

**NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

**4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22230**

January 9, 2012

**Office of International Science and Engineering**

**MEMORANDUM TO NSF PROGRAM OFFICERS**

**From**: **Machi F. Dilworth, Director, Office of International Science and Engineering**

**Via: David Stonner, Deputy Director, Office of International Science and Engineering**

**Subject: SAVI Co-funding Opportunity at OISE**

OISE is pleased to announce the establishment of SAVI Co-funding opportunities.

NSF launched Science Across Virtual Institutes, SAVI, on October 5, 2011.  On the same day, a SAVI DCL (NSF 11-087, <http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf11087>) was released.  The posted DCL describes the eligibility and basic elements of a SAVI proposal including evidence of having already identified international partners who can leverage funds for their SAVI activities from their own funding sources.  More information on SAVI can be found at <http://www.nsf.gov/savi>.

As described in the DCL, SAVI is not a stand-alone program.  SAVI proposals are submitted “to an existing, active NSF program that best fits the proposed subject matter.”  Funding decisions on SAVI proposals are made by the disciplinary program officers.  OISE program officers will serve as a resource for POs, as appropriate, for example, to facilitate interactions with counterparts at international funding agencies, or to provide advice on issues specific to the country in question.

At the SAVI Town Hall meeting, Dr. Suresh mentioned that SAVI represents one facet of his OneNSF theme, in that he expects SAVI awards to be co-funded and endorsed at three levels, by the Program/Division, Directorate/Office, and OISE.  Because SAVIs are expected to vary widely in format and content as illustrated by the three pilot SAVIs introduced at the October 5th event, OISE does not plan to re-evaluate a decision made by the disciplinary programs with respect to the proposal’s “SAVI-worthiness.”  Instead, we intend to rely on the Directorate/Office’s judgment.   OISE does welcome inquiries from disciplinary program officers about their PI’s international partners early in SAVI proposal review process.

**Points to Consider**

SAVI is not intended to replace any of the existing activities that promote international collaborations.  Rather, SAVI is another mechanism to add value to NSF’s current investments in STEM research and education and those of foreign counterpart agencies.  As such, SAVI funding is meant to provide the “glue” necessary to bring together NSF supported researchers/educators with their international partners, enabling maximum leveraging of existing human and infrastructural resources.  In some cases, candidate NSF awards may already include a budget for SAVI activities (joint workshops, student exchanges, long-term research stay for post-docs and junior faculty, etc.) and may not require any new funding.  However, branding the activity as SAVI will provide more visibility and attract interests from others to join the SAVI.

**Criteria for Co-funding**

OISE will consider co-funding SAVI proposals that have been reviewed and recommended for award by the cognizant Program/Division in FY2012, and endorsed by the AD/OD or his/her designated official in the Directorate/ Office.

**What and Where to Submit**

Requests will be accepted anytime.  Please provide the following information via email to [OISE-savi@nsf.gov](mailto:OISE-savi@nsf.gov)

1. Nominating PO’s name, Division, and Office/Directorate or Directorates.
2. Proposal Number; PI Name; PI Institution.
3. List of countries involved in the proposed activity.
4. Estimated amount of funding the SAVI award will leverage (in dollars or in-kind, both domestically and internationally) and its source.
5. Amount of total SAVI award budget. (If it is part of a new award, please provide the amount that supports the SAVI activities.)
6. An email or other form of documentation indicating that the AD/OD or his/her designated official in the Directorate/Office has endorsed the SAVI award recommendation.
7. A website for the SAVI.  OISE will add it to the NSF’s SAVI homepage.
8. If there were prior discussions with one or more OISE program officers, please include their names.

**Funding**

* OISE will provide 1/3 of the recommended SAVI award amount, up to $150,000. If more than one Directorate/Office is involved, the rule applies to each Directorate/Office individually.
* OISE will not make future year commitments (i.e., no commitment to future CGIs.)
* We plan to set aside up to $3 million for SAVI co-funding in FY2012, pending final appropriation.
* Co-funding will stop on July 1 or when the set-aside funds have been committed.  If all available OISE funds for SAVI are committed before July 1, OISE will consider carrying over the action to FY2013, if that is agreeable.
* OISE co-funding decisions will be made within 2 weeks.
* SAVIs may be supported without an OISE contribution if Directorates see a compelling need and wish to proceed using Program/Division/Directorate funds.  In such cases, please be sure to use the SAVI PRC (8058) and notify OISE of the website of the SAVI award.
* SAVI program reference code is **8058.**

If you have any questions about SAVI co-funding, please contact Bonnie Thompson at [OISE-savi@nsf.gov](mailto:OISE-savi@nsf.gov).

Again, please remember that OISE country program officers (<http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/country-list.jsp>) are available to assist at any time with issues concerning foreign partners of your PIs and their national counterpart funding agencies.

cc: NSF DDs, ADs, DADs