



RII TRACK-1 SOLICITATION NSF 14-558

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PD/PA Meeting

Arlington, VA

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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

<http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/publications/2011/meritreviewcriteria.pdf>

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,

EPSCoR Review Criteria (+++)

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:

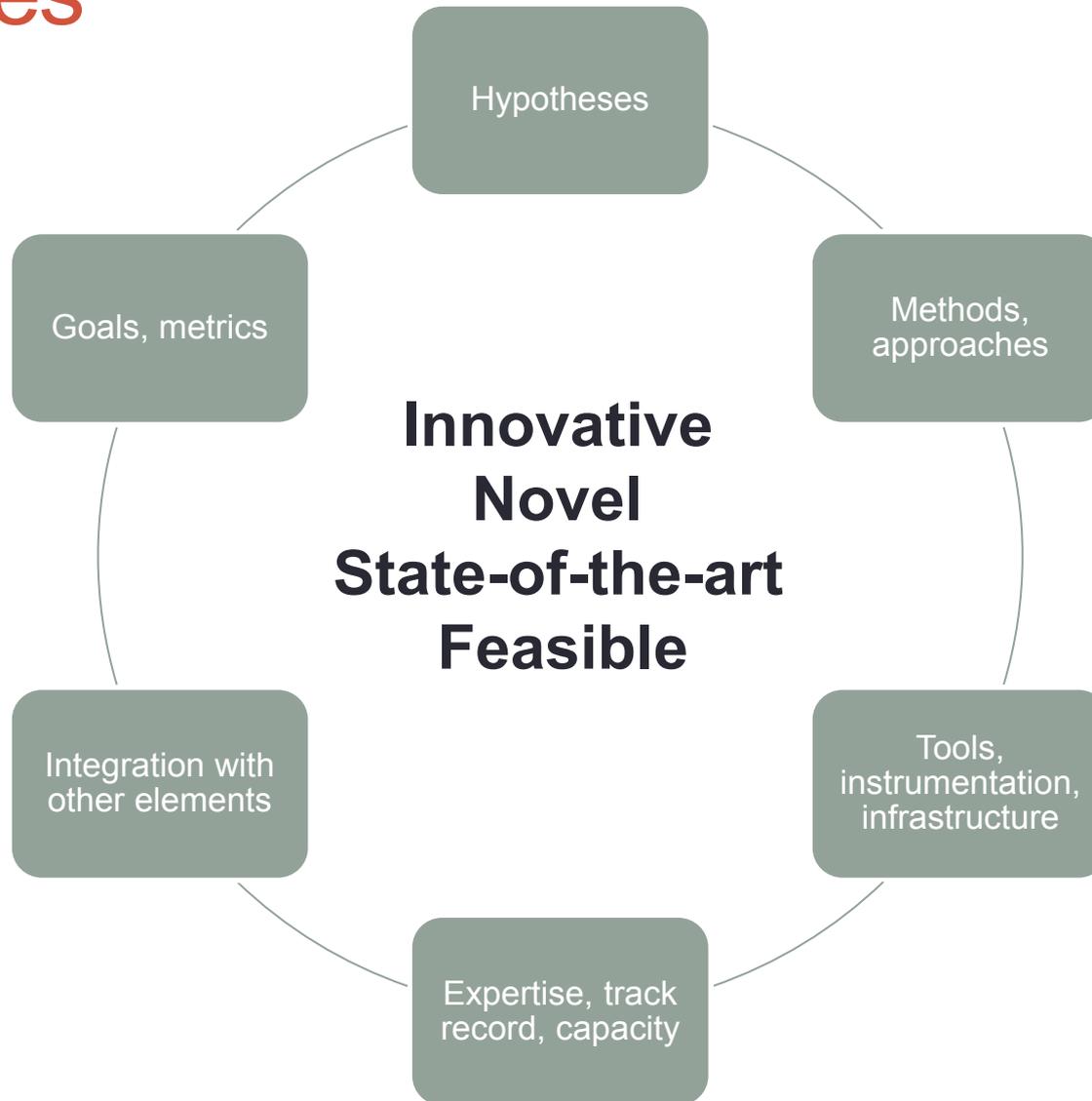
- Management structure
- Role and interactions with leadership team
- Vision, experience, and capacity to manage
- EPSCoR Steering Committee / external advisors
- Measure outputs and outcomes across all elements
- Appropriateness of metrics and milestones
- Formative and summative evaluation to assess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



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?