EPSCoR Update
FY 2021 RII Track-2

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NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2

- Builds research capacity through *interjurisdictional collaborative teams* in focus area(s) aligned with NSF-wide priorities
- Combines expertise distributed in different EPSCoR jurisdictions into a “critical mass” capable of productive research and related activities in the focus area
- Exemplifies diversity through strategic, broad inclusion and meaningful integration of different types of individuals, institutions, and sectors
- Develops diverse early-career faculty
- Promotes productive, *balanced* collaborations that are capable of sustained activities beyond the award period
Track-2 Solicitation-Specific Elements

• As well as NSB required Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts

• Research Capacity – potential to advance S&E fields, research competitiveness and capacity of the jurisdictions

• Interjurisdictional Collaboration – balanced, adds value?

• Workforce Development – recruit/develop diverse early career faculty, and create a diverse workforce relevant to the jurisdiction and industry

• Jurisdictional Impacts – sustainable research, innovation, and workforce preparation, education capacity, economic development

• Integration of Project Elements – cohesive project (all aspects well integrated?), effective coordination, evaluation, sustainability
RESEARCH IDEAS

- Harnessing Data for 21st Century Science and Engineering
- Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Shaping the Future
- Navigating the New Arctic
- Windows on the Universe: The Era of Multimessenger Astrophysics
- The Quantum Leap: Leading the Next Quantum Revolution
- Understanding the Rules of Life: Predicting Phenotype

PROCESS IDEAS

- Mid-scale Research Infrastructure
- NSF 2050
- Growing Convergent Research at NSF
- NSF INCLUDES: Enhancing STEM through Diversity and Inclusion
Major Changes from FY20

The NEW Solicitation

NSF 21-518
“Advancing research towards Industries of the Future to ensure economic growth for EPSCoR jurisdictions”

New Topic
Theme Change

• Industries of the Future
  • Advanced Manufacturing
  • Advanced Wireless
  • Artificial Intelligence
  • Biotechnology
  • Quantum Information Science
  • Spectrum Innovation Science

• In RARE cases, other industries can be considered that are relevant to State S&T Plans with strong justification

2021 OMB/OSTP Research and Development priorities memo
Theme Change

- To be successful, projects must:
  - leverage current and previous NSF and other federal agency investments in the research underlying or supporting these industries
  - show a clear pathway to impact jurisdictions’ socio-economic growth
  - understand the industries’ influence from a social perspective
    - disruptive impact of the technology on the industry
  - develop innovative educational plans to prepare a skilled and diverse technical workforce for that industry that is relevant to the associated jurisdictions
Key Proposal Preparation Changes or Clarifications

• You may have one PI, four co-PIs, and any number of Senior Personnel
  • You may only be a PI or co-PI on ONE active RII Track-2 award at a time
  • Each involved jurisdiction must be represented by a co-PI
  • An Institution may LEAD on a single proposal, but may be a SUBAWARDEE on any number

• Key Changes
  • Results from Prior Support
    • should summarize the coordination and synergy among EPSCoR and other NSF investments in the jurisdiction. This prior support should clearly link to the chosen industry of the future and provide a clear sense of how the outcomes from that prior support will be leveraged into this project leading to its eventual implementation into the chosen industry
  • Discuss Economic Impact and Sustainability of the Project
    • must describe the plan for long-term economic impact and sustainability of the proposed activities
Key Proposal Preparation Changes or Clarifications

• **Key Changes**
  
  • **Workforce Development**
    • develop a workforce that can integrate, as appropriate, within the chosen industry
    • provide trainees with skills to work easily across disciplinary and other perceived boundaries and to interface with stakeholders such as academe, industry, government, and the general public
    • generate an inclusive workforce appropriate to populate the Industries of the Future
    • provide early career faculty mentoring and training
  
  • **Evaluation and Assessment Plan**
    • aid in the identification of outcomes and impacts of the project’s goals and objectives as well as a tool for providing effective feedback to the management team
Key Proposal Preparation Changes or Clarifications

• Management and Implementation
  • Management Plan includes the roles and responsibilities of key personnel, how the PI and co-PIs plan on communicating and coordinating with each other and the project team, how the centralized project output data-collection will be integrated into their evaluation mechanisms as described above, and how the project’s administrative requirements will be managed across all areas.
  • If funded administrative staff are expected to support the project on a full- or part-time basis.
  • Implementation Plan outlines how this project will bring together previous documented research outcomes and build on them through the proposal
  • research is coordinated across jurisdictions to meet the needs of the target industry and relevant jurisdiction(s) for eventual implementation
Key Dates

• Letter of Intent       December 18, 2020

• Final Proposal        January 25, 2021
Thank you

• Questions?

• Or contact JD Swanson, jswanson@nsf.gov, 703-292-2898