Obtaining Funding through the SFC CESU

1. There is no fixed mechanism for obtaining funding through the CESU.
2. Each Federal agency has its own mechanism for distributing funds and its own internal mechanism for obtaining funds for projects in a specific area.
3. Typically federal employees apply for funds internally on an annual basis which are in turn released to academic partners.
4. In order for a member of an academic partner to obtain funds they should contact a member of a federal agency who might have interest in their research. Pending a constructive agreement, the academic partner may persuade the federal partner to access funds internally which would at some future point be released. For example a NPS persons applied within the NPS for funds for a specific project. Once these funds are approved internally then they can be given to the academic partner.
5. In addition to the above mechanism there are periodic request for assistance issued by the federal partners. These are typically posted on the web site.
6. In the case of the NPS there is a RFP released under the broad agency agreement (BAA). Application to this program is more like applying for a NSF grant. Do not expect that these proposals will be rigorously reviewed or that even if the reviews are good that the proposal will be supported. Projects which are supported are usually at the discretion of the NPS. Usually academics are not given copies of the reviews and are rarely informed of the outcome of their submissions.
7. The most success method of obtaining funding through the CESU is to establish working relationships with federal agencies and personnel.