NSF EPSCoR

July 9, 2025

Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research: Workshop Opportunities (EPS-WO; NSF 24-540)

Ben McCall
Program Officer
OD/OIA/RCC/EPSCoR

Workshop Opportunities (EPS-WO) Goals

- Supports workshops (in-person, hybrid, or virtual) in EPSCoR jurisdictions that focus on topics of regional or national importance, and which are relevant to building EPSCoR jurisdictions' R&D capacity.

- Workshops will focus on innovative ways to address multi-jurisdictional efforts on themes of regional to national importance with relevance to EPSCoR's goals and NSF's mission.

Sinte Gleska University (SGU) and South Dakota State University. improve sustainable production of prairie turnips and buffalo berries

EPSCoR Workshop Opportunities Program Description

Workshop proposals are welcome in areas of science and engineering that advance the program's goals and engage a broad community of investigators or practitioners, while including the intentional involvement of the EPSCoR community.

- NSF EPSCoR workshops aim to:
  - bring communities of thought together to discuss recent research or education findings,
  - explore topics in emerging areas of science and engineering,
  - foster innovative collaborations,
  - expose researchers or trainees to new research and education tools or techniques,
  - **or**
  - respond to NSF EPSCoR calls for workshops on specific topics

Expectations of EPSCoR Workshop Proposals

- Proposals may address any topic, including the exploration of topic areas that have been described as NSF priorities.
- Applicants should demonstrate how the topic is of importance to relevant STEM field(s) and include evidence that the topic will engage and be of particular interest to the greater EPSCoR community.
- Topics may also include proposed activities for the creation of center-level partnerships. Topics related to center-level investments may include but are not limited to Engineering Research Centers, Science and Technology Centers, Regional Innovation Engines, and other current or future federal opportunities.
- Goals and desired outcomes, anticipated products, and benefits that the workshop will have for its participants should be explicitly described.
- Successful proposals will also demonstrate that the team has worked to include the participation of a broad spectrum of talent in STEM at every level—from the advisory committee and leadership to the speakers and participants.
- Strong proposals include a tentative agenda that includes suggested speakers, and letters of support that lend evidence of participation from key participants or collaborators.
- Proposals should include a plan for communicating workshop outcomes and disseminating workshop products.
- Proposals should include an evaluation plan that assesses whether the goals of the workshop have been achieved.

Successful workshop proposals will:

- Include a compelling rationale, with clear goals and desired outcomes; a committed leadership team; institutional support; and leveraged resources.
- Address multi-jurisdictional efforts, priorities, or interests that require collaboration for optimal success.
- Address major regional or national themes of relevance to EPSCoR's goals and NSF's mission.
- Describe plans to foster engagement from a broad range of scientific backgrounds and training.

Additional Guidance

- Workshops are **not** intended for *single-institution* activities.

- Speakers from non-EPSCoR institutions may be involved in the workshop, but funding for their travel expenses must be included in the Participant Support Cost budget category. No funds may be budgeted for non-EPSCoR institutions.

- Each funded workshop should result in a publicly-disseminated workshop report that should be posted on the relevant jurisdictions' web sites and must include:
  - The metrics and measures of workshop programmatic success.
  - The extent of engagement from a wide range of scientific backgrounds and training.
  - A plan for widespread dissemination of results.
  - A list of workshop participants.
  - A comprehensive discussion of the workshop's products and specific implementation plans for the next steps.

Eligibility Information

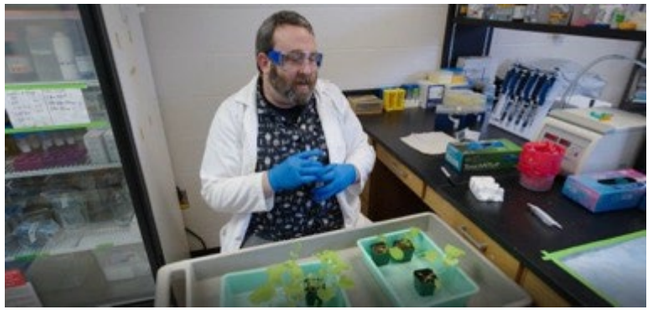
Proposals may be submitted only from institutions or organizations within EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions. Eligibility to participate in the EPSCoR Workshop Opportunities program is described on EPSCoR's website.

Within EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions, proposals may be submitted only by the following:

- Institutions of higher education (PhD-granting and non-PhD-granting), acting on behalf of their faculty members, that are accredited in and have a campus in the United States, its territories, or possessions.

- Non-profit, non-degree-granting domestic U.S. organizations, acting on behalf of their employees, that include (but are not limited to) independent museums and science centers, observatories, research laboratories, professional societies, and similar organizations that are directly associated with the Nation's research or educational activities. These organizations must have an independent, permanent administrative organization (e.g., an office of sponsored research) located in the United States, its territories, or possessions, and have 501(c)(3) tax status.

- Tribal Nations: An American Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges as a federally recognized tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. §§ 5130-5131.



KY – Plant Genetics

Bridge HS to BS – TCU ND

Restrictions

- **Budget:** Up to $200,000
- **Project Period:** up to one year
- **Concept Outline Submission:** required before full proposal
- **Who May Serve as PI:** no restrictions or limits
- **Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization:** no restrictions or limits
- **Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI:** no restrictions or limits

NM SmartGrid-Early faculty workshop

EPS-WO Concept Outline Preparation and Submission Instructions

Submission of a Concept Outline, followed by an invitation from an NSF EPSCoR Program Officer to submit a full proposal, is **required** before the submission of a full workshop proposal. Concept Outlines may be submitted via email to nsfepscor@nsf.gov at any time.

Workshop proposal development process:

- Identify and develop the workshop theme.
  - Identify the rationale and theme or topic of the workshop.
  - Convey EPSCoR community interest in the topic, which should be substantial and gauged by appropriate means (for example use of a survey or focused conversations).
  - Form an advisory committee to verify and develop the concept within the greater body of knowledge in the field, ensuring that it is not duplicative of other efforts, and to obtain data supporting the theme or concept.

EPS-WO Concept Outline Preparation and Submission Instructions

- Draft a Concept Outline.

  Detailed planning of the workshop, the interest of the EPSCoR community, and the workshop preparation timeline should be outlined in a Concept Outline, which must not exceed 5 pages. During the Concept Outline preparation process, proposers are encouraged to:

  - Develop a compelling rationale with clear goals and desired outcomes.
  - Determine the availability and interest of prospective speakers and participants.
  - Describe plans to ensure engagement from a broad range of scientific backgrounds and training.
  - Develop an estimated budget and budget justification, schedule of activities, and a proposed target date for the workshop.
  - Discuss methods of dissemination, evaluation and assessment, and desired outcomes/deliverables.

- Submit a Concept Outline via email to nsfepscor@nsf.gov.

EPS-WO Full Proposal Preparation Instructions

Full proposals should:

- Incorporate feedback obtained from NSF EPSCoR from the Concept Outline.
- Include all five categories of information described above for Concept Outlines.
- Explicitly address one or more of the EPSCoR goals listed in section I.A of the solicitation.
- Follow the guidelines for Conference proposals contained in the NSF PAPPG, Chapter II.F.8.
- Select the “conference” proposal type in Research.gov or Grants.gov.
- Include the email from a Program Officer inviting the PI to submit a full proposal as a Supplementary Document entitled "Program Officer Concurrence Email."

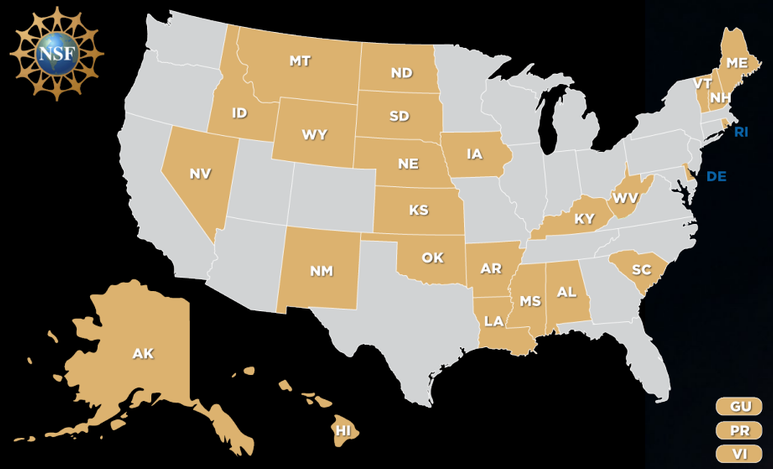
Typical Timeline:

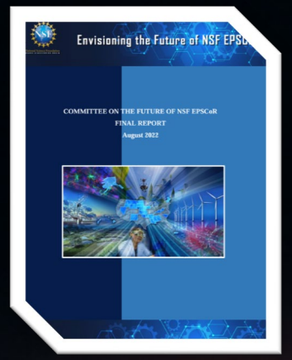
- One month for NSF EPSCoR to review the Concept Outline.
- Six months from full proposal submission to funding decision.

It is recommended to begin the Concept Outline development process at least 12 months before the envisioned workshop, when possible, to allow ample time for proposal development and review.

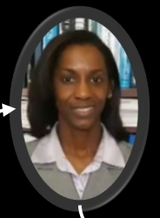
Thank you!

Ben McCall
Email: bjmccall@nsf.gov





Aug. 25, 2021



Sep. 09, 2021

Oct. 15, 2021

Summer 2022

Planning

Dec. 05, 2022

Quantum DNA ~$5M (9/21/21)
Spin system for QIS ~$2.5M (6/23/21)
Quantum Field Theory ~$7.5M (5/26/21)
Advanced Materials ~$20M (5/24/21)

Mar. 23, 2023

Format
Logistics
Attendees
Stretch $

(a) Promote collaboration
(b) Perform a "litmus test" of capabilities

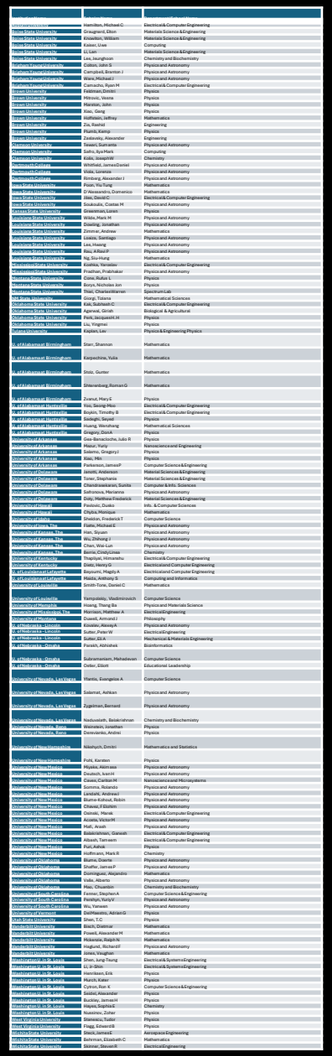
Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC)
Computing Research Association (CRA)
National Quantum Coordination Office

NSF Quantum Working Group

Comprehensive Report
Database of EPSCoR Quantum Researchers

ai

Name	Title	Institution/Organization
Laura Thomas	Senior Director, National Security Solutions	ColdQuanta – Colorado
Bernard Zygelman	Professor of Physics and Astronomy	U. of Nevada – Las Vegas
Ilya Safro	Associate Prof., Computer & Information Sciences	U. of Delaware
Alberto Marino	Associate Prof., Atomic, Molecular & Optical Physics	U. of Oklahoma
Heeralal Janwa	Professor of Mathematics	U. of Puerto Rico
Irene Qualters	Associate Laboratory Director	Los Alamos National Lab
Lan (Samantha) Li	Associate Professor, Materials Science & Engineering	Boise State University
Christian Binek	Professor, Physics & Astronomy	U. of Nebraska, Lincoln
Layla Hormozi	Group Lead, Quantum Computing	Brookhaven National Lab



299 → 156

50 + 8 + 4 + 3 + 8

Academia Govt Industry NSF Host Org

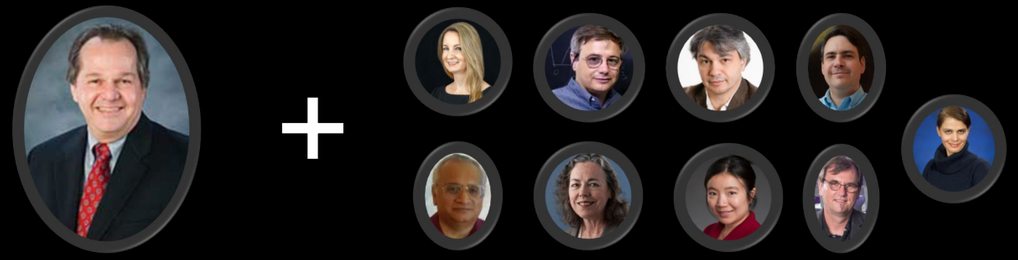
~85 + ~10

PLOS COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY

EDITORIAL

Ten simple rules for measuring the impact of workshops

Shoaib Sufi[1☯*], Aleksandra Nenadic[1‡], Raniere Silva[1], Beth Duckles[2☯], Iveta Simera[3‡], Jennifer A. de Beyer[3], Caroline Struthers[3], Terhi Nurmikko-Fuller[4‡], Louisa Bellis[5‡], Wadud Miah[6‡], Adriana Wilde[7‡], Iain Emsley[8], Olivier Philippe[9], Melissa Balzano[10], Sara Coelho[11], Heather Ford[12], Catherine Jones[13‡], Vanessa Higgins[14‡]



Panels
(50-min)

- Academic
- Industry
- Government

Parallel Topical Breakout Sessions
5 sessions (2-hour + 2-hour + 1 hour)
20 minutes of readout after each session

- EPSCoR Capabilities, Challenges, & Opportunities
- Hardware Enablement
- Application Enablement
- System Software
- Curricula

Report on NSF EPSCoR Workshop on Quantum Computing, Information, Science, & Engineering
NSF, Alexandria, VA, March 23rd–24th, 2023

Erik K. Hobbie — *North Dakota State University*
Mark A. Novotny — *Mississippi State University*
Margaret Kim — *University of Alabama*
Eirini I. Tsiropoulou — *University of New Mexico*
Elizabeth Behrman — *Wichita State University*
Samee U. Khan — *Mississippi State University*

35 pages of findings

Topic serving the EPSCoR jurisdiction
Unique offering
Work with the PDs (NSF)

Many (and I mean many) things will go wrong – just keep calm and keep on going …. .

https://quantumcomputing.msstate.edu/