Nevada System of Higher Education Announcement
NEVADA NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 Program

Researchers should start forming preliminary teams now!

The Opportunity

Nevada will be eligible to submit a new proposal to the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), Research Infrastructure Improvement Program Track-1 (RII Track-1) program in 2017.

NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 awards

RII Track-1 awards provide up to $4 million per year for up to five years. They are intended to increase the research competitiveness of jurisdictions by improving their academic research infrastructure in areas of science and engineering supported by NSF and critical to the jurisdiction's science and technology plan. These areas must have the best potential to improve the jurisdiction's future R&D competitiveness. NSF EPSCoR's website has more details on the Track-1 program, the most recent solicitation, and active awards.

Nevada NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 Proposal Process

As determined by the NSHE Research Affairs Council and the Nevada EPSCoR Advisory Committee, the research area for the next Nevada Track-1 proposal can be any topic that is identified as a priority in the 2015 Nevada Science and Technology Plan. In addition, the research area must be a topic normally funded by NSF. This includes regular programmatic areas and cross cutting areas at NSF.

In summer 2016, the NSHE EPSCoR Office will release a request for Letters of Intent (LOI) followed by a Request for Pre-proposals. Submitted pre-proposals will be peer-reviewed by a single panel and one pre-proposal will be selected to move forward to full proposal development during winter-summer 2017. Proposal submission to NSF is expected to be in August 2017.

What can NSHE researchers do now?

In preparation for submitting an LOI and Request for Pre-proposals in summer 2016, NSHE researchers should start discussions and form preliminary teams over the coming year to develop concepts, research questions, and expected impacts on strategic research topics.

Tips on research topic development

- Ensure your research topic is:
    - A priority in the 2015 [Nevada Science and Technology Plan](#)
    - A topic normally funded by NSF including regular programmatic areas and cross cutting areas at NSF
    - In alignment with [NSF's Strategic Plan](#)
    - Leverages the strengths of Nevada institutions

- Consider:
    - Topics that are in alignment with current [NSF funding priorities](#)
    - Topics that are interdisciplinary in nature
    - Ways to integrate diversity, education, workforce development, and scientific and stakeholder partnerships and collaborations
    - Including non-STEM partners (e.g., economics, policy, social scientists)
    - How EPSCoR funding will lead to increased research competitiveness

Tips on team building

- Since this is a statewide program, teams should be well represented with researchers from UNLV, UNR, and DRI.
- Budgets should be comprised of no less than 20% and no more that 50% of the total project budget from any given institution.
- Contact the Vice Presidents for Research at your sister NSHE institutions for suggestions of faculty members to include on your team
- Include a mix of junior and senior faculty
- Utilize NSHE videoconferencing, and free online conferencing for team meetings (e.g., [Google Hangouts](#), [Skype](#)). * Your institution may also provide access to other online conferencing, such as Webex.

*Nevada EPSCoR's Communication Specialist, Althea Sheets, can help you get started on using these communication tools. Althea.sheets@nshe.nevada.edu; (702) 522-7082

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Schedule for Next NSF EPSCoR Track-1 Proposal Development

Time	Step
Fall 2015	Notice of eligibility to submit new NSF EPSCoR proposal in 2017 Team building announcement released
Summer 2016	Letters of Intent & Request for Pre-proposals announced
Summer 2016	Letters of Intent due
Fall 2016	Pre-proposal due and peer-reviewed
Winter 2016	Winning pre-proposal selected
Winter-Summer 2017	Full proposal development
August 2017	Submit Proposal
June 2018	Award made; project begins