



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0026-O

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Our office received an allegation that two proposals submitted to a K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) solicitation appeared to overlap significantly. During our inquiry, we determined that a contract grant writer had been involved in the development of both proposals. The grant writer had worked closely with one client to develop one of the proposals and then subsequently used some basic information and format to develop the second proposal for another client. The grant writer did not, however, have much experience submitting NSF proposals and was not familiar with NSF's expectations regarding originality.

We sent the grant writer a Questionable Research Practice letter reminding her that NSF expects all proposals to contain original content and that all proposals should identify all authors of the proposal.

This case is closed with no further action taken.