



# Spring 2024 Space Grant National Conference

PRESENTED BY

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Space Grant Project Manager,  
NASA's Office of STEM Engagement

February 29, 2024



# NASA STEM

**Let's  
Hear  
From  
You!**

**Scan the QR code or go to  
[nasa.cnf.io](https://nasa.cnf.io) on your phone or  
device to submit a question.**



**Don't forget to vote up responses!**





# Agenda



## Costing & Budgets

New Multi-Year Solicitation

Evaluation Process

Gateway

Site Visits

Badging

X-59

Women in STEM

Space Grant Center Specialists

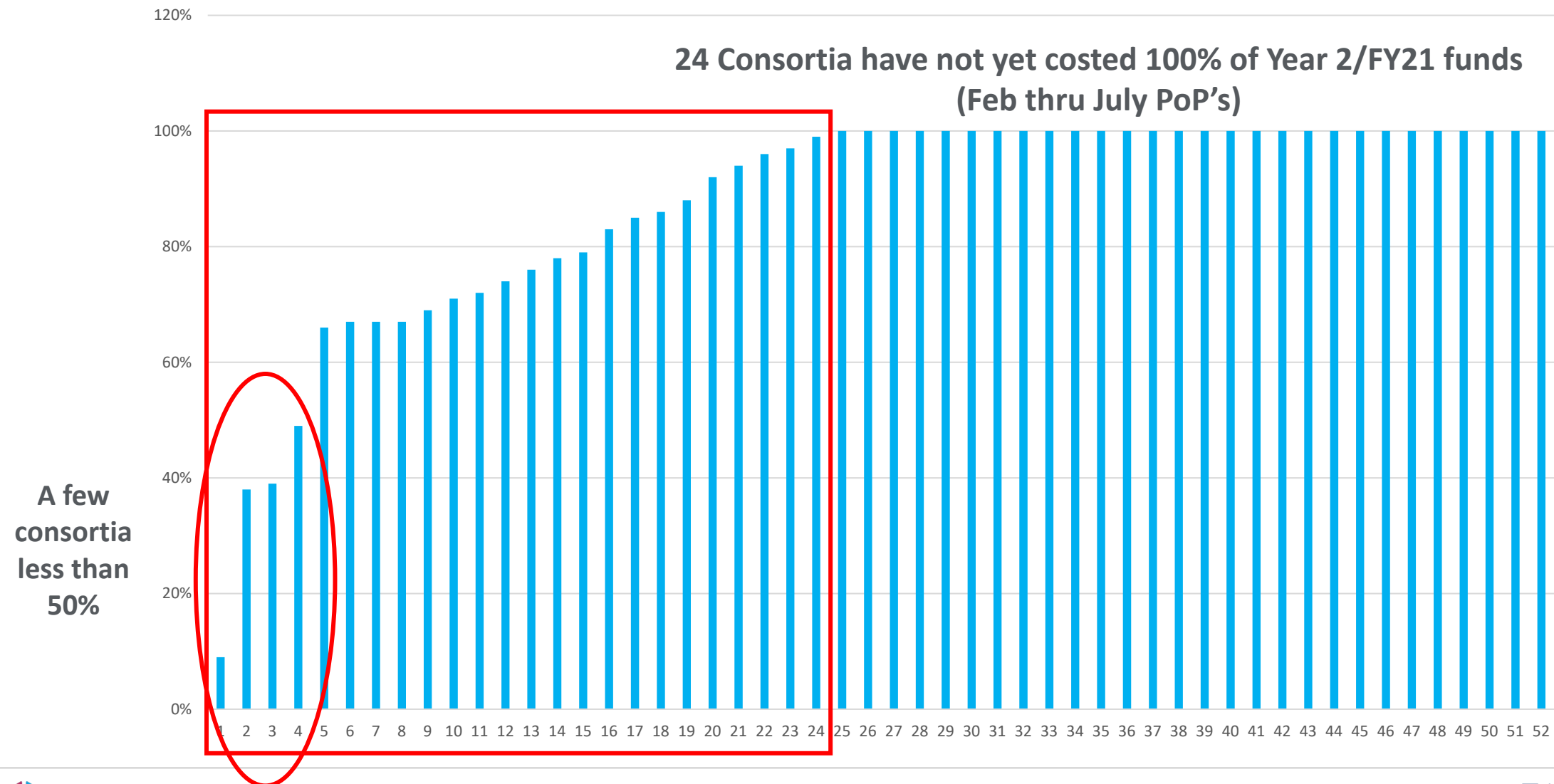


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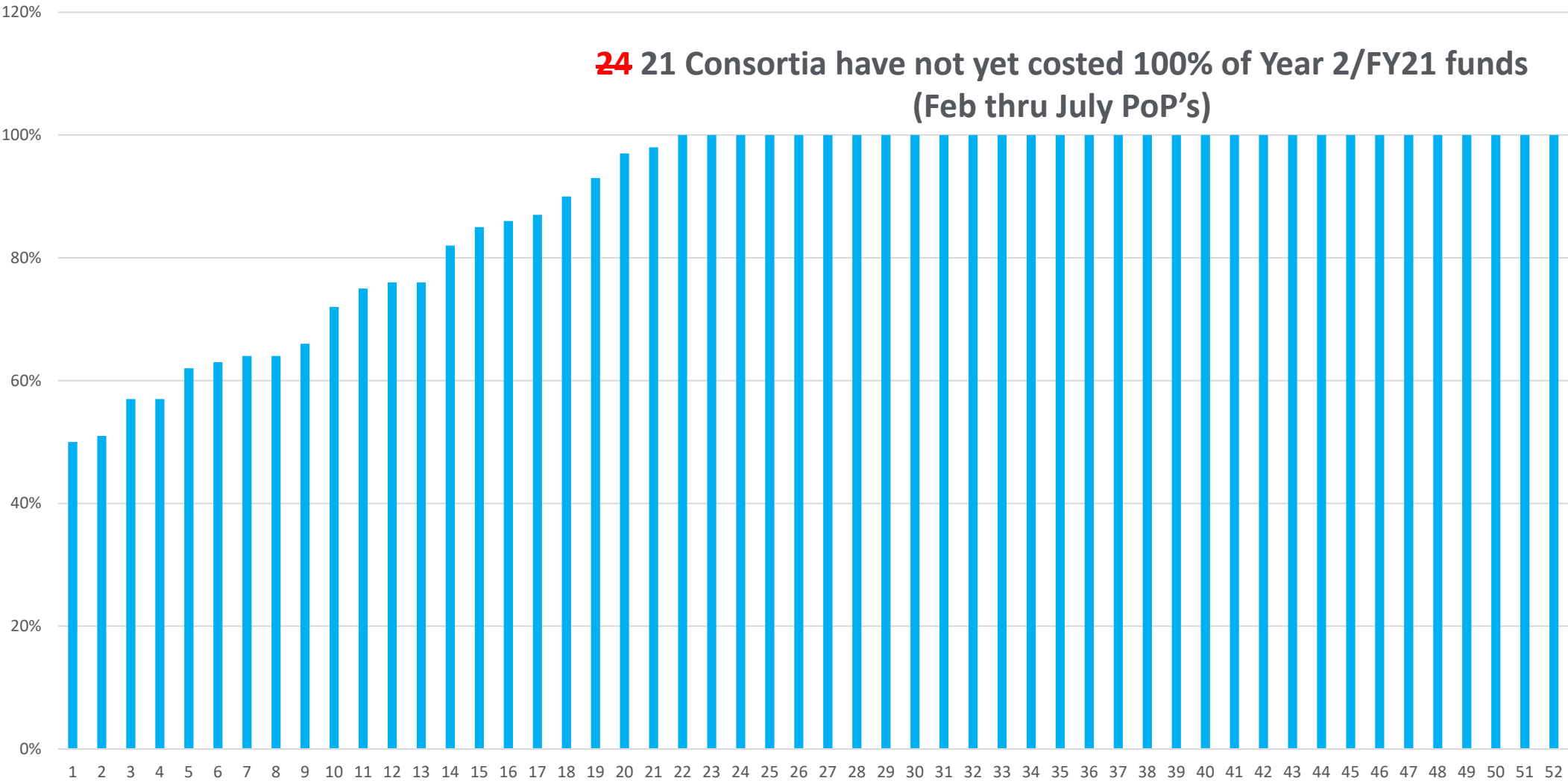


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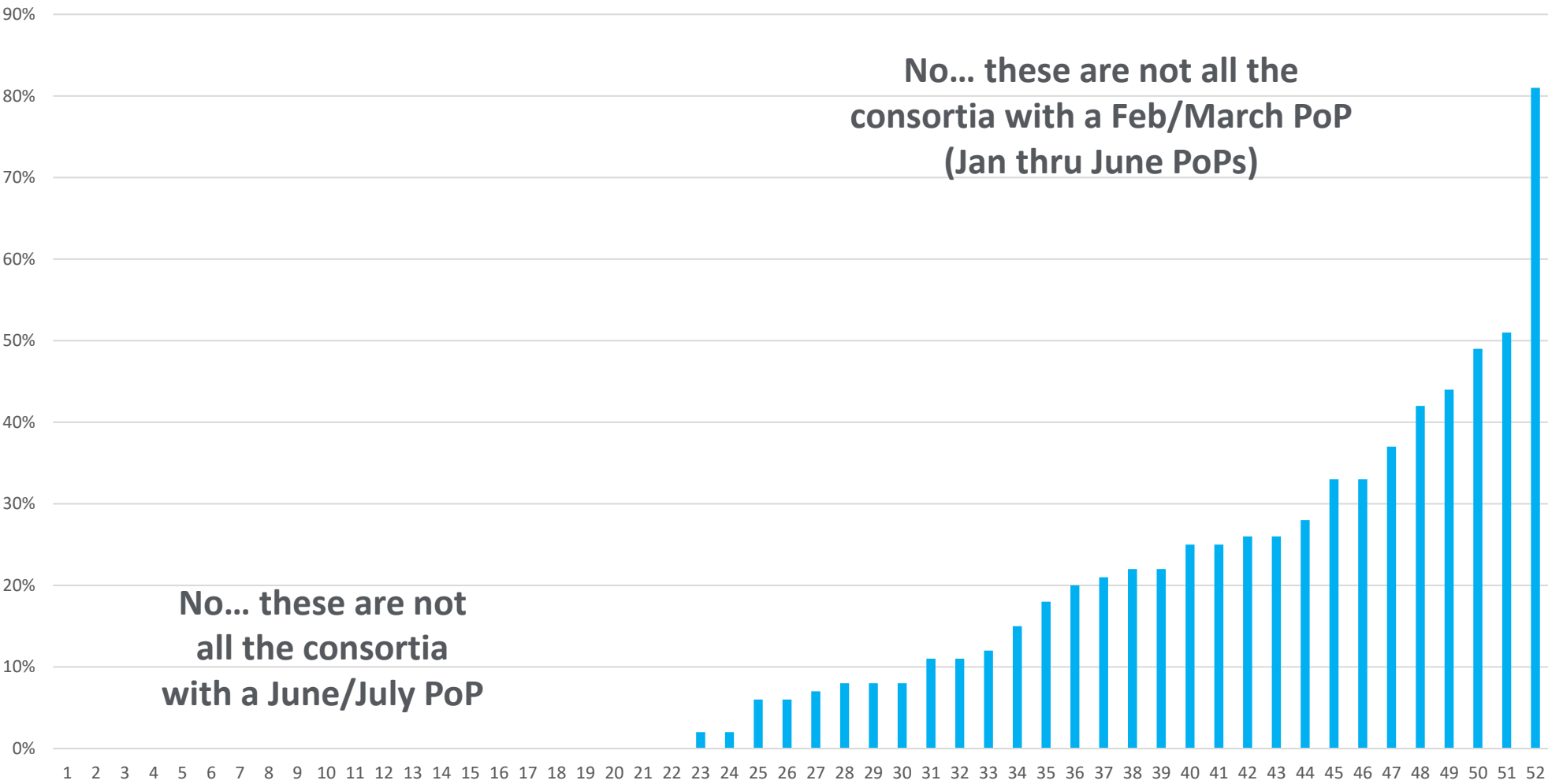
# Costing Data from Last Year – Year 2/FY21 % Costed (early Feb)



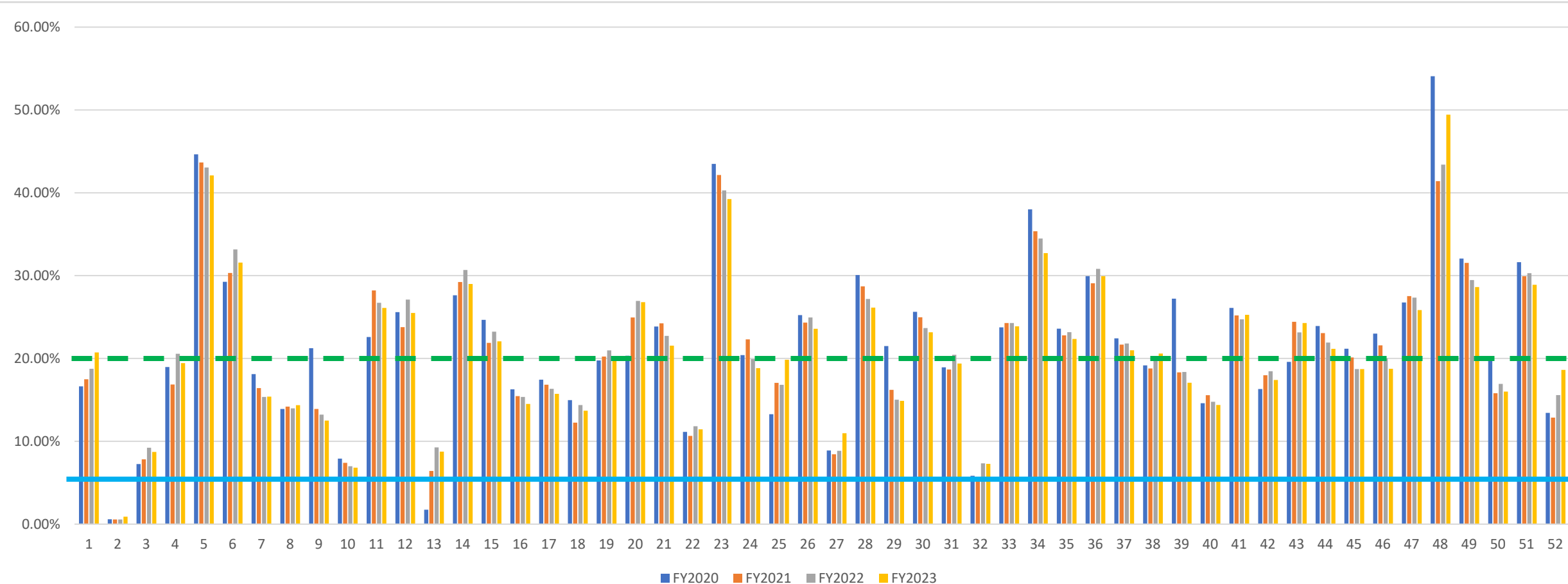
# Costing – Year 3/FY22 % Costed (early Feb)



# Costing – Year 4/FY23 % Costed (data as of early Feb)



# Median of Administrative Costs by Consortium (Randomized)



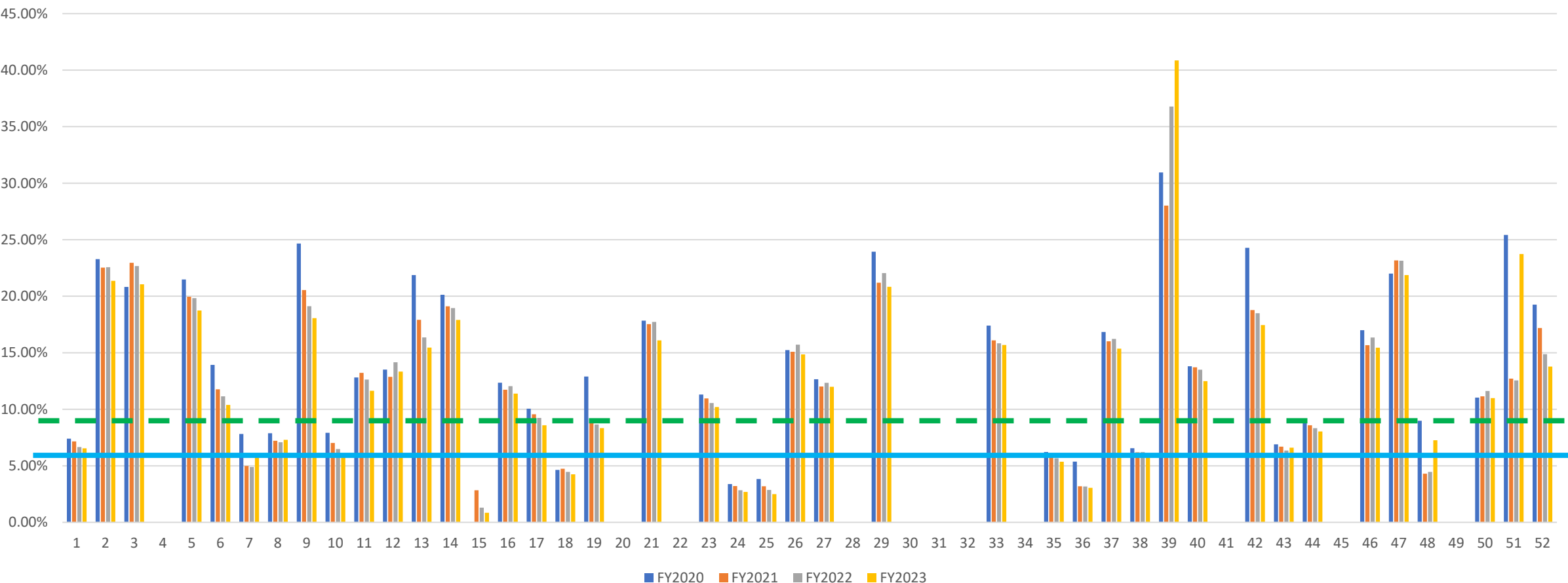
Consortia Admin Costs = Salary, Fringe, Equipment, Materials and Supplies, Services and Travel

NASA Space Grant Program Costs = Center Requirements and Project Specific Costs (FTE/WYE, Travel, Conferences, Printing, NRESS)

— = Median Consortia Admin Costs ~20.6%, was ~23% (Median costs calculated across all years)

— = Median NASA Space Grant Program Costs ~ 5.7%, was ~6%

# Median of Consortia Indirect Costs by Consortium (Randomized)



Note: Several Consortia’s Lead Institutions waive or reduce the federally negotiated indirect rates for use as cost-match for the respective consortium





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# The Future



FY'24 Congressional Budget

FY'25 (and subsequent) Congressional Budgets



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# New Multi-Year Solicitation



Release Date: Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

Due Date: July 10<sup>th</sup> (~120 days)

Webinar: Wed, March 20<sup>th</sup>

- Submit questions by COB Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>
- Priority is to answer submitted questions
- As time available will answer questions in real-time

## Post Webinar

- Opportunities will be available to submit questions to [spacegrant@nasaprs.com](mailto:spacegrant@nasaprs.com)
- FAQ's will be released as with prior solicitations

All solicitation questions need to go to:

[spacegrant@nasaprs.com](mailto:spacegrant@nasaprs.com)

Replies will be completed via released FAQ  
so that everyone has the information.

Email listed within the solicitation



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# Solicitation & Proposal Formats



## Solicitation within EONS (Engagement Opportunities in NASA STEM)

- Appendix 10
- Will receive notification as usual, including a link to the solicitation in NSPIRES

EONS format is the same as used for SG KIDS and X-59 Solicitations

## Structure Similar to 5<sup>th</sup> Year Extension

- Vol 1 of your proposals shall be for the Base Awards
- Vol 2 of your proposals shall be for the Augmentations
- No NCAS as part of Space Grant
  - Now run through MUREP completely (not part of this solicitation)



# Solicitation & Proposal Formats



Various tables/data required to be submitted

## Formats must be followed

- All required tables will be made available in editable formats (NSPIRES only allows the use of pdf), OR
- You may replicate (the same format) the table/s you see in the solicitation

If a table format is required of you... Do NOT create your own format which is different than what is presented

- Proposals with table formats not matching what is shown in the solicitation, will be rejected





# Required Budget Table Format



This format must be used...  
not a version of this...

This format



	Year 1, Fiscal Year 2025 Base Award		
	NASA Funds	Cost-Share	Total Funding
<b>A. Personnel/ Direct Labor</b>			
1. Principal Investigator/ Director			
2. Program Manager			
3. Research Associate			
4. Staff Support			
<b>Total Salaries</b>			
<b>B. Fringe Benefits</b>			
1. Principal Investigator/ Director			
2. Program Manager			
3. Research Associate			
4. Staff Support			
<b>Total Fringe</b>			
<b>C. Equipment</b>			
<b>D. Materials and Supplies</b>			
<b>E. Services</b>			
<b>F. Domestic Travel</b>			



# Solicitation & Proposal Formats



Required proposal sections/appendices are very similar to the 5<sup>th</sup> Year Extension

Required appendixes are listed in the solicitation, and shall be numbered in the proposals as outlined

- Appendix A shall be the Budget Tables: Details and Narrative
- Appendix B shall be the Cumulative Cost Share & Cumulative NIF Investment Tables
- Etc.

Proposals with table formats not matching what is shown in the solicitation, will be rejected



# Solicitation & Proposal Formats



## Two New Appendixes

- List of Affiliates
  - Category 1 = Academic affiliates (names only)
  - Category 2 = All other affiliates (names only)
  - Continuously numbered list
- Programmatic Summary
  - Discussion with some personnel on Exec Committee
  - Assist all of you to learn more from each other
  - 2-page (max) description of your consortium's main activities
  - To be placed in a common location for all consortia to review and learn more about each other
    - No major details... expectation is that consortia will contact you if they want more details

### Example:

#### Category 1 (Academic Affiliates)

1. Name of an academic affiliate
2. Name of an academic affiliate
3. Name of an academic affiliate
4. Etc.

#### Category 2 (All other non-academic affiliates)

5. Name of a non-academic affiliate
6. Name of a non-academic affiliate
7. Name of a non-academic affiliate
8. Etc.

Three more appendixes – only for HI/Guam and SC/US VI



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# Mission Directorate Alignment



## Continuation of alignment with Mission Directorates

- Appendix 8 of EONS has large reference list of MD projects/research

## Mission Directorate panel held during this conference

- MD personnel presenting on some of the potential areas/ways of alignment

Should be thinking of opportunities and ideas based on what is good for your state AND things that NASA is doing

Should NOT be coming up with ideas “in a vacuum” and then seeing how minimally it might align with a MD

## FOCUS – Students... Connecting Students with NASA’s Mission



# Funding Levels



## Year 1 = FY25

- Base Award = \$800k
- Augmentation = Hopefully
  - Based on congressional budget



## Years 2 thru 4 = FY26 thru FY28

- Base Award = \$800k
- Augmentation = \$70k
  - Costed Thresholds:
    - Year 2 = 30% of Year 1 funds
    - Year 3 = 33% of Year 2 funds
    - Year 4 = 36% of Year 3 funds
  - Also requires reporting to be submitted on-time





# Baseline Reporting



## One-Time Reporting

- Comprehensive Evaluation Plan (CEP)
  - Due 45 days after start of PoP

## Yearly Reporting

- Semi-annual report\*
  - Due NLT 6 months + 15 days after start of PoP
- Longitudinal Tracking\*
  - Due NLT Nov 30<sup>th</sup> of each year
- Closeout Performance Report (CPR) within Gateway\*
  - Due NLT Nov 30<sup>th</sup> of each year
- Annual Performance Report (APR)
  - Due 60 days prior to end of PoP

\* = Reports required to be submitted on-time to qualify for augmentation funds



# Consortium Health – Health Matrix



Tracking health of all consortia across lifetime of this multi-year

Evaluation categories established based on consortia input during 2023 National Spring Conference Workshop

- Performance Management
- Project Management
- Budget Management
- Evaluation

“Health” established from data gathered wrt

- Execution of SMART goals
- Completion of Milestones
- Reporting
- Costing
- Outcomes/impacts
- Etc.

Strong factor in Health determination = Yearly IE Feedback

- Annual Report includes Appendix for IE



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# Consortium Health – Health Matrix



Why are we doing this...

You all know... you all do NOT execute at a high level

We want you ALL to be high performing consortia

Improvement can only come, if areas of improvement are determined

- We want to help you find those areas of improvement

... just like data gathering on encumbering/awarding of funds



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# Consortium Health – Health Matrix



## What happens if an issue is found... at end of 1<sup>st</sup> Year

- Let's talk about it
  - Setup a virtual meeting
  - Make you aware
  - Discuss possible ways to fix the issue
- As needed - Setup subsequent discussions as follow-ons throughout the year
  - Continue discussions to ensure continued progress

Example

## Reassess at end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Year

- Is this still an issue... If so, why?
  - Should have seen some improvement
- Setup standard quarterly meetings to track progress
- More detailed discussions (who else needs to be included in discussions)

## Reassess at end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year

- Is this still an issue... probably need to schedule a Site Visit



Lower required cost match as previously presented

Base Award cost match drops from prior solicitations

- Year 1 = 64%
- Years 2 - 4 = 60%

Allows for no required cost match on augmentation funds.





# Internships



HQ continues to support the goal of all consortia being able to have at least 2 NASA interns from each consortium... per semester.

## Required NASA internship minimum stipend rates

- Same as initiated during 5<sup>th</sup> Year Extension

Able to provide a higher stipend if you desire and/or include additional stipend for travel, lodging, etc.

NASA Internship Stipend Amounts		
Session	Graduate Student	Undergraduate Student
Fall and Spring (16 weeks)	\$15,840	\$13,120
Summer (10 weeks)	\$9,900	\$8,200



# Direct Funding & Fellowships



Several prior questions, asking for clarification related to citizenship requirements for Fellowships

All direct funded participants shall be a U.S. National (includes internships, fellowships, etc.)

- Activity does NOT have to fall within NIF budget category
- Many consortia perform activities with “fellowships” funded outside of the NIF category

This includes all activities that “define as a fellowship”

- Some institutions call the activity a research opportunity, or research experience... but still define as a research fellowship
- If meet the definition per Appendix D of the solicitation, then citizenship requirement applies

Note: This requirement applies to all sub-awards including, for example, participants funded from a faculty fellowship (i.e., participants/students receiving direct funding under a faculty fellowship must meet this requirement).



# SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures



As usual, you will be required to provide SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures

Historically, what has been proposed is WIDE varying

- Not establishing... Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant/Realistic, and Time-based Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures

We reviewed the SMART Goals matrixes proposed from across the consortia

We are implementing some of YOUR best practices



# SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures



Same Table as used in 5<sup>th</sup> Year Extension... more specific breakdown

For each year you will be required to provide 3 SMART Goal tables focused on these following areas

1. NIF
2. MD/Competitive Projects
3. Diversity

We are looking for you to provide consortium specific SMART goals that align with each of these areas.

This is exactly what some of you already provide...

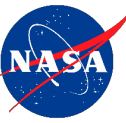


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# SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures



Screenshot from solicitation

Word version of these tables will be available

Year 2 (FY 2026) – Mission Directorate/Competitive Project SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Metric										
Performance Goal Alignment	Space Grant Objective Alignment	Mission Directorate Alignment					Consortium Year 2 (FY 2026) Performance			
		ARMD	SMD	STMD	ESDMD	SOMD	Consortium Goal	Consortium Objective	Consortium Performance Measure	Consortium Deadline

Year 2 (FY 2026) – Diversity SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Metric										
Performance Goal Alignment	Space Grant Objective Alignment	Mission Directorate Alignment					Consortium Year 2 (FY 2026) Performance			
		ARMD	SMD	STMD	ESDMD	SOMD	Consortium Goal	Consortium Objective	Consortium Performance Measure	Consortium Deadline



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# SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures



i.e., what are some goals, objectives, and performance measures you plan to have/achieve/execute which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant/Realistic, and Time-based... around **Diversity**?

- Example Objectives:
  - Actively engage students from affiliates who have not previously been engaged
  - Actively reach out to student orgs who have not participated in the past... some of which have large participation from underrepresented/underserved students
  - i.e., what are you, and will you do to broaden the diverse set of students with whom the consortium attracts and engages (NASA Strategic Plan)
  - Etc.

Then... repeat for your planned NIF activities and the MD/Competitive Projects you propose.





# SMART Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures



## Basic EXAMPLES included within the solicitation

- These are only EXAMPLES!
- Given to help you start your own goals... not meant to be copy/pasted into your proposal

## Evaluation Workshop (this afternoon)

- Led by Marissa Saad
- Focus on development of S.M.A.R.T. Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures
  - Examples of great and poor



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# Solicitation & Evaluation of Proposals



## Solicitation created and released

- Required elements for proposals outlined

## Proposals submitted

## Initial review performed (independent team)

- Compliance Check... have you met the basic requirements:
  - Table of Contents
  - Budget Tables
  - Milestones Table
  - Page length
  - Etc.
- Very high level



# Solicitation & Evaluation of Proposals



Matrix of those who passed or did not pass compliance check is provided to the review panel and Space Grant team

- These are items that will need to be fixed

Proposals are distributed across 24 panel members (4 panels each with 6 people)

- Each panel reviews 13 proposals

Each proposal is reviewed by a minimum of two individuals from the panel (prior to panel), as well as a review by the entire panel (during panel)

Feedback is gathered from the entire panel, and provided to SG HQ Team

SG HQ Team gathers the information and creates the Green/Red Letters

Letters are sent out



# Solicitation & Evaluation of Proposals



Green or Red Letters go out...

No Yellow Letters anymore... proposal is either Green or Red

Green = No items to fix

Red = Non-Green = Items to fix (small or large)



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# Solicitation & Evaluation of Proposals



Green letters confirm:

- Panel confirmed proposal is in alignment with the solicitation and its requirements
- Costs are appropriate

Space Grant HQ initiates the funding process at ~45-60 days prior to PoP

NSSC has a standard goal of 35 days to review and award

- Complex awards sometimes have taken longer





# Solicitation & Evaluation of Proposals



## NSSC provides final approval/rejection

- Includes (but not limited to) final detailed review of the proposed budget and narrative
- Perform a full review with focus on budget... to the penny
- Ensure the budget narrative matches the budget... exactly

You will NOT be funded if there are any discrepancies in the proposal (budget or otherwise) noted by the NSSC...

... Until you update

## Issues discovered by NSSC

- NSSC will reach out to the PI (typically cc Space Grant HQ)
- You will need to update/fix budget issues very quickly (~ 2-3 days) to not impact your award date

Goal is to not have a funding gap



# Solicitation & Evaluation of Proposals



## Take Aways...

We try hard to layout the requirements clearly

Requirements are established to:

- Maximize ease of review by the review panel
- Minimize issues with the NSSC during awarding

Requirements are outlined in the solicitation

- You must meet the requirements (including table formats)
- If you don't meet the requirements, you will be required to re-submit

Must ensure that your budget table:

- Is clear
- Adds up correctly
- Matches exactly the budget narrative



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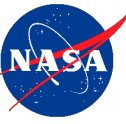
## Closeout Performance Report (CPR within Gateway)

- Year 1 (2025): at a minimum
  - Full awardee demographics via completed participant profiles within STEM Gateway
    - i.e., Participant List Only - PLO
- Years 2 – 4 (2026 – 2028):
  - Full applicant as well as awardee demographics via completed applicant and awardee profiles within STEM Gateway
    - i.e., Sign-Up Only Option (at a minimum)

**Reminder:** Demographics into the NASA STEM Gateway system shall only be reported directly from participant completed profiles. The consortia may not report demographics on behalf of the participants.



# Gateway Helpdesk Office Hours



Gateway team has initiated office hours

Date: Every other Wednesday

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 ET

Open to answer questions and assist with Gateway

- No specific presentation
- Just present to assist as needed

Some of you have fully embraced Gateway already

- Thank-you!
- Allows us to work early with some of you... type of Pilot session to be better prepared

• ~~01/24/24~~

• ~~02/07/24~~

• ~~02/21/24~~

• 03/06/24

• 03/20/24

• 04/03/24

• 04/17/24

• 05/01/24

• 05/15/24

• 06/12/24



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## All 2024 site visits are virtual

**Emails with details sent by from HQ-Space-Grant on 1/30/24 and then with document on 2/5/24**

**Two attachments provided:**

- FY24 Space Grant Site Visit\_Director\_A\_2-5-24.pdf
- FY24 Space Grant Site Visit Rubric A Director (2-1-24).pdf

**Site visit orientation webinar was provided on February 21<sup>st</sup> at 3pm ET**

- Completed earlier to provide more “runway”



# Site Visits



- NASA has no issues with other consortia sitting in on site visits
- NASA encourages you to allow other consortia to attend
- Reach out and ask consortium if you may attend

Date	Consortium
23-May	MA
31-May	HI
6-Jun	DE
13-Jun	TX
27-Jun	CO
11-Jul	IN
1-Aug	MN
8-Aug	VA
15-Aug	NH
29-Aug	NV
5-Sep	GA
12-Sep	SD
19-Sep	DC



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## Revalidation to be complete through IdMAX

Identity and Access Management (IdMAX) system

Email sent to all consortia on 1/24/24



# Badging Revalidations and Training



Open/Read ALL remails from

[Identity.Manager@nasa.gov](mailto:Identity.Manager@nasa.gov)

Revalidation and SATERN Training emails

Note: Revalidation and Renewal are separate and independent



# Badge Renewals (Replacements)



## Badging returns/changes

- Have had a few badged personnel swaps
- Process has worked well
- Memo on badge swapping process was created and distributed
  - 22 Sept 2023

## Do not forget your PIN

- PIN resets are required to be in-person
- Badging/safety personnel requirement... we have zero control of this



# Badge Renewals (Replacements)



Badge expiration date located at the top right corner

Some of you have expiring badges in spring/summer 2024

If badge is expiring = you need a renewal

- You were supposed to have been provided 3-year badges
  - First batch accidentally received 1-year duration
  - Most recent badges have been 3-year

Renewal cannot be initiated prior to 60 days from expiration

Renewal process is virtual





# Badge Renewals (Replacements)



Marlynne will assist in the process:

- Summary:
  - You will have a virtual appointed setup with Marlynne's help
  - Replacement badge will be mailed to you
  - Expired badge will need to be returned (mailed) to HQ
    - References badge swapping memo (22 Sept 2023)

Note: You will not have system access for 3-7 days between badges???



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# X-59 QueSST



## QueSST Goals

- Design and build an aircraft (X-59) that reduces the sonic boom to a gentle thump to people on the ground
- Fly the X-59 over several communities to gather data on human responses to the sound of the supersonic flights

X-59 Rollout was held on Jan 12, 2024

ARMD planned to have X-59 start flights in early 2025



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# X-59 QueSST



Solicitation released and proposals received

Review conducted as a continued collaboration with OSTEM/SG/ARMD

Congrats to the following Consortia (in alphabetical order):

- California
- New York
- Puerto Rico
- Virginia
- Wisconsin



Proposals will assist HQ Space Grant in development of future support and funding opportunities, for consortia during X-59 flights.

Awardees will have the opportunity to directly coordinate with ARMD/X-59 personnel during the award period





Future...

Review information gathered from all 5 awardees

In combination with ARMD, create a final product to be distributed consortia with X-59 flyovers

Potentially includes:

- Supporting funds
- Data gathering equipment (on loan)
- Citizen science activities
- Swag to distribute
- Etc.



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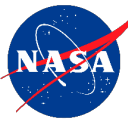
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# NASA Space Grant Consortia Engage Girls & Women in STEM



*Virginia Earth Systems Science Scholars (VESSS) engaging girls.*

**Celebrate the impact your work is having on women and girls as you tell the story of their engagement in STEM through your Space Grant programs and initiatives.**

- This is an opportunity to have your work recognized across NASA and highlighted at an upcoming virtual Women's History Month event (Date TBA)
- Use the Google Form below to share details of your activities. Please respond by **Friday, March 15, 2024, at 5:00pm EST**
  - Examples: Conferences, speaker or event series, workshops, events partnered with non-profits, etc...
- For more information, contact Bonnie Murray, [bonnie.murray@nasa.gov](mailto:bonnie.murray@nasa.gov)
- Google Form Link: <https://forms.gle/vyCo732GQf3463Na7>



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# Space Grant Center Specialist Intro



List of the Space Grand Center Specialists sent out in Dec 2023

- Included again on the next slide

Memo sent out includes:

- Specialist's name and center
- Contact info
- Which consortia are encompassed under which specialist

Requested at BT23 that they attend this conference

Breakout sessions during lunch, provide you focused time with them



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# Space Grant Center Specialist Intro



## Space Grant Center Specialists

- Have many duties outside of Space Grant

## Intent of their presence today

- For you all to get to know each other better
- Ease future communications
- Establish monthly/quarterly virtual meetings
- Have them hear how they can better help you all in the future
- Expectation that they provide SG HQ with insight into main activities consortia is doing in their region



# Space Grant Center Specialists



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# Consortia and Center Alignment (per Specialists)



Group 1 – Columbia B

AFRC/ARC	JPL
AK	CA
OR	HI
MT	NV
WA	AZ
ID	UT
WY	

Group 2 – Congressional

GRC	JSC
IL	TX
PA	NM
IN	CO
MI	KS
OH	OK
WI	



Group 3 – Columbia Foyer

GSFC	LaRC
MA	KY
NH	NJ
RI	DE
MD	VA
NY	WV
VT	DC
ME	CT

Group 4 - Columbia B

KSC	MSFC	SSC
PR	AL	SD
SC	MO	ND
FL	TN	MS
NC	MN	AR
GA	IA	LA
		NE





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