

NSF EPSCoR* Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 Team Building Workshop

September 18, 2018
University of Nevada, Reno

***Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research**

AGENDA

11:00 – 11:15 am	Overview of Track 1 Program
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Poster session/informal networking
12:15 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch and roundtable discussions
1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Poster session/informal networking
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Facilitated roundtable discussions

NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 Program

Gayle Dana, Nevada NSF EPSCoR Project Director

RII Track-1 Awards

- NSF's only state-based program
- Primary goal is to improve research competitiveness of the jurisdiction
- A jurisdiction can submit only one proposal to the Track-1 program
- This internal NSHE competition will determine the pre-proposal most likely to result in an award under NSF's 2019 competition

Foremost

- Intellectual merit, broader impacts, and research hypotheses/questions provide the rationale for the infrastructure investments requested in pre-proposal



NSF and NSHE Topic Requirements

- Alignment with priorities in the 2015 NSHE Science and Technology Plan;
- Alignment with current scientific and engineering grand challenges, either NSF's Big Research Ideas or NSF-relevant grand challenges put forth by other agencies or entities;
- Topics funded by NSF's regular programmatic and cross-cutting areas; and
- Leverage the strengths of all three NSHE research institutions.

Important Deadlines

Due by 5pm on dates shown

October 1, 2018

Letter of Intent Due

Use online form:

<https://epscorspo.nevada.edu/nevada-nsf-rii-track-1-letter-of-intent/>

November 19, 2018 Pre-proposal Due

Follow solicitation guidelines

Upload at:

<https://epscorspo.nevada.edu/opportunity/nevada-nsf-rii-track-1-program-pre-proposal/>

Pre-proposals will only be accepted if signed by and submitted by the PI's authorized organization representative.

Preparing a competitive pre-proposal

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RII Track-1 Overview

- Hypothesis-driven, not discovery-based, research is key. The infrastructure and increased research capacity are consequences of the cutting-edge research that happens as part of the project
 - Review includes non-EPSCoR NSF program staff, Director's Review Board
- The goal should not be the RII Track-1 award. The award helps you achieve is the means to achieve a goal.
 - Sustainability, strategy, execution

RII Track-1 Overview +

- “These proposals are unique in their jurisdiction-wide scope and complexity; in their integration of individual researchers, institutions, and organizations; and in their role in developing the diverse, well-prepared, STEM-enabled workforce necessary to sustain research competitiveness and catalyze economic development.” (NSF 17-562)
- Project alignment is critical:
 - Topic
 - Teams

7 new RII Track-1 projects in FY 2018

- 1757348 - “RII Track-1: Fire and Ice: Navigating Variability in Boreal Wildfire Regimes and Subarctic Coastal Ecosystems”
- 1757353 - “RII Track 1: Water Security in Delaware's Changing Coastal Environment”
- 1757351 - “RII Track-1 Consortium for Research on Environmental Water Systems”
- 1757324 “- RII Track-1: Linking Genome to Phenome to Predict Adaptive Responses of Organisms to Changing Landscapes”
- 1757220- “RII Track-1 Mississippi EPSCoR: Center for Emergent Molecular Optoelectronics (CEMOs)”
- 1757371 - “RII-Track 1: New Hampshire Center for Multiscale Modeling and Manufacturing of Biomaterials (NH Bio-Made)”
- 1757207 - “RII Track-1: The New Mexico SMART Grid Center: Sustainable, Modular, Adaptive, Resilient, and Transactive”

Topic: Alignment with NSF

- Topic area:
 - Have a “Grand Challenge” question;
 - Consider alignment with an NSF priority area (Big 10 ideas, agency-wide initiatives)
- Questions to consider:
 - Is the topic area an area funded by NSF?
 - Do you know what NSF program areas you would apply to for this topic area?
 - Do you have success in being funded by these programs?
 - Do you know NSF staff in the program area?

Topic: Alignment with Nevada

- Why is **your project** right for Nevada?
- Need to be aligned with state Science and Technology plan;
- Need to have buy-in across the jurisdiction (HEIs including MSIs, State, private sector);
- Need to convince panel that Nevada is the BEST place to do this project;

Strategies

- EPSCoR dollars are catalytic, not foundational.
- The award is not the goal. The award is the means to achieve the goal.
- Collaboration and teamwork are critical.

Recommendations for pre-proposals

- Problem has national, state importance
- Hypothesis-driven
- Broadening participation
- Representation from across Nevada institutions
- Has an NSF focus
- Is able to result in a sustainable center that will live beyond the award period
- Has an economic impact
- Is the right project for Nevada

