EPSCoR Live!

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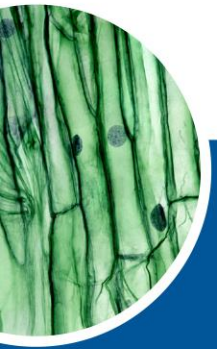

Program Resources

All submissions should first and foremost align with updated NSF Priorities:
https://www.nsf.gov/updates-on-priorities

The new PAPPG 24-1 is out! Many proposal preparation questions can be answered by checking the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG):
https://www.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1

For the most recent information on resumption of NSF operations, please visit
http://nsf.gov/resumption-operations

Program Resources

EPSCoR Program Website	• https://www.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/epscor
EPSCoR Investment Strategies	• https://www.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/epscor/epscor-investment-strategies\
Resumption of Operations at NSF	• https://www.nsf.gov/resumption-operations
Overview NSF proposal & Award Process	• Overview of the NSF Proposal and Award Process
FAQ Section of NSF's Updates on Priorities	• https://www.nsf.gov/updates-on-priorities

Further links related to the solicitation are posted on the NSF EPSCoR program website. For general inquiries, please contact **nsfepscor@nsf.gov**.

Investment Strategies

EPSCOR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (E-CORE RII)

- Supports the strengthening of jurisdiction-wide research ecosystems by fostering interconnected networks and building research infrastructure to grow research capacity and competitiveness aligned with jurisdictional priorities.

EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (E-RISE II)

Supports the development of sustainable research infrastructure and capacity in EPSCoR jurisdictions through collaborative, hypothesis-driven or problem-driven research and workforce development to improve competitiveness in a selected STEM field.

Investment Strategies

Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (FEC) – Letter of Intent due Dec. 16, 2025 at 5:00pm.

The RII-FEC program (formerly known as “EPSCoR Track-2 program”) builds interjurisdictional collaborative teams of EPSCoR investigators in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focus areas consistent with the current National Science Foundation Strategic Plan

EPSCoR Research Fellows- Full proposals due April 14, 2026

EPSCoR RII: EPSCoR Research Fellows provides awards to build research capacity in institutions and transform the career trajectories of investigators and further develop their individual research potential through collaborations with investigators from the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers. AAAS will host an EPSCoR Live! on this solicitation in early 2026.

EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)- Full proposal due June 1, 2026

The NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP) provides an opportunity for applicants who received the distinction of GRFP Honorable Mention no more than three years before the proposal due date to be named NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellows and obtain financial support for their graduate education at an institution in an EPSCoR jurisdiction. AAAS will host an EPSCoR Live! on this solicitation in early 2026.

Merit review criteria for all NSF proposals: Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

Intellectual Merit:

- the potential to advance knowledge

Broader Impacts:

- the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievements of specific, desired societal outcomes

Intellectual Merit Examples

- Give context for your research. Is it part of a larger program?
- What are you building on? What are you building towards?
- Would it lead to new questions, techniques, or insights?
- What's the new idea? Why is now the right time? Why are you the right person?
- Are there applications or connections to other fields (AI, semiconductors, biotechnology, etc.)?

Broader Impacts

Can I still propose broadening participation activities (e.g., outreach) in fulfillment of the Broader Impacts criterion?

- Investigators should prioritize the first six broader impacts goals as defined by the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010. Investigators wishing to address goal seven — expanding participation in STEM for women and underrepresented groups — must ensure that all outreach, recruitment, or participatory activities in NSF projects are open and available to all Americans. Investigators may conduct these types of engagement activities to individuals, institutions, groups, or communities based on protected characteristics only as part of broad engagement activities. Investigators may also expand participation in STEM based on non-protected characteristics, including but not limited to institutional type, geography, socioeconomic status, and career stage. However, engagement activities aimed at these characteristics cannot indirectly preference or exclude individuals or groups based on protected characteristics.

Broader Impacts Review Criteria Goals as in the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010

(1) Increasing the economic competitiveness of the United States.

(2) Advancing of the health and welfare of the American public.

(3) Supporting the national defense of the United States.

(4) Enhancing partnerships between academia and industry in the United States.

(5) Developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development, and improved undergraduate STEM education and instruction.

(6) Improving public scientific literacy and engagement with science and technology in the United States.

(7) Expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.

Broader Impacts Examples

Mentoring: undergrad or grad students, postdocs, etc.

Education: advising research, developing new courses, writing textbooks

Outreach activities: math circles, work in prisons, public talks, popular writing

Broadening participation: with organizations or on your own
(*Note*: Pay special attention to NSF's FAQs on updated priorities related to BP)

Professional service: organizing conferences, editorial boards, professional societies

Important: Educationally-focused projects often have a hard time disentangling Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts, but you need to separate them out in your proposal.

Projects Should be Evidence-based and Knowledge-generating

Evidence-based: Is the project building on prior work?

Knowledge-generating: What will be learned from the planned conduct of the project?

Successful Projects Do the Following:

- Pay careful attention to the font size and page limits outlined in the PAPPG, and cite the research literature
- Include a well-designed plan to gather data
- Specify methods of analysis that will be employed to answer the questions posed
- Include mechanisms to evaluate the success of the project (both formative and summative evaluation) with a timeline and benchmarks
- Explain how findings and materials will be shared
- Address the sustainability of project efforts
- Collaborate as needed with other investigators, institutions, or communities

Submitting a Proposal

Write your proposal & make your budget

Follow the Proposal and Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) and the current NSF priorities carefully.

Work with your Sponsored Research Office (SRO) to submit it through Research.gov

NSF funds institutions, not individuals, so the institution submits the proposal. Avoid Grants.gov.

If at first you don't succeed…

Success rates are low, and competition is stiff. Don't get discouraged. Read the reviews, find things to improve, connect with a program officer, and try again. (And again. And again.)

Learn through Reviewing

One of the best ways to learn more about the NSF review process is to serve as a reviewer!

- Complete the EPSCoR reviwer interest form at https://nsfevaluation.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_71coXaVVgk7lfLg


Q&A

Please share your feedback