

NSF EPSCoR RII Track-4 Award Competition: Research Fellows

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, plans to submit three applications to the NSF EPSCoR Track-4 program: Research Fellows. The NSF solicitation can be viewed [here](#). Interested researchers at UW must submit a preproposal to Wyoming EPSCoR in order to be considered for one of the three application spots.

RII Track-4 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. During these visits, the EPSCoR Research Fellows will be able to learn new techniques, develop new collaborations or advance existing partnerships, benefit from access to unique equipment and facilities, and/or shift their research in potentially transformative new directions. The experiences gained through the fellowships are intended to have lasting impacts that will enhance the Fellows' research trajectories well beyond the award period. These benefits to the Fellows are also expected to improve the research capacity of their institutions and jurisdictions more broadly. Those submitting proposals must either hold a non-tenured faculty appointment at an institution of higher education or an early-career career-track appointment at an eligible non-degree-granting institution. The award amount is for up to \$300,000 over a period of two years.

Program Synopsis and Requirements

The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is designed to fulfill the mandate of the National Science Foundation (NSF) to promote scientific progress nationwide. A jurisdiction is eligible to participate in EPSCoR programs if its level of NSF research support is equal to or less than 0.75 percent of the total NSF research and related activities budget for the most recent three-year period. Through this program, NSF establishes partnerships with government, higher education, and industry that are designed to effect sustainable improvements in a jurisdiction's research infrastructure, Research and Development (R&D) capacity, and hence, its R&D competitiveness.

Developing the full potential of its science and engineering research workforce is critical to the long-term competitiveness of EPSCoR jurisdictions. To realize this potential, it is often worthwhile for researchers to spend periods of time at other institutions, forming deep collaborative connections that can be sustained for years. The benefits of such an experience may be particularly beneficial to those researchers who are not yet firmly established in their careers. The fellowship may be used to initiate new collaborative relationships, to expand existing partnerships in ambitious new directions, or to make use of unique equipment not available at the PI's home institution. Successful fellowships will positively impact and potentially transform the recipient's research career trajectory. Any research topic within NSF's traditional portfolio will be considered for support. The fellowship host site may be any academic, governmental, commercial, or non-profit research facility within the United States or its territories.

General requirements include:

- PIs must have their primary appointment with University of Wyoming
- PIs must hold a non-tenured faculty appointment (pre-tenure tenure track or long-term non-tenure track). Research staff and transitional postdoctoral appointments are not eligible.
- Host sites may be academic institutions, government laboratories, Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs), or commercial or non-profit research centers.
- Host sites must be located within the United States or its territories
- Although the award period can last for up to two years, only six months of salary support are available to the PI and a trainee-level researcher.

Selection Criteria

The nation-wide competition will be very competitive with only twenty Fellowships expected to be allocated. To be competitive for funding, UW will need to be rigorous during the selection process, and consequently applicants are expected to:

- Clearly state research goals, performance metrics, and a project timetable
- Make a compelling case describing the benefits to the PI both during and after the Fellowship
- Demonstrate that the host institution will commit appropriate scientific and logistic resources to the project
- Demonstrate how the research will benefit not only the PI but also UW and Wyoming in the long-term

Application Process

Pre-proposals should be sent electronically to Sarah Konrad at skonrad@uwyo.edu, by 5pm MT on Monday, January 29th, 2018 and should include the following as a single pdf document:

- A cover sheet listing the project title, PI, host institution, total \$ amount requested
- A project summary (one page max) that specifically addresses the vision and goals of the fellowship, 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
- References
- Biographical sketch (two page max) of the PI
- Budget outline and justification for each year of requested support
- Letter of Support from the primary research collaborator(s) at the host institution confirming support of the proposed research activities

Review Process

Pre-proposals will be reviewed by the Wyoming EPSCoR and UW Research and Economic Development Offices, and applicants will be notified by early February of their application status. The Wyoming EPSCoR Office will work with the selected PIs to supplement or decline elements of the submitted pre-proposal so that the final submission meets the broader needs of Wyoming EPSCoR and fulfills the objectives of the NSF EPSCoR program.

Dates and Deadlines

- Pre-proposals due: Monday, January 29, 2018 at 5:00p
- Late January, 2018: Three pre-proposals selected as finalists for submission to national competition
- March 13, 2018: Full proposals due to NSF