

NEVADA NASA EPSCoR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Research Infrastructure Development Seed Grant



Announcement for faculty at:

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

Applications must be submitted by:

Monday, March 15, 2021; 5:00 pm PT

Please note that this solicitation has had a high funding rate.

**Tips & Q/A Meetings: Thurs, Dec 10, at 4:00 pm PT and
Wed, Jan 13, at 12:00 pm PT**

I. INTRODUCTION

The goal of NASA's Established 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 to gain support from sources outside the NASA EPSCoR program that are most relevant to NASA missions as defined by the NASA 2018 Strategic Plan, one or more of the four Mission Directorates and/or one or more of the ten NASA centers. The attached list of research priorities from the National NASA EPSCoR Project Manager is the primary source of current information on NASA research priorities.
- 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 STEM education in Nevada.

The programmatic focus is to further engage and utilize Nevada's unique resources and talent for enhancing scientific discovery and/or developing new technologies to address NASA's research priorities. The request for seed grant funds may be based on outcomes from prior workshops/meetings with NASA Personnel; however, a seed grant award 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 result in the submission of a new proposal to a 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 Nevada; and/or
- Engage NASA scientists from one or more NASA Centers.

Note: There is no requirement to collaborate with other NSHE institutions nor that funds be used to support student participation, although it is allowable. Any student support should be fully explained in the project description.

Web-based meetings (MS 365 Teams) will be held to provide an overview of all NVSGC Faculty STEM Education solicitations, tips on proposal preparation and Q&A. The meetings will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020, at 4:00 pm (PT) and Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 12:00 pm (PT)

Date	Teams Link
December 10, 2020	Click here to join the meeting
January 13, 2021	Click here to join the meeting

II. PROPOSAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. Eligibility

- Faculty within any Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Institution, particularly junior faculty, women, and members of other underrepresented populations are encouraged to apply.
- Faculty receiving direct funding **do not have to be U.S. citizens.**
- Faculty who currently have a NVSGC research infrastructure or NASA EPSCoR research sub-award/grant are not eligible until after the end of their project.
- **Faculty may only apply to the NVSGC Research Infrastructure or NV NASA EPSCoR RID Seed Grant solicitation, but not both during the same solicitation year.**

B. Award: Funding Information

Depending on available funds, it is anticipated that 3 projects will be awarded. Project total should not exceed \$37,492 (\$29,992 federal/\$7,500 state match). Unrecovered F&A must be included as part of the state match. Matching funds will be provided by State Special Projects fund. Each submitted proposal must include budgets signed by the Sponsored Projects Office or Business Managers from the lead institution and any collaborating NSHE institutions with the amount of the collaborators total budget listed under 1.A. Subcontracts on the NSHE budget form for the lead institution.

Awards will be made to the lead PI and then their institution will sub-award funds to any collaborating NSHE institutions. It is expected that each institution involved in a project will receive both Federal and State matching funds.

C. Deadline:

The deadline for application submission is 5:00 pm Pacific Time, on Monday, March 15, 2021. Only applications for which all required materials have been received will be reviewed. Incomplete or late applications will NOT be reviewed.

D. Award Obligations

Award recipients are required to prepare a progress and final report following NASA EPSCoR guidelines. Detailed reporting requirements will be provided with award notification. Note: You will be required to prepare a progress report in April, a final report at the end of the project, provide demographic data about participants and prepare a project highlight for inclusion in an annual NASA EPSCoR Congressional report.

Award recipients are also expected to attend and make a presentation at the annual NV NASA EPSCoR and Space Grant Statewide Meeting that alternates between Reno and Las Vegas. Travel for this meeting should be included in your budget.

E. Proposal Guidelines

Proposals must be typed, single-spaced, and use an **Arial/Calibri/Times Roman or similar easy-to-read 12 pt.** font with numbered pages and 1-inch margins. The proposals should be written such that faculty from any STEM discipline would be able to understand the

proposal goals, importance of the research and how the anticipated outcomes will benefit NASA, NV and NSHE. Review panel members will not have specific expertise within the topic area of each proposal submitted.

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

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

2. Project Description (limited to 5 pages)

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

- a. Summary of Project (500 words);
- b. Project goals, objectives and methods (tasks);
- c. Anticipated project products, i.e., publications, proposals, hardware, software, websites, etc.
- d. List of collaborators and expertise they will contribute (including any NASA scientists). If applicable to the proposal, letters of support/collaboration should be included. Letters must be recent and dated within 45 days of due date;
- e. Description of how the effort will contribute to the NSHE Science and Technology Plan 2015 (attached) and/or the State of Nevada’s Economic Development Plan (attached) respectively; and
- f. Description of how the effort will align with the either or both the research priorities provided by the National NASA EPSCoR Program Manager (attached) and the NASA Strategic Plan 2018 (attached). Clearly state how your proposed project is relevant to a NASA mission(s). Inclusion of a NASA collaborator is strongly encouraged and will be reviewed favorably.

3. Budget and Budget Justification

Faculty, students and NSHE personnel may request funds for salary, travel, materials and supplies and other resources necessary to improve research infrastructure. There is a requirement for matching funds that should be provided via state matching funds. However, there is a small potential that funds may not be available and then institutions would provide the match (in-kind is acceptable).

The budget must be completed using the attached NSHE excel form. All dollar amounts must be discussed in the budget justification. 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 as part of the match. 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.*

All reasonable costs are allowable with the following exceptions:

- a. No foreign travel may be charged under this award without prior approval.
- b. No equipment may be purchased without prior approval; (standard computer equipment purchases are prohibited).
- c. Funds may not be used for construction or remodeling of facilities.

4. NASA Funding History (limited to one page)

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

5. References/Citations

No page limit.

6. Biographical Sketch or Curriculum Vitae

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

7. Letters of collaboration from NASA Centers or industry(if applicable)

Any NASA collaborators must provide letters of support and specifically state the contribution they will make. Letters must be recent and dated within 45 days prior to the solicitation due date.

III. Submission Guidelines:

Proposals will be accepted until **5:00 pm PT, on Monday, March 15, 2021**. Proposals must be submitted by the institution Sponsored Programs Office or appropriate Authorized Official. Upload your proposal using the online form as one PDF document at:

<https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2021-rid-seed-grant/>

The pdf application document should be specific to each applicant and labeled: **PI Last Name_First Name_RID**. Submissions that are incomplete will not be reviewed and no late submissions will be accepted.

All required submission forms are “paperclip” attachments to this solicitation. Open using Adobe Acrobat to be able to see all attached files.

IV. EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA

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

- Quality of the research proposal as evidenced by:
 - a. Well defined research goals/objectives
 - b. Clearly defined methods that adequately address the objectives
 - c. Demonstrated ability of faculty to conduct the anticipated work
 - d. Anticipated products and/or outcomes are defined; including publications, presentations and proposal development plans are addressed.
 - e. The proposal is written so that individuals from any STEM background can readily understand the importance of the research and that the methods will adequately address the project goals and/or objectives.
- Alignment with NASA Mission Directorate/Center research priorities, NASA Strategic Plan goals. NASA relevance is particularly important and should be clearly defined.
- Clear benefits to enhancement of NV's STEM research infrastructure and alignment with NSHE Science and Technology and Nevada's Economic Development Plan.
- Budget is appropriate for scope of work.

- NASA support/collaboration is well defined with letter defining level of support and any student participation plan is appropriate and includes outreach to students from under-represented groups.

V. CONTACT INFORMATION

Gibran Chavez-Gudino

Nevada NASA EPSCoR

EPSCoR Office, System Sponsored Projects

gchavez-gudino@nshe.nevada.edu; phone: 702 522-7081

Lynn Fenstermaker, Director

Nevada NASA EPSCoR

lynn.fenstermaker@dri.edu; phone: 702 862-5412

For more information about Nevada's NASA Programs visit:

<https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/>