EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (RII) Track-2: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations

(RII Track-2 FEC)
NSF 17-503

November 2016

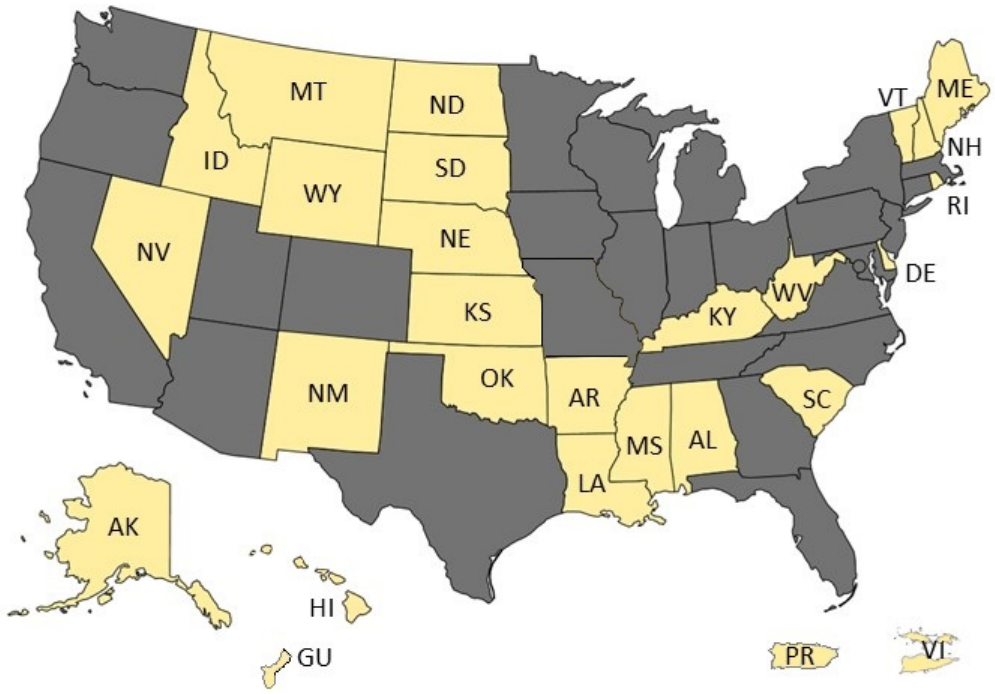
Webinar Purpose

- Inform the community about the recently released FY 2017 EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-2 Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (FEC)
- NSF 17-503 released October 12, 2016
- https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17503/nsf17503.htm
- NOT a substitute for reading the solicitation
- There are differences between 17-503 and prior year RII Track-2 solicitations

EPSCoR Overview

- **Established by National Science Board Resolution in 1978**
- **Science-Driven, State-based, NSF program**
  - Building sustainable research capacity of academic institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions
  - Developing pathways for increased success in competitive programs at NSF and other research programs
- **EPSCoR jurisdictions**
  - States, Commonwealths, and Territories that receive ≤ 0.75% of NSF research support funding averaged over most recent 3 years
  - Eligibility table updated annually

NSF EPSCoR FY17 RII Eligibility



States

AL Alabama
AK Alaska
AR Arkansas
DE Delaware
HI Hawaii
ID Idaho
KS Kansas
KY Kentucky
LA Louisiana
ME Maine
MS Mississippi
MT Montana
NE Nebraska
NH New Hampshire
NM New Mexico
ND North Dakota
NV Nevada
OK Oklahoma
RI Rhode Island
SC South Carolina
SD South Dakota
VT Vermont
WV West Virginia
WY Wyoming

Other

GU Guam
PR Puerto Rico
VI U.S. Virgin Islands

EPSCoR states and other U.S. jurisdictions eligible for EPSCoR RII during FY 2017.
This includes twenty-four states, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

EPSCoR Strategic Goals

- Enhance ***research capabilities*** and creation of new knowledge contributing to discovery, innovation, learning, and ***knowledge-based prosperity***.
- Advance ***STEM education***, training, and workforce development.
- ***Broaden STEM participation*** of diverse individuals and institutions.
- Effect ***engagement*** of participants, partners, and general public through broad-based communication.
- Impact ***research, education, and economic development*** at academic, government, and private sector levels.

NSF EPSCoR Investment Strategies

- **Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII)** (79% of EPSCoR budget)

  Awards to support physical, human, and cyber infrastructure.

  - RII Track-1: Jurisdiction-based awards. Research areas selected by jurisdiction's EPSCoR steering committee.
  - **RII Track-2: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations**
  - RII Track-3: Building Diverse Communities *i.e.*, Broadening Participation in STEM fields.
  - RII Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows. New for FY17. Solicitation 17-509. Webinars November 29 and 30 – link to login instructions are on the NSF EPSCoR home page.

NSF EPSCoR Investment Strategies (cont.)

- **Co-Funding with NSF Directorates and Offices** (20% of EPSCoR budget)
- **Outreach and Workshops** (1% of EPSCoR budget)

RII Track-2: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations

- Response to reports from National Academy of Sciences, and the workshops *EPSCoR 2020* and *EPSCoR 2030* that called for mechanism(s) to facilitate multi-jurisdictional collaborations.

- Combining expertise distributed in different EPSCoR jurisdictions into a "critical mass" capable of competing for large scale competitions at NSF or other agencies.

- Promoting productive, balanced collaborations that are capable of sustained activities beyond the award period.

- Additional priorities:
  - Development of diverse early-career faculty
  - Building capacity in NSF-wide priority areas

NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2 History

- Originally run in FY09 - FY11 with a focus on supporting cyber-enabled science and engineering projects of regional, thematic, or technological importance.
- FY13 and FY14 competitions were open to any field of science and engineering supported by the Foundation.
- In FY15, competition was opened to one submission (as lead) per institution, rather than per jurisdiction. Collaborating partners funded as sub-awards, not through separately submitted collaborative proposals.
- FY15 and FY16 had two focus areas: Understanding the Brain, and the Food-Energy-Water Nexus.

FY 17 RII Track-2 Focus: Genome to Phenome

- Aligned with international efforts to understand how genotype elicits phenotype.
- Implications for medicine, agriculture, biotechnology, ecology, evolution, etc.
- Seeking innovative, inter-disciplinary approaches toward quantitative, predictive understanding of the complex interactions between genome and environment that generate variable phenotypic traits.
- Proposals may use any combination of experimental, computational, and/or theoretical approaches with any appropriate model system(s).
- **Proposals that do not align with the focus area will be returned without review!**

NSF 17-503: "By the Numbers"

- Letters of Intent are REQUIRED: due January 10, 2017
- Full proposals: due February 10, 2017
- Estimated number of awards: 5
- Number of proposals per institution: 1
- Number of proposals per PI: 1
- Up to 4 years of funding may be requested.
- If institutions from two jurisdictions participate, award may not exceed $1M/year; if three or more jurisdictions, $1.5M/year.
- PIs/Co-PIs of existing RII Track-1/Track-2 awards with end dates after October 31, 2017 may not submit proposals.
- **Investigators cannot be PI or co-PI on more than one proposal. It is allowable to be a participant on >1 proposal.**

Letters of Intent submitted through Fastlane

- REQUIRED: due January 10, 2017 (5 PM submitter's local time)
- Only 1 LOI permitted per institution
- **MUST** be submitted by organization's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). Previously, LOIs were submitted by the Sponsored Projects Office.
- "Synopsis" and "Other Comments" text fields, each limited to 2,500 characters. Be concise.
- Used solely for the purpose of merit review process preparation
  - Will not be seen by reviewers or panelists or used to judge merit
- Indicate which EPSCoR jurisdictions are participating.
- Required: list of science/research keywords

Track-2 Proposals: see Solicitation Section V.A

- **Project Description** (20 pages maximum. NOTE: Proposals that use the maximum number of pages in each subsection of the Project Description will not be in compliance with the 20 page limit.)
  - Status and Overview (2 pages maximum)
  - Results from Relevant Prior Support (2 pages maximum)
  - Research, Collaboration and Workforce Development (18 pages maximum)
    - Research and Education Goals and Activities
    - Inter-jurisdictional Collaborations and Partnerships
    - Workforce Development

Proposals (continued)

- **Evaluation and Assessment Plan** (2 pages maximum)
  - See solicitation for specific metrics.
- **Sustainability Plan** (2 pages maximum)
  - See solicitation for specifics.
- **Supplementary Documentation (in addition to those required by the PAPPG)**
  - List of senior-level participants
  - List of institutions and companies involved in the project
  - No Letters of Collaboration from participants should be included.
  - Up to a maximum of five Letters of Support from partnering institutions/organizations may be included.

Merit Review Criteria

- Proposals received will be reviewed by *ad hoc* review and/or Panel review
- NSB Required Criteria:
  - Intellectual Merit
  - Broader Impacts
- **Additional NSF 17-503-Specific Review Criteria**
  - Research Capacity
  - Inter-jurisdictional Collaborations
  - Workforce Development
  - Jurisdictional Impacts
  - Integration of Program Elements

Post-Award Assessment

- Annual project reports.
- There may also be a Reverse Site Visit at NSF headquarters in year 2. Sufficient travel funds should be reserved for up to six participants to attend this panel meeting.
- In addition to the project-specific evaluation plan, there is a required, centralized, output data collection activity coordinated by NSF EPSCoR.
  - $12,500 per year must be budgeted for this data collection effort. This can be listed on Budget Line G.3: "Consultant Services".

Summary

- **READ** EPSCoR's NSF 17-503 for detailed, accurate, specific, information:
  - https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17503/nsf17503.htm
- LOIs are required for each proposal (1 maximum per institution) and are due: January 10, 2017.
- Full proposals due: February 10, 2017
- RII Track-2 has only a single topic in FY17: Genome to Phenome.
- Contact EPSCoR program officers if you have questions.

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Note: the information above was current as of the time of publishing. See program website for any updates to the points of contact.

Thank you!