

NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research



NSF EPSCoR
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



NSF 24-528: EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: EPSCoR Research Fellows (ERF)

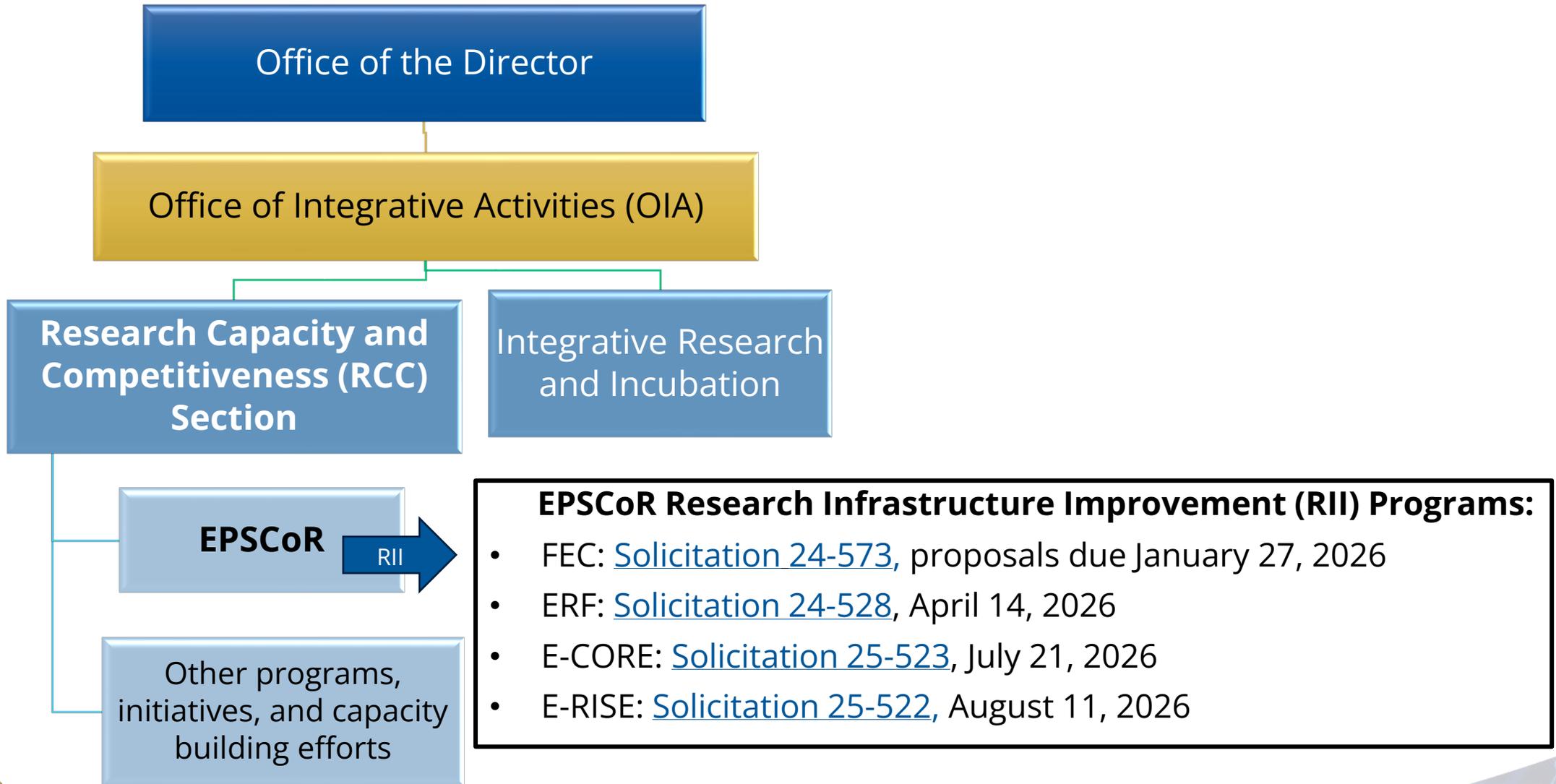
Program Updates
January 28, 2026

Changes at NSF

- **NSF is Relocating.** NSF has closed facility on Eisenhower Avenue. Our new physical address is in the Randolph Building, at 401 Dulany Street in Alexandria.
- **NSF is reorganizing:** NSF has made some changes in how the agency is structured. You can find more information about our reorganization here: <https://www.nsf.gov/od/updates/nsf-announces-organizational-realignment>
- **NSF's Merit Review Criteria remain unchanged:** However, we have made changes to some of our processes. PIs may notice receiving fewer reviews and shorter panel summary statements.



Organization Structure and EPSCoR RII Programs



EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Programs:

- FEC: [Solicitation 24-573](#), proposals due January 27, 2026
- ERF: [Solicitation 24-528](#), April 14, 2026
- E-CORE: [Solicitation 25-523](#), July 21, 2026
- E-RISE: [Solicitation 25-522](#), August 11, 2026



FY26 EPSCoR ERF Team



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EPSCoR Investment Strategies - Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) | NSF - U.S. National Science Foundation



EPSCoR Research Fellows: Key Information

- Funding opportunity that supports PIs from EPSCoR-eligible institutions in the development of research collaborations
- For Early- and Mid-Career Investigators, up to \$300,000 for up to 2 years
- Deadline: **April 14, 2026**, by 5 PM submitting institution's local time
- Two tracks: ERF: NSF and ERF @NASA
- Solicitation **NSF 24-528**: <https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/epscor-research-infrastructure-improvement-track-4-0>

(specific requirement for the Project Title, the Project Summary...)



EPSCoR Research Fellows Opportunity

- Provides opportunities for **non-tenured** (or equivalent) and **tenured, early and mid-career** investigators to further develop their individual research potential through extended visits to the nation's premier **private, federal, or academic institutions**.
- Fellows will be able to:
 - learn new techniques
 - benefit from access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities
 - strengthen collaborative partnerships
 - extend their research toward transformative directions
- Experiences gained through fellowships are intended to provide:
 - Time to develop new or extend current research directions
 - A pathway to strengthen research connections with partners nationwide
 - benefits that will impact the PI's career in years to come
- Fellowship outcomes are also expected to in turn enhance the research capacities of their **home institutions and/or jurisdictions**.



ERF Budget Request Overview

- For both tracks, NSF budget requests may be **up to \$300,000** for duration **up to 24 months**.
 - 1-6 months of salary support for the PI and **one** trainee-level participant.
 - It is expected that the PI will complete a **minimum of a one month** extended visit to the host institution, or an equivalent of several periodic visits totaling one month.
- There are no budget caps on travel, lodging or other direct costs.
 - PIs are not allowed to split their fellowship period between two or more host sites.
- Up to \$10,000 may be requested for the collaborator for travel related to the fellowship project which includes visits to the PI's home institution and/or participation in conferences where the collaborative work is presented.
- For EPSCoR Research Fellows: @NASA, an additional \$60K Research Infrastructure Development (RID) grant from NASA EPSCoR at home institution is available (after award from NSF).
 - Please do not include this request in budget requests to NSF.



Required Letters

Please provide all letters as supplementary documents

- ERF: NSF: **3 letters** (home institution, collaborator, host site)
- ERF @NASA from MSIs: **2 letters** (home institution, NASA host)
- ERF @NASA from PUIs: **3 letters** (2 home institution, NASA host)
 - PUIs including two-year colleges, that awards Associates degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and/or Master's degrees in NSF-supported fields,
 - and has awarded 20 or fewer PhD/DSci degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years

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Annual Report and No Cost Extension

- Annual report (EDOCS and research.gov):
 - The first-year annual report (9-month)
 - The second-year annual report (12-month)
 - The final year report (15-month)
- No Cost Extension
 - Grantee Approved No Cost Extension
 - NSF Approved No Cost Extension

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



Thank for Listening!

Time for Q & A . . .

