NSF – FASTLANE GUIDE TO THE PROJECT SUMMARY

As per the NSG Grant Proposal Guide:

Project Summary

The proposal must contain a summary of the proposed project not more than one page in length. The Project Summary consists of an overview, a statement on the intellectual merit of the proposed activity, and a statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity.

The overview includes a description of the activity that would result if the proposal were funded and a statement of objectives and methods to be employed. The statement on intellectual merit should describe the potential of the proposal activity to advance knowledge. The statement on broader impacts should describe the potential of the proposed activity to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes. The Project Summary should be written in the third person, informative to other persons working in the same or related fields, and, insofar as possible, understandable to a scientifically or technically literate lay reader. It should not be an abstract of the proposal.

Proposals that do not contain the Project Summary, including an overview and separate statements on intellectual merit and broader impacts will not be accepted by FastLane or will be returned without review.

There will be three text boxes within FastLane that must be completed as follows:

1. **Overview**: Insert a self-contained description of the activity that would result if the proposal were funded and include a statement of objectives and methods to be employed.

2. **Intellectual Merit**: Describe the potential of the proposed activity to meet the Intellectual Merit criterion.
   The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge.

3. **Broader Impacts**: Describe the potential of the proposed activity to meet the Broader Impacts criterion.
   The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

Information must be entered into all three text boxes, or the proposal will not be accepted.
There is a **character limit of 4,600 characters** in total for all three text boxes. The proposer may determine how many characters to use in each text box, but the sum of characters across the three text boxes must not exceed 4,600.

If you should have the need to include **special characters**, you will need to upload your Project Summary as a Supplementary Document. The Project Summary may ONLY be uploaded as a Supplementary Document if the use of special characters (mathematical symbols, Greek letters, etc.) is required.

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**The following elements should be considered in the review for both Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts criteria:**

1. **What is the potential for the proposed activity to:**
   a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
   b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?

2. **To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?**

3. **Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale?** Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?

4. **How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?**

5. **Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?**