



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE HUMANITIES

NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure -  
NEH Documenting Endangered  
Languages (DLI-DEL)  
NSF 20-603

LSA Webinar  
Tuesday, Sept. 22,  
2020

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Name of the  
Program

Documenting Endangered Languages (DEL) :  
data, infrastructure, and computational  
methods

TO

NSF Dynamic Language Infrastructure –  
NEH Documenting Endangered Languages  
(DLI-DEL): data, infrastructure, and  
computational methods.

## Deadline for Senior Research Proposals and Conferences

Old: One Deadline per Fiscal Year

New: Two target dates annually

Target dates coming up:

November 18, 2020 (September 15 in future years)

February 15, 2021

## NEH-managed Fellowships

- NEH's Division of Research Programs will solicit and review applications separately for DLI-DEL Fellowships for individuals.
- Contact: Dr. Stefanie Walker – NEH  
email: [swalker@neh.gov](mailto:swalker@neh.gov)  
tel: (202) 606-8478

## DLI-DEL DDRIG

- Investigators interested in submitting a DLI-DEL DDRIG proposal, please follow guidance and instruction in its separate solicitation:  
[https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=505710](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=505710)

## General Award Information

**Estimated Number of Awards:** 20 to 25

**Award Size and Duration:** up to ~\$450,000 for up to three years.

**Who may submit:**

- Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)
- Non-profit, non-academic organizations
- Tribal organizations

**Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or Co-PI:**

- Only one as PI or Co-PI
- PI on senior proposal and conference

**Proposal Preparation and Submission Instructions**

Program  
Description:  
Introduction

- Through this program NSF and NEH
- Address the imminent loss of linguistic and cultural knowledge
- It is a major concern and a priority for both agencies.

Program  
Description:  
Focus

- Document endangered languages
- Integrate language information in scientific exploration of language
- Advance human language technologies
- Create shared common data sets to improve and speed up language documentation



Emphasis area  
**Language  
Description**

- Conduct
  - Fieldwork
  - (Curate existing)
- Create Access-
  - Transcription
  - Translation
    - Grammars
    - Lexica
    - Text samples
    - Databases
- Integrate/use for linguistic analysis

Emphasis  
Area:  
**Infrastructure**

- Create lasting record through
  - Digitizing existing materials
  - Conferences

Emphasis Area:

## Computational Methods

- Make documentation
- Interoperable/Shareable
- to develop computational tools
  - taggers, parsers, speech recognizers, grammar inducers
  - present a particular challenge for those using statistical and machine learning, especially deep learning methods
    - E.g., how to train and test models with small corpora
- Inquiries related to computational methods can be directed to Terry Langendoen in CISE [dlangend@nsf.gov](mailto:dlangend@nsf.gov)

## Partnerships: TCUP

- Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP)-eligible institutions to submit DLI proposals
- Examples of these proposals:
  - Building TCU institutions' research and scholarly training capacity in documentary and descriptive linguistics, computational methodology, archiving and preservation;
  - Attracting, retraining, and supporting TCU students in independent research endeavors;
  - Non-TCU institutions providing research training to enable the successful transition of TCU students to major research universities.
- Inquiries related to TCUP can be directed to Jody Chase [lchase@nsf.gov](mailto:lchase@nsf.gov) and Jeremy Guinn [jguinn@nsf.gov](mailto:jguinn@nsf.gov) in EHR

## Partnerships: Arctic Social Sciences

- The DLI-DEL Program also works closely with NSF's Arctic Social Sciences program in the GEO Directorate to support projects involving peoples/places of the Arctic, including Alaskan Natives
- Inquiries related to Arctic Social Sciences can be directed to Erica Hill in GEO [erhill@nsf.gov](mailto:erhill@nsf.gov)

## NEH Preservation and Access

### The DLI-DEL Program is a joint endeavor between NSF and NEH

- As mentioned earlier, NEH runs the Fellowship program
  - Inquiries about Fellowships should be sent to Stefanie Walker at NEH [swalker@neh.gov](mailto:swalker@neh.gov)
- NEH's Division of Preservation and Access supports some of the grants awarded by DLI-DEL.
  - Projects emphasizing preservation and access can send inquiries to Jacquelyn Clements at NEH [jclements@neh.gov](mailto:jclements@neh.gov)
  - <https://www.neh.gov/grants/preservation/documenting-endangered-languages>
  - (But note that all regular research proposals are submitted to NSF)

## Where to go for language revitalization projects

Tribal groups interested in the full range of language revitalization activities should contact the Native Language Program of the Administration for Native Americans in the Administration for Children & Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

(<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ana/programs/native-language-preservation-maintenance>).

## Data Management Plan

- In Supplementary Documents:
  - 2-pages : timeline, workflow
  - a letter from the archive selected
  - Access statement
- In the Project Summary
  - archiving location (meets DELAMAN standards)
- In the Project Description
  - plans and methodology for the sustainable, long-term archiving of all data
  - discussion of interoperability with related materials
- In the Budget
  - Archiving and cost of metadata creation and ingest
  - Under “Other Direct Costs”



## Statement of Consultation

An explicit statement that care has been taken to consult with the relevant parties in the speech communities

PI should ensure that appropriate permissions for the proposed research have been requested

Letters uploaded under “Other Supplementary Documents”

# Grant writing tips



# Planning your Project

**Conceptualize your project with community/  
mentors**

## NSF Evaluation Criteria

- **Intellectual Merit:** Does the proposed activity add to our scientific knowledge of language? Does it increase data that can be used by other researchers?
- **Broader Impacts:** Does the project contribute to communities and society as a whole?
- **Transformative ideas:** Does the project have the potential to transform the field?

## Review Criteria Specific to DLI-DEL

- Degree of endangerment /urgency of the need for documentation
- Existing documentation of the language(s)
- Linguistic, historical, cognitive, cultural, or social significance of the language(s)
- Speaker community
  - Collaboration
  - Capacity building
  - Resource creation

## Narrative Outline

- Introduction
- Intellectual merit
- Broader merits
- Project objectives
- Project workflow
- Training of community members
- Results from previous grants
- Long range sustainability

## Writing the Application: Budget

- Personnel: senior, students, curators, managers
- Consultants
- Language experts/language translators
- Supplies
- Computer Facilities
- Digital Library space
- Travel

## NSF Evaluation Procedures

- Compliance check
- Ad-hoc review
- Panel review
- NSF Division approval
- Review by NSF's Division of Grants & Agreements (DGA)



## NSF Contacts

- Joan Maling - SBE, [jmaling@nsf.gov](mailto:jmaling@nsf.gov)
- Tyler S. Kendall - SBE, [tkendall@nsf.gov](mailto:tkendall@nsf.gov)
- Jody Chase - EHR, [jchase@nsf.gov](mailto:jchase@nsf.gov)
- Terry Langendoen - CISE, [dlangend@nsf.gov](mailto:dlangend@nsf.gov)
- Erica Hill – GEO, [erhill@nsf.gov](mailto:erhill@nsf.gov)

Questions?