



Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

NSF Regional Grants
Conference
October 2009

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EPSCoR's Origins

- Have historically received little federal R&D funding; and
- Have demonstrated a commitment to develop their research bases and improve science and engineering research and education programs at their universities and colleges.”

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EPSCoR Mission

To assist the National Science Foundation in its statutory function

“ to strengthen research and education in science and engineering throughout the United States and to avoid undue concentration of such research and education.”

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EPSCoR's Purpose

To build the capacity of educational institutions to participate more fully in NSF research activities.

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EPSCoR Objectives

- **To catalyze key research themes**
- **To activate effective collaborations**
- **To broaden participation in S&E**
- **To use EPSCoR as a programmatic test bed**

NSF EPSCoR Jurisdictions



| | |
|--|--|
| 1980 | 2001 |
| Arkansas Maine Montana South Carolina West Virginia | Hawaii New Mexico |
| 1985 | 2002 |
| Alabama Kentucky Nevada North Dakota Oklahoma Puerto Rico Vermont Wyoming | U.S. Virgin Islands |
| 1987 | 2003 |
| Idaho Louisiana Mississippi South Dakota | Delaware |
| 1992 | 2004 |
| Kansas Nebraska | New Hampshire Rhode Island Tennessee |
| 2000 | 2009 |
| Alaska | Iowa Utah |





Strategic Investment Tools

- **Research Infrastructure Improvement Awards (RII) (~2/3)**
- **Co-funding (~1/3)**
- **Outreach and Workshops (~1%)**

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EPSCoR Investment Tools for Capacity Building

- **Research Infrastructure Improvement Awards (RII)**
 - **Track-1**: Up to 5 years and \$20M to jurisdictions to improve physical and human infrastructure critical to R&D competitiveness in priority research areas.

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EPSCoR Investment Tools for Capacity Building

- **Research Infrastructure Improvement Awards (RII)**
 - **Track-2:** Up to 3 years and \$6M to consortia of jurisdictions to support innovation-enabling cyberinfrastructure of regional, thematic, or technological importance.

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EPSCoR Investment Tools for Capacity Building

- **Research Infrastructure Improvement Awards (RII)**
 - **Cyber Connectivity (C2):** Up to 2 years and \$1M to support the enhancement of inter-campus and intra-campus cyber connectivity and broadband access within an EPSCoR jurisdiction.

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EPSCoR Investment Tools for Capacity Building

Co-Funding:

Joint support of research proposals submitted by EPSCoR researchers to non-EPSCoR NSF programs that have been merit reviewed and recommended for award, but could not be funded without the combined, leveraged support of EPSCoR and the Research and Education Directorates and Offices!¹



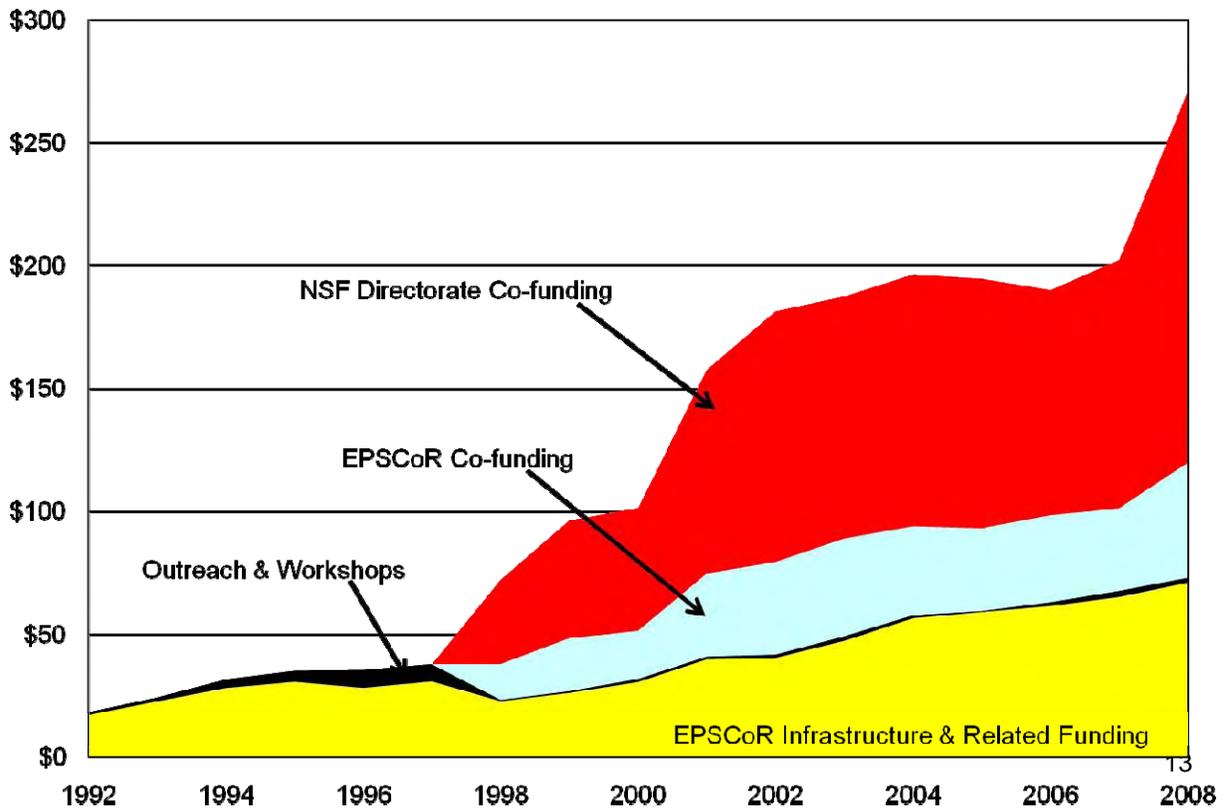
Co-Funding Essentials

- Reviewed and Recommended for Funding within NSF Directorates and Offices
- Combined leveraged support necessary for funding
- Characteristics favoring Co-funding:
 - New PIs
 - Collaborative
 - Multidisciplinary
 - Synergistic
 - Broaden participation
 - Instrumentation
 - R/T Ops for St/Tchrs
 - Integration of R&E
- **Tipping Point is Financial!**

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EPSCoR Investments Leveraged with Funds from NSF Disciplinary Directorates (\$M)





EPSCoR Investment Tools for Capacity Building

Outreach & Workshops

Support of outreach activities by NSF disciplinary and professional staff;
Support of strategic planning and capacity-building workshops.

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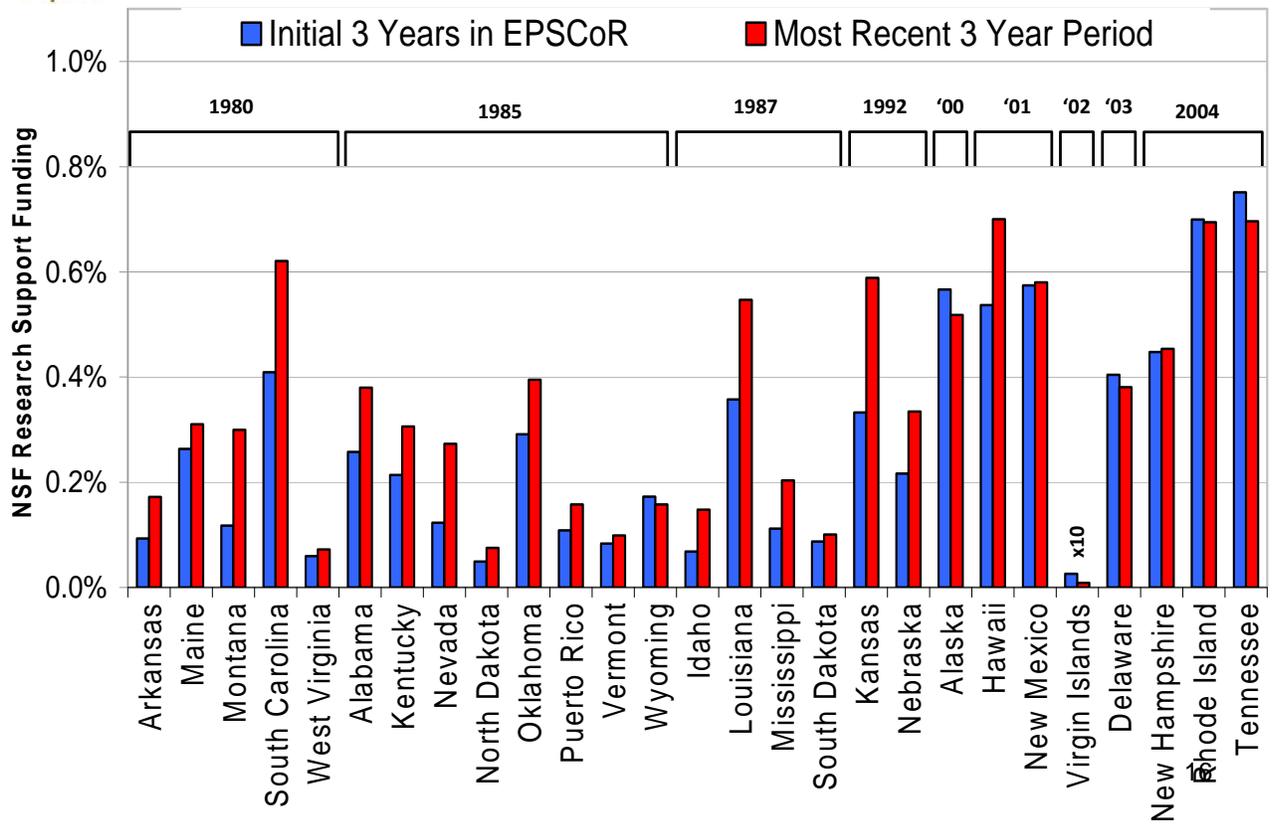
Workshops: Community Catalysis



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We Are Heading in the Right Direction





Infrastructure

Physical – Human - Cyber

the enabling apparatus of
science and engineering