

## Day II

# Government Initiatives and Social Science Support: Group I

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# What are some of the possible funding models that could support social science integration?

A dedicated portion of money for bringing social scientists to observatories (LS)

Information on the funding infrastructure and networking needs to be more available, especially LTERs. (PC)

Maintain a list of kinds of data, and work from it and add to it (RC)

Require a certain number of projects funded to be social science (DW)

Prioritize research questions from data streams with a science steering group, and include social scientists at the beginning of the process (SL)

A committee of social scientists should be formed to address this (SL)

Interdisciplinary funding must be dedicated in some way (CH)

# What are their strengths and weaknesses?

Funding must be cost-based & trade-off driven at start (CH)

NSF SBE could, perhaps, review the wish-lists that have already been compiled and price it, allowing progress in funding requests (DW & RC)

# How and to whom should social science proposals be targeted?

Funding still goes through the NSF (SL)

Observatories do not fund research (LS)

The usual sources of funding would remain the same (LS)

We should get a plan together and not worry right now about who is going to fund it years in the future (LS)

Funding opportunities and sources will change, so the central committee will be there to prioritize and organize

# How can observatory social scientists overcome internal competition for funds?

Refinement at each observatory & inclusion at the start (RC)

Social scientists need to be at the table to discuss innovation and characterization of data (JD)

Social scientists need to sort out their own needs as individual disciplines and then come together (LS)

Committees at individual observatories review priorities and proposals (RC)

# Competition between social and natural scientists...

These groups need to work together for data collection and advice on future data needs (DW & RC)

Interdisciplinary knowledge is very important, and social scientists know more about physical scientists than vice versa. Membership should be equal between social science and bio-physical sciences (CH)

# Cross site competition...

The committees will determine, at the beginning of the research process, how the core funds will be distributed

Some data will be specialized, and other data will be useful cross-disciplinarily (LS)

What degree of flexibility is there in  
MREFC rules and practices to make  
more social science needs eligible?

Highly trained technicians are not professors, training could  
be MREFC charged (NC)

# Additional thoughts and questions

Infrastructure is not the same as in other sciences in terms of surveys and funding (PC)

Research money cannot go through observatories, so what do social scientists work for at observatories? (JD)

We must invest in the future research opportunities now

This central funding should not come out of existing funding for proposals (RC)

# Conclusion