



FY16 RII SOLICITATIONS

Sean Kennan and Tim VanReken
Program Directors, NSF EPSCoR

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Topics

- RII Track-1
- RII Track-2

RII Track-1 Update

- FY16 solicitation (**15-566**)
http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503429
- Letter of Intent (LOI)
 - ***Required! Use FastLane!***
 - ***Due July 7, 2015***
- Full proposals due: **August 4, 2015**
- Eligibility:
 - No current RII Track-1, or
 - Current RII Track-1 expires by October 1, 2016

RII Track-1 Important Items

- *Letter of Intent (LOI) required!!!!!!*
- Project Description page limit increased to 35 pages
 - Budget tables A and B in Project Description
- PDF searchable lists of participants and conflicts
 - Use templates provided by NSF EPSCoR
- Baseline data required
- EPSCoR review criteria decreased from 5 to 4

NSF Merit Review Criteria

National Science Board (NSB)

- Intellectual Merit
 - Potential to advance knowledge and understanding
- Broader Impacts
 - Potential to benefit society

NSF Merit Review Criteria

EPSCoR - Solicitation (15-566) Specific (RII Track-1)

- Research Enterprise
 - Potential to enhance research competitiveness and capacity
- Jurisdictional Impacts
 - Potential to benefit the jurisdiction
- Workforce Development
 - Potential to enhance the STEM workforce and broaden participation
- Integration of Project Elements
 - Potential for added value and benefits
- All criteria are necessary – none alone are sufficient
- Full consideration during review/decision-making

RII Track-1 Proposals

- 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

Baseline Data

- Essential for Reviewers to evaluate the IM and BI
- Proposals should present baseline information and data
 - References, citations, preliminary results
 - Clear descriptions of state-of-the art and challenges
- Efforts to engage students, distinct groups, or populations must be accompanied by quantitative baseline data
 - Current numbers, enrollment, percentages, etc.

List of Participants

- PIs and co-PIs (appear on the cover page)
- Other funded participants (appear in budget)
- Subcontractors/Consultants (including named external evaluators)
- Advisory Board members (if named)
- Unfunded participants and collaborators (if named)

List for each participant:

- Last and first name
- Institution and affiliation (department)
- Role in project (PI, co-PI, funded, subcontractor, advisory board, unfunded, collaborator)
 - Collaborator is unfunded participant, not from a participating org.

List of Participating Organizations

- Awardee (submitting institution)
- Subawardees (budget under G5)
- Subcontractors/consultants
- Unfunded and collaborating organizations, includes:
 - Providing support, facilities, internships, etc.

Participant Warnings

- Individuals and organizations who are neither named nor funded are not participants
- Individuals or organizations submitting letters of commitment are participants
- Individuals submitting letters on behalf of organizations are not participants unless specifically named/funded
- The institutions of unfunded collaborators are not participating organizations unless the institution itself is providing a commitment

Conflicts of Interest

List COIs for every participant (except advisory board members)

- Permanent: PhD advisor/advisee, family (spouse/parent/child), close personal friend
- 48 months: collaborators (co-authors, co-PIs, postdoc advisors/advisees)
- 24 months: co-editors
- 12 months: financial (subcontract, employment, etc)

List for each COI:

- Last and First name, institution
- nature of COI (PhD advisor, PhD advisee, co-author, co-PI, postdoc advisor, postdoc advisee, collaborator, co-editor, financial, spouse, parent, child, friend)

COI Warnings

- COI lists must be complete and current for every individual in the list of participants
 - Each and every participant should report complete and accurate COIs
 - Do *NOT* rely on biographical sketches to collate information
- Co-authors and co-PIs include those on works pending and in preparation
- Do not need to list participants as COI
- Colleagues and acquaintances who are not collaborators, family, or close personal friends are not COI
- The mere sharing of data, software, or IP does not pose COI
- Do not list family, friends, or financial associates not engaged professionally in areas related to the research or other project activities

Observations from FY 2015

- Compliance checking
 - Follow the sections & headings for the Project Description
 - Ensure that all necessary tables are included
 - Ensure that Supplemental Documents contain Letters of Commitment, and not Letters of Support
 - Baseline data **is required**.
 - Budget
 - clear justifications needed, please ensure that subawards add up correctly
 - List postdocs, graduate, and undergraduate students on Line B
- Jurisdiction-specific Programmatic Terms and Conditions will address proposed hires.



Observations from FY 2015

- Feedback from Panels:
 - Provide sufficient details so that experts can evaluate merit of research plan
 - Hypothesis-driven research that places project in the current context of the research area

Project Description has been increased to 35 pages!

RII Track-2: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations

- National Academy of Sciences study, EPSCoR 2020 and EPSCoR 2030 workshops call for mechanism to facilitate multi-jurisdictional collaborations - studies emphasized use of novel approaches
 - “Experimental” – The ‘E’ in EPSCoR.
- Combine small group expertise distributed in different EPSCoR jurisdictions into a “critical mass” capable of competing for large scale NSF or other agency competitions.
- Want to promote productive, balanced collaborations that are capable of sustained activities beyond the award period.



FY 2015 RII Track-2 FEC (NSF 15-517)

- Investigator-driven
- Aimed at disciplinary collaborations in topical areas aligned with NSF and national priorities
- Award amount linked to # of participating jurisdiction
- Emphasis on the development of junior faculty



FY 2016 RII Track-2 Outlook

- Similarly structured to FY15 solicitation
- Research topic areas to be restricted
 - BRAIN
 - Food-Energy-Water Nexus
- Possible adjustments to project evaluation requirements
- Continued emphasis on recruiting and development of diverse junior faculty
- Prior submissions/awards do not affect eligibility
- Look for solicitation in September/October 2015
- Targeted proposal due date in late January 2016



RII Track-2 FEC Eligibility

- Jurisdictions

- In FY 2016, institutions in all twenty-seven jurisdictions that are eligible for RII activities may submit proposals (AL, AK, AR, DE, GU, HI, ID, KS, KY, LA, ME, MS, MT, NE, NV, NH, NM, ND, OK, PR, RI, SC, SD, VT, VI, WV, and WY)

- Institutions

- One proposal submitted (as lead) per institution. Language follows Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) for eligible institutions
- No limit on # of proposals in which a institution/jurisdiction can participate as a non-lead collaborator



PI & co-PIs

- Each participating jurisdiction in a collaboration should be represented by a PI or co-PI.
- An individual can serve as a PI or co-PI on only one proposal for the RII Track-2 FEC competition.
- PI and co-PIs must be active researchers in the field of proposed research activities.



Award Size and Duration

- Up to 6 M\$ over 4 years
 - Budgets must be commensurate with activities proposed.
 - Budget must include funds to recruit or develop junior or early-career faculty.
 - 2 participating jurisdictions – up to \$1M annually
 - 3 or more participating jurisdictions – up to \$1.5M annually
- Awards made as Cooperative Agreements.
 - Annual increments
- Site Visit or Reverse Site Visit in Year 2.



Questions?