



NSF
EPSCoR
EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO
STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

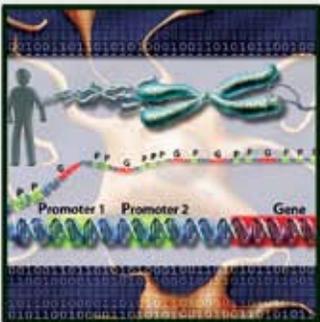


EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH



National Science Foundation

**Directorate for Education
and Human Resources**



2005 - 2006 Partnership Directory



NSF EPSCoR

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NSF EPSCoR Cohorts

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) concept was initiated at the National Science Foundation during 1978. Subsequently, NSF received statutory authority via Sec. 113 (a) of Miscellaneous Law 42 U.S.C. 1862g that “The Director shall operate an Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, the purpose of which is to assist those States that (1) historically have received relatively little Federal research and development funding; and (2) have demonstrated a commitment to develop their research bases and improve science and engineering research and education programs at their universities and colleges.”

The success of the NSF EPSCoR Program during the 1980’s subsequently prompted the creation of EPSCoR/EPSCoR-like programs in six other Federal R&D agencies: Departments of Energy (DOE), Defense (DoD), Agriculture (USDA), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The mission of NSF EPSCoR is to assist the Foundation in its statutory function “... to strengthen research and education in the sciences and engineering, including independent research by individuals, throughout the United States, and to avoid undue concentration of such research and education.” Twenty-five states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U. S. Virgin Islands currently participate in one or more components of the NSF EPSCoR program. The states are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

EPSCoR is based on the premise that universities and their faculty and students in science and engineering fields are valuable resources, which can have significant positive influences on a jurisdiction’s and region’s development of new knowledge, products, services, partnerships, and skilled workforces for the twenty-first century. Hence, NSF EPSCoR’s goals are: (1) to provide strategic programs and opportunities for participants that stimulate sustainable improvements in a jurisdiction’s R&D capacity and competitiveness and, (2) to advance science and engineering capabilities in eligible jurisdictions for discovery, innovation and overall knowledge-based prosperity. Specific objectives of the NSF EPSCoR program are:

- to catalyze key research themes and related activities within the jurisdictions that empower knowledge generation, dissemination and application;
- to activate effective jurisdictional and regional collaborations among academic, government and private sector stakeholders that advance scientific research, promote innovation and provide multiple societal benefits;
- to broaden participation in science & engineering by institutions, organizations and people within EPSCoR jurisdictions;
- to use EPSCoR for development, implementation and evaluation of future programmatic experiments that motivate positive change and progression.



To achieve its programmatic objectives, NSF EPSCoR collaborates with other NSF programs; forms working partnerships with jurisdictional leaders in government, higher education, and business; and provides catalytic support for projects designed to enhance research capacity, capability and sustainable competitiveness.

NSF funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. It does this through grants to and cooperative agreements with more than 2,000 colleges, universities, K-12 school systems, businesses, informal science organizations, and other research institutions throughout the United States. NSF accounts for about one-fourth of all Federal support to academic institutions for basic research.

NSF welcomes proposals on behalf of all qualified scientists, engineers, and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity, receiving financial assistance from NSF, although some programs may have special requirements that limit eligibility.

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the GPG Chapter II, Section D.2 for instructions regarding preparation of these types of proposals.

NSF has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment, or general information. TDD may be accessed at 703-292-5090; FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.