**Project Description**

The page limit for the Project Description is **15 pages**, which includes all of the information below. Do not include URLs in the project description. This outline is just a suggestion and can be modified to fit a particular project. If you are responding to a Program Solicitation, it may have specific guidance that should be followed. The order of the sections after the Research Plan may vary, depending on the flow of the narrative.

***Overview, Goal and Objectives (1 to 1.5 pages)***

* Succinct statement (1-2 paragraphs) of the problem or opportunity your project will address. Briefly address how your proposed research will help advance knowledge in the area(s) identified as priorities in the solicitation.
* Clearly state the long-term goal of your research and the specific objectives and/or hypotheses of the work proposed (e.g., to test a hypothesis, create a novel design, solve a specific problem, challenge an existing paradigm, address a critical barrier to progress in the field, or develop new technology.
* Provide a concise statement of the expected outcome(s) and potential impact or significance of the proposed work.

***Background and Significance (3 to 4 pages)***

* Describe background leading to the present application, critically evaluate existing knowledge, and specifically identify the gaps that the project is intended to fill.
* Discuss how this project will advance the field or address specific challenges of great importance.
* Clearly describe the significance of the project and, if applicable, if it is potentially transformative or innovative.
* Summarize any prior work relevant to the proposed project.

***Research Plan (6-8 pages)***

* Describe the work necessary to meet the objectives set forth in the first section.
* Include clear statements of the research activities to be undertaken.
* Include any plans for collaboration among researchers in related disciplines.
* Include evaluation criteria, as well as a timeline for the completion of project activities and key milestones.

***Expected Outcomes and Future Directions (1/2 to 1 pages)***

* Describe the expected outcomes of the research. This can be done objective by objective, or in a summary at the end of the Research Plan.
* Briefly discuss potential next steps once the work is accomplished.

*Management Plan* (for multi-investigator projects; ½ to 1 page): Describe the roles and responsibilities of each team member. Include a timeline of project activities and deliverables. Describe plans for disseminating project results.

***Broader Impacts (1/4-1/2 page):*** Discuss the broader impacts of the proposed activities, which may be accomplished through (1) the research itself, (2) activities directly related to the research, or (3) activities supported by, but complementary to, the project.

***Intellectual Merit (1/4 page) (This section may fit in other parts of the project description, instead of at the end. It may supplant the “Expected Outcomes” section):*** The intellectual merit of a project encompasses its potential to advance knowledge within its own field or across different fields. Discuss the qualifications of the team to conduct the project. Explain the extent to which the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts. Give an overview of the resources available to the team to carry out the proposed activities (these will be further detailed in the *Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources* document).

***Results from Prior NSF Support (if applicable; limited to 5 pages)****:* If any PI or Co-PI identified on the project has received NSF funding (including any current funding) in the past five years, information on the award(s) is required, regardless of whether the support was directly related to the proposal. This includes any funding awarded by NSF, whether salary support was included or not. If a PI or co-PI has received *more than one award* (excluding amendments), he or she must report on the award most closely related to the proposal. This section must include the following information:

* + The NSF award number, amount, and period of support;
	+ The title of the project;
	+ A summary of the results of the completed work, including accomplishments, described in two separate sections related to the **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impact** activities supported by the award;
	+ Publications resulting from the NSF award;
	+ Evidence of research products and their availability, including, but not limited to: data, publications, samples, physical collections, software, and models, as described in any Data Management Plan