# Quick Reference for NSF Grant Proposal Guide Update 13-1 for Fastlane Proposals Submitted Jan. 14, 2013 and beyond.

## Project Summary

- **Project Summary will now require text boxes in Fastlane, not to exceed 4,600 characters (including spaces) and 51 lines of text. Also will include 3 distinct sections:**
  - **Overview - description of the activity & what are objectives and how what methods will be used.**
  - **Statement on Intellectual Merit – how will the proposed activity advance knowledge.**
  - **Statement on Broader Impacts – how will the proposed activity benefit society.**
- **Proposals with Special Characters may upload Project Summary as a PDF document, but must still represent the 3 sections and not exceed the character limit.**
- **Text boxes must be completed or a PDF must be uploaded or Fastlane will not accept the proposal.**

## Project Description

- **Must contain a separate section with a discussion of broader impacts.**
- **Results from Prior NSF Support must separately address intellectual merit and broader impacts.**
- **Font for footnotes must comply with FASTLANE font requirements (NSF Font Requirements:  Arial, Courier New, Palatino Linotype 10pt. or larger.  Times New Roman 11pt. or larger.)**

## Biographical Sketch

- **'Publications' are now referred to as 'Products'**
- **Still limited to 5 products closely related to this proposal, and 5 other significant products whether related or not.**
- **Acceptable products must be citable and accessible e.g.  publications, data sets, software, patents, and copyrights.**
- **Unacceptable products are unpublished documents not yet submitted for publication, invited lectures, and additional lists of products.**

## Facilities, Equipment & Other Resources

- **Provides overarching description of internal and external resources (physical and personnel) that organization and collaborators will provide to the project.  Do not quantify cost or effort, but do speak to roles and responsibilities on the project.**
- **New Format will assist proposers in complying with NSF cost sharing policy.**
- **Costs should not be quantified but it should clear whether the resources are currently available or will need to be purchased.**
- **If no resources to describe, than it must be stated so and uploaded to this section.**

## Cost Sharing Policy

- **Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited in solicited and unsolicited proposals, unless approved by NSF for specific programs.**
- **Only 6 programs have been approved by NSF to require cost-sharing, as follows:**
  - **MRI – Major Research Instrumentation**
  - **Robert Noyce Scholarship Program**
  - **ERC – Engineering Research Centers**
  - **EPSCoR – Experimental Programs to Stimulate Competitive Research**
  - **I-Corps – Innovation Corps**
  - **I/UCRC – Industry/University Coop. Research Centers**
- **In the past, the PI would show up on the budget page, even with no effort.**
- **New FASTLANE update will allow removal of PI from the Budget Page when no effort to show.**
- **Role should be described in the Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources section (but not quantified).**
- **Their name will remain on Coversheet**
- **OSP notes that PI's should ordinarily charge effort to the project (exceptions would be REU Site, MRI, etc)**

## Final Thoughts:

- **NSF, as always, is extremely 'format' sensitive. They are receiving record numbers of proposals; and not following NSF's well established guidelines for formatting could mean return without review.**
- **References cited must contain all authors, no et al references and must provide full journal titles.**
- **Biosketch formats must be GPG compliant, not only for SU, but for outside collaborators as well.**
- **No headers or footers (other than pagination)**