Fermi Proposal Workshop

- Welcome!
  - The goal of this workshop is to provide you with an overview of the Fermi GI program and the information and resources you need to write an excellent proposal. Feedback welcome!

- Workshop Agenda

- 2:00-3:30 PM (EST), Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

• Welcome, Session Overview, and Goals	Andrea Prestwich
• Mission Overview and News	Judy Racusin (~10 min)
• Overview of FSSC Online Services	Joe Eggen (~10 min)
• GI Program Description	Andrea Prestwich (~20 min)
• Questions, discussion	All

Fermi Science Support Center (FSSC)

- Broad community participation is critical to the scientific productivity of the Fermi mission. The FSSC enables this through:

  ✓ Making data products and analysis tools available to the community (Joe’s talk!)

  ✓ A General Investigator program for financial support, observing time on partner facilities and high-end computing.

  ✓ Also provide direct support to Fermi users.

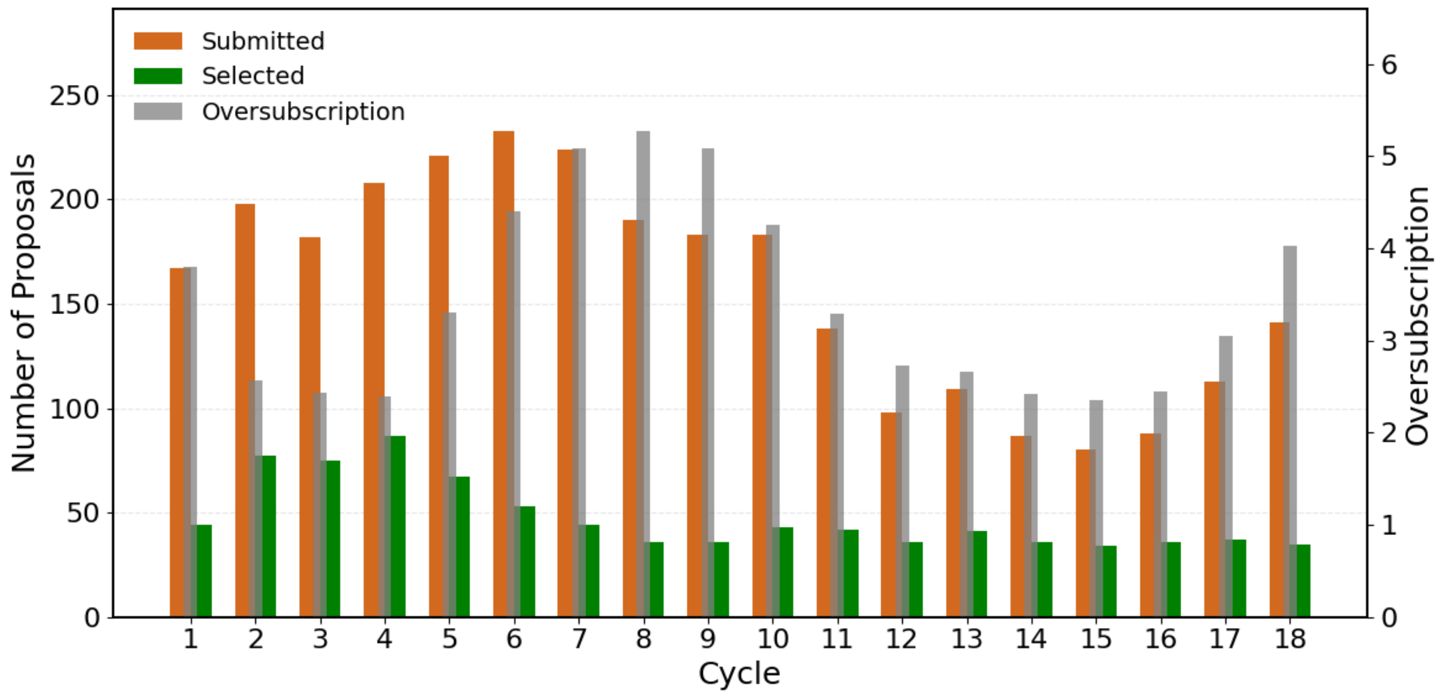
Program Overview

- US participants can propose for funding :
  - Analysis of all public data products
    - Includes development and dissemination of methodologies, e.g., algorithms, SW tools
  - Correlated observations relevant to Fermi **(open to international investigators)**
    - Includes opportunities for joint observation programs w/partner observatories; NRAO, NOIRlab, VERITAS, TESS
    - Proposers with separate access to other observatories can propose correlative programs
  - Theoretical investigations relevant to Fermi
  - High end computing request

Program Overview

- 2-stage review process
  - Phase 1 - *science review*
    - Proposers describe their science goals with a work plan and required resources
  - Phase 2 - *budget proposals* are solicited from successful first stage proposers
    - Internal review by NASA
- Support for ~35 research programs
  - Our goal is for ~$75k average grants
  - Also 1+/-1 new Large Projects @ ~$125k per year

Recent History: Cycle 13-18 Summary



- ~35 selected per cycle
- Uptick in number of proposals in Cycle 17-18 (141)
- Recent Fermi selection rate is consistent with the average for NASA GO programs

Joint Observation Programs

The Fermi project has partnerships with NRAO, NOIRlab, VERITAS and TESS.

Take home: often significantly undersubscribed so if you write an excellent proposal chances are good it will be approved!

Facility	Requested	Approved	Available
NRAO (hours)	958	179	450-600 hrs on GBT, VLA & VLBA
NOAO (hours)	79	2	3-5% for various telescopes
VERTAS (hours)	41	14	120 hours
TESS	0	0	1,000 2-minute cadence and 50 20-second cadence target slots

Cycle 18 statistics

Important Considerations for Joint Proposals

- Prospective proposers should carefully review the MOUs and contact the partner observatory helpdesks with technical questions.
- A ***one-page appendix*** will be evaluated for technical/programmatic considerations by the partner observatories.
- Scheduling of observations is to be negotiated by approved PIs.

Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope

Programmatic Breakdown

- The program is **topically diverse**

The range of supported activities is also diverse –

LAT data analysis

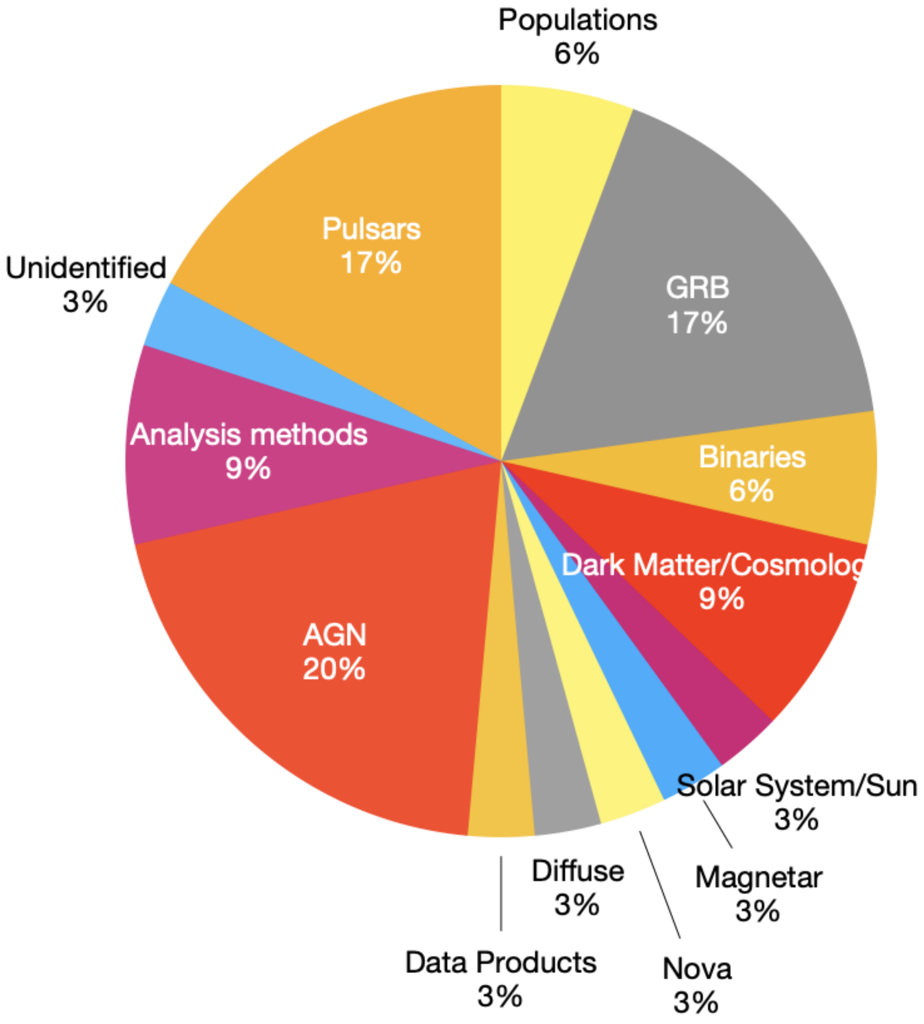
GBM data analysis

Correlated MW observation

Theory

Analysis Methods & software

- Program supports a **wide range of institutions and projects**: universities, federal labs, non-profits, small research groups and long-term and large projects.



Proposal Evaluation Process

Following the model of all NASA GI/GO programs each proposal is evaluated by a NASA-convened, anonymous peer-review panel.

The agency strives for fairness and equity in this process. Effort is made to optimize the collective expertise pool for participation in this process.

Initiated in Cycle 14 and continuing henceforth Fermi has employed a **dual-anonymous peer review process.**

What is Dual-Anonymous Peer Review?

In dual-anonymous peer review, the reviewers do not have explicit knowledge of the identities of the proposing team during the scientific evaluation of the proposal.

The primary intent of dual-anonymous peer review is to eliminate “the team” as a topic during the scientific evaluation of a proposal.

This creates a shift in the review-panel discussions, away from the individuals, and towards a discussion of the scientific merit of a proposal.

The goal is to **eliminate or at least minimize Conscious and Subconscious Bias** in the selection process**.**

Cycle 19 Timeline

29 January 2026, Proposal due date

- Significantly earlier than in previous cycles
  - ~late April 2026: virtual peer-review meeting
  - ~late May/early June 2026: Stage-I selections
  - July stage-II awards

We hope to again select 30-40 programs

Significant change: updated TOO program

Additional Information

The FSSC page gives further details on

- Proposals
- On-line resources – software and data products
- Updated TOO guidelines
- FSSC Helpdesk

Good Luck!