

Notice of Funding Opportunity for Standardization Center of Excellence

Funding Opportunity Number
2024-NIST-SCOE-01



Webinar
July 11, 2024

Agenda for Today's Webinar



- 1 Background Information
- 2 Center of Excellence Topic Areas
- 3 Eligibility & Application Requirements
- 4 Timeline
- 5 Evaluation Criteria & Selection Factors
- 6 Selection Process
- 7 Additional Resources
- 8 Q&A

Program Goal and Objectives



Establish and Maintain a Standardization Center of Excellence (SCoE)



To support U.S. engagement in international standardization for critical and emerging technologies (CETs) that are essential to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security.



Funding Amount

**Funding for one (1)
award for up to five
(5) years.**



One (1) award up to \$6 million for the first two (2) years of the award in FY24.

Then, up to \$3 million per year for up to three (3) years, for a total of five (5) years*.

Upon evaluation, NIST may provide additional funding with periods of up to five (5) years.

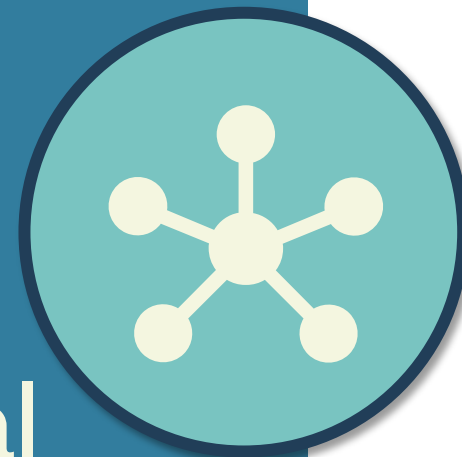


*Subject to availability of appropriated funds and satisfactory annual performance review.

Cost Sharing

Non-federal cost share is not required for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO but is encouraged.

Cost share included in an award issued is a binding legal commitment and must be documented in the applicant's budget narrative.



Cost Sharing May Include:

- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Services
- ✓ Third-party in-kind contributions



Critical and Emerging Technologies (CETs)



National interest in CETs and associated areas of standardization demands an increased level of coordination and effort.



We need new ways for public- and private-sector stakeholders to work together to advance U.S. national security and economic competitiveness.



Congressional Authorizations

Congress Authorized NIST via the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 to:

[§ 10245 (b) and (c) of Title II, Division B, Subtitle C of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act, Pub. L. 117-167]

1

Support private sector-driven engagement and ensure effective Federal engagement in the development and use of international technical standards;

2

Support capacity building via:
a) Education and workforce development efforts to promote U.S. participation in international standards, and
b) Engagement by more U.S. stakeholders in international technical standards development.

Support for capacity building with a focus on:

1

Removing and preventing barriers to private sector participation in standards development;

2

Improving communications between public and private sectors on standards; and

3

Enhancing U.S. and like-minded nations' representation and influence in international standards governance and leadership.

Alignment with the USG NSSCET

The four objectives and eight lines of effort identified in the United States Government National Standards Strategy for Critical and Emerging Technologies (USG NSSCET) also align with the objectives of the SCoE.



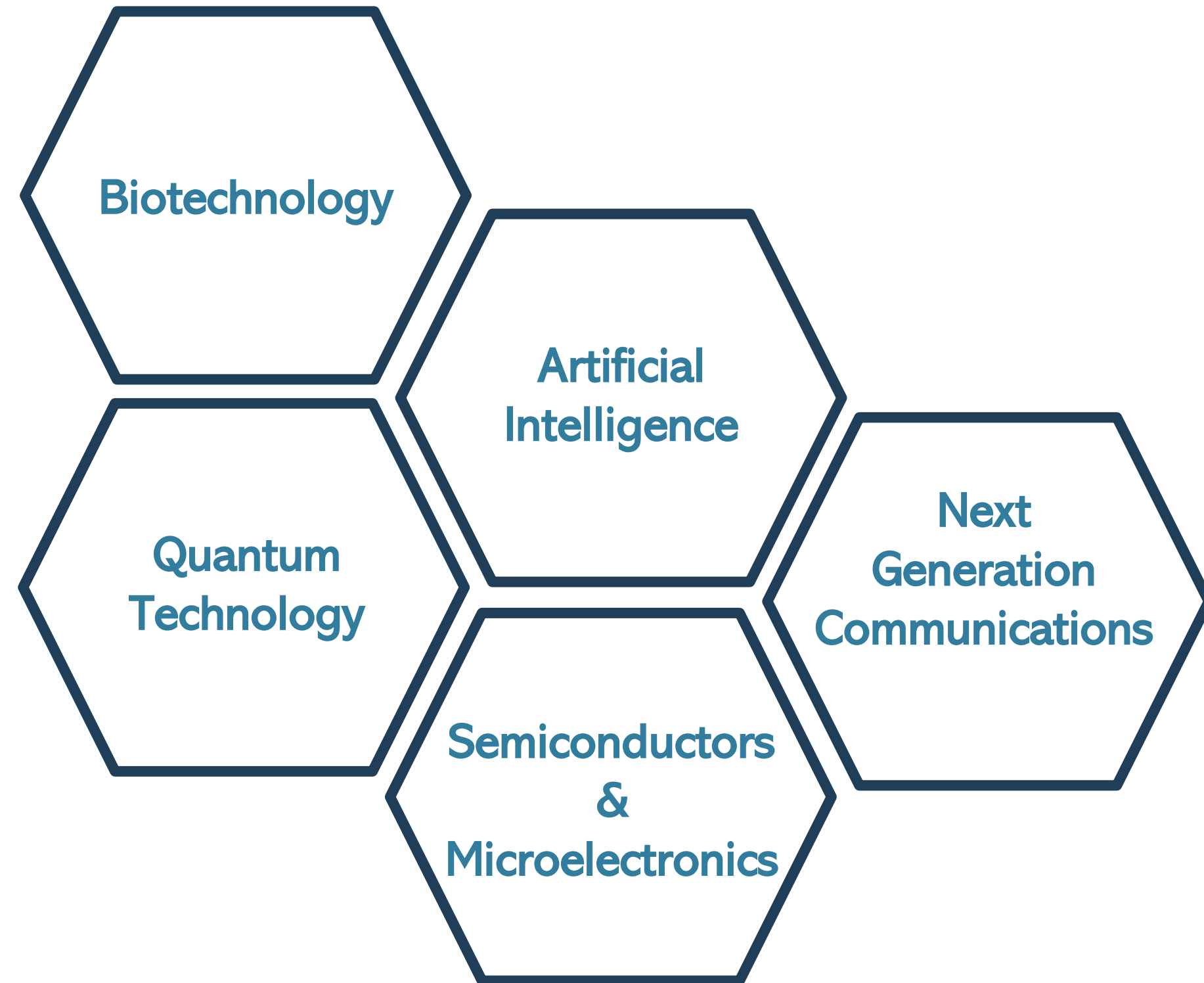
Priority CET Areas for NIST




Go to
www.standards.gov
for more
information



Include, but are not limited to:



S CoE Focus Areas

1



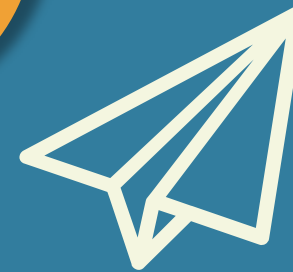
Pre-Standardization Engagement

2



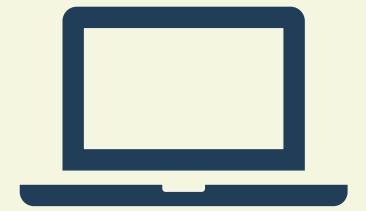
Workforce Capacity Building

3



Collaborative Pilot Program in CETs with NIST

4



Information & Data Sharing Hub

Pre-Standardization Engagement

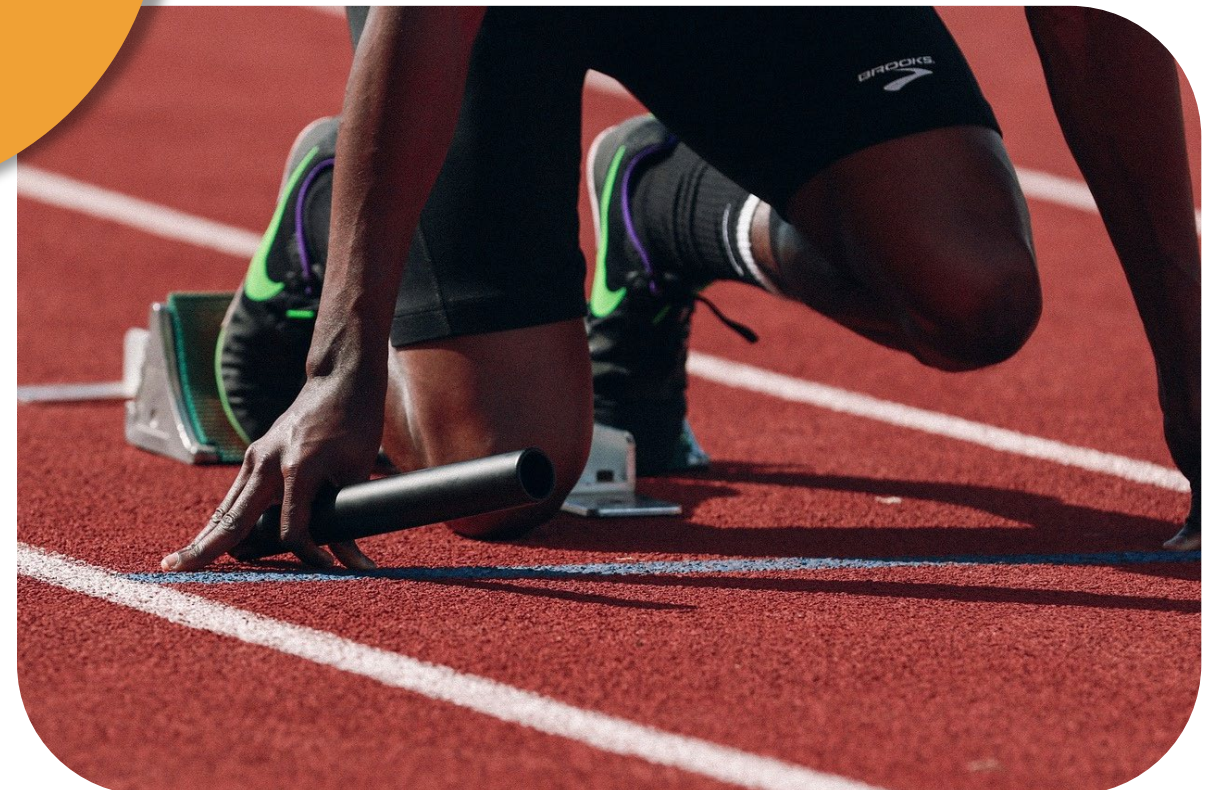


1 Purposeful convening to produce seed documents to lay the foundation for standardization.

2 Convening of underrepresented groups, such as small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), to understand their needs.



3 Information sharing (e.g., via briefing documents describing current standardization activities)





Facilitating Engagement of Early- to Mid- Career Professionals, and Orientation for Decision-Making Executives

- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Simulations
- ✓ Boot Camps
- ✓ Experiential Learning



Collaborative Pilot Program

In collaboration with NIST, drive the acceleration of standardization readiness in selected CETs via NIST-industry engagement and collaboration in pre-standardization and metrology efforts.



Information and Data Sharing Hub

Develop and implement tools and information resources to engage and influence international standardization.



Workshops

Experiential Learning

Assessments/
Studies

Landscapes &
Roadmaps

Mentorships

Information on
Standards Activities

See NOFO for additional information on Intellectual Property (IP) management as it relates to the Information and Data Sharing Hub.

Inclusive Scope of SCoE

Complement and leverage the work of the private sector, academia, NIST, and other government agencies through meaningful and impactful collaboration and partnerships by:

- 1 Creating awareness & promotion of standardization opportunities
- 2 Fostering opportunities to inform new standards development
- 3 Enhancing understanding of international standards governance
- 4 Developing standardization landscapes and/or roadmaps
- 5 Establishing relationships with standardization leaders
- 6 Fostering exploration of future standardization areas
- 7 Incentivizing engagement of private sector in standardization



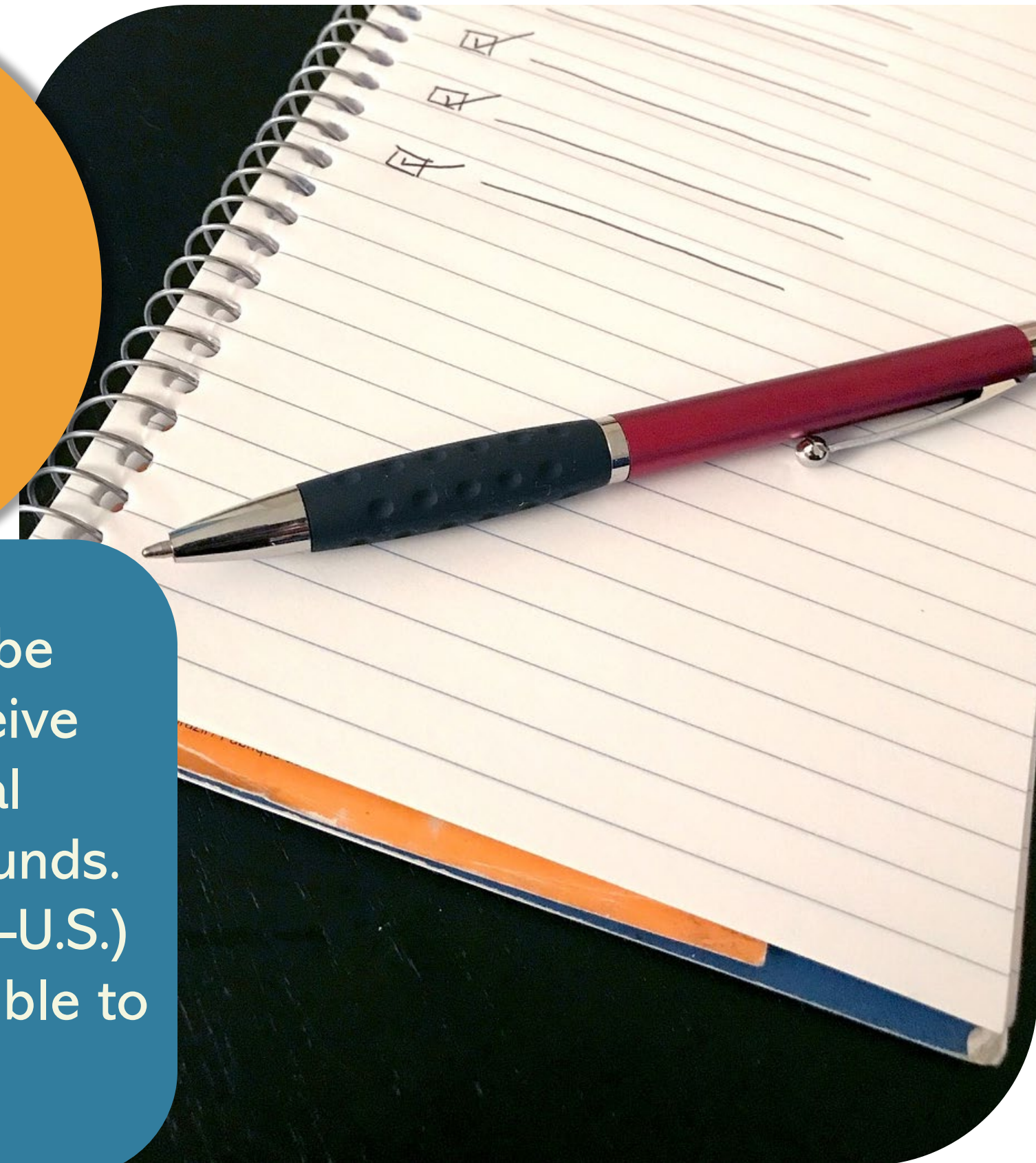
Eligible Applicants

All nongovernmental organizations located in the United States, including but not limited to:

- Academic Institutions
- Trade Associations
- Professional Societies
- Contractors Operating Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)



Applicant must be permitted to receive federal financial assistance award funds. Non-domestic (non-U.S.) entities are not eligible to apply.

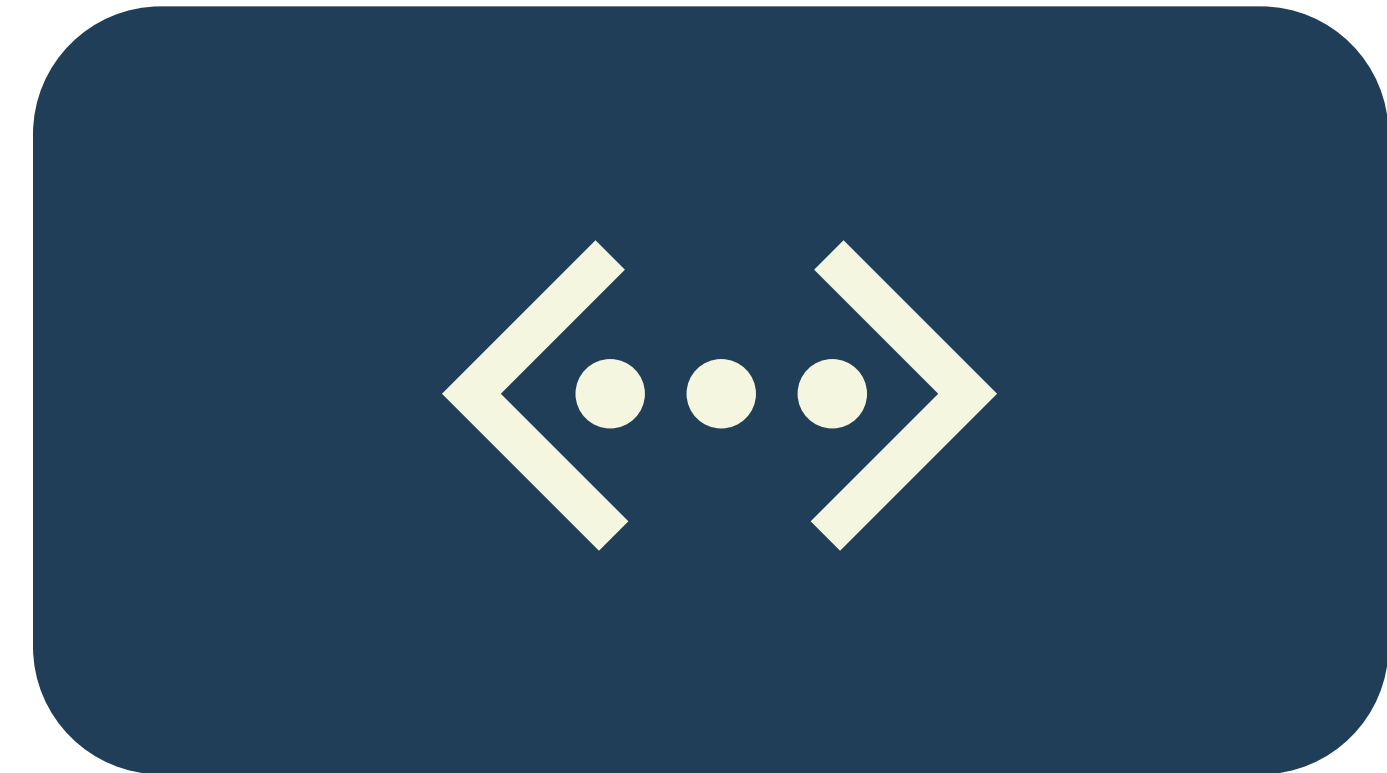


Register in SAM.gov & Grants.gov

NIST



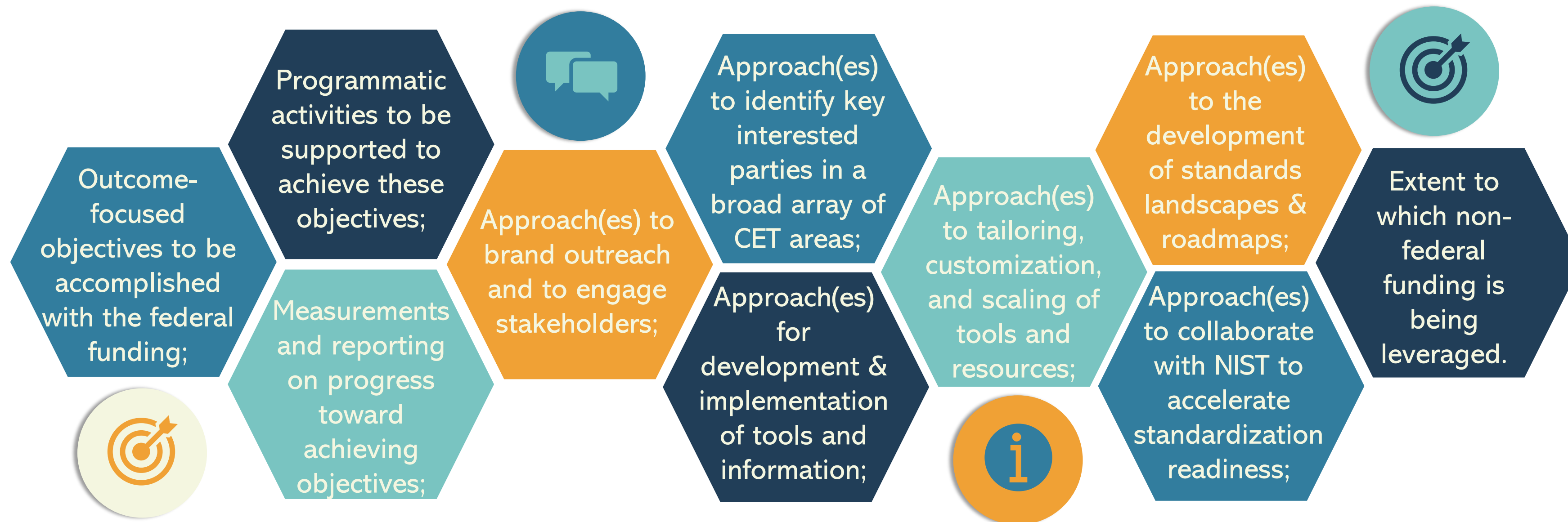
All applicants are required to have current registrations in the electronic System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and Grants.gov



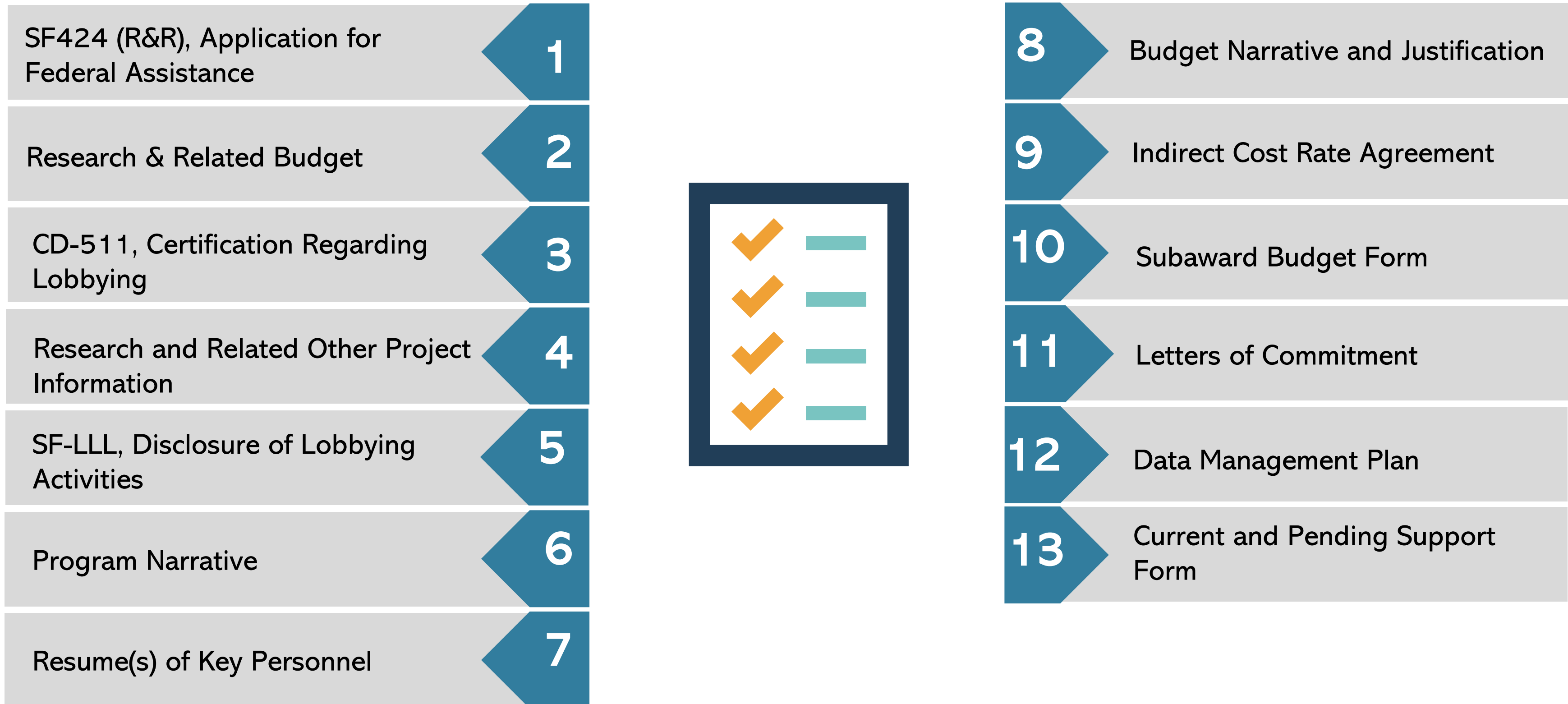
Registration in SAM.gov generally takes between three and five business days but can take more than three weeks.

Application Considerations

Applications must address the following:



Required Forms and Documents



Research & Related Budget



A. Senior/Key Personnel

B. Other Personnel

C. Equipment Description

D. Travel

E. Participant/ Trainee Costs

F. Other Direct Costs

G. Direct Costs (auto generated)

H. Indirect Costs

I. Total Direct & Indirect Costs

J. Total Costs and Fee

K. Budget Narrative / Justification



Budget Narrative and Justification



Senior/Key Personnel

Fringe Benefits

Equipment Description

Travel

Participant/Trainee Support Costs

Contractual (i.e., Contracts or Subawards)

Other Direct Costs

Indirect Costs

Cost Sharing (if applicable)

Instructions for Completing the Research and Related Other Program Information



- Go to: grants.gov/forms/forms-repository/r-r-family
- Scroll down to: Research and Related Other Project Information
- Also review NIST Grants Management Division Information



Program Narrative

Word-processed document of no more than twenty (20) pages (single-spaced), responsive to program description and evaluation criteria.



Executive
Summary



Program
Approach and
Program
Execution Plan



Statement of
Work



Program
Impacts and
Evaluation



Qualifications



Dissemination
and
Communications
Plan

Letters of Commitment

Must be submitted by all funded and unfunded entities that will have an active role in executing activities outlined in the Program Narrative



Must address level of participation, qualifications of personnel, and impact

Must address any voluntary cost-share. Not to exceed two (2) pages each.



Data Management Plan (DMP)

Must include a summary of proposed activities that will generate data, types of data, a plan for storage and maintenance, and plan for how data will be reviewed and made available to the public.



Template, example, and rubric available at:
<https://www.nist.gov/open/information-awardees>

Application Format

Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions at www.Grants.gov for submitting application.

- Paper, email, and fax not accepted
- Figures, graphs, images must be easily readable
- Font must be 12-point minimum
- Program Narrative limited to 20 pages, 3 page limit for Executive Summary
- Note page limit exclusions
- Page layout is portrait
- 8 ½ by 11 inch page size
- Pages numbered sequentially
- Language used is English
- Typed (handwritten not accepted)
- Replacement pages will not be accepted after submittal
- Pre-applications will not be accepted



Timeline



- ✓ Applications Due no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, August 7, 2024.
- ✓ Selection and award processing is expected to be completed by September 2024.
- ✓ Earliest start date for awards under this NOFO is January 1, 2025.



Evaluation Criteria

0-60
points



- Program Approach and Execution Plan
- Technical Merit and Rationality (0-30 Points)
- Statement of Work, Impact, and Dissemination of Results (0-30 points)

0-20
points



- Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel and Institution Capability to Perform Work

0-20
points



- Resource Availability and Cost Effectiveness

0-60
points



Program Approach and Execution Plan

Program Approach: Technical Merit and Rationality (0-30 Points)

Program Approach: Technical Merit and Rationality (0-30 points)

1. Addresses (a) standardization engagement, workforce capacity building, and collaborative pilot programs in CETs; (b) meaningful and impactful collaboration and partnerships to complement and leverage the work of the private sector, academia, NIST, and other government agencies; and (c) development and implementation tools and information resources and making them available via a well-designed, user-friendly information hub and other means to enable the U.S. private sector to engage and influence international standardization more efficiently and effectively. (See Section IV.2.(6)b. of this NOFO) **(0-10 points)**
2. Demonstrates how the proposed program will support the growth of U.S. engagement in international standardization for critical and emerging technologies (CETs) that are essential to U.S. economic competitiveness and national security. This includes the extent to which the proposal defines and justifies (a) outcome-focused objectives to be accomplished with the federal funding; (b) programmatic activities to be supported to achieve these objectives; (c) measurements and reporting on progress toward achieving objectives, specifically the extent to which international standardization engagement and workforce capacity building has occurred; and (d) approaches to broad outreach to engage stakeholders in specific CET areas and to build meaningful and impactful collaborations and partnerships; prioritization, development, and implementation of tools and information resources; and tailoring, customization, and scaling of tools and resources to meet the needs for different CET areas. (See Section IV.2.(6)b. of this NOFO) **(0-10 points)**
3. Demonstrates the potential effectiveness of the proposed program regarding creating and maintaining a SCoE that will be sustainable after this award ends. (See Section IV.2.(6)b. of this NOFO) **(0-10 points)**

0-60
points



Program Approach and Execution Plan

Program Execution Plan: Statement of Work, Impact, and Dissemination of Results (0-30 points)

Program Execution Plan: Statement of Work, Impact, and Dissemination of Results (0-30 points)

1. The extent to which the Statement of Work (SOW) is complete and appropriate, providing a coherent program execution plan to effectively manage: the program goals, objectives, and the work of all program staff; final deliverables and measurable performance objectives; key interim outputs reflecting the performance objectives; milestones and timelines; short-term and anticipated long-term impacts; the intended collaborations; and an evaluation plan of the program created under this award. This includes assessing the extent to which the proposed methodology of program management is likely to ensure effective operations and oversight and meet program goals and objectives. (See Section IV.2.(6)c. of this NOFO) **(0-10 points)**
2. Methodology for identifying and evaluating program outcomes; and methodology to measure and report the extent to which international standardization engagement and workforce capacity building with federal funding pursuant to this effort has occurred. (See Section IV.2.(6.)d. of this NOFO) **(0-10 points)**
3. The extent to which the proposed approach enables broadly sharing and communicating program information, outcomes, tools, and information resources regarding the SCoE and to solicit participation on SCoE activities through meaningful and impactful collaborations and partnerships; this includes a plan for composing, disseminating, and communicating a summary of major accomplishments and conclusions in the form of Annual and Final Summary Papers as described in Section IV.2.(6)f. and Section IV.3 and Section IV.2.(12) of this NOFO. **(0-10 points)**

0-20
points

Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel and Institution Capability to Perform Work

Qualifications and Experience of Key Personnel and Institution Capability to Perform the Work

- i. The extent to which the key personnel's experience and education relevant to the program's proposed scope of work, including and knowledge of the current state, impact, and nature of international standards and standardization activities, demonstrates the likelihood of successfully implementing and achieving the goals and objectives of the proposed SCoE. (See Section IV.2.(6)e. and Section IV.2.(7) of this NOFO.) **(0-10 points)**
- ii. The demonstrated ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders to successfully create and sustain a SCoE. Staff with different experience and expertise may be responsible for different aspects of the program. (See Section IV.2.(6).e. and Section IV.2.(7) of this NOFO.) **(0-10 points)**

0-20
points



Resource Availability and Cost Effectiveness

Resource Availability and Cost Effectiveness

- i. The appropriateness and cost effectiveness of the proposed budget and available resources, including cost share, if appropriate, to assess the breakdown of costs against the proposed activities to carry out the objectives of the program as compared to the program's scope. (See Section IV.2.(8) and Section IV.2.(10) of this NOFO.) **(0-10 points)**.
- ii. The extent to which the applicant has demonstrated the overall support necessary to successfully achieve the program objectives, including the extent to which the Program Narrative and the Letter(s) of Commitment (see Section IV.2.(11) of this NOFO), demonstrate the applicant's intent to create and maintain a SCoE with an appropriate governance structure to include placement of the center within the organizational leadership structure, SCoE management and leadership, and external stakeholder oversight; access to necessary high quality infrastructure and expertise; and voluntary cost share to the program, if applicable, to successfully achieve the priorities of the SCoE. **(0-10 points)**.

Selection Factors



**Availability of
Funding**



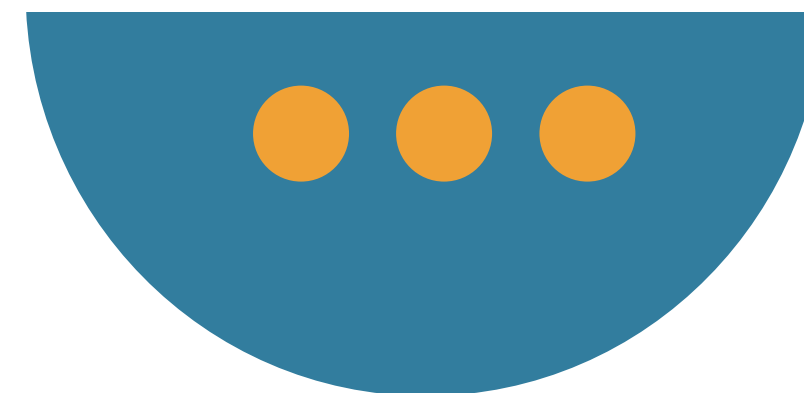
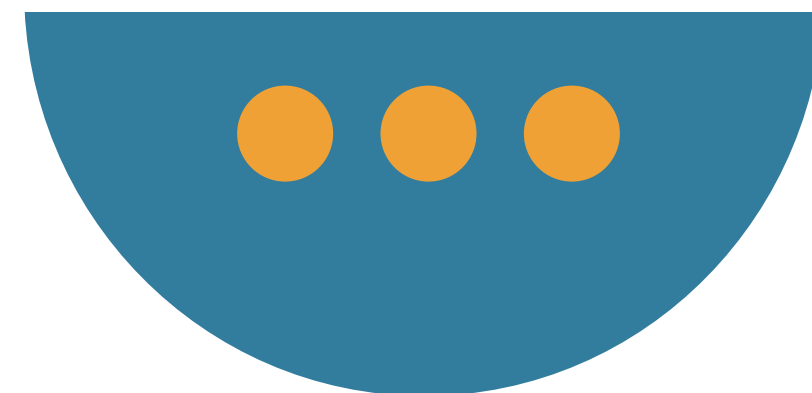
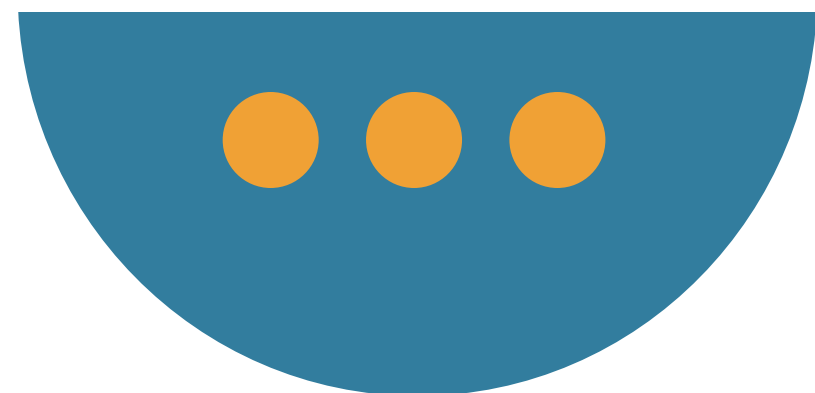
**Whether the program
duplicates other
programs funded by
NIST or other federal
agencies**



**Extent to which the
proposal is aligned
with the stated
program
requirements and
priorities**



**Past performance on
all federal awards.**



Review & Selection Process

Initial administrative review to determine if application meets eligibility requirements.



Reviewers scores averaged and rank order provided to Selecting Official. Selecting Official makes final award recommendations to the NIST Grants Officer. Final Approval made by NIST Grants Officer.

At least three (3) independent and objective reviewers evaluate and score each eligible application based on evaluation criteria. Average scores of 75.00 or higher are considered "fundable."

Fundable applicants may be invited to participate in telephone, virtual conference, or site visits conducted by reviewers. Reviewers may adjust their scores as a result.



Additional Resources and Information **NIST**



- ✓ Grants.gov
- ✓ SAM.gov
- ✓ Standards.gov
- ✓ <https://www.nist.gov/open/information-awardees>



Funding Opportunity Number
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Contact Information

Agency Contacts



Programmatic & Technical Questions:

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Grant Rules & Regulations:

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Grants Management Division
Michael.teske@nist.gov

Thank You

