The Informal Science Education (ISE) program supports innovation in anywhere, anytime, lifelong learning, through investments in research, development, infrastructure, and capacity-building for STEM learning outside formal school settings.

The ISE program invests in projects that directly target public audiences for self-directed STEM learning through such means as:

- permanent and traveling exhibitions
- films, television and radio series
- educational games
- citizen science programs
- youth and community programs
- cyber-enabled and other emerging learning technologies.

The program also supports projects that target informal STEM education professionals to further knowledge and the implementation of practices, through research studies, conferences, formation of networks, and professional development.
Award Types
The ISE program provides grants for five primary project types:

**Research Projects** – empirical studies, synthesis of research, or theoretical studies intended to move the field forward

**Communicating Researchers and Public Audiences Projects (CRPA)** - informal activities that build on currently funded NSF research, disseminate research findings, and promote STEM learning by the general public

**Pathways Projects** – planning activities, pilot studies, feasibility studies, or work that is on the path toward a major project; planning grant

**Full-Scale Development Projects** – integrated products, programs, or experiences that can stand alone such as exhibitions, television, radio and film productions, community educational programs, cyberlearning resources and tools for the public, and programs and networks for professionals that generate an innovative idea or approach to ISE and evaluates its effectiveness

**Broad Implementation Projects** – products or programs in the ISE field that substantially broaden their “reach” (e.g. geography, age, SES, etc.) and build on prior work

Center for Advancement of Informal Science Education (CAISE):
http://caise.insci.org

Award Information
Estimated Number of Awards: 60 awards; approximately 8 Research, 8 Pathways, 17 Full-Development, 3 Broad Implementation, and up to 24 CRPAs, pending availability of funds; Anticipated funding of $28 million in FY2011 for new awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Types</th>
<th>Award Amounts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>Up to $1,200,000; 3 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRPA</td>
<td>Up to $150,000; 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathways</td>
<td>Up to $250,000; 2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Scale Development</td>
<td>Range $1-3 million; 5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad Implementation</td>
<td>Range $1-3 million; 5 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due Dates
Preliminary proposals are optional and due on August 12, 2011. Full proposals are due January 11, 2012. The program solicitation number is NSF 11-546.

CRPA proposals do not have a deadline and can be submitted at any time.

Contact Information
For more information about the ISE program or to discuss submitting a proposal, please contact an ISE Program Officer at DRLISE@nsf.gov or Ms. Cedil Morgan, Program Specialist, at (703) 292-4752 or by email at cemorgan@nsf.gov.

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To access the program solicitation and to learn more about this program, visit the NSF website at www.nsf.gov and search for ISE.