



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0038-O

Page 1 of 1

We received an allegation that a PI (Subject)<sup>1</sup> submitted a preliminary proposal<sup>2</sup> that was plagiarized from another preliminary proposal<sup>3</sup> submitted to the same solicitation. The proposals sought to obtain funding for a research center to be established at one of four universities.<sup>4</sup>

We contacted the Subject regarding the plagiarism. The Subject explained that it was his first time submitting a preliminary proposal to this program and he and his team had thought that, because the proposal was cooperative between institutions, they were supposed to submit the same document as the lead institution. He said he now understood that this was not the case and was embarrassed by his carelessness and misunderstanding.

We sent the Subject a questionable research practice, reminding him of his responsibility to always understand NSF's solicitation instructions and to always appropriately cite material contained in his proposal. Accordingly, this case is closed with no further action taken.

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[REDACTED]