RII TRACK-1
SOLICITATION
NSF 14-558

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PD/PA Meeting
Arlington, VA
20 May 2014
Topics

• Changes to RII Track-1

• Merit Review Criteria

• Recommendations / Advice

• Merit Review Timeline
RII Track-1 Update

• FY15 solicitation (14-558)
  http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503429

• Letter of Intent (LOI)
  • Required! Use FastLane!
  • Due July 8, 2014

• Full proposals due: August 5, 2014

• Eligibility:
  • No current RII Track-1, or
  • Current RII Track-1 expires by October 1, 2015
Changes to RII Track-1 from FY14

- *Letter of Intent (LOI) required!!!!!!*
- Emphasis on baselines
- Formalized guidelines on governance
- Emphasis on intellectual merit of research
- Number of EPSCoR review criteria decreased from 10 to 5
Baseline Data

- Baseline data needed for merit review and required at beginning of award
  - Improve RII metrics at NSF EPSCoR program level
  - Get the message out

- Table B (participants)
  - Demographics baseline is first year of project data

- Table E (Outputs)
  - Papers, proposals, patents for 3 years prior to award
  - Total number of:
    - Publications in research areas covered by the RII Track-1 project
    - proposals submitted to NSF (and $ requested)
    - proposals funded by NSF (and $ awarded)
    - Patents awarded, pending, and licensed
Guidelines on Governance

• PD is the lead PI

• PD is from the submitting institution

• PD does not chair, co-chair, or vote on Jurisdictional Steering Committee

• RII participants do not serve on Steering Committees of other jurisdictions
Merit Review Criteria

National Science Board (NSB):
• Intellectual Merit
• Broader Impacts

EPSCoR
• Solicitation (14-558) Specific (RII Track-1)

• All criteria are important
• Full consideration during review/decision-making
• All are necessary – none alone are sufficient
NSB Review Criteria

**Intellectual Merit:**

- Potential to advance knowledge and understanding
- Potentially transformative concepts

- Is the plan based on a *sound rationale*?
- Is there a mechanism to assess *success*?
- How *well qualified* is the individual, team, or institution to conduct the proposed activities?
- *Prior accomplishments* of the PIs/participants
- Are there *adequate resources*?
NSB Review Criteria (+)

Broader Impacts:

“NSF projects should contribute broadly to achieving societal goals”

BI may be accomplished through:
• the research itself
• activities directly related to research projects
• activities supported by the project

EPSCoR Review Criteria

Programs may employ additional review criteria

- Jurisdictional Impacts
- Diversity
- Communication and Dissemination
- Sustainability of Project Activities
- Project Management and Evaluation

All proposal components are reviewed w.r.t. these criteria
EPSCoR Review Criteria (+)

**Jurisdictional Impacts:**

- Alignment of activities with research and S&T plan
- Potential impact on capacity and capability
- Integration among shared facilities and partners
- How do activities improve in jurisdiction:
  - research competitiveness, workforce, education, and innovation?
- Advancement of innovation and economic development
- Promotion of organizational connections (jurisdictions, schools, private, public)
- How do partnerships and collaborations advance goals?
EPSCoR Review Criteria (++)

Diversity:
Broaden participation of:
• Women and underrepresented minorities (URM)
• Persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged, rural, and/or first generation college students
• Institutions (including MSI, HBCU, TCU, PUI, )
• Significant and sustained impact
• Novel approaches
• Diversity of participants, leadership, advisory boards,
Communication and Dissemination:

- Sharing of data and information among partners and participants
- Collection and dissemination of results to: NSF, science community, public,
- Novel or innovative approaches for communicating research (and other) results
- Curation and dissemination of data/samples
- Interactions with NSF EPSCoR
EPSCoR Review Criteria (++)²

Sustainability Plan:
• Foster and sustain programs in long-term
• Partner contributions
• Goals and milestones for extramural funding
• Sustainability of partnerships and collaborations
EPSCoR Review Criteria (+++)!-

Project Management and Evaluation:

• Management structure
• Role and interactions with leadership team
• Vision, experience, and capacity to manage
• EPSCoR Steering Committee / external advisors
• Measure outputs and outcomes across all elements
• Appropriateness of metrics and milestones
• Formative and summative evaluation to assess status, impacts, and directions

*Baselines for proposed targets, outcomes (research too!)*
RII Track-1 Proposals

• Science First!
  • Core of the proposal is the Intellectual Merit of the Research

• Read/follow the solicitation
  • Project description elements
  • Keep merit review criteria in mind

• Write to the reviewers/panel
  • Provide information that experts in field need to judge the proposed research
  • Avoid jargon that complicates review by broad audience
  • Describe research methods, tools, approaches
  • Emphasize unique, novel, or transformative techniques, methods

• Why EPSCoR RII?
  • Demonstrate integration of project elements
IM and BI of Research and Training Activities

- Hypotheses
- Methods, approaches
- Tools, instrumentation, infrastructure
- Expertise, track record, capacity
- Integration with other elements

Innovative Novel State-of-the-art Feasible
RII Track-1 (++)$^2$

• These are not renewals - contingency planning needed!

• What if declined?
  • Which activities will continue?
  • Hiring plans
  • Plan for incorporating feedback and resubmission

• What if awarded?
  • Timing of Strategic Planning (all key participants – also NSF)
  • Incorporating feedback and Programmatic Terms and Conditions (PTCs) into Strategic Planning
  • Managing phase out of any current RII Track-1

• Coordination with Jurisdictional Steering Committee
Questions?