

EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH

OUTREACH INVESTMENT STRATEGY

(JURISDICTIONAL PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING NSF OUTREACH VISITS)

A. Goals and Objectives

As part of its investment strategy in strengthening the academic research competitiveness of EPSCoR jurisdictions and advancing discovery in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), NSF's EPSCoR Office provides travel support to eligible NSF staff to conduct outreach activities in EPSCoR jurisdictions. Outreach activities enable NSF staff from all Directorates and Offices to work with the EPSCoR community regarding funding opportunities, priorities, programs, and policies. Such travel also serves to more fully acquaint NSF staff with the science and engineering research accomplishments, investigator expertise/potential within EPSCoR jurisdictions, and new directions in research and education in the jurisdictions.

Currently, the EPSCoR portfolio consists of 31 eligible jurisdictions. They are: Alabama (AL), Alaska (AK), Arkansas (AR), Delaware (DE), Guam (GU), Hawaii (HI), Idaho (ID), Iowa (IA), Kansas (KS), Kentucky (KY), Louisiana (LA), Maine (ME), Missouri (MO), Mississippi (MS), Montana (MT), Nebraska (NE), Nevada (NV), New Hampshire (NH), New Mexico (NM), North Dakota (ND), Oklahoma (OK), Puerto Rico (PR), Rhode Island (RI), South Carolina (SC), South Dakota (SD), Tennessee (TN), U. S. Virgin Islands (VI), Utah (UT), Vermont (VT), West Virginia (WV), and Wyoming (WY).

B. Eligibility

The NSF EPSCoR Outreach strategy provides financial support for selective travel by permanent NSF staff and Visiting Scientists, Engineers and Educators (VSEEs). Program officers who are Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) employees are not eligible for EPSCoR outreach travel support. Eligible EPSCoR-funded outreach activities include NSF panel participation at EPSCoR annual meetings, NSF Days, STEM-specific workshops/conferences, NSF post award administration, EPSCoR National Conferences, and other such activities. All activities must take place in EPSCoR jurisdictions to be considered for EPSCoR travel support.

C. Planning for Effective Outreach

EPSCoR outreach activities may be initiated by either the EPSCoR jurisdiction's host (e.g., EPSCoR Project Director, Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) project researcher or educator) in concert with the NSF EPSCoR Office or by NSF EPSCoR staff in concert with the jurisdiction's host. The host(s) of outreach events in the

EPSCoR jurisdiction should first discuss outreach needs with the NSF EPSCoR Outreach Coordinator. **EARLY PLANNING IS ADVISED.**

It is recommended that planning begins at least 60 days prior to the proposed event. This will allow sufficient time for identifying the appropriate traveler, processing of travel requests within NSF, and preparation for a productive visit. The request should be emailed by the EPSCoR jurisdiction host to the NSF EPSCoR Outreach Coordinator. The request should include the following information:

- purpose of the outreach visit;
- number of anticipated attendees/participants;
- suggested NSF staff (name and Directorate/Division/Office); and
- draft agenda or itinerary (if available at time of request).

Note: Host jurisdictions must not extend invitations to NSF staff directly prior to consulting with the NSF EPSCoR Outreach Coordinator if NSF EPSCoR outreach support is expected.

The NSF EPSCoR Outreach Coordinator will respond to the EPSCoR jurisdictional host with the names of approved NSF participants for the outreach activity within ten (10) days of submission. Appropriate NSF EPSCoR staff, such as the Office Head, cognizant Program Officer and Administrative Manager, will also receive a copy of the approval.

Once the NSF EPSCoR Outreach Coordinator approves the visit, the EPSCoR jurisdictional host may begin to develop logistical arrangements for the event. The host is responsible for finalizing the agenda/itinerary including time with faculty members (especially new hires), with research administrators, and with students. The host is also responsible for coordinating local arrangements. The visit should include a general presentation to a broad audience (e.g., multiple departments, campuses, and/or institutions). Additionally, the host is responsible for publicizing the outreach event well in advance to ensure an appropriate audience and for dissemination of presentation(s) (e.g., videoconference to remote audiences, or post event dissemination via web, collaborative portals, social networking sites, discussion groups, wiki, etc.). Participant feedback of the outreach event, through conference, training, or workshop evaluations, is expected. The host should provide the names and affiliations (demographics, including institutional types) of all attendees as well as results of the feedback from the participant evaluation to the NSF EPSCoR Outreach Coordinator within two weeks following the event.

For questions, please contact the NSF EPSCoR Outreach Coordinator:
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