



NSF EPSCoR
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement – Focused EPSCoR Collaborations Program (RII FEC)

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1) **NSF 24-573**: Current Solicitation

2) **NSF 24-091**: Dear Colleague Letter for Announcement of Topic FY 2026 RII FEC Competitions

3) Full Proposal Deadline: January 27, 2026



NSF 24-091: Dear Colleague Letter

Announcement of New Topic for FY 2025 and 2026 Competitions

“Building capacity towards use-inspired research”

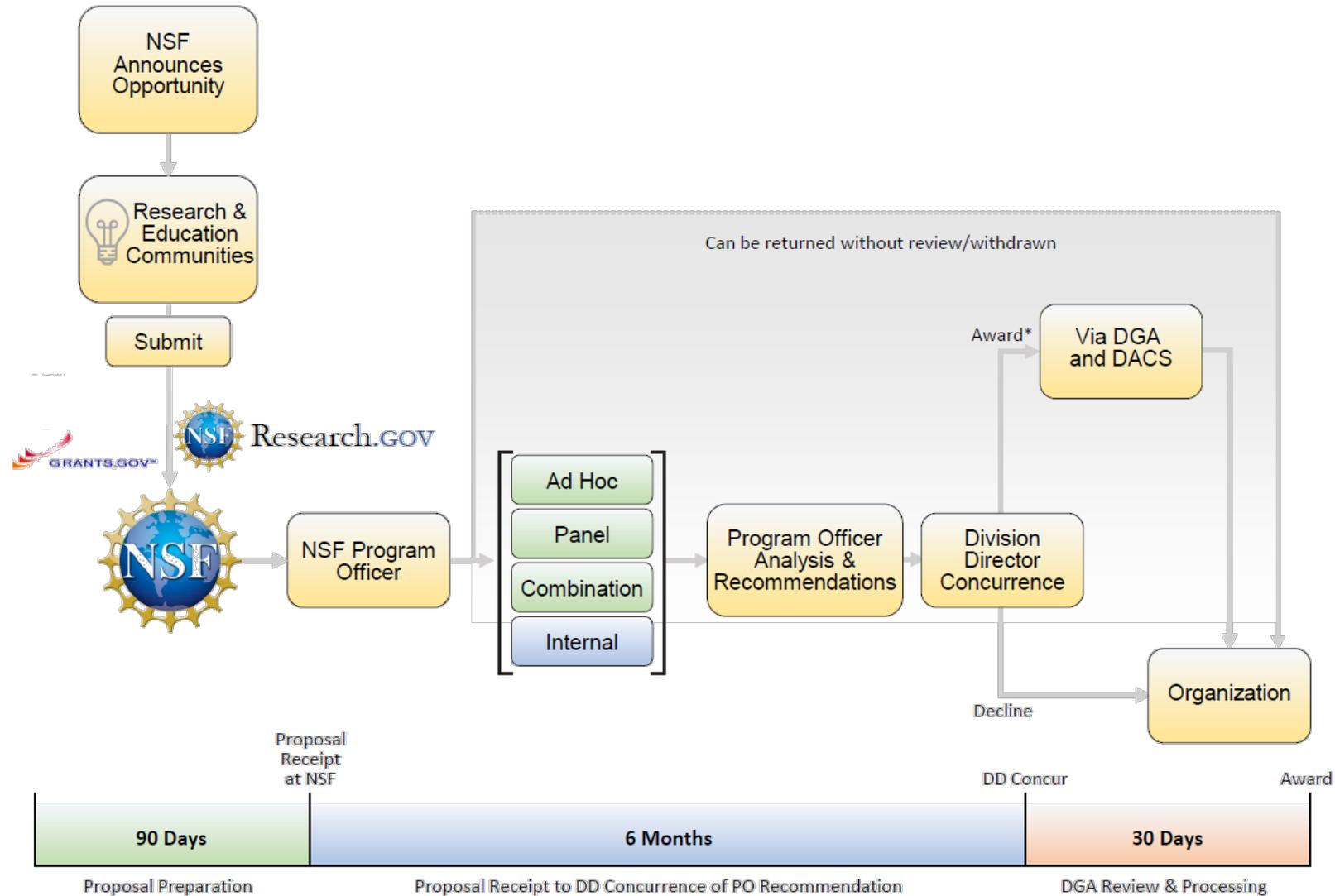
**Flexibility in disciplinary focus , as no technical topic is specified.
FEC accepts proposals in any areas supported by NSF.**

**2027 & 2028 DCL – TBA – Alignment with current NSF and U.S.
Government Research Priorities.**

Does the agency plan to focus its funding only on areas of artificial intelligence, quantum information science, biotechnology, and translational science?

While NSF will continue to focus on Administration priorities, such as artificial intelligence, quantum information science, biotechnology, and translational science, we remain committed to awarding grants and funding all areas of science and engineering to promote the progress of science, advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare, and secure the national defense.

NSF Proposal and Award Lifecycle



NSF 2025 FEC Awards:

Optical properties of mineral dust aerosols: Building capacity for use-inspired applications through experimental and theoretical investigations — This project aims to quantify global and regional mineral dust cycles and their impacts on weather and climate and on human and natural systems.

Good fire: Enhance spatial and temporal efficacy of prescribed fire and managed wildland fire use — By integrating advanced machine learning with ecosystem models, this project will provide novel, decision-support tools for optimizing managed fires to efficiently and effectively meet management objectives and prevent ecological disruption across diverse landscapes.

Circular waste resource recovery and water reuse systems to drive sustainability and resiliency of the Great Plains rural communities —The project focuses on building research capacity to create a circular resource recovery platform with water reuse, generating valuable co-products, substances that result from a production process, from livestock waste.

Tri-state collaborative for defluorination of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances — This project will synergize expertise in materials, separation, reaction, electrochemistry, process systems, modeling, and social science to address environmental and public health concerns and technical challenges posed by low concentrations of PFAS in water and their resistance to defluorination reaction.

Harnessing artificial magnetic semiconductors in the flatland — The design of next-generation 2D magnets will offer new quantum states and applications, and will deliver devices with unique functionalities ranging from lithium-ion batteries, flexible electronics, wearable devices, sensors, and functional membranes.

Establishing infrastructure for AI-driven discovery of small molecules to combat antibiotic resistance, biofilms, and aflatoxin contamination — Their research aims to develop novel antimicrobial agents to kill bacteria, anti-biofilm strategies to reduce biofouling, and small-molecule inhibitors to neutralize aflatoxin in crops.

Additional Solicitation Specific Review Criteria

- **Research Capacity** – What is the potential impact of the project on enhancing STEM research competitiveness and developing STEM research capacity and infrastructure in the jurisdictions (including physical, cyber, and human resources)?
- **Workforce Development** – How will the recruitment and development of early-career faculty and postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate trainees contribute to the preparation of a new cadre of skilled researchers, innovators, and educators able to work across boundaries and interface with stakeholders in areas associated with the project focus?
- **Inter-jurisdictional Collaboration** – Is there a balanced, sustainable, collaborative effort of activities such that each jurisdiction is contributing to and benefiting from the project at an appropriate level?
- **Integration of Project Elements** – How well developed is the integration of, and synergy between, the research, education, workforce development, sustainability, project coordination, and evaluation elements of the project?

2025-2026 FEC Team



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Thanks for your attention!