

NSF EPSCoR FY 2019 RII Track-2 Award Competition: Harnessing Big Data

Overview

The Wyoming Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), on behalf of the Wyoming EPSCoR State Committee and the UW Office of Research and Economic Development, will submit a new Track-2 application for support from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Program in January 2019.

NSF has restricted the research to one specific area: "Harnessing Big Data to solve problems of national importance."

Track-2 awards must involve substantial collaboration with one or more EPSCoR jurisdictions; the award amount depends on the size of the collaboration. If two RII-eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions collaborate on a proposal, the award amount may not exceed \$1 million per year. If three or more RII-eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions collaborate on a proposal, the award amount may not exceed \$1.5 million per year. Funding requests can be for durations of up to 4 years and \$6 million.

Interested researchers must submit a pre-proposal for review by an internal panel composed of representatives from WY EPSCoR, the UW Office of Research and Economic Development, and the WY EPSCoR State Committee.

Program Synopsis and Requirements

EPSCoR fulfills the National Science Foundation's mandate to guard against undue concentration of funding within the U.S., and consequently is directed at those jurisdictions that have historically received less than 0.75% of the total external R&D funding provided by NSF. Wyoming, along with 25 other states and territories, is currently eligible to participate (Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, U.S. Virgin Islands, Vermont, West Virginia). Through this program, NSF establishes partnerships with government, higher education, and industry that are designed to effect lasting improvements in a state's or region's research infrastructure, R&D capacity, and hence, its national R&D competitiveness.

The solicitation for the 2019 RII Track-2 competition can be found [here](#). All proposals must promote research collaborations between EPSCoR jurisdictions, emphasize the recruitment/development of diverse early career faculty, and address STEM education and workforce development on the single topic: "Harnessing Big Data to solve problems of national importance."

Guidelines

To be considered for the Wyoming 2019 Track-2, pre-proposals must be submitted as a collaboration with at least one other EPSCoR jurisdiction. For the purposes of this competition, Wyoming will be the lead institution and other institutions from NSF EPSCoR jurisdictions will receive subawards from us. Any faculty who currently serve as a PI or co-PI on another RII Track-2 award are not eligible to be a PI or co-PI on this project.

Pre-proposals should be submitted electronically to Sarah Konrad at skonrad@uwyo.edu, by 5pm MT on November 2, 2018. Wyoming researchers who are not participating in our internal competition are free to collaborate as subawardees on Track-2 proposals from other jurisdictions. In such cases, the Wyoming EPSCoR staff is available to help with proposal preparation, but these proposals are not relevant to our internal competition.

Due to the nature of this year's Track-2 theme, we strongly encourage proposals to 1) make use of currently available campus resources such as the Advanced Research Computing Center; 2) collaborate with the newly hired Data Science

Cluster faculty members; and 3) leverage previous and current Wyoming EPSCoR investments in computing and large databases.

Wyoming EPSCoR reminds those from UW who are participating as subawardees with other EPSCoR jurisdictions that if the research proposal falls within the disciplines covered by the Geoscience Division of the NSF, allocations of computational time using the Yellowstone system are available. Furthermore, we strongly encourage UW participants to remind the lead jurisdiction of the availability of this major computing system.

Pre-proposals should include the following:

- Cover sheet listing the project title, Wyoming PIs, collaborating jurisdictions with names and institutions of the Co-PIs, total amount requested
- Project summary (one page max) that specifically addresses the vision and goals of the consortium, a statement of the research including objectives and methods, expected impacts of proposed activities and plans of sustaining collaborations and impacts beyond the award period
- Project description (five pages max) describing the research plan and the collaborative vision of the consortium. Areas to address include:
 - Statement of the research focus area for each collaborating institution
 - Rationale for establishing the consortium
 - Description of the research and the integrated educational, outreach and diversity activities
 - Relevance to workforce development and STEM education
 - Consortium management and coordination plan
- References
- Biographical sketches for UW PIs and Co-PIs from other jurisdictions
- Budget pages for each year of support (1-4) for UW using the attached spreadsheet
- Budget justification (include a description of subawards to collaborating jurisdictions)
- Resources available, including facilities, equipment and other relevant resources

The Wyoming EPSCoR Office will work with the PIs of the selected pre-proposal to supplement, refine, or decline elements so that the final submission meets the broader needs of Wyoming EPSCoR and fulfills the objectives of the NSF EPSCoR program.

Dates and Deadlines

- November 2, 2018: Pre-proposals due at 5:00p
- November 16, 2018: Internal competition winner notified
- November 26, 2018: Letter of intent due to NSF
- January 25, 2019: Full proposal due to NSF
- Summer 2019: NSF decisions made, new Track-2 awards announced

Questions: Research Theme and Overall Project Information

- Brent Ewers, NSF EPSCoR RII Project Director, 766-2625 or beewers@uwyo.edu
- Sarah Konrad, NSF EPSCoR RII Deputy Director, 766-2295 or skonrad@uwyo.edu

Questions: Broader Impacts

- Emily Vercoe, Education, Outreach, and Education Coordinator, 766-4275 or evercoe@uwyo.edu

Questions: Budget

- Tom Smith, Wyoming EPSCoR accountant, 766-4285 or tomlsmit@uwyo.edu