

**Grant Title:** INFORMAL SCIENCE EDUCATION (ISE)

**Grant Number:** NSF 06-520

**Release & Expiration Dates:** April 24, 2006 release; NA expiration.

**Area of Research:** Activities at the frontiers of informal science learning that further the state-of-the-art through a cycle of knowledge accumulation and improvement of practice.

**Application Deadline:** *Preliminary Proposal:* September 13, 2007 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in September thereafter; March 13, 2008 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in March thereafter; *Full Proposal:* December 13, 2007 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in December thereafter; June 19, 2008 and every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in June thereafter.

**Amount:** *ISE Project Grants:* \$100,000 to \$3 million per award, with the exception of the Informal Science Education Resource Center, which may be funded to a maximum of \$5 million over five years. *Planning Grants:* Up to \$75,000. *Conference, Symposia, and Workshop Grants:* \$50,000 to \$250,000. *Grant Supplements:* The maximum award is \$200,000 or 20% of the total amount of the original award, whichever is less. (This limitation does not apply to cooperative agreements.)

**Length of Support:** *ISE Project Grants:* Up to five years; *Planning Grants.* No more than two years; *Conference, Symposia, and Workshop Grants.* No more than two years.

**Eligible Applicants:** Only U. S. organizations located in the U. S.

**Agency/ Department:** NSF

**Summary:** The Informal Science Education (ISE) program supports activities at the frontiers of informal science learning that further the state-of-the-art through a cycle of knowledge accumulation and improvement of practice. To achieve the greatest return on its investments, the ISE program encourages projects that will "raise the bar" in the field of informal science education. The program will place particular emphasis on the ability of projects to demonstrate the characteristics of strategic impact, innovation, and collaboration. *Project Grants* (Full Proposals) are the primary means in which the ISE program invests in projects that develop and implement informal learning experiences for the general public. *Planning grants* are intended for the exploratory phase of highly innovative projects or aspects of complex ISE projects that require resources beyond those usually needed for proposal development. *Conferences, symposia, and workshops* provide a specific format for certain projects targeting professionals. For existing ISE awards, ISE will consider requests for small amounts of *supplemental funding* to ensure completion of the original scope of work based on changes in conditions after the award was made or to take advantage of opportunities to extend further the project impact.

**Detailed Information:** <http://nsf.gov/pubs/2006/nsf06520/nsf06520.pdf>