



**NSF EPSCoR**

ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



# EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems RII (E-CORE RII) (NSF 23-587)

## Webinar

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*Program Director*

*NSF EPSCoR*



# Have created two new RII opportunities that will:

- **Provide more opportunity** for each jurisdiction to be aware of, and develop its own unique strengths and/or respond to its own needs and challenges
- Will develop **collaborations across the jurisdiction** to be able to build research capacity for, and, across the jurisdiction (not single institution awards!)
  - Collaboration of multiple institution and organization types is encouraged
- Will **position the jurisdiction** to be competitive for wider NSF funding beyond EPSCoR
- Provide the mechanism for the jurisdiction to respond and **develop dynamically** over time to it's needs in a matrix-type strategy
- **Leads to jurisdiction-driven research competitiveness and thus, EPSCoR Goals**



**NSF EPSCoR**



ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

There are two new opportunities available

EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research  
Ecosystems RII (E-CORE RII) (NSF 23-587)

and

EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM  
Excellence RII (E-RISE RII) (NSF 23-588)



There are two new opportunities available

EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research  
Ecosystems RII (E-CORE RII) (NSF 23-587)

and

EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM  
Excellence RII (E-RISE RII) (NSF 23-588)



E-CORE responds to the need of  
a fundamental research  
ecosystem approach that is  
dynamic and can be tailored to  
a Jurisdiction's unique needs



**NSF Investments**

Community,  
Stakeholders,  
and Public

Jurisdictional  
EPSCoR  
Steering  
Committee  
  
S&T Plan

EPSCoR-RII  
Investments  
  
E-RISE RII  
RII Track-2  
RII Track-4

Other  
NSF Centers  
or Center-Like  
Activities  
(Not limited to  
state)

Other  
Research or  
Translational  
Activities in  
State or  
Nationally

**Academic  
Institutions**

R1 Institutions

Emerging Research  
Institutions including  
Primarily Undergraduate  
Institutions

Community  
Colleges

Minority Serving  
Institutions

State and Local  
Resources and State  
and Local Government  
Agencies

Partnerships  
• Industry  
Partnerships  
• Tribal Partnerships  
• Public and Private  
Partnerships

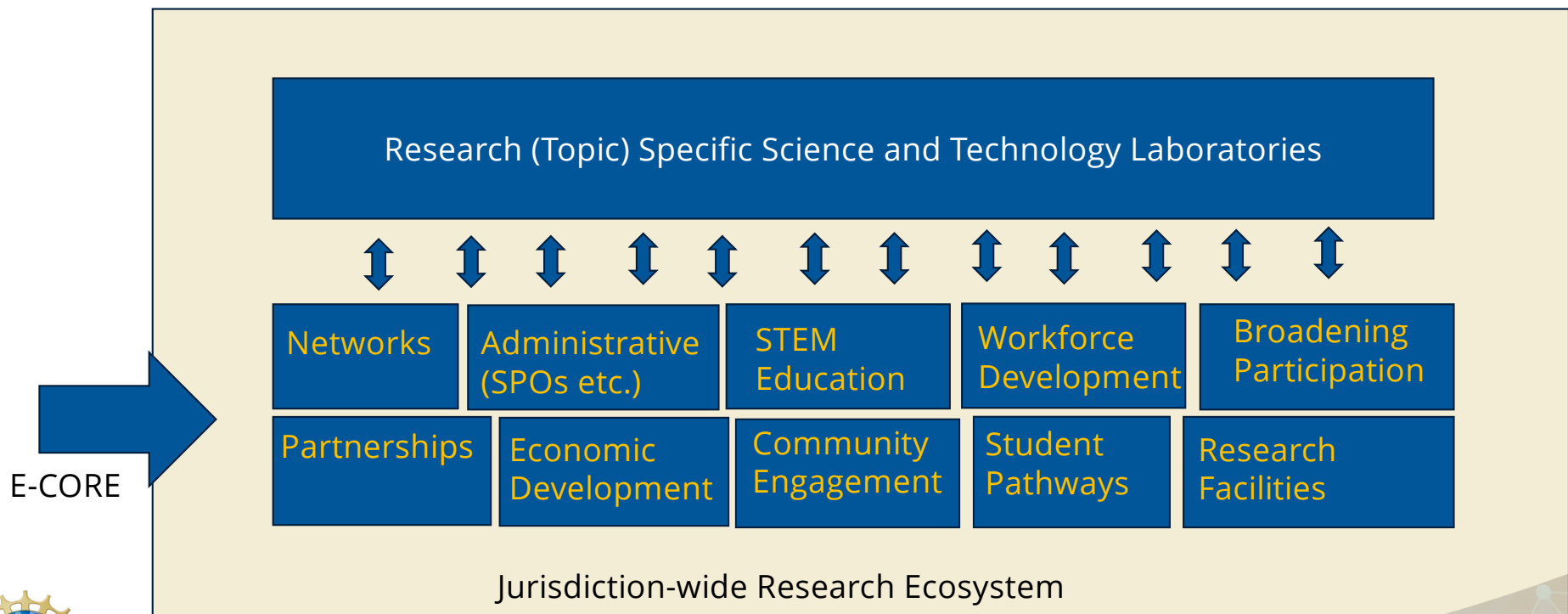
Other Federal  
Infrastructural Support  
e.g. NIH, USDA, DOE, DOD,  
NASA

**Other Jurisdictional and Local Sectors**

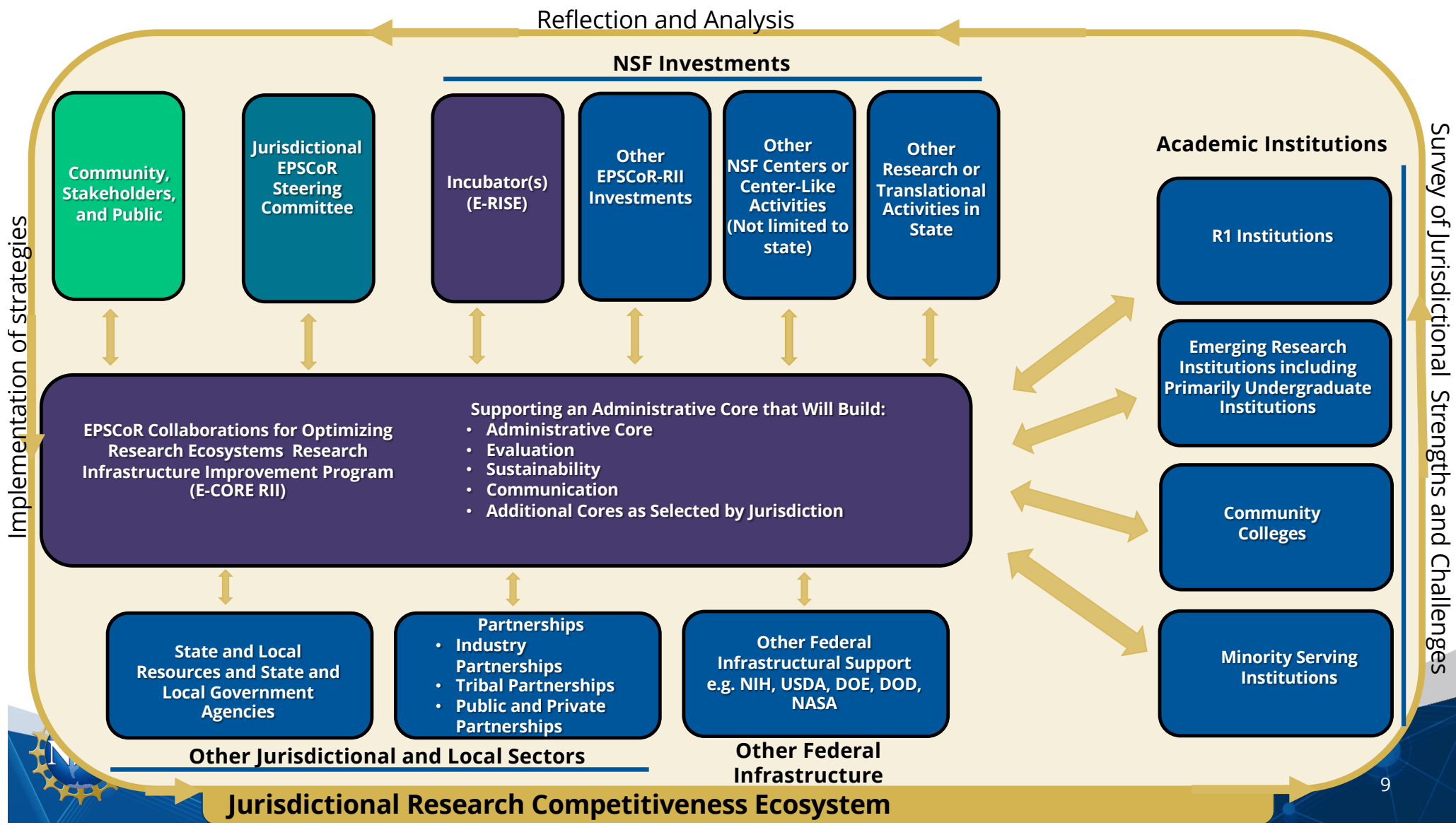
**Other Federal  
Infrastructure**

**Jurisdictional Research Ecosystem (Irrespective of research topic)**

# E-CORE is aimed at building the fundamental research infrastructure of the jurisdiction







# The E-CORE RII Program aims to support EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions to:

1. Address challenges and opportunities in research infrastructure specific to the current and evolving needs of a jurisdiction's science and technology research ecosystem;
2. Build capacity for jurisdiction-wide investigator expertise into critical masses for sustained, effective, research and education partnerships and funding; and
3. Develop pathways to broaden the participation of institutions and individuals in the jurisdiction's research ecosystem.



# Structure of E-CORES

- More than one proposal per jurisdiction is allowed
- More than one E-CORE per jurisdiction is allowed (depending on availability of funds)
- Funded for \$2M/year for four years
- Renewal of \$2M/year for an additional four years depending on progress
- Possible total of \$16M per E-CORE project
- Cooperative agreement
  - with a Reverse Site Visit/Site Visit in Year 3-4



Successful E-CORE RII proposals should establish a **time-bound sustainable** vision for how the planned effort will **substantively and wholistically enhance the R&D competitiveness** of the jurisdiction's colleges and universities, including its emerging research institutions (which include primarily undergraduate institutions, two-year institutions, and minority-serving institutions), and other key players in the **jurisdiction's research ecosystem**.

E-CORE RII projects should create **sustainable core efforts** that will be continued beyond the award period and include opportunities to **re-evaluate and develop** as the needs of the jurisdiction-wide research ecosystem evolve.



# An E-CORE project has two major parts

- Administrative Core
- Additional Cores



# What will an E-CORE look like?

Administrative Core (Required)



# Purpose of the Administrative Core

- Broadening Participation and Collaboration
  - Know WHO is there across the ENTIRE jurisdiction
- Connections
  - Bring everyone who wants to participate to find a place in the Jurisdiction's research ecosystem
- Goals, Metrics, and Evaluation
  - Know that research capacity is being built in a measurable way
  - Work with the Jurisdictional EPSCoR Steering Committee to connect what is being done within the jurisdiction and other jurisdiction-wide efforts (budget included)
- Leadership and Communication Capacity
  - Build and empower leadership across the jurisdiction
- Jurisdictional Development
  - Need to be able to describe how research capacity is being built and how it will contribute to the nations STEM enterprise

**Continual Improvement and Assessment of the Jurisdictional Research Ecosystem**



# Purpose of the Administrative Core

How can Admin core build partnerships?

You define it

One mechanism could be seed funding and workshops

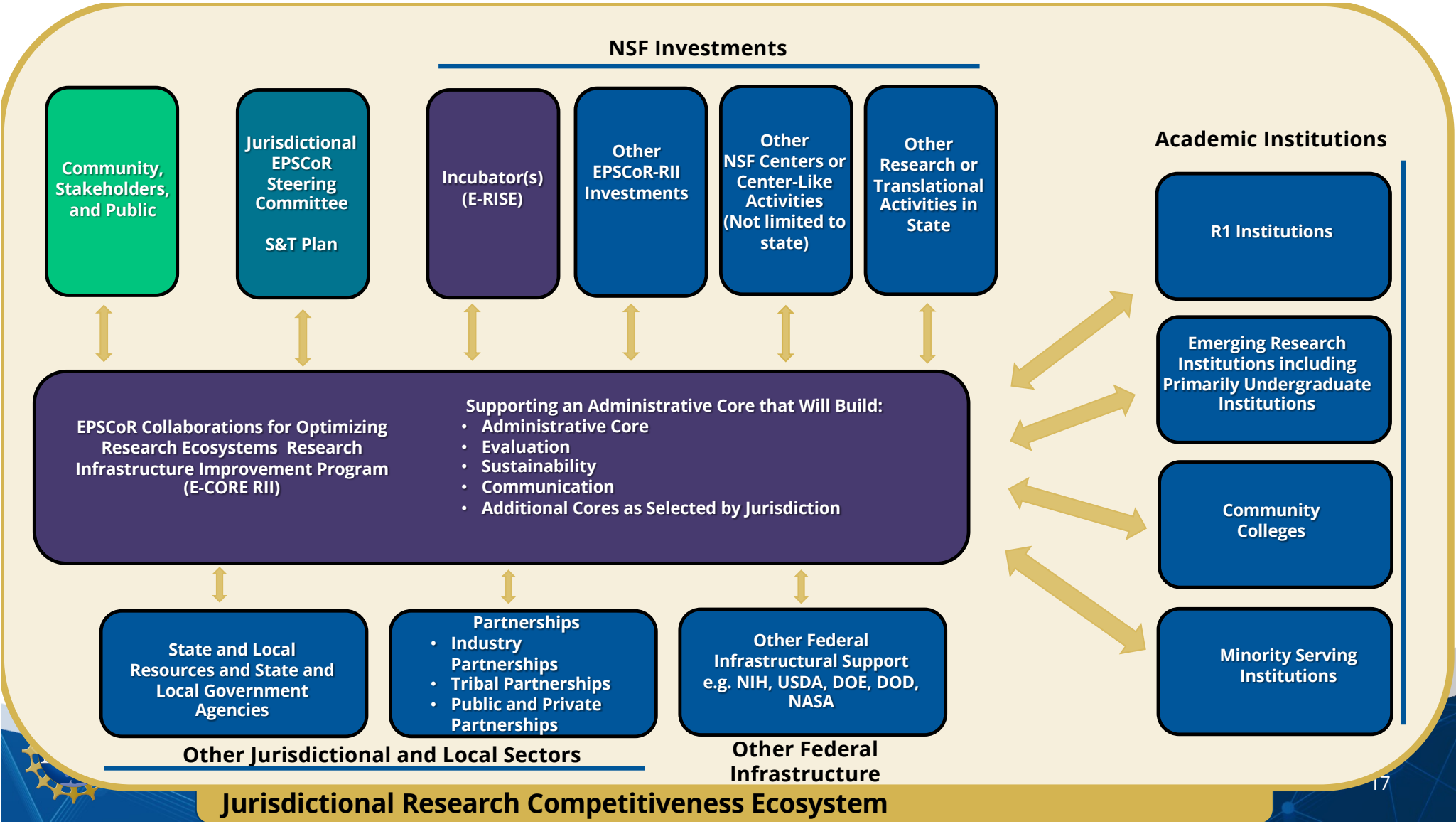
Connect individuals to teams

Teams to teams

Workshops and facilitate non-obvious connections







# What will an E-CORE look like?

Research Support Core

Academic Inf. and Rsh, Fac, Core

Higher Ed. Pathways Core

STEM Edu (K-16) Core

Workforce Development Core

Broadening Participation Core

National and Global Partnerships Core

Community Engagement Core

Economic Development and Use-Inspired Core

Early Career Research Trainee Pathway Core

"Other" Core

Jurisdictional

- Needs
- Challenges
- Strengths



Administrative Core (Required)



# How do I select COREs?

- Based on demonstratable research capacity needs in the **jurisdiction**
- proposal should **provide a justifiable and data-driven rationale** for the incorporation of the targeted core(s)
- selection of a core must be based on **evidence-based analysis** and be **justifiable** in terms of data illustrating the need for that core within the **jurisdiction**

## How many COREs?

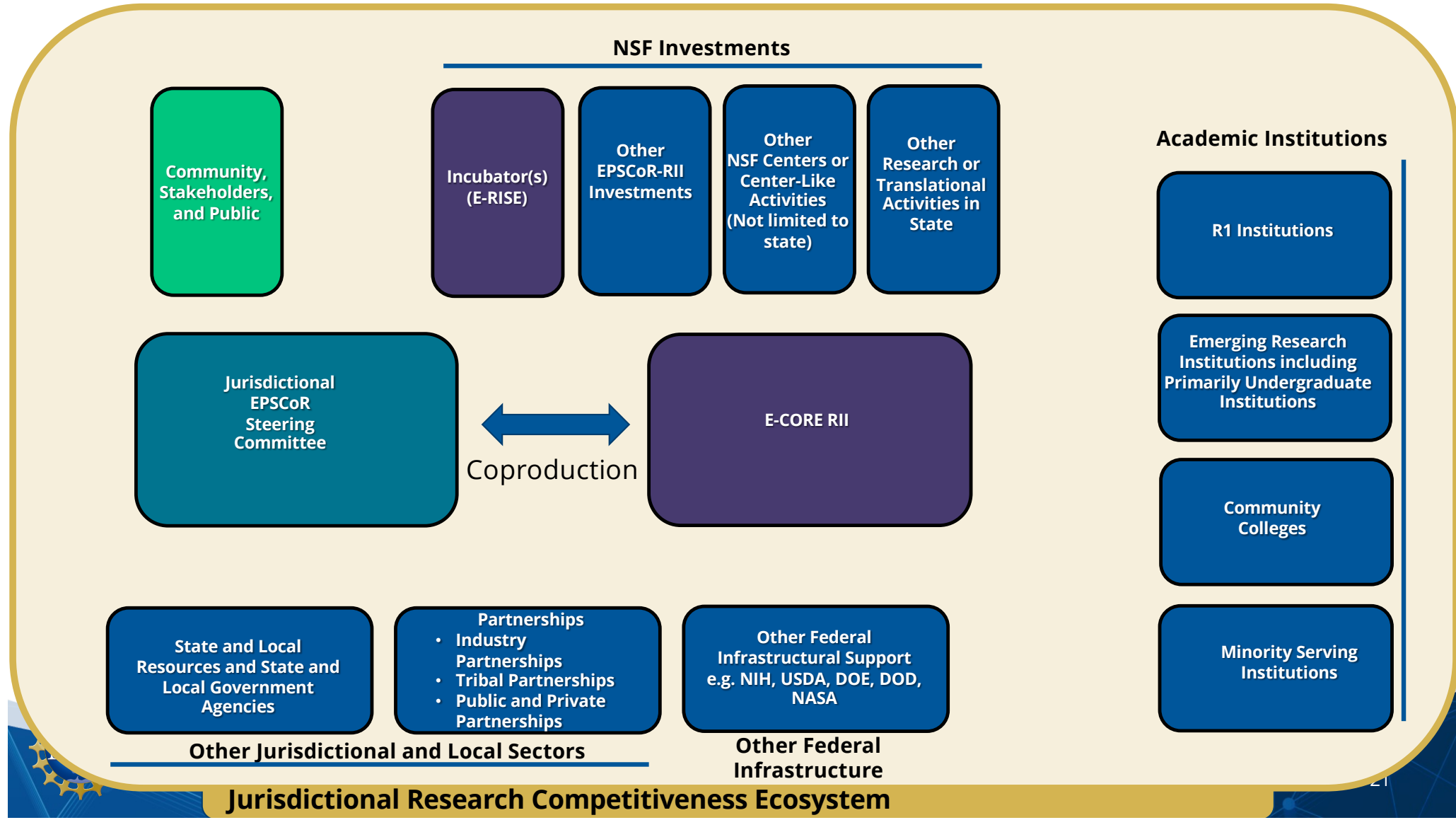
- may focus on any given number of cores relevant to the proposed scope of work and budget request
- projects should focus on **depth** rather than breadth in their selection of cores.

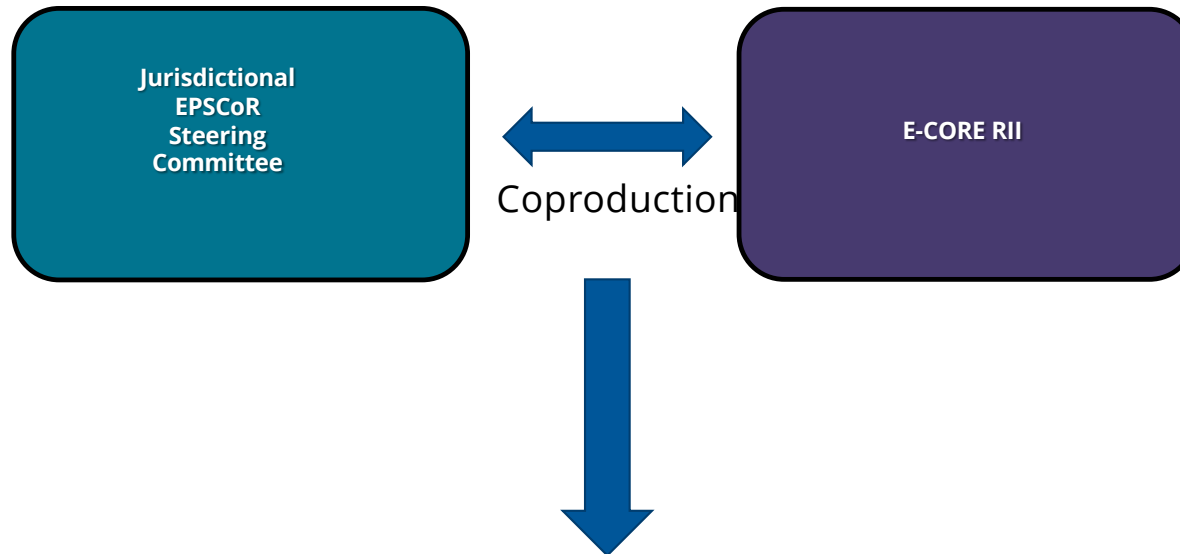


# Role of Jurisdictional EPSCoR Steering Committee

- Role is redefined
- Membership should be unique to the jurisdiction and defined by the jurisdiction
- Key role connecting entities beyond traditional NSF EPSCoR reach and engage them into the full research enterprise for the jurisdiction (35k view)
- A wide and diverse membership is critical
  - (sectors, diversity of institution types, perspectives, and individuals etc.)
- Charged with working in a co-productive manner to
  - Work with E-CORE(s) and others to understand the dynamic ecosystem of research in the jurisdiction (including all federal investments and other sectors)
  - Provide connections for networks to develop where appropriate
  - Working with E-CORE(s) and others to continually assess and identify jurisdictional research strengths, challenges, and barriers and help provide demonstratable evidence
  - Working with E-CORE(s) and others to develop S&T Plans
- 5% of each E-CORE budget is allocated to these activities







### **Jurisdictional Science and Technology Plan (living document)**

Shows strengths, needs and challenges in to the jurisdiction-wide research ecosystem

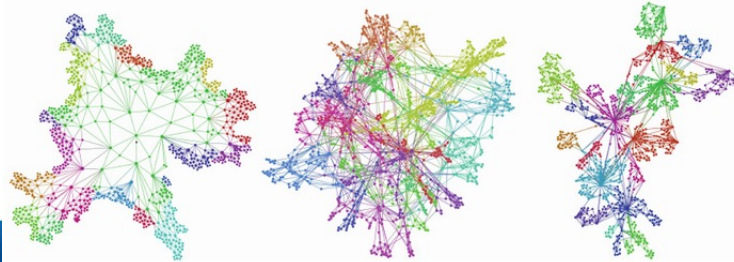
Identifies priorities

- Fundamental research infrastructure (addressed by E-CORE)
- Opportunities to build research strength (addressed by E-RISE)



# C-CORE Renewal

- **By the end of Year-3 an E-CORE project will demonstrate**
- **Evidence of growing networks** of people in and **across the jurisdiction**
- Continued **analysis** of jurisdictional research ecosystem as it develops
- A criterion for successful renewal funding is to secure additional funding to **continue the development and implementation** of successful programs initially supported by the project's cores
- Proposal and Reverse Site Visit/Site Visit (details in a solicitation to come)



# What will an E-CORE Renewal look like?

Academic Inf. and Rsh, Fac, Core

Higher Ed. Pathways Core

STEM Edu (K-16) Core

Workforce Development Core

National and Global Partnerships Core

Community Engagement Core

Economic Development and Use-Inspired Core

Early Career Research Trainee Pathway Core

"Other" Core

Jurisdictional

- Needs
- Challenges
- Strengths



Administrative Core (Required)

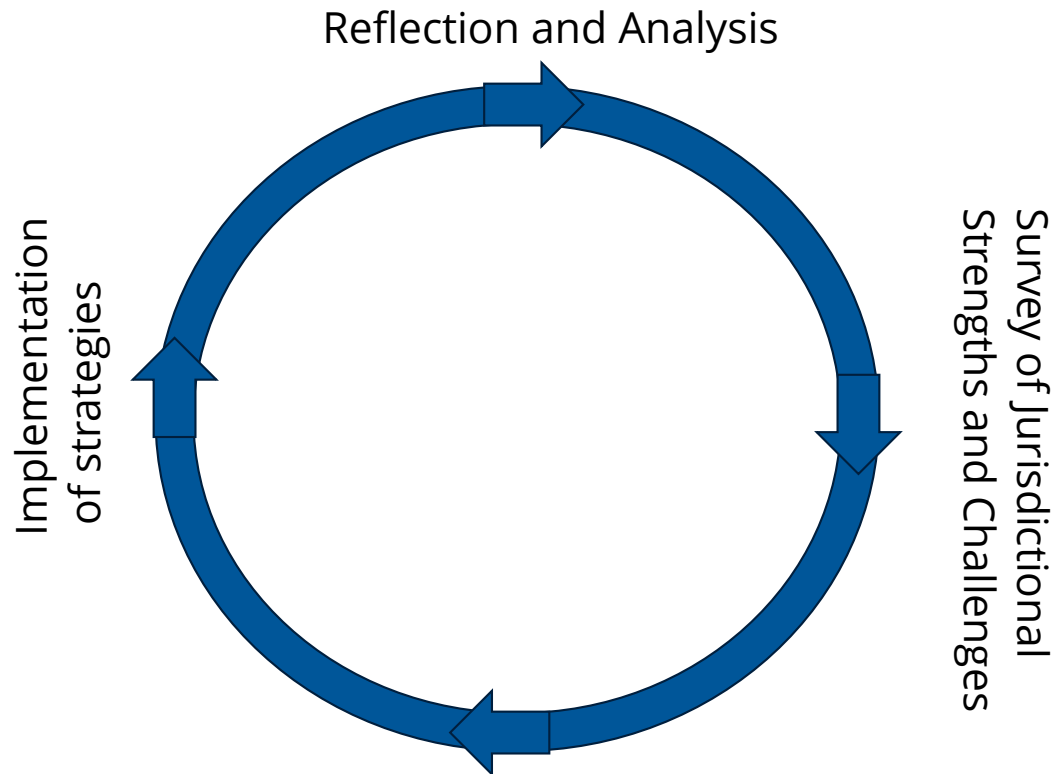
Broadening Participation Core

Research Support Core





# Based on total process improvement



- This will look different for different jurisdictions
- E-CORE is designed to address the needs of a jurisdiction within its unique capacity in a dynamic way
  - Capacity
  - Need
  - Impact
  - Accountability
- Seated in data-based evidence



**Jurisdictional Research Competitiveness  
Ecosystem Development**

# Important Points

Will will accept, and consider for funding, any number of proposals in a given jurisdiction based on Merit Review Criteria



# To be Eligible to compete for E-CORE

- Be in an EPSCoR Jurisdiction
- Be from an institution/organization that either
  - Is in the fifth or final year of an RII Track-1
  - Are from an **institution that is not involved in the current RII Track-1** (as defined by the “List of Participating Organizations” in the original RII Track-1 submission)
- Have an active Jurisdictional Steering Committee with current by-laws to support STEM research
- Having a jurisdictional Science and Technology (S&T) Plan that has been officially accepted and approved by the jurisdiction
- Even if **you** are not involved in the current RII Track-1, but your **INSTITUTION** is involved, you are **not** eligible to receive funds from E-CORE
- Your institution organization may **not** be a lead or a collaborator of an RII Track-1 submission to NSF 23-582, **and** also apply to E-CORE as a lead or a collaborator



# Eligibility (E-CORE)

## If you meet the previous criteria:

- Jurisdiction
  - No Limit on submissions per jurisdiction
- Institution/Organization
  - Your organization may lead on a single E-CORE. It may also collaborate in a non-lead role or a sub award on any number of E-RISE and E-CORE awards/submissions.
- PI
  - Must be affiliated and employed by an eligible organization in an EPSCoR jurisdiction
  - Each collaborating institution or organization must be represented by a PI or at least one co-PI.
- Number of proposals per PI
  - PI or Co-PI on one (active or pending), may serve as senior personnel on any number



# Collaboration

- E-CORE RII submissions **should be multi-institutional or multi-organizational**, with a lead institution/organization and additional collaborating partner(s), which **may include academic and nonacademic organizations**. Collaborations must be indicative of **building or enhancing research infrastructure core(s) within the jurisdiction and an inclusive jurisdiction-wide network that is able to connect major research efforts and individuals in the jurisdiction's research ecosystem**.
- It is encouraged that the **lead** institution/organization or **at least one collaborative partner** be an Emerging Research Int. Minority Serving Inst, Primarily Undergraduate Inst (including two-year colleges), Institutions of higher education that are dedicated to serve students with disabilities, and/or Degree-granting women's colleges
- Collaborations with other EPSCoR jurisdictions, non-EPSCoR jurisdictions, and international entities are allowed provided there is **significant justification** outlining a **critical need** that cannot be fulfilled in the home jurisdiction. However, since EPSCoR program funds may only be allocated for activities and personnel within an EPSCoR jurisdiction, participation of collaborators in **non-EPSCoR jurisdictions must be as an unfunded collaborator**.



## Questions (myth busting)

- I have a program at my own university that I want to build... Will I be competitive?
  - No, all E-CORE projects are set to build **jurisdiction-wide** infrastructure and should be seated within the context of **jurisdictional** research infrastructure needs
- Only R1's or "big universities can lead"
  - No, we encourage submissions led from all kinds of institutions/organizations located within the jurisdiction and will consider all submissions according to the merit review criteria
- I have a ton of different institutions I want to include and there is not enough space on the coversheet... what do I do???
  - You may submit either as a "Single proposal (with or without subawards)" or as a "Separately submitted collaborative proposal."
- My jurisdiction is submitting many E-CORE proposals, will I even be considered?
  - All proposals will be measured and considered for an award based on the NSF Merit Review process according to the criteria expressed in the solicitation



# Merit Review Criteria

- In addition to Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts all proposals will be reviewed according to the additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria
- **Connection and potential impact of E-CORE RII to both jurisdictional needs and research capacity, as well as EPSCoR Mission and Goals**
  - *Are all cores well justified to the needs of the jurisdiction? Is there the potential, as evidenced by data, for each core to substantially benefit the jurisdictional research capacity? Are the cores aligned to EPSCoR mission and goals? Are the efforts sustainable, with a clear pathway to sustainability?*
- **Support of diversity and a culture of inclusion of different institution types and sectors (e.g., academia, industry, and government)**
  - *How well does the proposal describe how the project and project leadership embody diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility throughout all of its activities to create a jurisdiction-wide vision? Are clear, measurable goals and metrics specified?*
- **Plan for project management, leadership, and partnerships**
  - *Does the proposal provide a reasonable plan for forming a visionary and effective leadership team? Does the proposal describe a well-informed process by which all necessary disciplines, skills, perspectives, and capabilities will be brought together to form an interdependent, multidisciplinary, and diverse leadership team that can work and communicate effectively? Is the set of partners identified appropriate for addressing the proposed work? Does the proposal have a set of partners from multiple organizations that have clear, deep and meaningful roles? Does the Strategic Plan and Evaluation and Assessment Plan provide evidence that each project element will be well executed and will allow for clear and meaningful co-production with the Jurisdictional EPSCoR Steering Committee?*



# Timeframe

- E-CORE (NSF 23-587)
  - Full Proposal Due December 6, 2023, or July 09, 2024
  - Due Second Tuesday in July Thereafter





# Support from NSF

- Stay tuned
  - FAQ (coming soon, I'm collecting questions all the time)
  - Webinars
    - E-CORE (second one planned to cover proposal)
    - E-RISE 1-2pm EST June 7, 2023
    - Will be recorded and put on-line
  - Open to
    - meet with Jurisdictions
    - Support workshops and planning grants
  - For E-CORE questions
    - [EPSCoR-CORE@nsf.gov](mailto:EPSCoR-CORE@nsf.gov)
  - For E-RISE questions
    - [EPSCoR-RISE@nsf.gov](mailto:EPSCoR-RISE@nsf.gov)



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## We need you to....

- Spread the word in your Jurisdiction!
- Make connections across your jurisdiction
- Revisit your Jurisdiction's EPSCoR Steering Committees
- Re-visit your S&T plans
- Reach out! Reach out! Reach out!





QUESTIONS?