



# Research Infrastructure Improvement Program

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**New Management  
Same Mission, New Vision and  
New Implementation**

Office of the Director, Office of Integrative Activities

# EPSCoR In Transition

- EPSCoR's move to OIA in the Director's Office *raises its visibility* and underlines the need for
  - Sharper research focus
  - Stronger integration across Foundation
- Increase EPSCoR competitiveness through
  - Increased co-funding
  - EPSCoR participation in NSF initiatives
  - Alignment of RII-supported S&E with discovery frontiers in Directorates and Offices across NSF
  - Catalyzing new, effective interactions

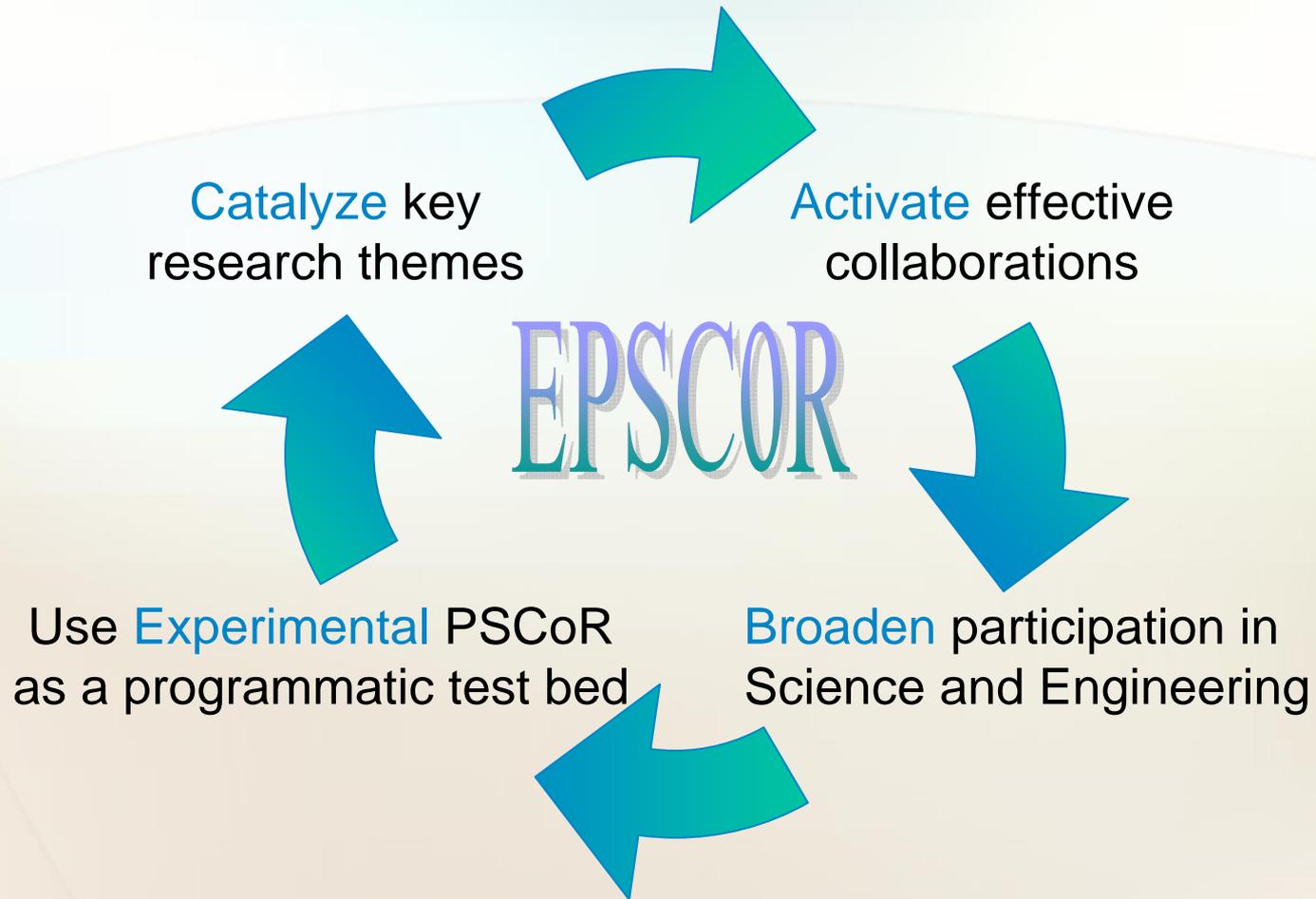
# EPSCoR Goals

- ❖ Provide strategic programs and opportunities for EPSCoR participants that stimulate sustainable improvements in their R&D capacity and competitiveness, and
- ❖ Advance science and engineering capabilities in EPSCoR jurisdictions for discovery, innovation, and overall knowledge-based prosperity.

*NSF's Vision: Advancing discovery, innovation, and education beyond the frontiers of current knowledge, and empowering future generations in science and engineering*

(NSF Strategic Plan, FY 2006-2011)

# EPSCoR Objectives



# Strategic Investment Tools



Research Infrastructure  
Improvement Program

Workshops &  
Outreach

Co-Funding  
Across NSF

# Research Infrastructure Improvement

## •RII-Track 1

- Up to \$4M per year for 5 years (\$20M)
- To improve physical and human infrastructure critical to R&D competitiveness in priority research areas

## •RII-Track 2

- Up to \$2M per year for 3 years (\$6M)
- To consortia of EPSCoR jurisdictions to support innovation-enabling cyberinfrastructure of regional, thematic, or technological importance.

# RII-Track 1 Criteria for Eligibility

- A jurisdiction's demonstrated **commitment** to develop their research bases and to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) research conducted at their universities and colleges, and
- A jurisdiction's most recent three-year **history of research funds** awarded by NSF relative to the Foundation's total research budget for that same period.

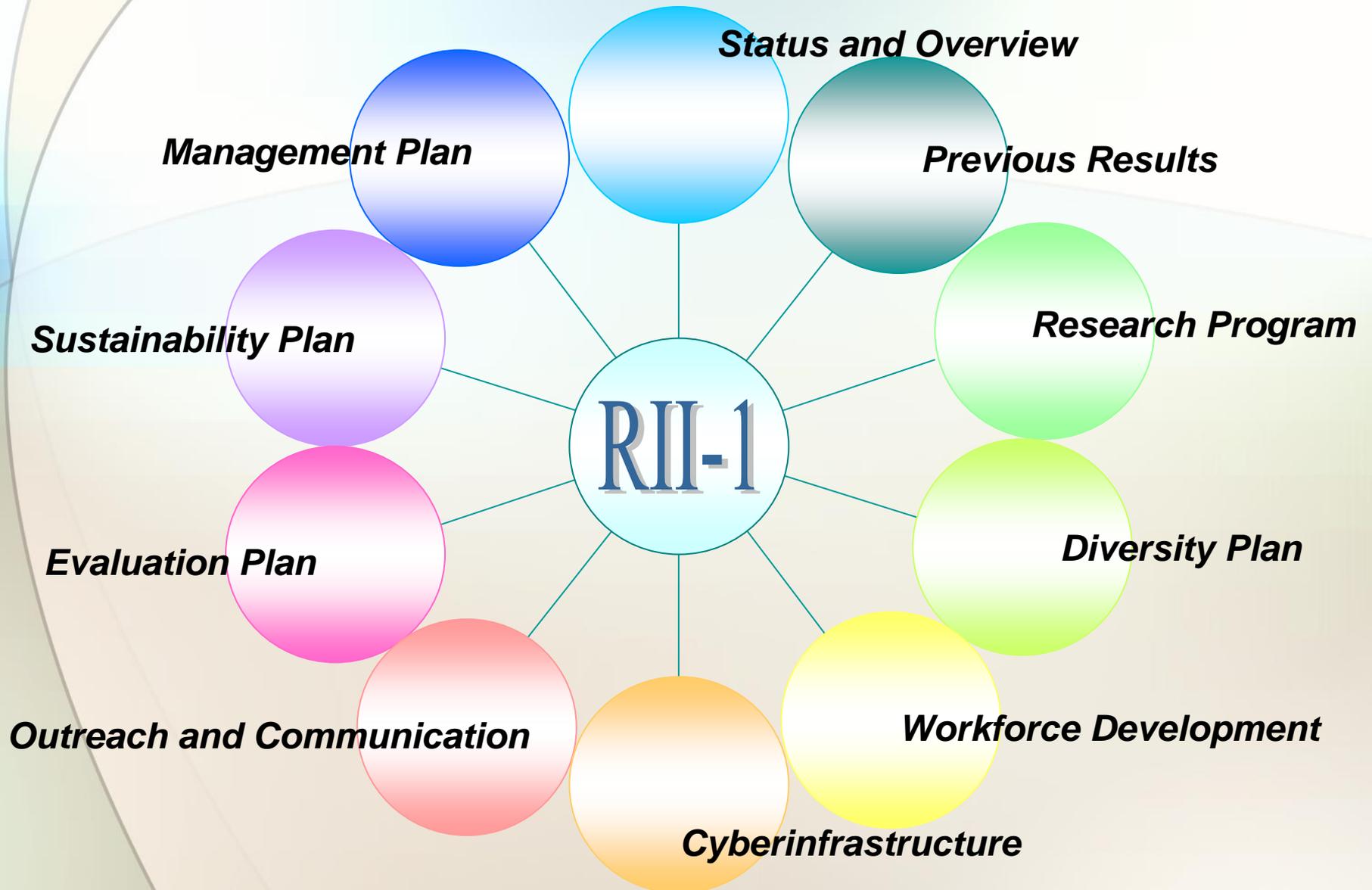
# Changes in Recent RII-1 Solicitation

- Cost Sharing is required (50%)
- All RII Track-1 awards will be cooperative agreements
- Page limitations apply to RII proposals

# Project Description Requirements

- ❖ Structure of the proposal
  - Makes it easier to write a proposal
  - Makes it easier to review all proposals
- ❖ Clearly Stated Goals and Milestones
- ❖ Balance among required elements
- ❖ Budget details for all
  - Institutions
  - Participants
  - Activities

# Project Description



# Page Limitations

|     |   |                 |
|-----|---|-----------------|
|     | <b>Overall for the whole project page limit is</b>  | <b>25 pages</b> |
| 1)  | <b>Status and Overview</b>                          | <b>3 pages</b>  |
| 2)  | <b>Results from Relevant Prior NSF Support</b>      | <b>2 pages</b>  |
| 3)  | <b>Research Program</b>                             | <b>15 pages</b> |
| 4)  | <b>Diversity Plan</b>                               | <b>2 pages</b>  |
| 5)  | <b>Workforce Development Plan</b>                   | <b>4 pages</b>  |
| 6)  | <b>Cyberinfrastructure Plan</b>                     | <b>2 pages</b>  |
| 7)  | <b>Outreach and Communication Plan</b>              | <b>2 pages</b>  |
| 8)  | <b>Evaluation and Assessment Plan</b>               | <b>3 pages</b>  |
| 9)  | <b>Sustainability Plan</b>                          | <b>4 pages</b>  |
|     | 1. <i>Seed Funding and Emerging Areas</i>           |                 |
|     | 2. <i>Education and Human Resources Development</i> |                 |
|     | 3. <i>Post RII extramural funding</i>               |                 |
| 10) | <b>Management Plan</b>                              | <b>3 pages</b>  |
|     | 1. <i>Jurisdictional and Other Support</i>          |                 |
|     | 2. <i>Summary Table of Requested NSF Support</i>    |                 |
| 11) | <b>Supplementary Documentation</b>                  |                 |
|     | a) <i>Lists of Participants</i>                     |                 |
|     | b) <i>Budget Tables</i>                             |                 |
|     | c) <i>Letters of Commitment</i>                     |                 |
|     | <b>Σ total</b>                                      | <b>40 pages</b> |



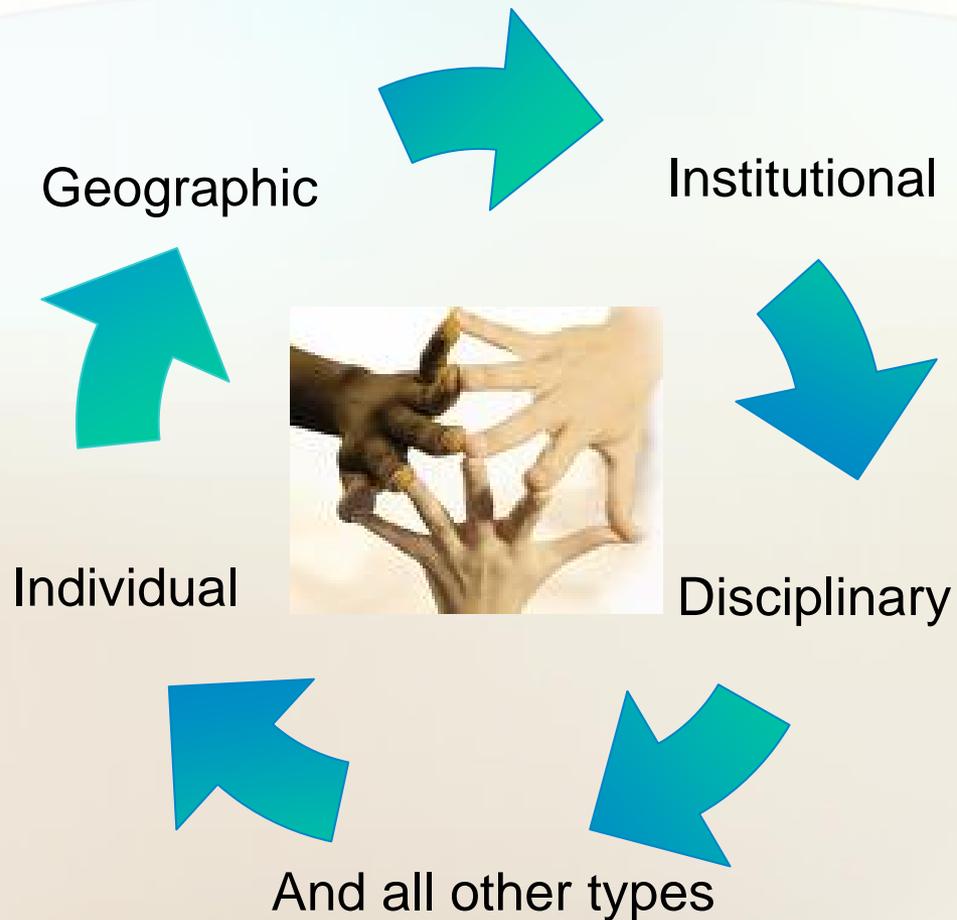
# Research Program

- ❖ One or more focus research areas; for each area proposed
  - Long-term research goals and intellectual focus
  - Planned research activities in sufficient detail (scientific merit and broader impacts)
  - Identify the senior leadership and describe their intellectual roles
  - Outline the resources, available and planned
  - Estimate the numbers of postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate research participants
- ❖ Interactive, collaborative research approach involving several investigators and institutions should be clearly established
- ❖ Place the focus area in the context of the RII Track-1 as a whole, and describe interactions with other groups and organizations within the jurisdiction
- ❖ The narrative should demonstrate
  - How the activities of the specific focus areas are aligned with the jurisdiction's S&T plan, and
  - How they will advance the jurisdiction's future research competitiveness

Science Comes First!

# Diversity Plan

- Diversity is the key to utilization of all of the nation's intellectual and physical resources
- Diversity is broadly defined in EPSCoR and includes all types:



# Workforce Development

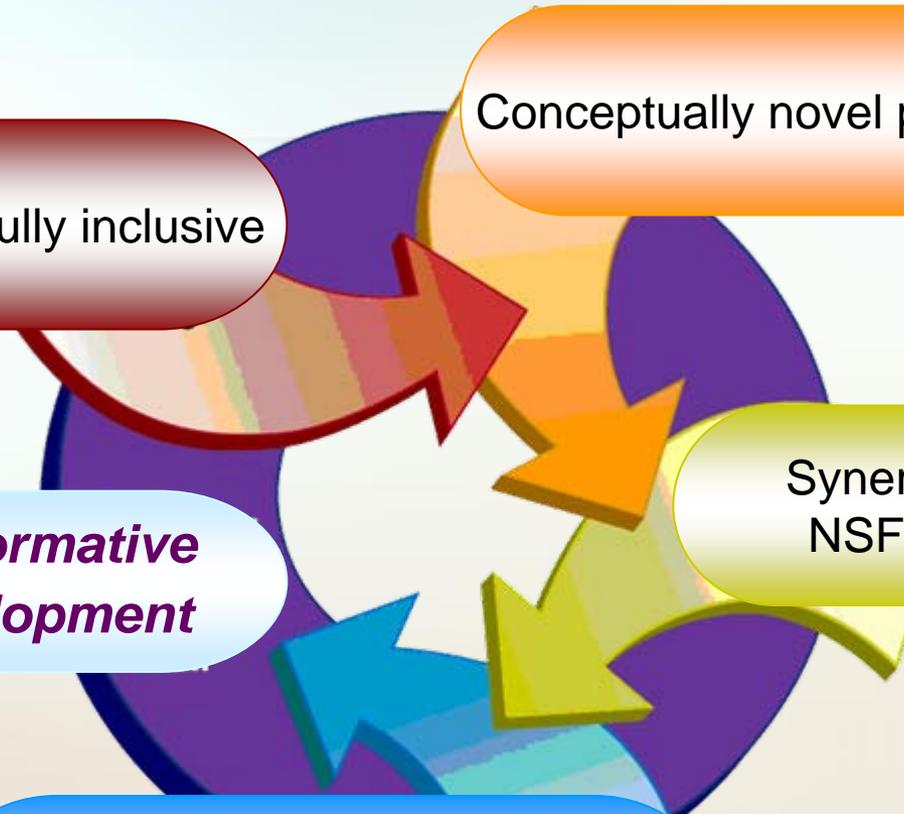
Conceptually novel programs

Jurisdiction-wide and fully inclusive

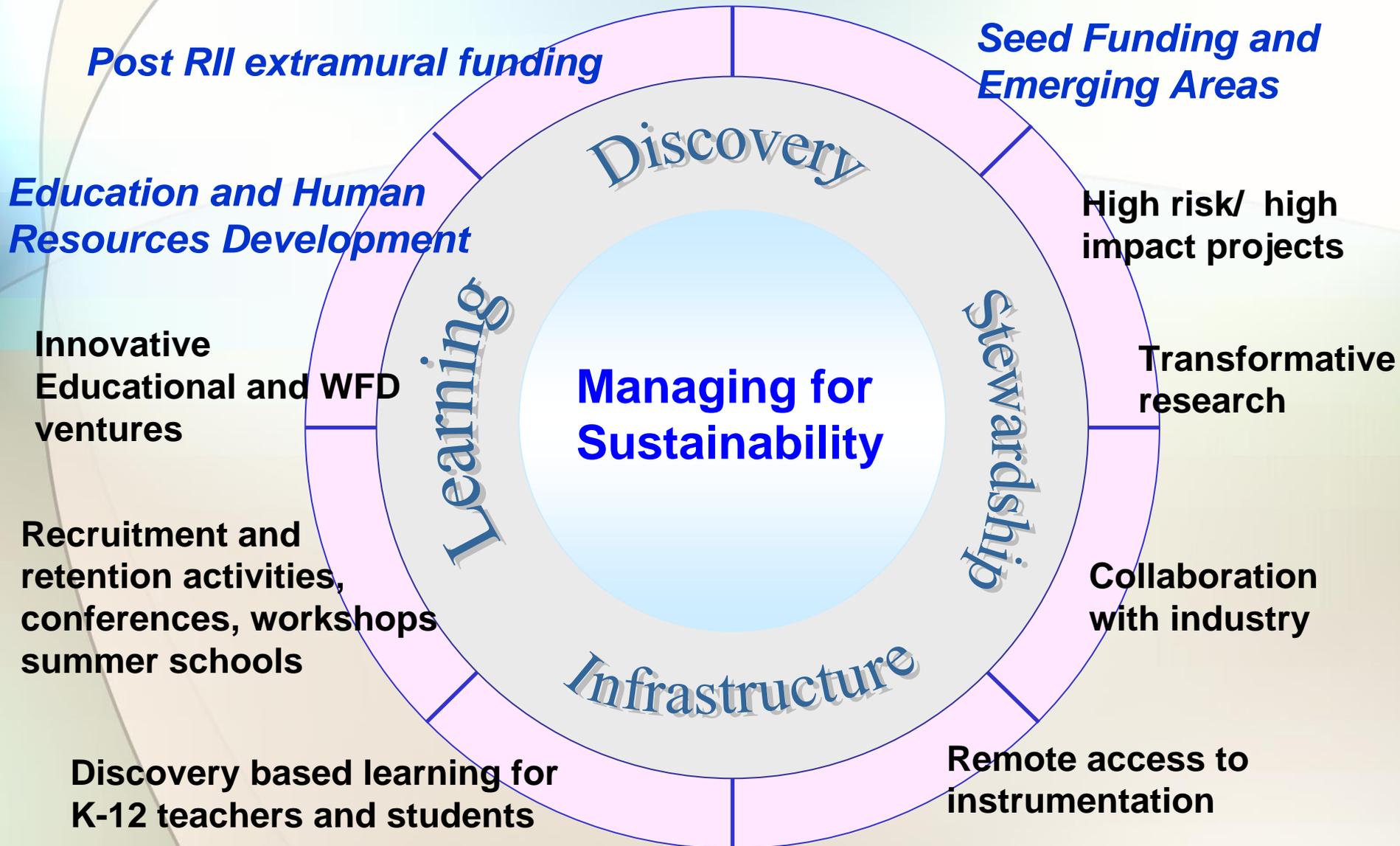
Synergy with other  
NSF investments

***Focus on transformative  
workforce development***

Continue established  
and successful programs



# Sustainability Plan



# Cooperative Agreement is Partnership

## Partnership is a two way street

- **You (state)** set your goals
  - **NSF** helps you to get there
- **You** propose your program
  - **NSF** reviews and funds it
- **You** assess what you do
  - **NSF** evaluates your individual program within NSF EPSCoR program as a whole



Thank you!