



EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows (RII Track-4)

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Vision for EPSCoR Research Fellows

- Opportunities for non-tenured faculty investigators (or close equivalent) to further develop individual research potential
- Supports extended collaborative visits to the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers.
 - Learn new techniques,
 - Benefit from access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities,
 - Strengthen collaborative partnerships, and/or
 - Shift their research toward potentially transformative new directions.
- Intended to provide long-term benefits to the recipient's career trajectory. Additional benefits are expected for their institutions and jurisdictions.
- Any research topic that fits within NSF's overall portfolio will be considered for support.

Results from Pilot Competition (FY 2017)



- Proposals Received in late February 2017
- Reviewed 136 proposals
 - Submissions from 23 out of 25 eligible jurisdictions;
 - 60 different institutions.
- Awarded 30 projects
 - 22% success rate, in line with NSF average;
 - \$5.6 million total awarded (mean award size: \$186k);
 - Awards to 20 different jurisdictions and 25 different institutions.



News Release 17-094

NSF funds 30 faculty research fellowships through new EPSCoR initiative

Awards focus on developing the next generation of US researchers



September 20, 2017

New awards from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) [Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(EPSCoR\)](#) will provide 30 non-tenured researchers with fellowships, partnering them with premier research centers and enhancing their ability to work at the frontiers of science and engineering.

The NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-4 fellowship awards total roughly \$5.6 million and are distributed to researchers across 20 states. Awardees will make extended collaborative visits to laboratories and scientific centers, establish partnerships with researchers with complementary expertise, learn new techniques, have access to sophisticated equipment, and shift their research focus in new directions.

https://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=243157

FY 2018 Changes



- NSF 18-509 ([link](#))
 - Annual deadline of second Tuesday in March
 - Solicitation only updated as needed
- Clarifications to language throughout solicitation
- Increased flexibility in budgeting:
 - \$5,000 allowed for unrestricted travel
 - Host site fees are allowable up to \$10,000 limit
- Revisions to solicitation-specific merit review criteria
 - Clarification
 - Phrased to avoid Yes/No answers

Expectations Going Forward



- Greater Diversity in Submissions
 - More from underrepresented groups
 - More from PUIs, HBCUs, TCs, etc.
 - More disciplinary breadth
- Greater understanding of the distinctions between this opportunity and a 'typical' NSF project
- Greater role for Fellows in future EPSCoR/NSF proposals and projects
- Evidence of Long-Lasting Positive Impacts

Thank You!!

