

- (1) programmatic and scientific goals;
- (2) institutional commitment and stewardship of Federal resources;
- (3) institutional strategic planning and administrative burden;
- (4) equity among recipient institutions; and
- (5) recommendations for or against extending or making permanent such waivers.

(Pub. L. 117–167, div. B, title III, §10320, Aug. 9, 2022, 136 Stat. 1536.)

§ 18999. Programs to address the STEM workforce

(a) In general

The Director shall issue undergraduate scholarships, including at community colleges, graduate fellowships and traineeships, postdoctoral awards, and, as appropriate, other awards, to address STEM workforce gaps, including for programs that recruit, retain, and advance students to a bachelor's degree in a STEM discipline concurrent with a secondary school diploma, such as through existing and new partnerships with State educational agencies.

(b) Postdoctoral professional development

In carrying out this section, the Director shall encourage innovation in postdoctoral professional development, support the development and diversity of the STEM workforce, and study the impacts of such innovation and support. To do so, the Director may use postdoctoral awards established under subsection (a) or leveraged under subsection (d)(1) for fellowships or other temporary rotational postings of not more than 2 years. Such fellowships or temporary rotational postings shall be awarded—

- (1) to qualified individuals who have a doctoral degree and received such degree not earlier than 5 years before the date that the fellowship or temporary rotational posting begins; and
- (2) to carry out research at Federal, State, local, and Tribal government research facilities.

(c) Direct hire authority

(1) In general

The head of any Federal agency may appoint, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, other than sections 3303 and 3328 of that title, a qualified candidate described in paragraph (2) directly to a position in the competitive service with the Federal agency for which the candidate meets Office of Personnel Management qualification standards.

(2) Fellowship or temporary rotational posting

Paragraph (1) applies with respect to a former recipient of an award under this subsection who—

- (A) earned a doctoral degree in a STEM field from an institution of higher education; and
- (B) successfully fulfilled the requirements of the fellowship or temporary rotational posting within a Federal agency.

(3) Limitation

The direct hire authority under this subsection shall be exercised with respect to a

specific qualified candidate not later than 2 years after the date that the candidate completed the requirements related to the fellowship or temporary rotational posting described under this subsection.

(d) Existing programs

In carrying out this section, the Director may leverage existing programs, including programs that issue—

- (1) postdoctoral awards;
- (2) graduate fellowships and traineeships, inclusive of the NSF Research Traineeships and fellowships awarded under the Graduate Research Fellowship Program;
- (3) scholarships, research experiences, and internships, including—
 - (A) scholarships to attend community colleges; and
 - (B) research experiences and internships under sections 1862p–5, 1862p–6, and 1862p–7 of this title; and
- (4) awards to institutions of higher education to enable the institutions to fund innovation in undergraduate and graduate education, increased educational capacity, and the development and establishment of new or specialized programs of study for graduate, undergraduate, or technical college students, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs of study.

(Pub. L. 117–167, div. B, title III, §10321, Aug. 9, 2022, 136 Stat. 1537.)

PART C—BROADENING PARTICIPATION

§ 19011. Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program update

(a) Sense of Congress

It is the sense of Congress that over the next five years the Foundation should increase the number of scholarships awarded under the Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program established under section 1862n–1 of this title by 50 percent.

(b) Outreach

To increase the diversity of participants, the Director shall support symposia, forums, conferences, and other activities to expand and enhance outreach to—

- (1) historically Black colleges and universities;
- (2) Tribal Colleges or Universities;
- (3) minority-serving institutions;
- (4) institutions of higher education that are located near or serve rural communities, including EPSCoR institutions;
- (5) labor organizations;
- (6) emerging research institutions; and
- (7) higher education programs that serve or support veterans.

(Pub. L. 117–167, div. B, title III, §10322, Aug. 9, 2022, 136 Stat. 1538.)

§ 19012. NSF Eddie Bernice Johnson INCLUDES Initiative

(a) In general

The Director shall make awards, on a competitive basis, to institutions of higher education or