Early External Education in Cybersecurity (E³C)

NCAE-C Grant Program
(Updates and Processes)

September 2023

This presentation was given at the 2023 National Cybersecurity Education Colloquium

Early External Education in Cybersecurity Grants

The **Early External Education in Cybersecurity program** at the National Security Agency offers three distinct grant programs available to various academic institutions and non-profits.

- ▶ National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity Grants (NCAE-C)
- ▶ DoD Cyber Scholarship Program (DoD CySP)
- ▶ GenCyber

Metrics for 2023

- NCAE-C
  - 14 Grants
    - 14 Unique CAEs
- DoD CySP
  - 59 Grants/CAEs
- GenCyber
  - ~80 Grants
    - 65 CAEs

Guidelines for Grants

- Promote fairness across the CAE Community

- Provide access to all NCAE-Cs

- Eliminate the appearance of an unfair advantage

- Meet internal NSA financial goals

- Meet external DoD and Congressional Grants Management Policies

- Improve access to results and findings from grant activities

Contact with the Program Office - Acceptable

▶ Acceptable Contact:

  ▶ Asking about specific forms

  ▶ Asking about submission processes (format, page limits, etc.)

  ▶ Asking for email addresses

  ▶ Asking how to document an item in a proposal

  ▶ Receiving permission from the Program Office employee to call them after hours on a topic not related to a specific grant or solicitation.

  ▶ Emailing requesting a review of a press release

  ▶ Emailing specific grant questions after award. Please contact the correct POC! NCAECgrants@nsa.gov; AskCySP@nsa.gov; GenCyber@nsa.gov

Any NCAE-C found calling a Program Office employee will automatically be disqualified from any and all grant solicitations.

Contact with the Program Office - Unacceptable

- Unacceptable Contact:
    - Calling the Program Office to ask if a project is "what we are looking for?"
    - Calling/emailing a Program Office employee on their personal number/email to ask if a project is what we are looking for
    - Calling to tell the employee what you plan to submit
    - Calling the Program Office during work hours/after hours to talk about plans to meet with your legislative representatives
    - Talking to a Program Office member during a conference to ask for a no-cost extension or budget modification

Any NCAE-C found calling a Program Office employee will automatically be disqualified from any and all grant solicitations.

Invoicing

- Grantees are required to submit an invoice at a minimum once every three months.

- Invoices with a covered period exceeding 6 months must include a justification.

- Any grantee that does not invoice at least once every three months may be placed on the Unliquidated Obligation List and could potentially lose funding.

- Failure to invoice properly will result in denial of no-cost extension and potential option year funding.

- Future government funding is affected by the amount of un-invoiced funding on active grants.

No-Cost Extensions

▶ Must be submitted in writing and emailed to either AskCySP@nsa.gov or NCAECGrants@nsa.gov.

  ▶ May only request once

  ▶ May only be for a maximum of 12 months

  ▶ Grants that have not been invoiced at least 50% at the time of request will be denied.

  ▶ Must be current on any and all reports.

▶ Only leads of coalition grants may request no-cost extensions

▶ GenCyber does not authorize no-cost extensions.

Budget Modifications

▶ Must be submitted in writing to the respective Grant Program Office

▶ You must show the "From By To"

  ▶ From - What was the original amount?

  ▶ By – What are you adding or subtracting?

  ▶ To – What is the new amount?

▶ Budget changes must stay within the original scope of the grant

▶ Only Leads of coalition grants may request modifications

Dino Institute
MOD September 2023

Faculty and Staff							
Position:	**Name**	**Months**	**Rate**	**Total**	**MOD**	**New Total**	**Justification**
PI	Dr. Grant Seeker	10	$ 19,710.00	$ 197,100.00	$ (60,751.00)	$ 136,349.00	reduced to three (3) months at new salary & position
Admin	Helen Parr	12	$ 2,319.00	$ 27,828.00	$ (368.44)	$ 27,459.56	Reduced time to allow
Dino Institute Director	Dr. Helen Marsh	12	$ 19,550.00	$ 234,600.00	$ (54,050.00)	$ 180,550.00	Reduced Dr. Marsh time to allow for project turnover to Dr. Jones
New Project Director	Dr. I. Jones				$ 115,169.44	$ 115,169.44	Dr. Jones will start the project in Spring 2024
				$ 459,528.00		$ 459,528.00	

Options

- Options are not a guarantee
- Options may be awarded if it was included in the original proposed budget
  - We cannot go back and create an option.
- If funding is identified the following criteria has to be met before the option can be awarded:
  - Invoiced for at least 50% or more of the grant
  - Current on all reports
  - Current on invoicing

Issue Date	PoP	Option Eligibility
2022	1 year	2023
	2 years	2024
2023	1 year	2024
	2 years	2025
2024	1 year	2025
	2 years	2026
2025	1 year	2026
	2 years	2027

Reporting

- Each Grant program sets their reporting requirements
  - DoD CySP:
    - Mid-cycle report,
    - Final technical report, and
    - Final SF-425
  - NCAE-C:
    - Mid-cycle report,
    - Final technical report, and
    - Final SF-425
  - GenCyber:
    - Planning/Pre-Camp Outreach,
    - Camp Report,
    - Final Technical Report/Three lesson plans (with post-camp outreach),
    - Final SF-425

Additional Grant Information

- Grants are awarded to the institution and not specifically to the Principal Investigator.
  - It is the institution's responsibility to ensure that the grant is executed and grant funds are spent.
  - If a PI leaves the institution, the grant cannot follow the PI.
  - The institution may sub-contract with the PI to finish the grant.
- The NCAE-C Program Office cannot act as a pass-through for funding or receive earmarks.
  - All funding received by the NCAE-C Program Office for grants must be competed among all the NCAE-Cs.
  - OMB defines earmarks as funds provided by Congress for projects or programs where the congressional direction (in bill or report language) circumvents the merit-based or competitive allocation process, or specifies the location or recipient, or otherwise curtails the ability of the Administration to control critical aspects of the funds allocation process.

How Grants Are Reviewed? Part 1

- Check 1: Are all forms/documents included and in the correct format?
  - **Yes** – Proposal is moved to Check 2.
  - **No** – Proposal is rejected.
- Check 2: Is the NCAE-C Point of Contact identified in the proposal or has provided a letter of support?
  - **Yes** – Proposal is moved to Check 3.
  - **No** – Proposal is rejected.
- Check 3: Is the institution current on their NCAE-C designation and annual report (if required)?
  - **Yes** – Proposal is moved to Check 4.
  - **No** – Proposal is rejected.
- Check 4: Does the institution have current grants with NCAE-C or DoD CySP (GenCyber will be added to this mix in the future)?
  - **Yes** – Proposal is moved to Check 5.
  - **No** – Proposal is moved to the "ready for review pile"

How Grants Are Reviewed? Part 2

▶ Check 5: Since the institution has current/active grants, a review of each grant (up-to 5 years prior) is performed. Calculate point deductions from overall score.

Grant Number	Grant Amount	Invoice Amount	Remaining	Returned	Final SF425	Final Tech Report	% Expended Grant Funds	Outstanding Grant Funding	Outstanding Grant Reports	Returned money	Total
19 CySP	$ 798,000.00	$ 725,000.00	$ -	*$ 73,000.00*	Y	Y	91%	0	0	-10	
20 CySP	$ 150,000.00	$ 139,435.57	$ -	*$ 10,564.43*	Y	Due 12/16/2023	93%	0	0	-3	-3
20 NCAE-C	$ 199,999.00	$ 171,775.15	$ -	*$ 28,223.85*	Y	Y	86%	0	0	-5	-5
21 CySP	$ 509,667.00	$ 413,665.75	$ 96,001.25	$ -	Due 03/30/2024	Due 03/30/2024	81%	0	0	0	0
21 NCAE-C	$ 1,678,112.40	$ 654,377.35	$ 1,023,735.05	$ -	Due 12/30/2023	Due 12/30/2023	39%	-5	0	0	-5
21 NCAE-C	$ 494,702.51	$ 159,293.56	$ 335,408.95	$ -	Due 03/30/2025	Due 03/30/2025	32%	-5	0	0	-5
21 NCAE-C	$ 464,152.89	$ 145,819.26	$ 318,333.63	$ -	Due 03/30/2025	Due 03/30/2025	31%	-5	0	0	-5
22 DoD CySP	$ 588,368.00	$ 207,837.85	$ 380,530.15	$ -	Due 03/09/2024	Due 03/30/2024	35%	-5	0	0	-5
22 NCAE-C	$ 2,236,000.00	$ 758,000.00	$ 1,478,000.00	$ -	Due 12/31/2024	Due 12/31/2024	34%	-5	0	0	-5
	$ 7,119,001.80	$ 3,375,204.49	$ 3,632,009.03	*$ 111,788.28*				-25	0	-18	-43

How Grants Are Reviewed? Part 3

- Check 6: Provide all viable proposals to independent reviewers
  - Reviewers have approx. 30 days, unless a quick turn around is required.

- Check 7: Add scores and average the total.

- Check 8: Process point deductions from total score to obtain final score.

- Check 9: Rank order proposals by final score

- Check 10: Make announcements.

Individual feedback for GenCyber, DoD CySP, and NCAE-C grant submissions is not provided.

Proposal Review Deductions

▶ Amount of outstanding grant funding (failure to invoice) on current grants. Number of grants that have not been invoiced or remain at 50% or less at the mid-point of the period of performance. (*5 points for anything 50% or higher un-invoiced*)

▶ Number of outstanding grant or annual reports (NCAE-C, NCAE-C Grants, DoD CySP, and GenCyber) (*3 points for each missing report*)

▶ Amount of money returned on closed grants

    ▶ *0 points for anything under $500*

    ▶ *3 points for $501 to $10,000,*

    ▶ *5 points for $10,001 to $75,000,*

    ▶ *7 points for $75,001 to $100,000,*

    ▶ *10 points for $100,001 to $150,000,*

    ▶ *Automatic disqualification for any amount over $150,001*

Outstanding Grant Funding

Grant Name	Year	Awarded Amount	Uninvoiced Funds	Unused Amount	Grant Status
DoD CySP	2018	$ 6,327,213.00	$ -	$ 542,600.24	In Close Out
CRRC Grants	2019	$ 1,582,641.00	$ -	$ 83,125.35	In Close Out
DoD CySP	2019	$ 14,773,572.43	$ 149,734.30	$ 784,574.75	In Close Out
NCAEC-001	2020	$ 26,031,435.51	$ 6,327,371.42		Some Active Grants / Others Beginning Closeout
NCAEC-002	2020	$ 5,372,756.23	$ 2,439,621.70	$ 252,625.49	Beginning Close-Out
NCAEC-003	2020	$ 35,151,632.80	$ 8,994,280.13	$ 147,821.15	Some Active Grants / Others Beginning Closeout
NCAEC-004	2020	$ 19,794,352.00	$ 9,632,538.62		Grants are Active
DoD CySP	2020	$ 18,685,560.54	$ 846,376.82	$ 965,445.11	Beginning Close-Out
NCAEC-001	2021	$ 24,585,033.97	$ 15,052,939.86	$ -	Grants are Active
NCAEC-002	2021	$ 9,340,187.89	$ 6,237,006.33	$ -	Grants are Active
NCAEC-003	2021	$ 28,499,999.00	$ 18,936,498.58	$ -	Grants are Active
NCAEC-004	2021	$ 149,880.00	$ 73,684.27	$ -	Grant is Active
DoD CySP	2021	$ 13,660,478.25	$ 821,623.35	$ 390,607.36	Beginning Close-Out
NCAEC-001	2022	$ 43,992,907.83	$ 31,034,193.04	$ -	Grants are Active
NCAEC-002	2022	$ 1,013,282.00	$ 720,333.16	$ -	Grants are Active
NCAEC-003	2022	$ 7,798,980.00	$ 4,953,535.56	$ -	Grants are Active
NCAEC-004	2022	$ 13,999,803.00	$ 13,280,631.06	$ -	Grants are Active
DoD CySP	2022	$ 12,831,826.65	$ 4,268,472.66	$ -	Grants are Active
		$ 283,591,542.10	$ 123,768,840.86	$ 3,166,799.45	

Referencing Your Grant

- XYZ University received a $X00,000.00 a grant (H98230-XX-1-0XXX), from the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (located within the National Security Agency) to fund ABC Project
- A two-year, $000,000.00 grant (H98230-XX-1-0XXX) from the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, which is part of the National Security Agency; will support project ABC.
- This research was funded by a National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity grant (H98230-XX-1-0XXX), which is part of the National Security Agency.
- Students supported through a grant from the DoD Cyber Scholarship Program.
- This research was funded by a grant from the DoD Cyber Scholarship Program, which is funded by the Department of Defense and managed by the National Security Agency
- XYZ Camp was funded via a grant from the GenCyber Program which is housed with the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity and is co-sponsored by the National Security Agency and National Science Foundation.
- This activity was supported by a GenCyber Program grant in the amount of $XXX,000.00

Events/Briefings, etc.

- NCAE-Cs, regardless of grant status, should not brief the NCAE-C, DoD CySP, or GenCyber on a programmatic level. NCAE-Cs should request a program office speaker to provide an overview at events.

- NCAE-C, DoD CySP, and GenCyber grantees are encouraged to present their projects or experiences.

- The NCAE-C, DoD CySP, or GenCyber program offices should not be planning events that were funded as part of your grant award. Program Office individuals may advise on the agenda and provide suggestions on speakers, but they should not be managing the entire agenda or provide support staff.

- The NCAE-C Program Office kindly asks that you provide a heads-up when an event includes one of the federal partners.

Contact/Questions

- NCAE-C Grants: NCAECGrants@nsa.gov

- DoD CySP: AskCySP@nsa.gov

- GenCyber: GenCyber@nsa.gov

- NCAE-C Program Office: CAEPMO@nsa.gov

- Maryland Procurement Office Help Desk – 410-854-5445 (M-F, 8-4PM EST)

- NSA Contract Closeout: Contract_Closeout@nsa.gov

Survey on Cyber Education Requirements

01100011 01111001 01100010 01100101 01110010 00100000 01110111 01101111 01110010 01101011 01100110 01101111 01110010 01100011 01100101 00001010

Sponsor: Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA)
(on behalf of the DoD)

Purpose: To gather perspectives on how to best educate the DoD's cyber workforce to protect the Nation from future cyber threats (findings will be included in a report requested by Congress).

Survey Question Focus:
- Student capacity in cyber programs of study
- Educator staffing levels
- Cyber education preferences and requirements
- Perceptions of future cyber threats
- The need for a National Cyber Academy

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON CYBER EDUCATION BY TAKING A BRIEF SURVEY

(visit the URL or Scan the QR Code below)

https://idaorg.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_251iRbIdGNIdmUC

Robust Software Development: RFI

The NCAE-C Grant Program Office, in conjunction with the NSA's Cybersecurity Directorate, is seeking voluntary information about your secure coding, secure programming, or secure software development offerings on campus. Please respond back to the NCAEC Grant Program Office at NCAECGrants@nsa.gov by September 29 via email and answer the following questions:

- Do you offer classes in secure coding, secure programming, or secure software development? (Yes or No)

- If yes, please list those classes: (*Designator and formal name; example: CMSC 150 Introduction to Security*)

- Do you utilize any commercial or open-source software analysis tools in your curriculum? (Yes or No)

- If yes, please list the tools you use, and describe in a brief statement how you use these tools in your curriculum.

Please understand that this RFI is completely voluntary. Participation does not impact an institution's NCAE-C designation and/or future grant opportunities or funding.

Rita Doerr will be hosting a session on Thursday 21 Sept, in room M201.
Please visit if you have more questions