The National Academies of
SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

July 17, 2019

Suzanne Plimpton
Reports Clearance Officer
National Science Foundation
2415 Eisenhower Avenue
Room W18253
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Comments on National Science Foundation Proposal/Award Information—NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide
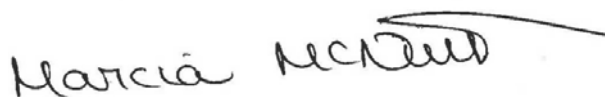
Dear Ms. Plimpton,

On behalf of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, I am writing in response to a request for public comment in Vol. 84, No. 103 of the Federal Register regarding revisions to the NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide (PAPPG). I encourage NSF to add "**use of science and technology to inform public policy**" (or similar language) as one additional example in the Broader Impacts section of the PAPPG. This addition would acknowledge and highlight the importance of NSF-supported researchers' participation in informing public policy as an activity that is deeply relevant to NSF's mission to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.

NSF researchers are involved in guiding public policy in many ways, such as by participating in JASON activities, federal agency advisory boards, state regulatory bodies, and many other advisory groups. At the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM), more than 5,500 scientists and engineers volunteer their service on approximately 500 committees annually. NSF-supported research is a primary route to develop a deep and broad cadre of experts. In turn, their research expertise informs and shapes the future of their disciplines through, for example, participation in decadal surveys that establish priorities to guide research expenditures by federal research agencies and Congress. Their expertise also provides the scientific information and up-to-date evidence that guide a wide range of public policy decisions with societal impact ranging from air pollution to the security of voting machines.

Adding "**use of science and technology to inform public policy**" will highlight for NSF proposers that NSF does value when science and technology expertise can be applied to public policy activities at the national, state, and local levels to benefit society. We at the National Academies encourage NSF to make this broader impact explicit by mentioning it in the Broader Impacts section of the PAPPG.

Sincerely,

Marcia McNutt
President, National Academy of Sciences