Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Update:
The EPSCoR 2020 Scorecard

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EPSCoR Purpose

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

EPSCoR Objectives

- **Catalyze key research themes**

- **Activate effective jurisdictional and regional collaborations**

- **Broaden participation**

- **Use EPSCoR for development, implementation, and evaluation of future programmatic experiments**

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Strategic Investment Tools

- **Research Infrastructure Improvement Awards: Track-1 and Track-2**

- **Co-funding**

- **Outreach and Workshops**

NSF EPSCoR Cohorts

FY 1980

Arkansas
Maine
Montana
South Carolina
West Virginia

FY 1985

Alabama
Kentucky
Nevada
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Puerto Rico
Vermont
Wyoming

FY 1987

Idaho
Louisiana
Mississippi
South Dakota

FY 1992

Kansas
Nebraska

FY 2000

Alaska

FY 2001

Hawaii
New Mexico

FY 2002

U.S. Virgin Islands

FY 2003

Delaware

FY 2004

New Hampshire
Rhode Island
Tennessee
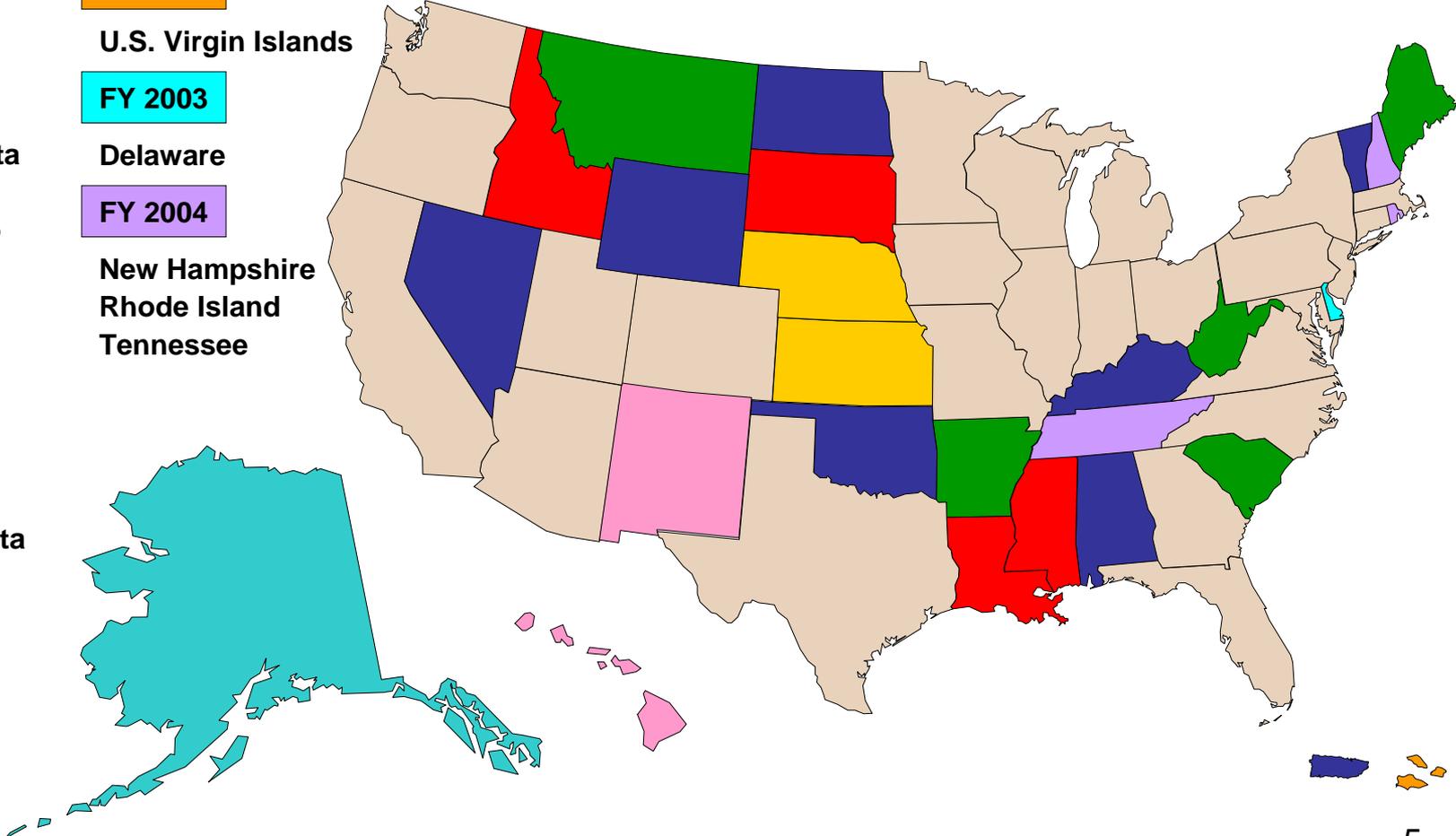
EPSCOR 2020 WORKSHOP REPORT

EPSCoR 2020: Expanding State Participation in Research in the 21st Century -- A New Vision for the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

**A report to the
National Science Foundation**

August 2006

**Prepared by Jerome D. Odom, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator: NSF Award # 0630747**

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 1

Provide more flexible EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) awards that focus foremost on building infrastructure to do basic competitive research.

Awards should have a duration of up to five years, with an award range of $3-$5 million per year, per state.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 1

Action Recommendation 1.1
Increase size and duration of RII Grants

EPSCoR Response
RII Track-1 awards are now up to $20M for up to 5 years (NSF 08-587)

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 1

Action Recommendation 1.2

Increase flexibility of RII grants to accommodate individual state needs

EPSCoR Response

RII Track-1 and Track-2 proposal solicitations provide broad flexibility (NSF 08-587 & NSF 08-595)

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 1

Action recommendation 1.3

Make strong state and/or institutional commitment a specific review criterion

EPSCoR Response

RII program solicitations emphasize institutional and non-institutional commitments and now contain a cost sharing requirement

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 1

Action Recommendation 1.4

NSF should act vigorously to ensure adequate CI to attract and execute advanced research

EPSCoR Response

RII Track-2 (NSF 08-595) explicitly targets cyberinfrastructure

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 1

Action Recommendation 1.5

Ensure full access to the NSF MRI program by EPSCoR institutions and groups of same

EPSCoR Response

EPSCoR institutions and groups of EPSCoR institutions are fully eligible to compete in the MRI program

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 2

Emphasize the imperative for a more geographical dispersion of funding by infusing EPSCoR goals into all of the NSF's programs and initiatives.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 2

Action Recommendation 2.1

Incorporate the mission of attaining increased geographical participation into the mission statements, agendas, and culture of the NSF Research Directorates and Offices.

EPSCoR Response

NSF ACs and COVs now have EPSCoR representation; the EPSCoR S&E Group, NSF Senior Management, and co-funding also cross-acculturate NSF.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 2

Action Recommendation 2.2

Relocate the EPSCoR program to OIA to ensure cross-directorate involvement and integration into cutting edge NSF initiatives

EPSCoR Response

NSF EPSCoR has been relocated from EHR to OD/OIA

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 2

Action Recommendation 2.3

Monitor progress in attaining better geographic distribution through annual analyses of the merit review process.

EPSCoR Response

EPSCoR participation in NSF merit review processes and in COVs, and advisory panels are analyzed.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 2

Action Recommendation 2.4

Develop new questions for COVs regarding distributions of awards by state.

EPSCoR Response

COVs examine geographic distributions of awards. NSF EPSCoR examines distributions of awards by state by NSF activity.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 2

Action Recommendation 2.5

During annual budget submissions, NSF should intensify its advocacy for EPSCoR

EPSCoR Response

NSF advocates intensely for all of its activities and strongly encourages EPSCoR participation in them.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 2

Action Recommendation 2.6

Reconvene the EPSCoR 2020 Workshop in Spring 2007 to determine progress toward implementation of these recommendations.

EPSCoR Response

Response actions to recommendations will be discussed at the August 2008 EPSCoR PD meeting and a subsequent workshop is anticipated.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 3

Revitalize and extend other components of EPSCoR

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 3

Action Recommendation 3.1

Strengthen the co-funding program by providing more information about awards, and by increasing flexibility to make awards in all disciplines.

EPSCoR Response

EPSCoR will make available information on co-funded awards annually. EPSCoR co-funds in all NSF disciplines.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 3

Action Recommendation 3.2

Improve coordination with departments and agencies that have EPSCoR-like programs.

EPSCoR Response

This is being done through the EICC. Immediate target areas for coordination are leveraging and evaluation.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 3

Action Recommendation 3.3

Use the planning grant process to nurture state 'S&T Business Plan' development

EPSCoR Response

S&T Business Plans are high on our agenda!

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 3

Action Recommendation 3.4

Expand efforts to promote SBIR development.

EPSCoR Response

EPSCoR promotes SBIR development through supporting SBIR workshops, outreach by NSF SBIR program staff.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 4

Restore the 'Experimental' nature of EPSCoR by using it as a test bed for new strategies.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 4

Action Recommendation 4.1

Provide more flexibility to the RII structure so that multiple strategies can be explored, including support for transformative research and innovation.

EPSCoR Response

Watch for "Grants for Rapid Response Research" (RAPID) and "EArly-concept Grants for Exploratory Research" (EAGER) to replace SGER in FY 2009.

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EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 4

Action Recommendation 4.2

Develop additional programs of grants in areas of national priority: homeland security, energy independence, climate change, and others.

EPSCoR Response

EPSCoR will support synergistic cooperative research activities among EPSCoR jurisdictions with shared interest in and commitment to these larger S&T issues. (Note Track-2)

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EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 5

Develop 'State Strategic S&T Business Plans' for state EPSCoR programs, where appropriate.

The next three recommendations are directed at the EPSCoR jurisdictions. However, EPSCoR can and will play a strong facilitating role.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 5

Action Recommendation 5.1 **EPSCoR should provide a workshop-based forum for discussing best practices for S&T business plans.**

Action Recommendation 5.2 **The EPSCoR community should develop training materials and programs for grant development and for faculty interaction with NSF staff.**

Action Recommendation 5.3 **Develop industry funding for university infrastructure, particularly small and mid-sized universities.**

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 6

A recommendation for all: Create a shared understanding and definition of success.

EPSCoR 2020: Strategic Priority 6

Action Recommendation 6.1

EPSCoR stakeholders should undertake an active discussion of the importance of a more balanced geographic dispersion of national resources and funding, leading to a shared understanding of goals and metrics.

EPSCoR Response

This is an important and complex issue that is central to the nation's science and technology enterprise. It is a work in progress for EPSCoR - both NSF and the Community.

EPSCoR -

Excellent Progress

Significant Challenges

Outstanding Opportunities