

Day II
Government Initiatives and Social
Science Support: Group I

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Participants:

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

- RFPs must explicitly require integrated, multidisciplinary research involving social as well as biophysical researchers.

Social scientists will be integral to projects.

Integrated research by social scientists will be part of observatory core, and funded as core.

Set asides?

- Not set-asides, but general commitment to long-term support by SBE.
- Expectation by other directorates of supporting research that includes social scientists.

SBE

- **It will be essential for SBE to make a long-term, sustained commitment to being part of joint funding for observatory support.
- SBE might use this, and other Green initiatives to increase its budget.

How and to whom should social science proposals be targeted?

- NSF: Core proposals will be part of larger, multidisciplinary proposals sent to core directorates.
- Non-core proposals will go to appropriate directorates (competitive, as usual).

Funding sources, other

- LTER model, core funding to leverage additional support (inside and outside of NSF)
- The Hope: Build it and they will come and ask to support it (especially for applications)
- Non-NSF funding possibilities:
 - Municipalities
 - States
 - Foundations
 - Other fed -- USDA, Homeland Security
 - Industry

How can observatory social scientists overcome internal competition for funds?

- NSF needs to commit to continue to fund competitions for transdisciplinary research
- Multidisciplinary proposals will need to be reviewed by multi-disciplinary panels.

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

- Not much apparent flexibility
- Some capital investment, e.g., sensors, decision-theaters and other data integration and visualization tools
- Cyber infrastructure