations are not only effective but also sustainable and accessible.

The NSF FINDERS FOUNDRY program is particularly interested in projects that incorporate AI in meaningful ways. This focus aligns with the Executive Order on Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth, which calls for the development of AI-driven tools and curricula to improve educational outcomes. Projects that explore AI as both a subject of learning and a tool for instruction are strongly encouraged.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at <https://forms.gle/xsmwCr8ZBN3YetgM6> by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
 - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Merit Review Principles and Criteria as outlined in the NOFO.
 - Intellectual Merit, which encompasses the potential to advance knowledge.
 - Broader Impacts, which encompass the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.
 - Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria
 - For each innovation, does the project describe the intended population, including the anticipated number of K-12 students reachable by the innovation, geography, content area of focus, and rationale for the proposed population?
 - Does the project effectively articulate the intended outcomes of each innovation (e.g., learning gains) for the population and sub-populations if there are multiple potential benefits or outcomes of the innovation?
 - To what extent does the project provide clear alignment of the innovation to both the track and the core curricula required by the intended population?

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.