Overview

PURPOSE

The NISE Network is pleased to make available a limited number of Museum & Community Partnerships "Explore Science" kits designed to facilitate outreach and collaborations. The Network will provide kits to up to 100 NISE Network partner institutions that apply and meet eligibility requirements (see below) and are selected through a competitive review process.

The purpose of the project is to help NISE Network partners:
- Reach underserved audiences in your community that you aren't currently engaging in learning about nanoscale science, engineering, and technology ("nano")
- Create new or expanded collaborations with a local community partner such as:
  - A local community group, afterschool program, library, or summer camp
  - A local chapter of a national youth-serving group such as 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, National Girls Collaborative Project, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Y (YMCA), and YWCA

EXPLORE SCIENCE KIT CONTENTS

- Over a dozen hands-on nano activities, packaged as "classroom sets" for informal settings, with materials for up to four small groups to use simultaneously
- Materials for hosting special events
- Educator training materials, including training videos for each activity
- Professional resources to assist with partnership planning and implementation

TIMELINE

- **September 15, 2015:** Application period opens
- **September 30, 2015, 2pm ET:** Online brown-bag workshop: Planning a Museum and Community Partnership Project (presentations will be recorded and available online)
  http://www.nisenet.org/events/online-workshop/
  online-brown-bag-planning-museum-and-community-partnership-project
- **November 13, 2015:** Last day to submit online application for the Explore Science kit (*Be sure to identify your community partner(s) and confirm their participation before submitting your application!*)
- **February 2016:** Kits are delivered to successful applicants
- **Spring - Summer 2016**: NISE Net partners and community youth-serving organizations collaborate to implement program activities
- **Early 2016 and Fall 2016:** Project evaluators will be contacting museum and community partners directly with brief online surveys about the project; additionally, activity facilitators will be asked to complete short surveys immediately after they present the materials
- **October 15, 2016:** NISE Net partners complete an online report on project activities

ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS

- This project is designed for existing active NISE Network informal science education institutions (such as children's museums, science museums, science centers, museums and university research center outreach programs) within the United States
- Institutions located outside the United States are **not** eligible for this program
- K-12 schools are **not** eligible for this program

Please note: The NISE Network will also offer a digital download version of the Explore Science kit, which will include educational products and professionals resources. Consider downloading a digital kit if your organization does not meet eligibility criteria. Digital kits will be available for download on nisenet.org in February 2016.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

To be eligible, existing NISE Network partners must:

1) **Reach underserved audiences** in your community that you aren't currently reaching with nanoscale science, engineering, and technology

    We recognize that local communities have different levels of existing services, and you may have different needs in your community; possible underserved youth may include:
    - racial and ethnic minorities / communities of color
    - girls
    - low-income / low socio-economic status
    - at-risk youth
    - non-native English speakers
    - disabled / differently abled
    - geographically underserved (e.g. rural or inner city)
    - other underserved audiences

2) **Collaborate with a new or existing community partner** such as
    - A local community group, afterschool program, library, or summer camp
    - A local chapter of a national youth-serving group such as 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs, Boy Scouts, Girls Inc., Girl Scouts, National Girls Collaborative Project, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Y (YMCA), and YWCA

EXAMPLES OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- **Summer camps:**
  - A museum staff member trains community partner staff and volunteers to deliver nanoscale science, engineering, and technology ("nano") activities for children attending a weekly summer camp at a local YMCA
  - A museum staff member delivers nano programming to children attending a Girl Scout summer camp

- **Afterschool programs**
  - Museum and community organization staff co-teach a series of 45-minute classes for fourth graders during an afterschool program run by a 4-H Club
  - Museum staff facilitate drop-in activities for 1-2 hours each afternoon for a five-day "nano week" at a Boys & Girls Club
  - A university outreach group trains adult mentors in nano activities, who then provides programming for middle school girls at a local community center
  - Museum staff partner with a library to offer a weekly nano story time with hands-on activities for parents and their school age children
  - Museum staff train teenage counselors-in-training, who then regularly volunteer at an elementary school afterschool program to deliver hands-on nano activities

- **Family science nights**
  - A museum works with a local PTA to organize a family STEM science night at an elementary school
  - A university outreach coordinator works with a local community partner to host a family science night at the community center

- **Community events**
  - Museum staff participate in a festival or community outreach event hosted by a community youth serving organization, providing nano activities
  - A museum collaborates with a local Hispanic/Latino community organization to host a bilingual nano science event at the museum

- **Working with existing partners to expand existing programs**
  - Expanding an existing partnership with a community group that reaches underserved youth audiences to include nano-related programming that was NOT previously being offered through the partnership

- **Working with new partners**
  - Expanding your current outreach efforts to new partners (e.g. expanding an outreach program from one library to four additional libraries)
  - Working with a new partner to present nano content in an informal educational context (such as an afterschool program, local Boys and Girls Club, PTA, 4H, YWCA, YMCA, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts)

EXAMPLES OF <u>INELIGIBLE</u> PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Offering outreach programming without collaborating with a local youth-serving community partner
- Working with a community organization that does not reach underserved children or youth
- Working with a community organization without including nano content
- Using the kit ONLY for existing NanoDays programs at your institution
- Using the kit ONLY at your institution
- Using the kit ONLY outside the United States

If you have any questions about whether your project meets the eligibility requirements and award criteria, please contact Catherine McCarthy at cmccarthy@smm.org.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted online using SurveyGizmo by November 13, 2015. Applicants must identify their community partner and provide basic information about the partner and proposed project in the online application:

http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/2192229/MCP-Explore-Science-Kit-Application

Please note that it is NOT possible to save your work in the SurveyGizmo online form and return for additional edits. Reports left idle for too long will go blank when you progress to the next screen. Please plan to complete the online report in one session. You may want to write your responses in a Word doc, save, and then cut and paste that information into this report. You may download the application in PDF format and Word Document formats here:

http://www.nisenet.org/museum-community-partnerships

SELECTION PROCESS

The NISE Network will review the Explore Science kit applications and award kits only to organizations that meet the eligibility criteria. A total of 100 kits will be awarded through a competitive award process. Proposals will undergo a peer review process by NISE Network representatives. We will be looking to support proposals that demonstrate strong alignment with the project purpose, that comply with the project terms, and that represent a diverse range of projects. Applicants will be informed of award status in December 2015.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Physical kit recipients are required to complete a short online report describing their experiences with the collaboration and their use of the kit. The NISE Network will provide successful applicants with a link to the final report. The reporting deadline is October 15, 2016.

Evaluation is also a part of this project in a variety of ways. Project evaluators will be contacting museum and community partners directly in early 2016 and in Fall 2016 with brief online surveys about the project. Additionally, activity facilitators will be asked to complete short surveys immediately after they present the materials.