



NSF EPSCoR

ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



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

NSF PI Meeting

January 27, 2026

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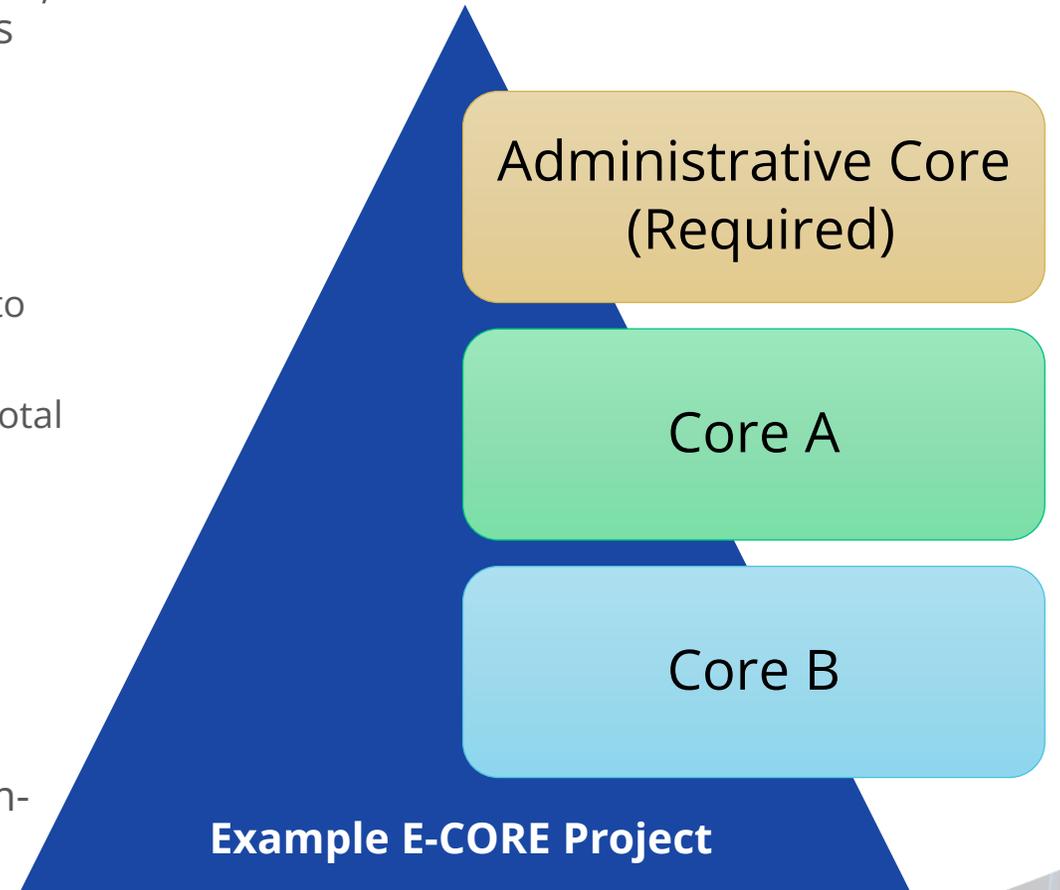
Session Objectives

- Program Refresher
- Program Updates
- Roundtable Discussion
- Adjourn



E-CORE Program Overview

- Projects focus on building significant and sustainable research capacity and research infrastructure for targeted areas of focus, hereinafter referred to as “cores,” that underlie a jurisdiction's research ecosystem.
- Administrative Core (Required) in addition to other cores
- Budget Guidance:
 - Cooperative agreement, multi-institutional, budget requests up to \$10 million for up to 4 years
 - Optional renewal project award maximum budget of \$8 million total + 20% in cost-share for an additional four years
 - NSF's contribution can be \$18 million over 8 years
- Deadline: July 21, 2026, by 5 PM submitting institution's local time.
- Renewal Site Visit: Year 3-4 for renewal project proposals
- Sister Program E-RISE: Supports hypothesis-driven or problem-driven research and workforce development to improve competitiveness in a selected STEM field



Activities of the Administrative Core

- Jurisdictional Development
- Research Ecosystem-Wide Connections
- Broadening Participation and Fostering a Culture of Reciprocal Collaboration
- Goals, Metrics, and Evaluation
- Intentional Communication

Administrative Core

The Administrative Core should coordinate with Jurisdictional State Office **and/or** transition office functions if desirable



Program Updates

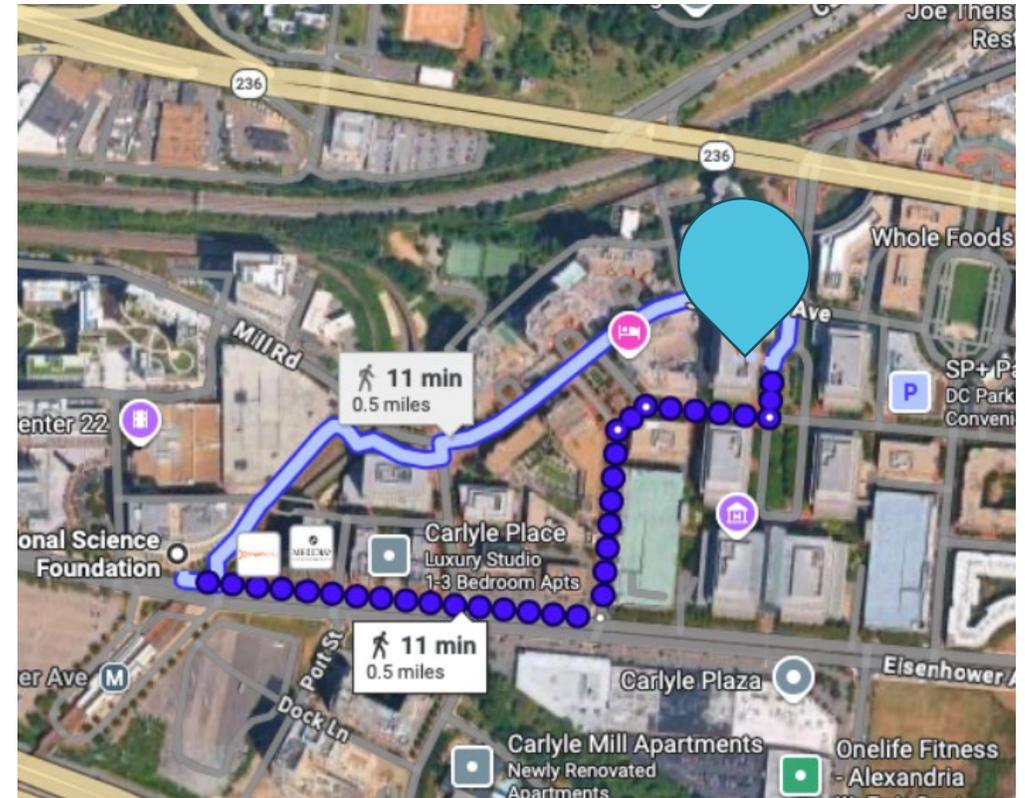
- NSF Changes
- Introduction Of Most Recent Awardees
- Merit Review
- Annual Report Updates
- PI Quarterly Meet-ups



Changes you May Have Heard About or Observed

- NSF is reorganizing and will no longer have Divisions
- NSF is relocating to a new building
- There may be fewer reviews. The panel summary is shorter
- Merit Review Criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts) remain unchanged

NSF's New Location. . .The Randolph Building!



Congratulations to the Newest E-CORE Awardees!

Jurisdiction	Title
<u>Arkansas</u>	E-CORE RII: Arkansas Nexus for Excellence in Technology, Workforce, Outreach and Research Knowledge
<u>North Dakota</u>	E-CORE RII: Sustainable Programs Advancing Research and Knowledge across North Dakota



Program Updates Continued

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- Introduction Of Most Recent Awardees
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Stay in touch with us!

- Full Proposal Deadline: July 21, 2026
 - The third Tuesday in July
- Next Webinar: EPSCoR Live!
 - Registration Link: [Here](#)
- Questions? Contact Us Here:
 - EPSCoR-CORE@nsf.gov

Office Hour Dates

(See NSF EPSCoR Website to Register):
Coming soon, every three weeks,
starting in March!



Roundtable Questions

- Year 3 is approaching, while others are just starting.
 - Any renewal preparation questions?
 - Any lessons learned for new PIs?
- Are there ways that the annual reporting guidance can be simplified or clarified to make annual reporting easier for you?
- What challenges has your team faced and how did you address them?
- How can we (NSF) help?





Thank You!