What is the purpose of these regulations?

(a) The regulations in this part implement Executive Order 12372, "Inter-governmental Review of Federal Programs," issued July 14, 1982 and amended on April 8, 1983. These regulations also implement applicable provisions of section 401 of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968.

(b) These regulations are intended to foster an intergovernmental partnership and a strengthened Federalism by relying on state processes and on state, areawide, regional and local coordination for review of proposed Federal financial assistance and direct Federal development.

(c) These regulations are intended to aid the internal management of the Foundation, and are not intended to create any right or benefit enforceable at law by a party against the Foundation or its officers.

What definitions apply to these regulations?

Foundation means the National Science Foundation.

Order means Executive Order 12372, issued July 14, 1982, and amended April 8, 1983 and titled "Inter-governmental Review of Federal Programs."

Director means the Director of the National Science Foundation or an official or employee of the Foundation acting for the Director under a delegation of authority.

State means any of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

What programs and activities of the Foundation are subject to these regulations?

The Director publishes in the Federal Register a list of the Foundation’s programs and activities that are subject to these regulations.

What is the Director’s obligation with respect to Federal inter-agency coordination?

The Director, to the extent practicable, consults with and seeks advice from all other substantially affected Federal departments and agencies in an effort to assure full coordination between such agencies and the Foundation regarding programs and activities covered under these regulations.

What procedures apply to the selection of programs and activities under these regulations?

(a) A state may select any program or activity published in the Federal Register in accordance with § 660.3 of this part for intergovernmental review under these regulations. Each state, before selecting programs and activities, shall consult with local elected officials.

(b) Each state that adopts a process shall notify the Director of the Foundation’s programs and activities selected for that process.

(c) A state may notify the Director of changes in its selections at any time. For each change, the state shall submit to the Director an assurance that the state has consulted with elected local elected officials regarding the change. The Foundation may establish deadlines by which states are required to inform the Director of changes in their program selections.

(d) The Director uses a state’s process as soon as feasible, depending on individual programs and activities, after the Director is notified of its selections.

How does the Director communicate with state and local officials concerning the Foundation’s programs and activities?

(a) For those programs and activities covered by a state process under § 660.6, the Director, to the extent permitted by law:

(1) Uses the state process to determine views of state and local elected officials; and

(2) Communicates with state and local elected officials, through the state process, as early in a program