



NSF EPSCoR

ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



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

Webinar

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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**



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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

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Excellence RII (E-RISE RII) (NSF 23-588)



E-RISE supports the incubation of research teams and products in a scientific topical area that links to research priorities identified by the jurisdiction



NSF Investments

Community, Stakeholders, and Public

Jurisdictional EPSCoR Steering Committee
S&T Plan

EPSCoR-RII Investments
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

EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (E-CORE RI)

Supporting an Administrative Core that Will Build:

- Administrative Core
- Evaluation
- Sustainability
- Communication
- Additional Cores as Selected by Jurisdiction

State and Local Resources and State and Local Government Agencies

Partnerships

- Industry Partnerships
- Tribal Partnerships
- Public and Private Partnerships

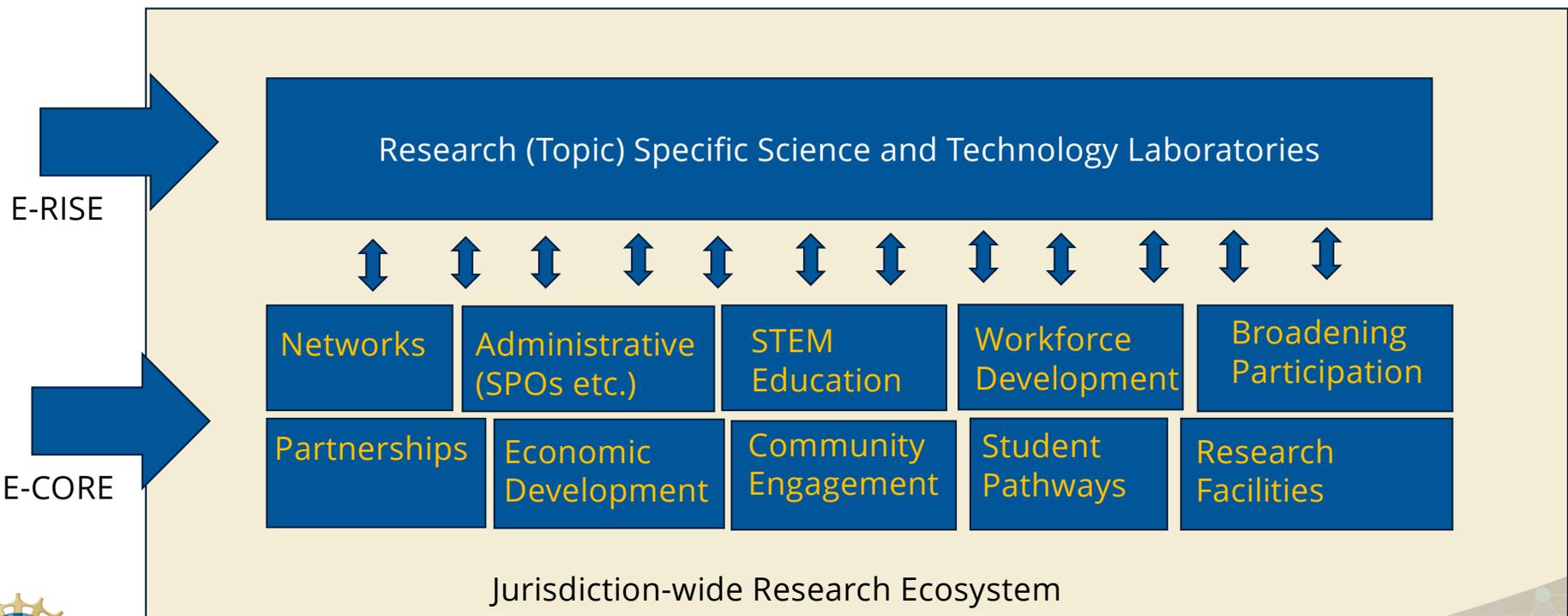
Other Federal Infrastructural Support e.g. NIH, USDA, DOE, DOD, NASA

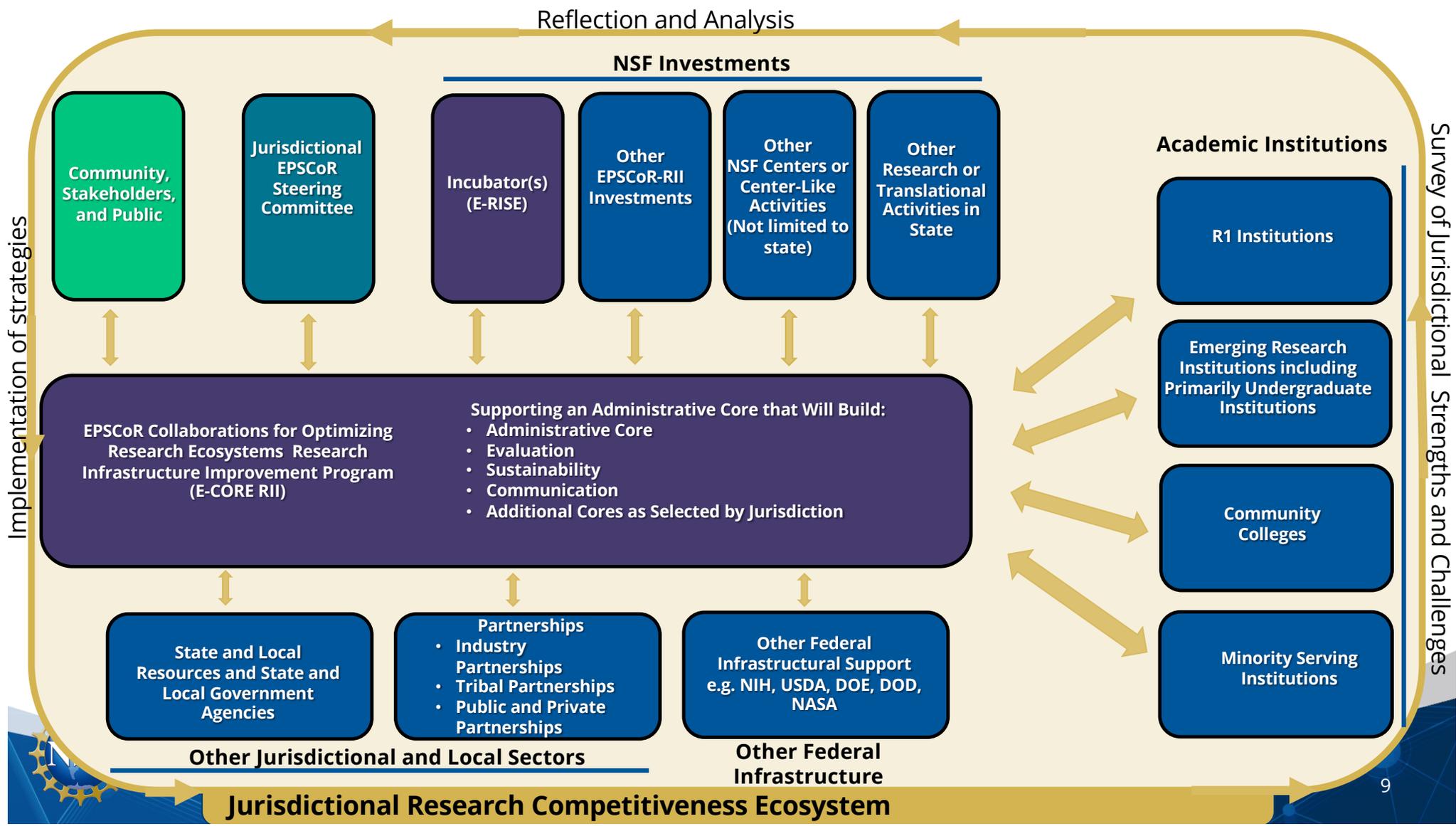
Other Jurisdictional and Local Sectors

Other Federal Infrastructure

Jurisdictional Research Ecosystem (Irrespective of research topic)

E-RISE is aimed at building research competitiveness in topical research areas





The E-RISE RII program aims to support EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions to:

- Build a **jurisdiction-wide network** of teams of researchers and sectors that **incubate high-quality research** in a **defined STEM disciplinary area** or topic of choice that is **aligned with jurisdictional priority areas and EPSCoR's mission and goals**.
- Develop **high quality hypothesis- and problem-driven research projects** that will **sustain project outcomes** beyond the E-RISE RII funding, including the development of effective **STEM education and workforce development** opportunities within the research topic that engage diverse audiences across the jurisdiction and establishes meaningful partnerships at the individual and institutional levels both within the jurisdiction and beyond.



Structure of E-RISE

- More than one proposal per jurisdiction is allowed
- More than one E-RISE per jurisdiction is allowed (depending on availability of funds)

- Funded for \$1.75M/year for four years
- Renewal of \$1.5M/year for an additional three years depending on progress and actuation of a direct pathway to sustainability
- Potential total of \$11.5M per E-RISE award

- Continuing Grant
 - with a Reverse Site Visit/Site Visit in Year 3-4



E-RISE RII incubators are intended to result in **sustainable** infrastructure in a jurisdiction that **positions research teams to be leaders** in a STEM topical area at a national and/or international level.

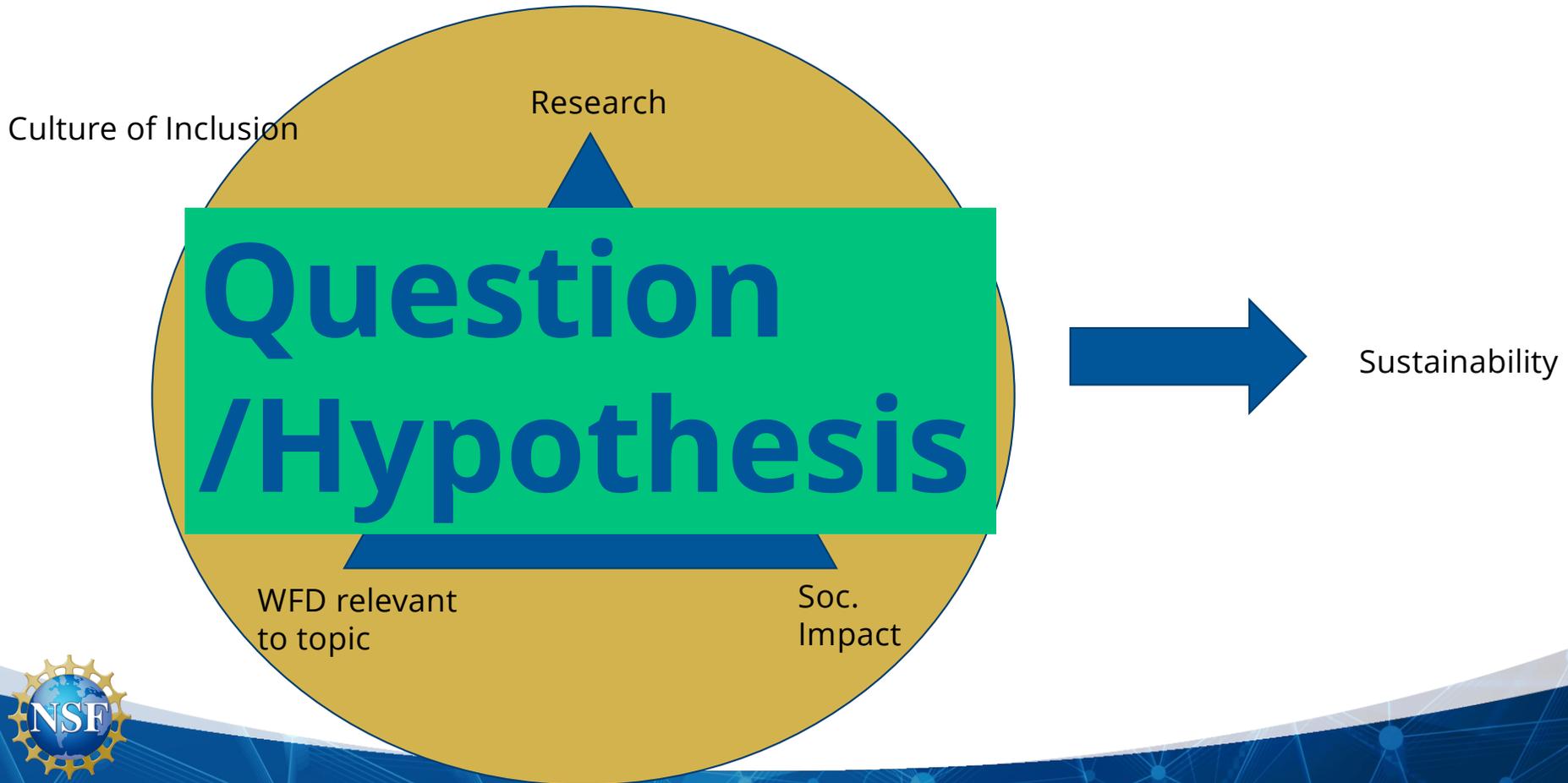


Key Features of an E-RISE

- 1) Build a **jurisdiction-wide network** of individuals, institutions, and organizations to develop high-quality research **aligned with jurisdictional scientific priority areas and the EPSCoR mission and goals**
- 2) Incorporation of **Diversity, Equity, Access, and Culture of Inclusion** of different institution types and sectors
- 3) Development of a **skilled workforce** that is relevant to the project and its outcomes
- 4) Incorporation of **use-inspired perspectives and societal impact**
- 5) Build a **pathway to sustainability** from the outset
- 6) Development of a **continual improvement** cycle



Structure of an E-RISE



Research Field is OPEN

But must be aligned to Jurisdictional Research priorities as outlined in State S&T Plan.



How do I select the topic?

- Based on demonstratable research capacity needs or strengths in the **jurisdiction**
- proposal should **provide a justifiable and data-driven rationale** for the topic with a **clear pathway** to where it should go
- selection of a topic must be based on **evidence-based analysis** and be **justifiable** in terms of data illustrating the topic is a fit within the **jurisdiction**



Role of Jurisdictional EPSCoR Steering Committee

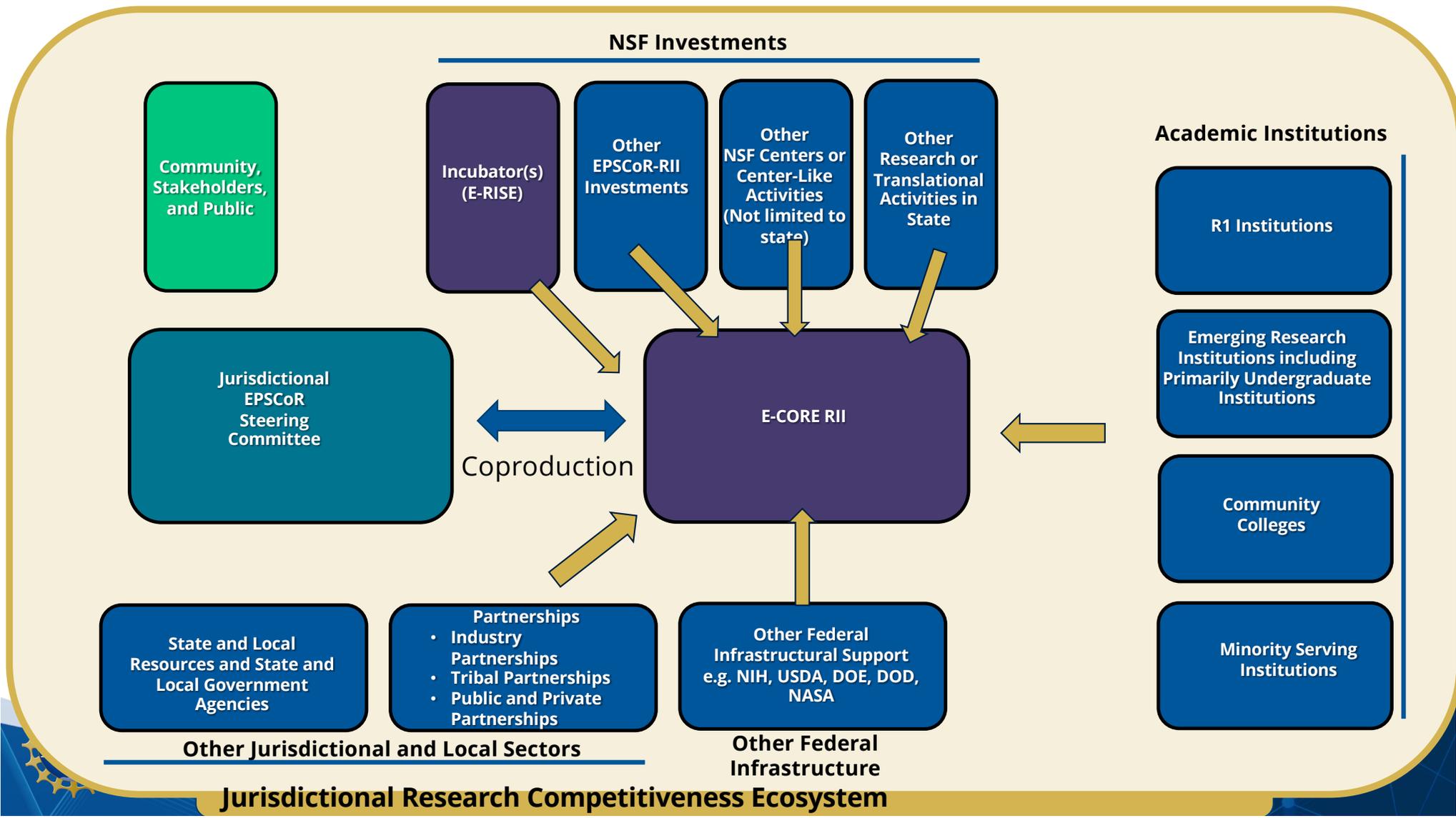
- Role is redefined
- Membership should be unique to the jurisdiction and defined by the jurisdiction
- Key role connecting entities beyond traditional NSF EPSCoR reach and engage them into the full research enterprise for the jurisdiction (35k view)
- A wide and diverse membership is critical
 - (sectors, 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

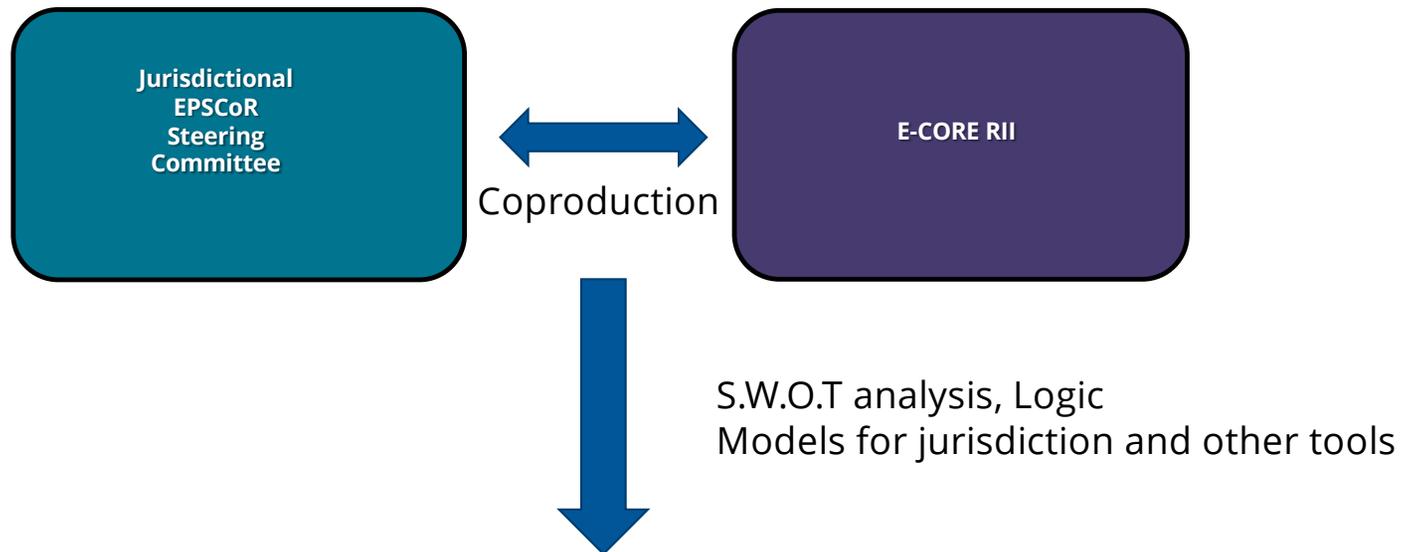


Who are the “and others”

- E-RISE project teams
- RII Track-2 teams
- Other NSF investment Teams
 - RIE, STC, ERC, INCLUDES, Biofoundries, single investigator projects etc...
- Other federal and state investments







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)



Renewal

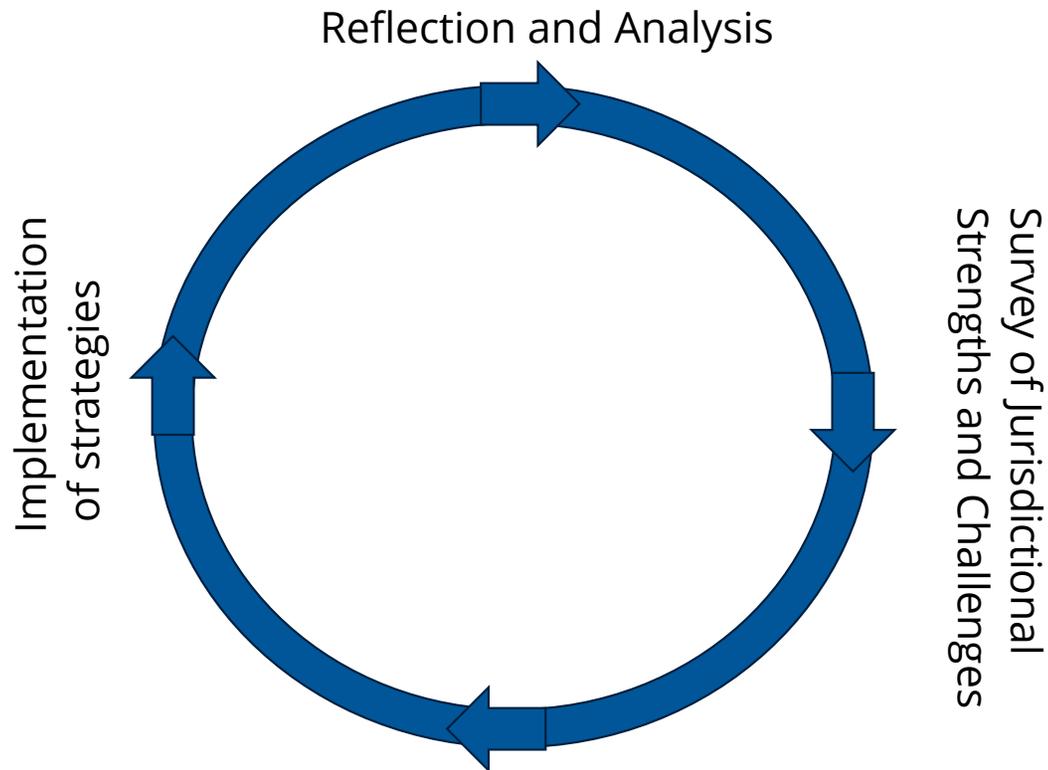
- **Evidence of research excellence** in the research topic across the jurisdiction
- Evidence of **elements being successful** in their stated goals (WFD and Use-Inspired work)
- Articulation of a clear **pathway toward sustainability** and evidence of **accumulation of some resources** or commitment thereof to achieve those goals
- **Aimed at giving three additional years specifically to accomplish sustainability**
- Proposal and Reverse Site Visit/Site Visit (details in a solicitation to come)



What does sustainability look like?



Based on total process improvement - Sustainability



- Sustainability will look different for different projects
- Should be BEYOND EPSCoR!
 - ERC, STC, RIE, Company, patchwork strategy
- Seated in data-based evidence
- Demonstrate what you have support to achieve
- SMART



**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-RISE

- 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
- Having a pending or awarded proposal from any eligible entity within the jurisdiction for the EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems (E-CORE RII) program, or an active EPSCoR RII Track-1 award either in its fifth or final year.
- 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-RISE
- 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-RISE as a lead or a collaborator



Eligibility (E-RISE)

If you meet the previous criteria:

- Jurisdiction
 - No Limit on submissions per jurisdiction
- Institution/Organization
 - Your organization may lead on a single E-RISE. 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-RISE 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 Inst. 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 great lab at my own university that I want to build... Will I be competitive?
 - No, all E-RISE projects are set to build **jurisdiction-wide** research teams in scientific topics and should be seated within the context of **jurisdictional** research strengths or building 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."
- Can I be a PI/Co-PI on Both an E-RISE and AN E-CORE proposal?
 - Yes, you may be a PI/Co-PI on a single E-RISE **and** an E-CORE proposal/award
- My jurisdiction is submitting several E-RISE 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 the project to jurisdictional research capacity building and EPSCoR goals**
 - *What is the potential of the project to advance the relevant fields of STEM research while simultaneously enhancing jurisdictional research competitiveness and developing jurisdictional research capacity and infrastructure in the topic area of choice? How will the proposed activities contribute to the national and international recognition of the project participants and participating organizations? How will the proposed project contribute to EPSCoR goals and mission? Is the project connected to the needs of the jurisdiction as supported by the jurisdiction's S&T plan?*
- **Development of a skilled workforce that is relevant to the project and its outcomes**
 - *What is the potential for the proposed activities to sustain a pathway of highly skilled students and postdoctoral fellows including those who are traditionally underrepresented in associated disciplines and industries, who can excel in this focus area, and who can succeed in careers in academia and/or industry? What novel and effective ways are proposed to achieve the workforce development goals?*



Merit Review Criteria (Cont)

- **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 will embody diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility throughout all of its activities? Are there clear, measurable goals and metrics specified?*
- **Plan towards sustainability and societal impact**
 - *What is the potential of the project to increase the capacity of the participating organizations and capability of project participants to propose and implement research activities in the future? Does the project present a clear plan for sustainability that effectively leverages potential current and future investments that can ultimately allow this team to significantly contribute to the field and jurisdiction over the long term? Does the project present plans that demonstrate the potential and consideration of the realization of societal impacts to the jurisdiction and its stakeholders from its work in a timebound manner?*
- **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?*



Timeframe

- E-RISE (NSF 23-588)
 - Full Proposal Due January 16, 2024, or August 13, 2024
 - Due Second Tuesday in August 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 (second one to cover proposal structure)
 - 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
- For E-RISE questions
 - 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?