

NEVADA NASA EPSCoR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Research Infrastructure Development Seed Grant Proposals

Release Date: May 16, 2016



**Announcement for:
Faculty from University of Nevada, Las Vegas; University of Nevada, Reno;
Nevada State College; College of Southern Nevada; Great Basin College;
Truckee Meadows Community College; Western Nevada College, Desert
Research Institute**

Proposal Deadline: 5:00 p m, Friday, July 15, 2016

I. INTRODUCTION

The goal of NASA's Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is to develop academic research enterprises that are long term, self-sustaining and nationally competitive for non-EPSCoR dollars. The following are the specific objectives of the NASA EPSCoR program in Nevada:

- Improve the capabilities of Nevada faculty/researchers to gain support from sources outside the NASA EPSCoR program that are most relevant to NASA research and missions as defined by one or more of the four Mission Directorates and/or one or more of the ten [NASA centers](#)
- Contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and/or economic development of Nevada;
- Develop partnerships between NV research facilities, NASA Centers, and industry;
- Work in close coordination with the NASA Space Grant program, as applicable, to improve the environment for science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education in Nevada.

The programmatic focus is to further engage and utilize Nevada's unique resources and talent for enhancing greater scientific discovery and developing new technologies to address NASA's mission goals. The request for seed grant funds may be based on outcomes from prior workshops/meetings with NASA Personnel; however, these funds should not augment existing funded research projects. Research Infrastructure Development (RID) activities should target unique activities that increase Nevada's competitiveness.

The seed grant proposals must include a collaboration of at least two NSHE institutions, produce a proposal to NASA or relevant program, and be designed for activities that accomplish one or more of the following:

- Initiate inter- or multi-disciplinary activities;
- Create critical mass or expertise on topics of strategic interest to NASA; and/or
- Engage NASA scientists from one or more NASA Centers.

(Note: There is no requirement that funds be used to support student participation, although it is allowable. Any student support should be fully explained in the project description.)

II. PROPOSAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. Eligibility

Faculty at NSHE institutions, particularly junior faculty, women, and members of other underrepresented populations are encouraged to apply.

B. Award: Funding Information

Depending on available funds, it is anticipated 2-3 projects will be awarded. Project total should not exceed \$100,000 (\$50K federal/\$50K state match). Unrecovered F&A must be included as part of the \$50K state match. State funds will be provided by State Special Projects match. Each submitted proposal must include signed budgets from collaborating campuses with the amount of the collaborators total budget listed under 1.A. Subcontracts on the NSHE budget form.

Awards will be made to the lead PI and then their institution will sub-award funds to all collaborating NSHE institutions.

C. Award Obligations

Award recipients are required to prepare annual and final reports following NASA EPSCoR guidelines. Reporting will be performed through online forms. You will be required to provide demographic data about participants and prepare a project highlight for inclusion in an annual report prepared by NASA EPSCoR. The final report includes: grant proposals submitted; grant proposals funded; papers submitted and/or published in refereed journals; presentations or abstracts at professional meetings, and collaborations with NASA centers and institutions across the state.

Award recipients are also expected to attend and make a presentation at the annual NASA EPSCoR/Space Grant Meeting anticipated to occur in the spring of 2017. Travel for this meeting should be included in your budget.

D. Proposal Preparation

Proposals must be typed, single-spaced, and use a **Times Roman 12 pt.** font with numbered pages.

D.1. Cover Page (form provided as “paperclip” attachment to this solicitation)

- Signature of Applicant
- Signature of Office of Sponsored Projects/Programs

D.2. Project Description (limited to 5 pages)

Provide a concise description of the proposed research or research-building activities, including the following:

1. Summary of Project;
2. Methods (Tasks);
3. List of collaborators and expertise they will contribute (including any NASA scientists); *Any NASA collaborators must provide letters of support and specifically state the contribution they will make. (Note: if applicable to the proposal, letters of support/collaboration should be included. Letters must be recent and dated within 45 days prior to the solicitation due date);
4. List any potential student involvement; particularly from under-represented groups;
5. Description of how the effort will contribute to the [Nevada Science and Technology Plan 2015](#) and/or the [State of Nevada’s Economic Development Plan](#) respectively; and
6. Description of how the effort will align with the [NASA Strategic Plan 2014](#).

D.3. Budget and Budget Justification

Faculty, students and NSHE personnel may request funds for salary, travel, materials and supplies and other resources necessary to build research infrastructure. However, where appropriate, we encourage you to use RID workshop/travel funds currently available for travel and workshops at; the solicitation is located at [Funding Opportunities](#). Travel costs

are allowable for supporting the travel costs of visiting external scientists. Funds cannot be used for equipment, foreign travel, or for civil-service personnel travel.

The budget must be completed using the NSHE excel form provided. Dollar amounts proposed with no explanation are not allowed. Direct labor costs should be subdivided and listed by individual and/or titles or disciplines with hours, hourly rates, and total amounts of each. Proposed travel should include the number of trips, destination, duration, etc. The budget must include applicable F&A (indirect costs) for your institution. All budgets must be signed by the applicant institution's Business Office/Office of Sponsored Projects. *If selected for funding, final budgets will be reviewed and if necessary the PI may be asked to consider a funding reduction based on the availability of funds.*

D.4. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vitae

Limited to two pages per person, including the PI, Co-PI(s) and student(s) who have a major role in the project.

D.5 NASA Funding History (limited to one page)

Provide a detailed list of previous & current NASA funded projects. Include the title of the project, the project period, the funded amount, and project outcomes.

E. Submission Guidelines:

Proposals will be accepted until **5:00 pm, July 15, 2016**. Proposals must be submitted by the institution Sponsored Programs Office or appropriate Authorized Official. Submit to **nshespo@nshe.nevada.edu** as one PDF document.

The email subject line and the pdf application document should be specific to each applicant and read: **PI Last Name_First Name_NASA RID**. Submissions that are incomplete will not be reviewed and no late submissions will be accepted.

All required submission and reporting forms are available as "paperclip" attachments to this solicitation.

III. PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

The screening and selection process will include an internal NSHE review panel that will focus on the following criteria:

- Potential to result in a competitive NASA and/ or other agency proposal;
- Alignment with NSHE Science and Technology, Nevada's Economic Development and NASA Strategic Plan goals;
- Clear benefits to NV research infrastructure development;
- The project is multi- or inter-disciplinary and includes at least two NSHE institutions;
- Methods/tasks are appropriate to meet project objectives;
- PI and project team qualifications;
- NASA support and/or collaboration, if applicable; and
- Budget and budget justification as appropriate for scope.

IV. CONTACTS

Nevada NASA EPSCoR Program Office:

Homepage: Nevada NASA EPSCoR at <http://www.nvspacegrant.org/>

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