



**NSF EPSCoR**  
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



# The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

**EPSCoR Live!**  
**Embracing the Social Sciences as a Critical Component  
in EPSCoR RII Opportunities**

**October 3, 2024**

**Lisa Cliggett, Program Director EPSCoR, [lcligget@nsf.gov](mailto:lcligget@nsf.gov)**

**Jose Colom-Ustariz, Program Director EPSCoR, [jcolom@nsf.gov](mailto:jcolom@nsf.gov)**

**Eric Lindquist, Associate Professor, School of Public Service, former EPSCoR PD  
[ericlindquist@boisestate.edu](mailto:ericlindquist@boisestate.edu)**

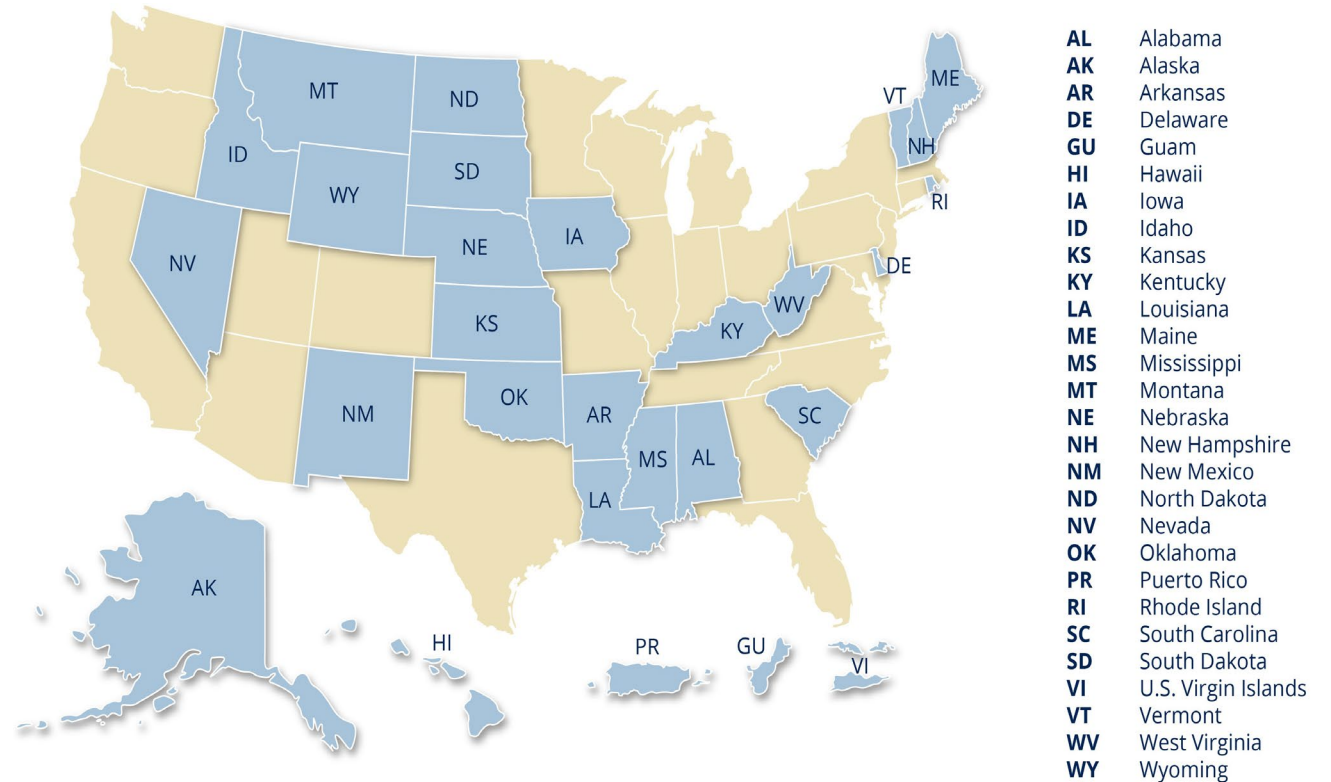
# EPSCoR: Who We Are and What We Do

- *EPSCoR is one program within NSF's Research Capacity and Competitiveness (RCC) Section, under the Office of Integrative Activities (OIA), in the Office of the Director (OD).*
  - Federally mandated since 1979.
- Our mission is to enhance research competitiveness of targeted jurisdictions by strengthening STEM capacity and capability
- **Goals:**
  - Catalyze research capability across and among jurisdictions
  - Establish STEM professional development pathways
  - Broaden participation of diverse groups and institutions in STEM
  - Effect STEM engagement STEM at national and global levels
  - Impact jurisdictional economic development



# EPSCoR Jurisdiction Eligibility

- A state or territory is NSF EPSCoR-eligible if its most recent five-year level of total NSF funding is equal to or less than 0.75% of the total NSF budget (excluding EPSCoR funding and NSF funding to other federal agencies).
- There are 28 EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions.



A jurisdiction is eligible to participate in NSF's EPSCoR program if their most recent five-year level of total NSF funding is equal to or less than 0.75% of the total NSF budget (excluding EPSCoR funding and NSF funding to other federal agencies).





# Topics for Today:

- **How Social Science fits within EPSCoR Program Investment Strategies**
  - **Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) funding opportunities:**
    - Support research activities and infrastructure within academic institutions across each jurisdiction
  - **Workshops and Planning Grants**
    - Interaction among EPSCoR Community and NSF to build mutual awareness and develop areas of potential strength
- **Other Social Science Opportunities at NSF**
  - **Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences**



# EPSCoR Program Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII):

## ➤ **E-CORE – EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems**

- Up to \$8M over 4 years, plus renewal opportunity [NSF 23-587](#)
- Supports jurisdictions in building capacity in one or more targeted research infrastructure cores that underlie the jurisdiction's research ecosystem

## ➤ **E-RISE – EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM Excellence**

- Up to \$7M over 4 years, plus renewal opportunity [NSF 23-588](#)
- Builds a jurisdiction-wide network of teams of researchers that incubate research in a STEM topical area aligned with priority areas for jurisdiction

## ➤ ***E-CORE and E-RISE are new!***

- *developed to offer comparable opportunities to EPSCoR Track 1 grants (sunsetting in 2023).*



# EPSCoR Program Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII):

## ➤ **FEC – Focused EPSCoR Collaborations** (formerly Track 2)

- Up to \$6M over 4 years [NSF 24-573](#)
- Interjurisdictional collaborations
- Biennial theme chosen by NSF EPSCoR to align with foundation-wide priority areas
  - 2025: [Use-Inspired Research DCL NSF 24-091](#)
    - *“use-inspired research is work whose rationale, conceptualization, and directions are inspired by potential use cases.”* from FY25 NSF Dear Colleague Letter (DCL)
    - Including for societal and human issues

## ➤ **ERF – EPSCoR Research Fellows** (formerly Track 4)

- Up to \$300k over 2 years [NSF 24-528](#)
- Fellowships for early and mid-career faculty to have extended research visits to premier private, governmental, or academic institutions in the U.S.



# EPSCoR program Planning Grants and Workshops:

## ➤ Planning Grants for E-RISE and E-CORE

- <https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/planning-proposals-nsf-established-program>
- Invites planning proposals to support future submissions to the E-RISE RII and E-CORE RII programs.
- These programs support EPSCoR-eligible jurisdiction's research infrastructure, capacity and competitiveness.

## ➤ Workshop Grants ([NSF 24-540](#))

- [https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/eps-wo-established-program-stimulate-competitive-research-workshop?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/eps-wo-established-program-stimulate-competitive-research-workshop?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)
- Supports workshops in eligible jurisdictions that focus on topics of regional or national importance and which are relevant to building EPSCoR jurisdictions' research and development capacity.



# Social Science Examples in EPSCoR program funding:

## Track 1 (similar topical focus to the new E-RISE competition)

*Dr. Eric Lindquist*

### ➤ **Track 1 (competition ended in 2023, replaced with E-CORE and E-RISE)**

- Kansas T1: Adaptive and Resilient Infrastructures driven by Social Equity (ARISE)
- Vermont T1: The Science of Online Corpora, Knowledge and Stories (SOCKS)

### ➤ **Reflections from a Social Scientist PI on EPSCoR projects**

- Challenging, frustrating, definitely a learning experience!

### ➤ **Recommendations**

- Pursue opportunities to collaborate and contribute.
- Leverage current NSF interest in social science expertise
- Don't wait to be asked. Take the lead!





# Social Science Examples in EPSCoR program funding: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (FEC) (formerly Track 2)

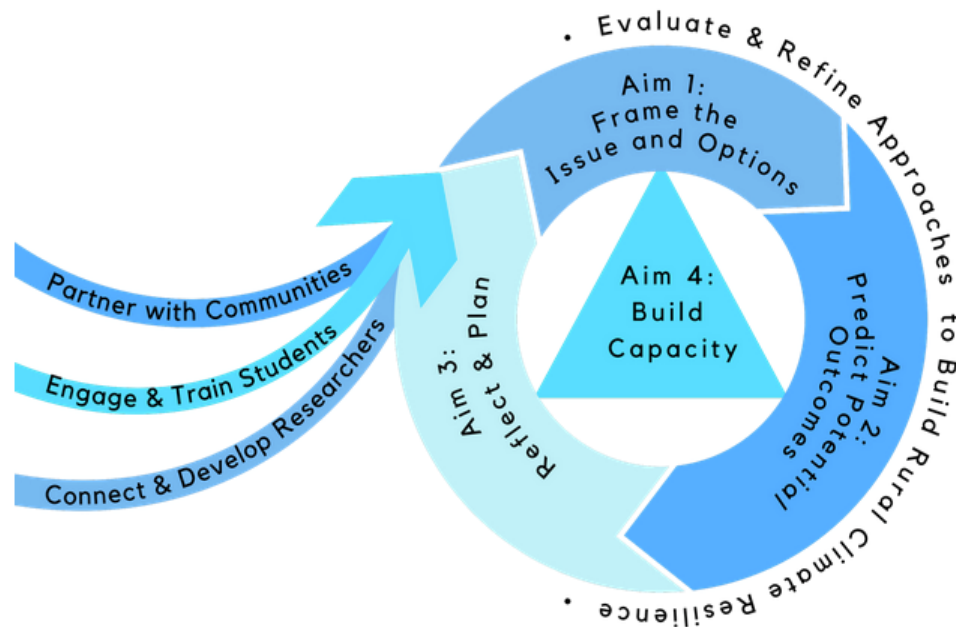
## *Dr. Jose Colom-Ustariz*

- FEC FY22 Topic: *“Advancing climate change research and resilience capacity to expand opportunities for disproportionately affected communities.”*
- FEC OIA-2316366: RURAL CONFLUENCE: Communities and Academic Partners Uniting to Drive Discovery and Build Capacity for Climate Resilience (Oklahoma, Louisiana, Nebraska)
  - **Research Aim 1: Co-develop with communities a shared conceptual framework for rural climate resilience research and action**
    - *Objective 1.1: Installation of Living Labs through 6 communities in three states during 2 separate cycles.*
    - *Objective 1.2: Introduction and training for use of community science technology*
    - *Objective 1.3: Prioritization of ecosystem services*
    - *Objective 1.4: Development and refinement of conceptual framework with communities*



# FEC cont'd - Rural CONFLUENCE:

- **Activity 3:** Host three Living Lab focus group meetings in a designated community.
  - **Milestone Year 1:** Focus Group 1) Host idea-gathering sessions to determine community needs and challenges related to climate resilience. Explain available baseline climate and socioeconomic data to community members and gather feedback on the next steps and how communities can contribute.
  - **Milestone Year 3:** Discuss and evaluate lessons learned from Cycle 1 Living Labs and modify if necessary



## Our Approach

Community engagement in resilience science typically relies on expert-driven approaches. This limits the process to the expert's view. The Rural Confluence team will be led by community member input. Key issues for the community will be our focus and working alongside the community will lead to new insights, an increased trust in science, and community-customized action plans for resilience.

Reference: <https://www.ruralconfluence.org/aims-1>



# Social Science Examples in EPSCoR program funding: EPSCoR Research Fellowships (ERF) (formerly Track 4)

## ➤ EPSCoR Research Fellows

- ERF example: OIA-2132038 The Epistemology of Agricultural Science
  - *“Epistemologies of science elucidate why and how science works. Understanding the nature of science enables philosophers and scientists to work together to improve scientific methods and further scientific progress, as well as to employ science to improve the welfare of the nation and the world.”* (project abstract)

## ➤ A social science view of ERF:

- What will support a transformation in your research and career trajectory, and that you can bring back to your home institution to bolster science (including qualitative) research and teaching? And have value for your jurisdiction?
  - Example: Gain new skills in complimentary sciences: qualitative scientist collaborates with a data visualization scholar and / or lab...
  - Build on existing skill set and work with a colleague to conduct collaborative research, produce a significant publication or grant proposal, or....



# Social Science Examples in EPSCoR program funding: Workshops and Planning Grants

## ➤ EPSCoR Workshops

- Supports workshops in eligible jurisdictions that focus on topics of regional or national importance and which are relevant to building EPSCoR jurisdictions' research and development capacity.
  - Example: Social Scientists from across jurisdiction (or multiple EPSCoR jurisdictions), plan a workshop on community engaged research; bolsters potential for subsequent collaborations – within social science and transdisciplinary science.

## ➤ EPSCoR Planning Grants for E-CORE and E-RISE (we don't have any examples yet...)

### ➤ E-CORE:

- What networks, systems, and infrastructure (including social) do you need to build in order to support robust social science (and social science integrated transdisciplinary) projects?

### ➤ E-RISE:

- What social science informed issue, across a variety of institutions and organizations, is worth investigation in your jurisdiction?
- One example: intersection of (indigenous and other) land and water rights, public policy, infrastructure and economic development.



# Stay in touch with the EPSCoR Program within the Research Capacity and Competitiveness Section (RCC)!

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) | NSF - National Science Foundation

## Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

[Investment Strategies](#)

[Criteria for Eligibility](#)

[Jurisdiction Websites](#)

[Staff Information](#)

[EPSCoR Live!](#)

[Impacts and Outcomes](#)

[Future of NSF EPSCoR](#)

[News and Featured Webinars](#)

[EPSCoR Interagency Coordinating Committee \(EICC\)](#)

[EPSCoR Annual Reporting](#)

### Share



### Organization(s)

[Office of Integrative Activities \(OD/OIA\)](#)

### Subscribe

Join the NSF EPSCoR mailing list [here](#).





# EPSCoR Program (in RCC/OIA) Team

Sandra Richardson  
RCC Section Head



Yolanda Allen  
Program Analyst



Pinhas Ben-Tzvi  
Program Officer



Lisa Cliggett  
Program Officer



Jose Colom  
Program Officer



Andrea Johnson  
Program Officer



Casonya Johnson  
Program Officer



Tori Jordan  
Program Specialist



Liz Lawrence  
Sr. Program Analyst



Hongmei Luo  
Program Officer



Ben McCall  
Program Officer



Dave Ogden  
Science Analyst



Jeanne Small  
Program Officer



Chinonye Whitley  
Program Officer



# Other NSF Social Science Opportunities: *Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences*

➤ **The original home of Social Science research funding...**

- Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE), under the Office of the Director (OD).

## Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

Programs and Funding Opportunities +

Divisions and Offices -

Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences  
(SBE/BCS)

Division of Social and Economic Sciences  
(SBE/SES)

National Center for Science and Engineering  
Statistics (SBE/NCSES)

SBE Office of Multidisciplinary Activities  
(SBE/SMA)







# SBE Dear Colleague Letter

NSF 24-079

## Dear Colleague Letter: Expanding Geographic and Institutional Diversity in Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)

April 16, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

The U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) welcomes submissions of both new proposals and supplemental funding requests from Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) eligible institutions. This Dear Colleague Letter (DCL) aims to broaden geographic and demographic participation and to promote SBE-funded activities that enable sustainable growth and competitiveness across [all 28 EPSCoR jurisdictions](#). Proposals from institutions across EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions are encouraged to submit to all SBE programs. Collaborative proposals led by EPSCoR institutions, and proposals from Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) and [Emerging Research Institutions \(ERIs\)](#) in EPSCoR jurisdictions are particularly welcomed.



# Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

Home / Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

## Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

- Programs and Funding Opportunities +
- Divisions and Offices +
- Career Opportunities +
- About +
- News and Events +

The U.S. National Science Foundation Directorate for Social, Behavior Sciences (SBE) supports basic research on people and society.

This includes the study of human behavior and social organizations, i how social, economic, political, cultural and environmental forces affr from birth to old age and how people in turn shape those forces.

SBE also supports research infrastructure in social and behavioral sci that provide data about American society and about the state of the engineering enterprise.

At every level, researchers supported by SBE are making transformat empower America's industries and communities, provide opportuniti and create the knowledge that fuels American economic leadership.

Contact SBE

[Learn more about SBE](#)

### Get SBE Email Updates

### SBE Updates

# Stay Connected with SBE

- Sign up to receive the latest SBE News: Monthly Newsletters, Events, Program Office Hours, Solicitations
  - <https://new.nsf.gov/sbe>
- EPSCoR Questions, Outreach Requests:
  - [nsfsbe-epscoquiry@nsf.gov](mailto:nsfsbe-epscoquiry@nsf.gov)

Thanks for attending!

now for Q&A...

