

FED STUDY ON THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SENIOR DATING

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** National Science Foundation
- **FUMBLE:** \$374,087 senior adult dating study
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Require a thorough disclosure and transparency process for federal grants to ensure funding focuses on items of national interest



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NSF strikes again—this time by funding research intended to delve into the dating habits of single adults over the age of 60. The study, “Understanding Age-Related Changes in Relationship Maintenance Strategies,” questions whether the mature population’s accumulation of life experience impacts approaches toward conflict in relationships. Apparently the existing “close relationships

research,” which predominantly centers around the actions of senior adults, will cost taxpayers nearly \$375,000.²⁵⁵

The study began in the summer of 2015, and completion is estimated for late spring of 2018. That is three years of playing date-doctor with the unclear objective of obtaining a “more comprehensive understanding of relationship maintenance efforts.”²⁵⁶

RECOVERY

NSF needs to state with greater clarity how research findings can practically benefit policy development. Given the federal government’s debilitating debt debacle, Congress needs to determine the spending items that realistically fall within the national interest. Unless this “federal Match.com” for seniors develops policy solutions to bring down the debt, maybe this one is better left to the private sector.

For more information, please visit:

[NSF: Understanding Age-Related Changes in Relationship Maintenance Strategies](#)

[The Washington Free Beacon: Feds Spend \\$185,850 Studying the ‘Ups and Downs’ of Old People’s Dating Lives](#)