



# University of Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost

826 Cathedral of Learning  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260  
412-624-0784  
Fax: 412-624-4618

**TO:** N. John Cooper Gerald D. Holder Ronald L. Larsen  
**FROM:** George E. Klinzing  
Vice Provost for Research  
**DATE:** December 1, 2011  
**SUBJECT:** NSF 12-511 PFI

For a complete copy of NSF's program announcement *Partnerships for Innovation* (PFI) connect to <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2012/nsf12511/nsf12511.htm> Additional program information is available at [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=504708](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504708) Please distribute to others.

The PFI combines two programs into a single solicitation that consists of 1) *Building Innovation Capacity (BIC)*, based on NSF 10-581 and 2) *Accelerating Innovation Research (AIR option 2: Research Alliance Competition)*, based on NSF 10-608.

The PFI is now an umbrella program for two **complementary** subprograms, one of which involves an earlier stage that focuses on building innovation capacity, and the other which involves a later stage that focuses on the acceleration of innovation research. The former emphasizes the transformation of knowledge into market-accepted innovations created by the research and education enterprise; while the latter emphasizes the translation of research to commercialization by NSF-funded research alliances. A research alliance is defined as a research partnership formed for mutual benefit, and funded by NSF, between/amongst universities and other entities. In the final analysis, both programs, while focusing on different stages, are concerned with the movement of academic research into the marketplace

Awards for BIC may be up to \$600,000 with an award duration of two years; awards for AIR may be up to \$800,000 with an award duration of up to two years.

**There is limit on number of proposals per organization for BIC** - Lead academic institutions are limited to participation in **only one proposal**. One of the Co-PIs must be a **senior Administrator** at the level of dean or above who has demonstrated commitment to knowledge transfer of university research. The senior administrator must have an active role that is explicitly described along with the specification of a time commitment on the project. There is no limit on number of proposals per organization for **AIR**.

Anyone interested in the **BIC** subprogram should send to Elaine Riberich\*\* by **December 14, 2011** the following information: 1) a description of the proposed project plan 2) identify partners two or more of which must be small businesses.

In case internal proposals exceed the limit, a committee will be convened to determine which ones will be endorsed for the proposal deadline of March 1, 2012. The letter of intent is **REQUIRED** and due January 4, 2012.

For a list of additional *Programs Limiting the Number of Allowed Institutional Submissions* connect to the Office of Research home page: <http://www.pitt.edu/~offres/fundinglmtd.html> then select **Funding Resources**.

\*\*Office of Research -123 University Place - [emr@pitt.edu](mailto:emr@pitt.edu) - x47413

cc: Bopaya Bidanda Harvey S. Borovetz Ming King Chyu Paula Grabowski  
William Harbert Satish Iyengar J. Karl Johnson William Stanchina  
Alan Sved David Turnshek Radisav D. Vidic David Waldeck