



EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track 4: EPSCoR Research Fellows (RII Track-4)

Informational Webinar

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Webinar Purpose

- The goal for today is to inform the community about the recently released EPSCoR RII Track-4 EPSCoR Research Fellows solicitation.
- NSF 17-509 was released October 26, 2016
 - <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17509/nsf17509.htm>
- This is a new opportunity under EPSCoR's RII funding mechanism. There have not been any prior RII Track-4 competitions or awards.
- Slides will be posted to NSF EPSCoR website following the webinars.

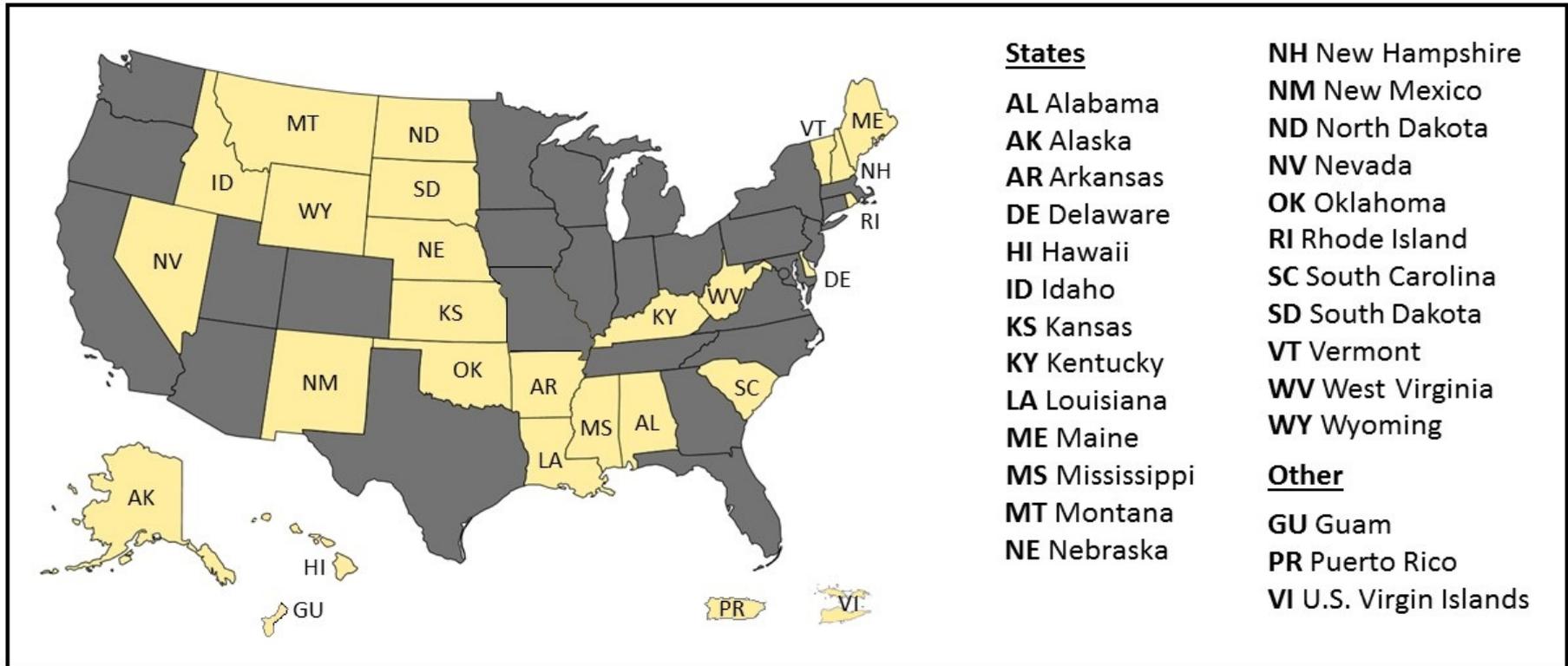
This webinar is NOT a substitute for reading the solicitation.



- 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 and education programs
- EPSCoR jurisdictions
 - States, Commonwealths, and Territories that receive $\leq 0.75\%$ of NSF research support funding averaged over most recent 3 years
 - Eligibility table updated annually and publically available:
https://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/epscor/Eligibility_Tables/FY2016_Eligibility.pdf



NSF EPSCoR FY17 RII Eligibility



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



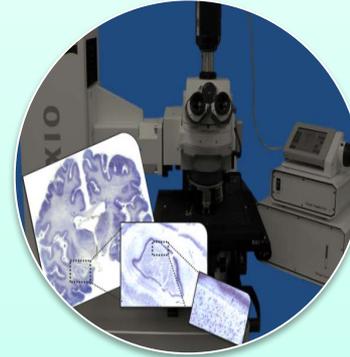
- Enhance research capabilities and creation of new knowledge contributing to discovery, innovation, learning, and knowledge-based prosperity.
- Advance STEM education, training, and workforce development.
- Broaden STEM participation of diverse individuals and institutions.
- Effect engagement of participants,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



Discovery & Innovation



Education & Workforce



Economic Development



Quality of Life

Building Capacity

Motivation for RII Track-4



- Majority of RII resources go toward large, center-like projects:
 - RII Track-1: Jurisdiction-wide awards, typically \$20M over 5 yrs.
 - RII Track-2: Collaborations across jurisdictions, \$4-6M over 4 yrs.
- Additional investments in individuals or small teams through co-funding mechanism.
- Recognition that more could be done to catalyze the career trajectories for a new generation of research leaders.
 - Time to develop new or strengthen current research directions.
 - Opportunity to build deep research connections with partners nationwide.

Track-4 Vision



- Provides opportunities for non-tenured investigators to further develop their individual research potential through extended collaborative visits to the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers.
- Fellows will be able to learn new techniques, benefit from access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, and shift their research toward transformative new directions.
- Experience gained through the fellowship is intended to provide a foundation for research collaborations that will span the recipient's career. These benefits to the Fellows are also expected to in turn enhance the research capacities of their institutions and jurisdictions.
- Any research topic within NSF's traditional portfolio will be considered for support.



Track-4 Eligibility

- PIs must have their primary appointment at an eligible institution:
 - Must be in an EPSCoR RII-eligible jurisdiction
 - Must be an Institution of Higher Education or a Not-for-Profit Non-Degree-Granting organization
- PIs must hold a non-tenured faculty appointment, or its close equivalent.
 - Pre-tenure tenure-track position (i.e., an Assistant Professor)
 - Long-term non-tenure-track position (typ. Research Professors)
 - Persons holding transitional (< 3 years) fixed-term postdoctoral appointments are not eligible for this program.
 - Critical date for tenure status is the proposal deadline – February 28, 2017.
- PIs in ‘close equivalent’ positions should make the equivalence clear in the proposal
 - Early career?
 - Soft money?
 - Part of institution’s long-term research plans?
- Sole-PI proposals only; no co-PIs are allowed.
- **Hard limit of three proposal submissions per eligible institution**

Fellowship Details



- Fellowship provides support for the fellow to spend an extended period to conduct research at an identified host site.
 - Up to six months of salary support;
 - Travel between host site and home institution;
 - Living expenses at the host site (up to six months);
 - Multiple visits are okay, but total supported time may not exceed six months.
- Host sites may be any research institution within the United States or its territories/possessions.
 - Must identify a single host site;
 - Does not need to be in an EPSCoR jurisdiction;
 - Generally expected to be outside of PI's home jurisdiction and beyond easy commuting distance.



Fellowship Details (cont.)

- If needed, funds may also be requested to bring a trainee-level researcher along for the fellowship visit:
 - Typically a student or postdoc already working in the PI's group;
 - Salary support (up to six months);
 - Travel between host site and home institution;
 - Living expenses at the host site (up to six months).
- Additional support will be allowed for direct costs associated with the work to be completed at the host site:
 - supplies, shipping equipment, publication costs, *etc.*
- No support is available for the host site.
 - Exception: living expenses if you reside on the host site campus during visit.
- NOT easily transferrable – If the PI takes a new position in a non-EPSCoR jurisdiction, the fellowship award will likely be terminated.



What Goes in the Proposal?

- Successful RII Track-4 proposals will present exciting, vibrant fellowship ideas that have potential to transform the PI's individual career trajectory and more broadly impact his/her research field, institution, and jurisdiction.
- All proposals should include:
 - Motivation and context for the work to be conducted;
 - PI's specific plans for the fellowship period; and
 - Discussion for how the benefits gained from the fellowship would be sustained beyond the award.
- Clear specifications of research goals, performance metrics, and a project timetable
- Explain how/why the RII Track-4 award will advance the work – what specific opportunities will be made possible *via* the PI's extended visit(s) to the host site?
 - The parameters for the partnership should be clearly established.
- Describe how the activities will lead to long-lasting impacts for both the PI's career and the home institution/jurisdiction.



Budget Details

- Proposals may be for up to 24 months. Total funds requested may not exceed \$300,000.
 - Two-year duration is to provide flexibility in planning fellowship visit logistics; visits not expected to last that long.
 - Requested NSF support should be consistent with the project's proposed scope and activities.
 - Due to limits below, it is expected that most proposals will fall below the overall cap.
- Budgets may include up to six months of salary and fringe benefit support for the PI and one additional trainee-level participant.
 - Support may be for academic, calendar, or summer months.
 - Tuition for trainee may be included if appropriate.



Budget Details (cont.)

- Travel expenses for the PI and trainee-level researcher:
 - Solely for travel between the PI's home institution and the host site.
 - Multiple trips between the two sites are allowed, however the budget for travel expenses may not exceed \$20,000 total.
- Living expenses for the PI and trainee-level researcher during time spent at the host site:
 - Living expense charges (Lodging, Meals, and Incidental Expenses) may not exceed the *per diem* rates set by the United States General Services Administration (GSA) for the host site location.
 - The total budget for living expenses may not exceed \$50,000.
- Up to \$10,000 in additional direct costs are allowed.
- Host institutions are not eligible to receive funds under this award. (Sole exception is for living expenses.)

Required Letters



At least one letter is required in each of these three categories:

1. From the appropriate supervisory administrator at the PI's home institution.
 - Typically this would be the Department Chair or Dean for a faculty member at an academic institution.
 - To confirm the administrator's support of the PI's plans and particularly to verify that the PI will receive release time from other academic duties to complete the project as proposed.
 - If there is ambiguity about PI's status at the home institution, this letter should also provide clarification.
2. From the identified primary research collaborator(s) at the host site.
 - To confirm support of the proposed collaborative research activities.
3. From the appropriate administrative managers at the host institution.
 - To confirm that all necessary logistical arrangements (site access, office space, cyber connectivity) will be made for the PI's potential visit(s) to ensure that the project may proceed as proposed.

NO Letters outside of these categories will be allowed!!



- Intellectual Merit
- Broader Impacts
- Additional Criteria (Solicitation-Specific):
 - Does the proposal provide clear specifications of research goals, performance metrics, and a project timetable?
 - Does the proposal make a compelling case for how the PI will benefit as a result of the fellowship both during the period of the award and beyond?
 - Does the proposal provide clear evidence that the home institution is supportive of the effort and that there are identifiable benefits to the home institution and/or jurisdiction?
 - Does the host site commit appropriate resources, both scientific and logistic, to lend confidence that the fellowship project will be successful?

Summary



- **READ** EPSCoR's NSF 17-509 for detailed, accurate, specific, information:
 - <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17509/nsf17509.htm>
- Full proposals due: February 28, 2017
- Institutional limit of three proposals
 - Many institutions are running internal competitions for these slots – check with them for details!
- Contact EPSCoR program officers if you have questions:
 - Timothy M. VanReken, tvanreke@nsf.gov, (703) 292-7378



Thank you!

