

NEVADA NASA EPSCoR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: Research Infrastructure Development Travel and Workshops



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

No Proposal Deadline: open submission

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 goals.

Workshops

Topical workshops provide a unique opportunity for NSHE researchers to discuss and form collaborations for training and proposal development purposes. Workshop awards may provide one to two days of meeting time for specific training and proposal development efforts. Workshops also provide potential to develop collaborations among NSHE faculty, NASA scientists/engineers and industry.

Travel Grants

Early-career and mid-career faculty who are engaged in research re-alignment will be given priority for travel grants. Travel grants will be awarded to cover costs for NSHE faculty to travel to NASA Centers and in some instances to visit businesses involved in NASA missions.

Faculty receiving funding, will be expected to:

1. Submit a pre-proposal to the annual NV NASA EPSCoR Research CAN competition;
2. Submit a NV NASA EPSCoR RID proposal for seed grant funding; or
3. Submit a proposal directly to NASA or another external agency (non-EPSCoR).
4. For travel grants only, provide a statement of new collaboration and potential future proposal efforts that were discussed.

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.**

B. Award: Funding Information

Travel and workshop funds will be distributed as long as funds remain for each grant year. Depending on available funds, it is anticipated that travel awards will not exceed \$2,500 total and workshop awards will not exceed \$5,000 total with a 1:1 Federal to 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 application must include budgets signed by the Sponsored Projects Office or Business Managers from the lead institution.

Awards will be made to the requesting faculty member. It is expected that each institution will receive both Federal and State matching funds close to the 1:1 match requirement.

C. Deadline:

There is no deadline, but all travel and workshop funds will be fully expended annually before the start of a new funding year (typically July 1).

D. Award Obligations

Award recipients are required to prepare a report following NASA EPSCoR guidelines. All travel and workshop activities must be included in our annual report to NASA. Below is the list of outcomes for which NASA requires reporting:

- Patents and Publications/Collaborations
- New Collaborations
- Technical Transfer Activities
- New Proposals and Grants (resulting from workshop/travel)
- Information on Faculty/Research/Student participants and their demographics
- If applicable: any New or Revised Courses that Target STEM skills if also a product of a workshop or travel grant.

E. Application Guidelines

You may apply for a travel or workshop award at any time. Go to the application form at:

<https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/nasa-epscor-workshop-travel-support/>

In the online portal, you must complete the following steps:

1. Complete the online form.
2. Upload a single PDF document containing:
 - a. 1-2 Page Description of the proposed event. Based on the information provided within this solicitation, write a brief

description detailing:

- i. How this travel or workshop funding will create new collaboration(s) or meetings with on-going collaborators.
 - ii. What topic(s) areas will be discussed with the potential for this funding to lead to a collaboration and/or a new proposal.
 - iii. How this workshop/travel will help to meet the goals of NASA and develop the research portfolio and/or infrastructure in Nevada
- b. Signed Budget and Budget Justification -- Sponsored Programs Officer (SPO) or Business Manager to provide:
 - i. A brief description of your proposed request with,
 - ii. a signed budget and budget/justification detailing the amount requested and cost breakdown with balanced federal and state match funds
- c. Letter(s) of Support (Optional)
 - i. Although it is not required, if available, letters of interest from NASA Center (or business engaged in NASA missions) personnel may be included in PDF upload.

3. Budget and Budget Justification

There is a 1:1 state match requirement. Faculty, students and NSHE personnel may request funds for travel and workshop materials and supplies but not salaries. Travel costs are allowable to support travel for visiting external scientists. Funds cannot be used for equipment or construction/remodeling of facilities, foreign travel, or for civil-service personnel travel.

The budget must be completed using the NSHE excel form provided. All dollar amounts must be discussed in the budget justification. 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.*

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

Any NASA collaborators letters of support for the visit or workshop may be included in the application. Letters must be recent and dated within 45 days prior to the solicitation due date.

III. EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA

The screening and selection process will performed by the NV NASA EPSCoR Project Director and Research Administrator and will focus on the following criteria:

- Clear benefits to the PI for future NASA collaborations and/or proposal development.

- Alignment with NASA Strategic Plan goals. NASA relevance is particularly important and should be clearly defined.
- Budget is appropriate and signed by the Sponsored Projects Office or Business Manager.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION

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For more information about Nevada's NASA Programs visit:

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