Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR): Proposal and Review Process

https://science.osti.gov/ascr/officehours



Office of Science Statement of Commitment & other Guidance

- SC Statement of Commitment SC is fully and unconditionally committed to fostering safe, diverse, equitable, inclusive, and accessible work, research, and funding environments that value mutual respect and personal integrity. https://science.osti.gov/SW-DEI/SC-Statement-of-Commitment
- Expectations for Professional Behaviors -SC's expectations of all participants to positively contribute to a professional, inclusive meeting that fosters a safe and welcoming environment for conducting scientific business, as well as outlines behaviors that are unacceptable and potential ramifications for unprofessional behavior. https://science.osti.gov/SW-DEI/DOE-Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-Policies/Harassment
- + How to Address or Report Behaviors of Concern- Process on how and who to report issues, including the distinction between reporting on unprofessional, disrespectful, or disruptive behaviors, and behaviors that constitute a violation of Federal civil rights statutes.
 https://science.osti.gov/SW-DEI/DOE-Diversity-Equity-and-Inclusion-Policies/How-to-Report-a-Complaint
- ◆ Implicit Bias Be aware of implicit bias, understand its nature everyone has them and implicit bias if not mitigated can negatively impact the quality and inclusiveness of scientific discussions that contribute to a successful meeting.

 https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/article/understanding-implicit-bias



Office of

More than **34,000 r**esearchers supported at more than 300 institutions and 17 DOE national laboratories

Our Mission:

Deliver scientific discoveries and major scientific tools to transform our understanding of nature and advance the energy, economic, and national security of the United States.



Steward 10 of the 17 DOE national laboratories



More than **37,000** users of 28 Office of Science scientific user facilities



The Office of Science Research Portfolio



Advanced Scientific Computing Research

• Delivering world leading computational and networking capabilities to extend the frontiers of science and technology

Basic Energy Sciences

• Understanding, predicting, and ultimately controlling matter and energy flow at the electronic, atomic, and molecular levels

Biological and Environmental Research

• Understanding complex biological, earth, and environmental systems

Fusion Energy Sciences

• Supporting the development of a fusion energy source and supporting research in plasma science

High Energy Physics

• Understanding how the universe works at its most fundamental level

Nuclear Physics

• Discovering, exploring, and understanding all forms of nuclear matter

Isotope R&D and Production

• Supporting isotope research, development, production, processing and distribution to meet the needs of the Nation

Accelerator R&D and Production

 Supporting new technologies for use in SC's scientific facilities and in commercial products

ASCR – over 70 years of Advancing Computational Science

Beginnings: During the Manhattan Project, John Von Neumann advocated for the creation of a Mathematics program to support the continued development of applications of digital computing

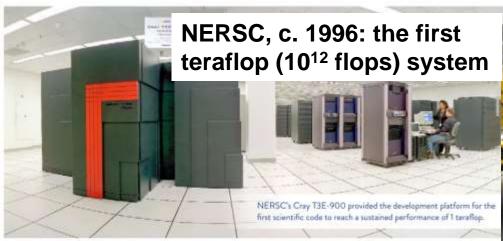








Over 40+ years, ASCR has a rich history of investment in computational science and applied mathematics research, and revolutionary computational and network infrastructure.

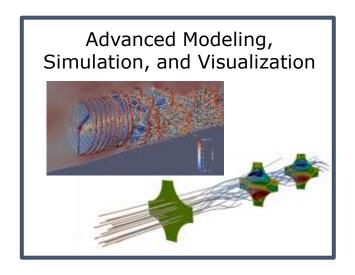


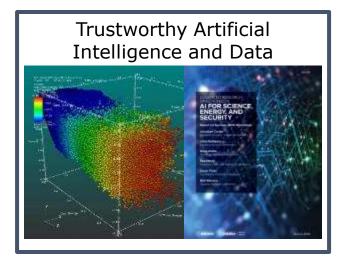


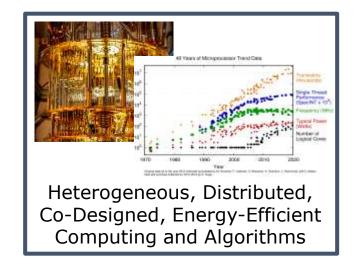
WHY COMPUTATIONAL SCIENCE?

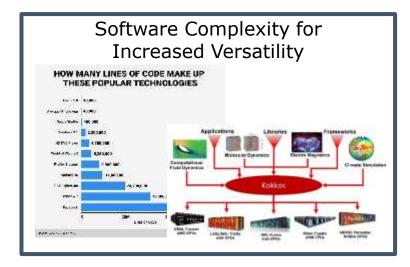
- Computational science adds a third pillar to researcher's toolkit along side theory and experiments
- Computational science is essential when experiments are too expensive, dangerous, time-consuming or impossible
- Computational science facilitates idea-to-discovery that leads from equations to algorithms
- Virtually every discipline in science and engineering has benefited from DOE's sustained investments in computational science

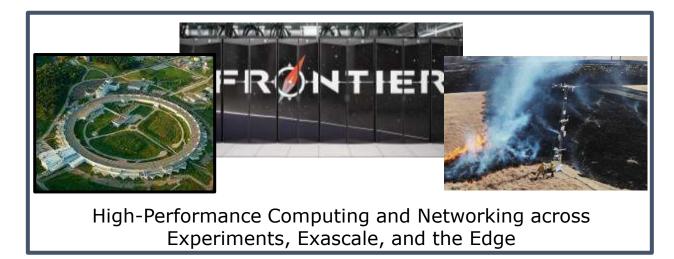
Emerging Technology Trends for Scientific Computing











Exascale Today Enables the AI of Tomorrow

Long-term investments in applied mathematics and computer science enabled exascale.











Frontier, #1 on the Top500, leads the world in computational capability, and is also #2 in the world in energy efficiency, and is #1 in the world for AI capability.

The exascale and AI-enabled science era will lead to dramatic capabilities to predict extreme events and their impacts on the electric grid across weather and climate time scales...



and will accelerate the design and deployment of clean-energy technologies to create a better future.



ASCR R&D Funding ()**

Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

- https://science.osti.gov/ascr/Fundi ng-Opportunities
- Announced on <u>grants.gov</u> (hint: sign up for email notifications for 'ASCR')
- Read each announcement carefully to understand who can apply and other restrictions/requirements
- Depending on the announcement, supports 2–5-year projects
- University researchers can apply directly (please coordinate with your organization's sponsoredresearch office)
- Subcontracting is often permitted, and sometimes collaborative applications are permitted

Early Career Research Program

- https://science.osti.gov/early-career
- Research grants for five years
- Stays with PI if PI changes institutions
- Eligible within 10 years of Ph.D. (can apply up to three times)
- University-based researchers receive about \$175,000/year
- Topics released in the summer, preapplications generally due in the fall

DOE National Laboratory Announcements

- https://science.osti.gov/ascr/Funding
 Opportunities (bottom of the page)
- Open only to DOE Laboratories
- Often allow subcontracts to support collaborators at other organizations

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)

- https://science.osti.gov/sbir
- Grants to for-profit US businesses with 500 or fewer employees (including affiliates)
- Phase I: ~\$200k for 6-12 months,
 Phase II: ~\$1M for 2 years
- Subcontracting is permitted, STTR: requires collaboration with a research Institution
- Topics released in the summer, preapplications generally due in the fall

Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (CSGF)

http://www.krellinst.org/csgf/



Additional Information on ASCR's Website

https://science.osti.gov/ascr/Community-Resources/Program-Documents

https://science.osti.gov/ascr/Funding-Opportunities

About

Research

Facilities

Science Highlights

Benefits of ASCR

Funding Opportunities

Closed Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

Closed Lab Announcements

Award Search / Public Abstracts [3]

Additional Requirements and

Funding Opportunities

Look at past opportunity announcements

germane to the mission of DOE, and solicitations for each research prograselection of researchers to fund is basolicitation. For the most current info shows the original posting dates, characteristics.

Office of Science Guidance a on A

Look at abstracts for current awards

Look at recent reports from ASCR-sponsored workshops. These discuss priority research directions, as identified by the research community, along with relevant background information, in various areas.

ASCR Program Documents

Provided below is a listing of relevant articles, plans and ASCR-sponsored workshop reports.

Select this list view the ASDCLProgram Documents Anthon

ASCR@40: Four Decades of Department Of Energy Leadership in Advanced Scientific Computing Research in Chearethe 2011, the Advanced Scientific Computing Research Computing Research in Chearethe 2011, the Advanced Scientific area of the insign regeat of ABCR and to present place the Assessment Security in the Chearethe 2011, the Advanced Scientific Computing Research and Expension of Security Institute Computing Research (ASCR) and the Security Security Computing Research (ASCR) and the Security Security Computing Research (ASCR) and the Security Securi

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Computing Research Housided Toc Associate Interest Governor investing in contributing rolls as principles residently known for independent and the principles and the contribution of the contribution

5G Enabled Energy Innovation Workshop (5GEEIW)

On March 16-12, 2020, the Office of Sciences (SSC) registering a three-day variability in taken a marriant-boson report highlighting IS and stopped facilities required, stood-carried, application, inclinedary freedom, whitelendam, and demonstration reportables for support of the U.S. DOD means. The functions were separal the high the ODC Office of Sciences indentical facilities having a sent the sportainthes defined by SG and investigate partnersed when the internitions in the sense of bear reasonth, stood-graned, and integration and scientific care health specialism. Of Cover I theoretics (§) Whitten (Appent IS)



Data and Models: A Framework for Advancing AI in Science

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Storage Systems and I/O: Organizing, Storing, and Accessing Data for Scientific Discovery

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ASCR Workshop on In Situ Data Management

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Reading an FOA – Title Page

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT (FOA) NUMBER: DE-FOA-0002725

FOA TYPE: INITIAL CFDA NUMBER: 81.049

Pre-proposals (or Letters of Intent) may be <u>required!</u>

Note the deadlines, including times and time zones.

FOA Issue Date:	April 14, 2022
Submission Deadline for Pre-Applications:	May 5, 2022 at 5:00 PM ET A Pre-Application is required
Pre-Application Response Date:	May 16, 2022 at 5:00 PM ET
Submission Deadline for Applications:	June 13, 2022 at 11:59 PM ET

Reading an FOA – Description

Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THIS FOA SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Technical/Scientific Program Contacts:

Dr. Hal Finkel [Primary] 301-903-1304

hal.finkel@science.doe.gov

The FOA will list the program staff to contact with questions. Email is almost always more convenient than calling.

SUMMARY

The DOE SC program in Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) he its interest in basic research in computer science exploring innovative approach management and storage of scientific data.

You <u>must</u> read the "Supplementary Information" section to understand the scope and requirements.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Modern scientific computing relies on processing a deluge of data coming from both experiments and simulations, with even relatively modest scientific activities generating

Reading an FOA – Description (Out of Scope)

Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Pay particular attention to the "Out of Scope" subsection, which is often present.

Out of Scope

Out of scope for this FOA are pre-applications and applications that:

- Fail to address one or more of the priority search directions specified above;
- Propose approaches that do not generalize to problems in multiple scientific domains;
- Focus primarily on the development or application of data-reduction techniques

Reading an FOA – Pre-Application / Letters of Intent

The pre-application attachment must include, at the top of the first page, the following information:

Title of Pre-application Lead Principal Investigator Name, Job Title

Lead Institution

PI Phone Number, PI Email Address

FOA Number: Include the FOA Number indicated on the cover of this FOA Priority research direction(s), specified in <u>Section I</u>, primarily motivating the proposed work

This information must be followed by a clear and concise description of the objectives and technical approach of the proposed research. The pre-application may not exceed two pages, when printed using standard letter-size (8.5 inch x 11 inch) paper with 1-inch margin. We description of the objectives and

In addition, the pre-application must include a listing of individuals who should not ser merit reviewers of a subsequent application. Detailed instructions for how to craft such are provided in <u>Section VIII</u> of this FOA. This listing will not count toward the pre-app Pay attention to the exact format requested. This is <u>not exactly the same</u> in every FOA. Read the whole section carefully.

There is often a page limit (two or three pages is common, and unlike in the proposal, references may be included).

We often start arranging for merit reviewers based on the preproposals. Accordingly, we ask for a list of people who would have a conflict of interest – please check the referenced section to see the criteria for who should be included.



What Should a Pre-Application / Letter of Intent (LOI) Narrative Contain?

A pre-application / LOI narrative should summarize the answers to key merit-review criteria, for example:

SCIENTIFIC AND/OR TECHNICAL MERIT OF THE PROJECT

- What is the scientific innovation of the proposed research?
- What is the likelihood of achieving valuable results?
- How might the results of the proposed work impact the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research?
- How does the proposed work compare with other efforts in its field, both in terms of scientific and/or technical merit and originality?

COMPETENCY OF APPLICANT'S PERSONNEL AND ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED RESOURCES

- What is the past performance and potential of the research team?
- How well qualified is the research team to carry out the proposed research?
- Are the research environment and facilities adequate for performing the research?
- Does the proposed work take advantage of unique facilities and capabilities?

APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED METHOD OR APPROACH

- How logical and feasible are the research approaches?
- Does the proposed research employ innovative concepts or methods?
- Can the approach proposed concretely contribute to our understanding of the validity of the specified scientific hypothesis or hypotheses?

- What is the scientific challenge being addressed and why is it important now?
- What is the scientific hypothesis and why will investigating it be valuable?
 - Why is it reasonable to believe that the scientific hypothesis is true?
 - Why is it plausible that the scientific hypothesis is wrong?
- What are the best alternative approaches and what is unique about the proposed approach?
 - Why is the approach likely to succeed in the proposed timeframe?
- Who comprises the proposing team and what skills and experience (and, if relevant, facilities) do they bring?



Pre-Application / Letter of Intent (LOI) Review

- For many FOAs, pre-applications or letters of intent may be reviewed, not only for responsiveness, but also for competitiveness.
 - Competitiveness reviews are generally conducted by at least three Federal program managers chosen for their topical knowledge and diversity of perspective.
 - The intent in discouraging submission of certain applications is to save the time and effort of applicants in preparing and submitting applications with a low likelihood of success.
 - Written feedback about pre-applications will be provided upon request after award selections have been announced.
- Many ASCR FOAs are highly competitive, and as a result, most submitted pre-applications are discouraged on competitiveness grounds.
- Regardless of the reason for discouragement, only a boilerplate emails will be sent saying that ASCR, "has
 determined that the proposed work does not satisfy the criteria for encouragement specified in the
 solicitation."

On the Scientific Hypothesis or Hypotheses

A scientific hypothesis should be scientifically interesting (i.e., for ASCR, regarding some unknown aspect of computer science or applied mathematics), it should be reasonable to believe that it is true, and it should be plausible for it to be wrong. Some examples of <u>BAD scientific hypotheses</u>:

 We will make a (tool / library) and it will be (better / faster / enhance productivity more / ...) than other (tools / libraries).

This hypothesis focuses on the skill or capabilities of the researchers, not on underlying unknown system properties or aspects of mathematics or computer science.

This hypothesis is not quantitative or otherwise concrete, and given such ambiguous goals, it is likely not plausibly wrong.

Given the success of technique X in other domains, we hypothesize that technique X can rewrite scientific
applications to achieve a 10000x speedup.

The set of "scientific applications" is very broad. Which classes of applications specifically? And why?

10000x – is this the result of a considered estimate, or just a guess? Is this plausible? And speedup on what?



Reading an FOA – Teams

Section I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Multi-Institutional Teams

SC uses two different mechanisms to support teams of multiple institutions.

COLLABORATIVE APPLICATIONS

Teams of multiple institutions may submit collaborative applications. Each submitted appling in such a team must indicate that it is part of a collaborative project/group. Every partner institution must submit an application through its own sponsored research office. Each multiple institutional team can have only one lead institution. Each application within the multiple institutional team, including the narrative, starting with the title page, and all required appendices and attachments, must be identical with the following exceptions:

SUBAWARDS2

Multi-institutional teams may submit one application from a designated lead institution will other team members proposed as subrecipients.

There are two methods for multiple institutions to partner: collaborative applications and subawards.

Not all FOAs allow both methods!

All institutions submit separate proposals: same narrative, different budgets.

DOE provides money to one institution and that institution has subcontracts to the others.

Reading an FOA – Funding Limits

C. MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM AWARD SIZE

Ceiling

- DOE National Laboratories: \$750,000 per year
- All other applicants: \$300,000 per year

Applications requesting more than this amount of support may be declined without further review.

Pay attention to the ceiling and floor for each application. If you have subawards, their cost is <u>included</u> in the award size to the lead institution.

Violating the limits will likely result in your proposal being declined without review.

Floor

- DOE National Laboratories: \$250,000 per year
- All other applicants: \$100,000 per year

A multi-institutional team, whether applied for as a prime applicant with subawards or as collaborative applications, is limited to a request of no more than \$900,000 per year.

In addition to limits on each applicant's request, there might be a limit on the overall award to a team.

Reading an FOA – Submission Limits

D. LIMITATIONS ON SUBMISSIONS

Applicant institutions are limited to both:

- No more than two pre-applications or applications as the lead institution in a multiinstitution team
- No more than one pre-application or application for each PI.

Note that, as the lead PI, the number of preproposals (and proposals) you submit may be limited. Your institution might also be limited in the number of preproposals (and proposals) it can submit. This may sometimes require coordination within and between departments. Please plan accordingly.

Reading an FOA – Letters

D. CONTENT AND APPLICATION FORMS

LETTERS

Letters from unfunded collaborators or from institutions providing access to data, models, software, equipment, and/or facilities may be appended to your research narrative and are not considered part of the research narrative's page limit. Please ensure that letters from unfunded collaborators or from institutions providing access to data, models, software, equipment, and/or facilities only describe the nature of the collaboration or the access to the aforementioned resources: Letters of support or recommendation are not allowed in applications under this FOA.

Note when letters of support and/or recommendation are requested and/or prohibited.

Reading an FOA – Use Your Sponsored Research Office

Important Instructions to the Sponsored Research Office of Submitting Institutions: SC requires that you create one single machine-readable PDF file that contains the DOE Title Page, project narrative, all required appendices, and other attachments. This six ale PDF file may not be scanned from a printed document and must be attached in Field 8 on the Gra.

While in some cases an individual PI may submit a pre-proposal directly, a PI will almost never directly submit a proposal – please contact your institution's sponsored research office!

Reading an FOA – Project Narrative

The following organization of the Project Narrative is suggested:

- Background/Introduction: Explanation of the importance and relevance of the proposed work as well as a review of the relevant literature.
- Project Objectives: This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project.
- Proposed Research and Methods: Identify the hypotheses to be tested and details of the
 methods to be used including the integration of experiments with theoretical and
 computational research efforts.

Explain your scientific hypotheses and your unique insights! Explain what you are planning to do and why that will provide insight on the validity of the hypotheses.

A well-thought-out research plan and its associated budget(s) should leave no confusion about which institution will do which parts of the research. The background should include numerous citations so that it is clear that you understand the literature and state of the art. The background should also be sufficiently self contained so that a reasonably-informed reviewer can understand your proposal without consulting external sources.

Reading an FOA – Project Narrative (Use Examples)

The following organization of the Project Narrative is suggested:

- Background/Introduction: Explanation of the importance and relevance of the proposed work as well as a review of the relevant literature.
- Project Objectives: This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project.
- Proposed Research and Methods: Identify the hypotheses to be tested and details of the
 methods to be used including the integration of experiments with theoretical and
 computational research efforts.

When motivating your approach, consider using examples. These examples should illustrate how your approach might work and should be:

- Representative (the proposal should explain why the example is representative of an interesting class of cases)
- Non-trivial and distinguishing (the example must be simple enough to explain succinctly but complex enough to demonstrate the superiority of your approach)



Reading an FOA – Other Sections

APPENDIX 1: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

APPENDIX 2: CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT

APPENDIX 3: BIBLIOGRAPHY & REFERENCES CITED

APPENDIX 4: FACILITIES & OTHER RESOURCES

APPENDIX 5: EQUIPMENT

APPENDIX 6: DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

Note that some sections, certainly the DMP, should be customized for each proposal.

APPENDIX: PLAN FOR PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE RESEARCH

For more information on PIER plans, see https://science.osti.gov/grants/Applicant-and-Awardee-Resources/PIER-Plans



Reading an FOA – Review Criteria

2. Merit Review Criteria

- Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project;
- Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach;
- Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources; and
- Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

SCIENTIFIC AND/OR TECHNICAL MERIT OF THE PROJECT

- What is the scientific innovation of the proposed research?
- What is the likelihood of achieving valuable results?
- How might the results of the proposed work impact the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research?
- How does the proposed work compare with other efforts in its field, both in terms of scientific and/or technical merit and originality?
- Is the Data Management Plan suitable for the proposed research? To what extent does it support the validation of research results? To what extent will research products, including data, be made available and reusable to advance the field of research?
- Does the Data Management Plan address the specific requirements in the topic description?

Note the questions that the reviewers are asked to answer and make the answers easy to find in the proposal.

Reading an FOA – Review Criteria

2. Merit Review Criteria

APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED METHOD OR APPROACH

- How logical and feasible are the research approaches?
- Does the proposed research employ innovative concepts or methods?
- Can the approach proposed concretely contribute to our understanding of the validity of the specified scientific hypothesis or hypotheses?
- Are the conceptual framework, methods, and analyses well justified, adequately developed, and likely to lead to scientifically valid conclusions?
- Does the applicant recognize significant potential problems and consider alternative strategies?
- Is the proposed research aligned with the priority research directions identified in <u>Section I</u> of this FOA?

In many cases you will have both scientific and execution risks to address.

Reading an FOA – Review Criteria

2. Merit Review Criteria

COMPETENCY OF APPLICANT'S PERSONNEL AND ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED RESOURCES

- What is the past performance and potential of the research team?
- How well qualified is the research team to carry out the proposed research?
- Are the research environment and facilities adequate for performing the research?
- Does the proposed work take advantage of unique facilities and capabilities?

REASONABLENESS AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE PROPOSED BUDGET

- Are the proposed budget and staffing levels adequate to carry out the proposed research?
- Is the budget reasonable and appropriate for the scope?

QUALITY AND EFFICACY OF THE PLAN FOR PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE RESEARCH

Why is your proposed team staffed, resourced, and positioned for success?

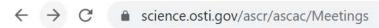
Serving as a Reviewer

- To volunteer to be a reviewer: Reach out to a relevant program manager with a brief overview of your background and interests.
- Reviews are generally conducted by "mail-in" or virtual panel and are managed through DOE's Portfolio Analysis And Management System (PAMS).
- While review panels are useful for surfacing notable aspects of proposals and clarification - ASCR review panels do not seek consensus and do not compare different proposals. ASCR seeks only the individual assessments of each reviewer.
- Reviewers will be asked to provide written assessments for each merit-review criterion

 guided by the list of questions under each criterion. Reviewers are asked to avoid
 providing "yes or no" answers and to maximize constructive feedback.
- Reviewers are asked to focus their comments on the areas that they feel most comfortable reviewing and comment on other aspects of the proposals more broadly.
- Since budgets are limited, reviewers are asked to identify the most important parts of the proposed work.



Finding Out More About ASCR – ASCAC



Meetings

September 2022

July 2022

March 2022

September 2021

July 2021

September 2020

April 2020

January 2020

September 2019

March 2019

December 2018

September 2018

Meetings

ASCR Advisory Committee Meetings

Presentation videos are available.

ASCR ASCAC YouTube Channel

Like and subscribe all ASCAC meetings

Next ASCAC Meeting

The presentations for each meeting are posted.

Public participants must identify an selver organizational affiliation to admitted to

Look for presentations by program leadership for information on future priorities.

Friday, September

- Agenda 🔁
- Presentations

View from GERMANTOV

Barbara Helland []. Associate D

avanced Scientific Computing

Research (ASCR)

ASCR Research Priorities

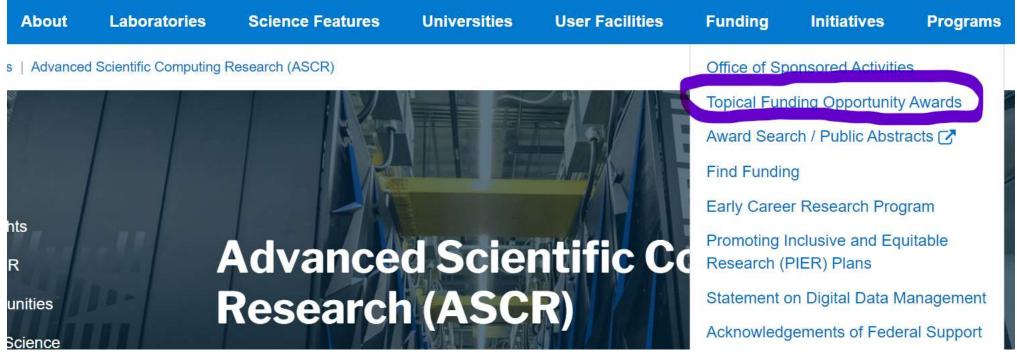
Ceren Susut [2], Research Division Director, Advanced Scientific Computing Research



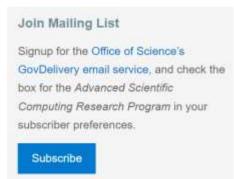
05 AM- 10:45 AM

10:30 AM- 11:15 AM

Award Lists – A New Website Location



Award lists are now posted to https://science.osti.gov/Funding-Opportunities/Award along with other awards from the Office of Science. To receive award and solicitation announcements, and other ASCR-related news, signup for the Office of Science's GovDelivery email service, and check the box for the Advanced Scientific Computing Research Program in your subscriber preferences:



ASCR Office Hours

- Starting in March, ASCR will hold virtual office hours on the second Tuesday of the month, 2 PM ET
- Researchers, educators, and leaders within research administration from all institutional types are encouraged to join
- A primary goal of the virtual office hours is to broaden awareness of our programs; no prior history of funding from DOE is required to join
- Program managers will be available to answer questions
- Upcoming topics include:
 - Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 2pm ET Introduction to the Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing (SciDAC) research program

Check the ASCR website (https://science.osti.gov/ascr/) for Zoom registration links.