

NEVADA NASA EPSCoR

REQUEST FOR LOI and PRE-PROPOSALS: National NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity NOFO Research Collaboration

Release Date: July 21, 2025



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

Letter of Intent Due: August 11, 2025, 5:00 pm PT

Pre-Proposal Due: August 28, 2025, 5:00 pm PT

A webinar about this solicitation will be held Monday, August 4, 2025, at 11 am PT. Use this Microsoft Teams link to attend.

Meeting ID: 228 296 942 041 6; Passcode: Q2Es2SG3

INTRODUCTION

The National NASA EPSCoR Program will be releasing the 2026 Basic Research Opportunity (formerly Research Collaboration) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in fall of 2025 (anticipated date). NV NASA EPSCoR will be permitted to submit a single full proposal, which will likely be due in mid-January 2026. To allow sufficient time to select and develop a single strong full proposal from Nevada, letters of intent and pre-proposals are being solicited in advance of the Federal NOFO release. The LOIs are required to submit a pre-proposal and will be used to select review panel members for the pre-proposal competitive external review. The results of the external review will result in the selection of one pre-proposal that will advance to full proposal development. Note: The National NASA EPSCoR NOFO will only permit one full proposal submission per EPSCoR state. An amendment to this solicitation will be released if we learn of any significant changes from past federal NOFOs. The NOFO announcement from last year is attached to this solicitation as an e-paperclip.

Each funded NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity proposal is expected to establish collaborative research activities with a NASA Center scientist(s) such that the project will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities of NASA's national program. NASA's national program includes the ten NASA Field Centers, Mission Directorates, and the NASA Office of the Chief Technologist. In addition to meeting NASA research priorities, a strong pre-proposal will also contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science, and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of Nevada.

NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity pre-proposals must include three or more statewide collaborations among NSHE institutions and a NASA Center or NASA Contractor Collaborator. To support and strengthen statewide synergy and collaborations necessary for a strong National NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity proposal, travel and workshop funds are available through the NV NASA EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Development (RID) grant. Solicitations for RID travel and workshop grants are open year-round and as funds are available, awards to support team building workshops or travel to NASA Centers to build collaborations will be awarded. Please check the [Nevada NASA Programs](#) website to apply for team-building workshops or travel funds.

Important Note: In the past, faculty who identified a collaborative effort with NASA personnel or NASA Contractors were often more successful than faculty who had not identified collaboration with a NASA scientist. Pre-proposals demonstrating NASA collaboration are therefore now required.

The objective of the NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity Award is to:

- Contribute to and promote the development of research infrastructure in NASA EPSCoR States in areas of strategic importance to the NASA mission; (Space Science, Mission to Planet Earth, Human Exploration and Development of Space, Aeronautics, and Space Technology.)
- Improve the capabilities of NASA EPSCoR States to gain support directly from NASA and other sources outside the NASA EPSCoR program.
- Contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science, and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the State by utilizing Nevada's unique resources and assets while developing and expanding regional interests in Climate Change, Systems Engineering, Astrophysics, Planetary Geology, and Astrobiology; and
- Work in close coordination with the NASA Space Grant program to improve the environment for

science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education in the State.

For guidance on writing a pre-proposal relevant to both NASA and Nevada's science mission and goals, please carefully examine all documents attached via e-paperclip to this solicitation, which include:

- Appendix 14, EPSCoR Basic Research FY 2025 NOFO, the NOFO provided for last year's competition. Note that NASA has not yet released an FY 2026 NOFO, information is subject to change.
- NSHE Science and Technology Plan 2020
- The Governor's Economic Plan: Revitalizing [Nevada's](#) Electric, Innovative, and Connected Future

NOFO SOLICITATION INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

A. Eligibility

Faculty at NSHE institutions, particularly junior faculty are encouraged to apply. Faculty who have PI or co-PI status on a current National NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity project are not eligible to apply while their project is ongoing. Pre-proposals must include Co-PIs from at least two other NSHE institutions.

B. Award: Funding Information

It is anticipated that the NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity NOFO will provide an award of \$750,000 in Federal funds along with \$375,000 in cost share (state provided and institutional match) total for a three-year period. State matching funds are contingent on matching fund availability. Note: an attempt must be made to distribute Federal and state matching funds to each participating institution. If institutional match is required, that match must be met at the respective institution, i.e., if there are insufficient state matching funds, institutions receiving Federal funding must provide the 2:1 match from their institution and not through another NSHE institution's budget.

C. Award Obligations (If selected for Full proposal submission and receive a National award)

Award recipients are required to prepare annual and final reports following National NASA EPSCoR guidelines, which will be provided to the lead Science PI. You will be required to provide demographic data about participants and prepare a project highlight for inclusion in an annual report that will be delivered to the National NASA EPSCoR Office. The annual and final reports include: grant proposals submitted; grant proposals funded; papers submitted and/or published in refereed journals; presentations or abstracts at professional meetings, collaborations with NASA centers and institutions across the state; patents and/or licenses; websites; and any other project product.

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

D. Letter of Intent Preparation

Letters of Intent are required in order to be eligible to submit a pre-proposal.

Complete the online form (URL listed below) to provide the following information:

- 1) Lead Science PI and Co-PI names and institutions
- 2) Working title for the pre-proposal
- 3) Research topic keywords
- 4) Research abstract (300 words max)
- 5) Suggested external reviewers (minimum of three names with email addresses required; more are appreciated). Please note that **reviewers can be from any institution nationally or internationally** but must not have a conflict of interest (COI) with the PI. We are using the NSF definition of COI:
Conflicts would exist for:
 - PhD advisors
 - PhD thesis advisees
 - co-authors on any book, article, report abstract or paper collaboration within the last 48 months
 - collaborators on projects such as funded grants, graduate research or others within the last 48 months
 - any editorial board with whom the nominee interacts
- 6) AOR – Authorized Organization Representative (OSP/SPO or Business Manager) name and contact information

Go to: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/2026-nofo-loi-form/>

E. Pre-proposal Preparation (merge requirements 1-4 into a single PDF)

Pre-proposals must be typed, single-spaced, standard one-inch margins and use a Times Roman 12 pt or comparable font with numbered pages. The pre-proposals should be written such that researchers from other scientific disciplines would be able to understand the pre-proposal goals, importance of the research, and how the anticipated outcomes will benefit NASA, Nevada, and NSHE.

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, plus additional pages for items c, d, and e)

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

- a. Summary of Project; (1 page maximum of the total 5 pages allotted)
- b. The remaining 4 pages should include:
 - i. Project goals and research objectives
 - ii. Tasks and methods
 - iii. SMART objectives with measurable outcomes (see PDF “paperclip” attachment)
 - iv. An approximate timetable for project completion
 - v. List of collaborators and expertise they will contribute (including any NASA scientists)
 - vi. Brief discussion of likely outcomes (i.e., publications, patents/licenses, technology transfer, new hardware/software, new or revised courses, new proposals with potential program you will apply to, etc.)
- c. Plan for inclusion of undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or postdoctoral fellows as active members of the research team. (1 page max)
- d. Description of how the effort will contribute (i.e., broader impact) to the **Nevada Science and Technology Plan 2020 and/or the State of Nevada’s Economic**

Development Plan and how the effort will align with NASA’s Mission Directorates. See **Appendix 14: NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity FY 2025 NOFO; e-paperclipped to this solicitation.** (1 page max)

- e. NASA collaborators must provide letters of support specifically stating the contribution they will make. The letters will be included in the pre-proposal appendix. (Note: Letters must be recent and dated within 45 days prior to the solicitation due date.)

3. Budget and Budget Justification (form provided as “e-paperclip” attachment)

Provide a budget and a detailed budget justification for each institution involved in the project.

NOTE: If selected to submit a full proposal, the budget must include funding to administer the grant through the NSHE EPSCoR and Sponsored Projects Office. As required by the National NASA EPSCoR Project Manager, the budget will include funds for the administration of the project, and the NV NASA EPSCoR Director must be listed as the Administrative Lead PI. Consult with Karina Ceja at the NSHE EPSCoR Office for an estimate on the grant administration costs - approximately \$119,632.00 over the life of the project. The table below provides an estimate of the funds that will be available for the project. The anticipated start date for selected proposals would be sometime in summer 2026.

Institution Available Project Funds		
	Federal	Cost Share
Year 1	\$ 215,890	\$ 111,453
Year 2	\$ 228,807	\$ 110,911
Year 3	\$ 227,959	\$ 110,348
Total 3YR	\$ 672,656	\$ 332,712

- a. PIs are encouraged to work with their Sponsored Programs Office and/or Business Managers well in advance to develop the budget.
- b. Follow NASA budget guidelines as well as the OMB Uniform Guidance when developing the budget.
- c. Include appropriate annual increases for salary, fringe, and tuition costs.
- d. Include travel for the annual statewide meetings each year, alternating locations in Northern and Southern Nevada.
- e. Budget must be signed by Sponsored Projects Office or Business Manager.

4. Appendices

- a. References Cited (the number of pages for citations is not limited)
- b. Biographical Sketch: use the attached NASA biosketch template, including the PI, Co-PI(s) and any collaborators or identified student(s) who will have a major role in the project.
- c. NASA collaborators must provide letters of support that specifically state the contribution they will make. (Note: Letters must be recent and dated within 45 days prior to the solicitation due date.)
- d. NASA Funding History Summary for the Science PI (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 significant project outcomes.

- e. Facilities and Other Resources: list any existing facilities and major equipment that will be used for the proposed project.

F. Submission Guidelines:

Letters of Intent must be submitted no later than **5:00 pm PT on August 11, 2025**. Use the online form at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/2026-nofo-loi-form/>

Pre-proposals must be uploaded no later than **5:00 pm PT on August 28, 2025**. Please submit a single PDF document using the naming convention: **PI Last Name_First Name_NASA_Basic Research**. Submissions that are incomplete (see requirements 1-4 above) will not be reviewed, and no late submissions will be accepted. Use the online form at: <https://nasa.epscorspo.nevada.edu/funding/2026-nofo-loi-pre-proposal/>

PRE-PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

An external panel (experienced individuals outside Nevada knowledgeable of NASA EPSCoR and at least one reviewer knowledgeable of the topic area) will review and recommend a project for submission to the National NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity NOFO. The results of this review will be forwarded to the Nevada EPSCoR Research Affairs Council for review prior to an announcement of the pre-proposal selected for full proposal development. Project selection will be based on review of pre-proposals according to the following criteria:

1. Technical quality of the proposed research and soundness of plan to produce demonstrable near-term achievements that will serve as a catalyst to enhance the state's long-term NASA-related research capabilities.
2. The proposed research goal(s) and objectives are scientifically sound and will result in significant advancement of the topic area.
3. Methods are appropriate and will adequately address the research objectives; the pre-proposal includes quantifiable SMART objectives, and well-defined outcomes and products are listed.
4. Strength of the collaborative team, representation from at least three NSHE institutions and inclusion of a NASA collaborator. Student or postdoctoral fellow involvement in research is required.
5. Relevance to the NASA Mission Directorates as defined in the NASA EPSCoR Basic Research NOFO Appendix 14. The degree to which the proposed research matches NASA's Strategic enterprises and serves as a catalyst to improve the ability of the state's institutions to become more competitive and involved in NASA's programs.
6. Potential of the plan and proposed activities to contribute to the State of Nevada's economic plan (e.g. through innovative approaches, technology transfer and innovative industry partnering) and/or NSHE's Science and Technology plan.
7. The budget is appropriate for the proposed work.

It is anticipated that the final selection of the pre-proposal to move forward to a full proposal will be announced in late September or early October 2025. The full proposal will likely be due in mid-January 2026.

Contact Information

NV NASA EPSCoR Project Director
Dr. Eric Wilcox
Eric.Wilcox@dri.edu

775-673-7686

NV NASA EPSCoR Senior Research Administrator
Karina D. Ceja
kceja@nshe.nevada.edu
702-522-7081

ADDITIONAL LINKS:

NASA Headquarters: <http://www.nasa.gov>

Ames Research Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/ames>

Armstrong Flight Research Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/armstrong>

Glenn Research Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/glenn>

Goddard Space Flight Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/goddard>

Jet Propulsion Laboratory: <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/>

Johnson Space Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/johnson>

Kennedy Space Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/kennedy>

Langley Research Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/langley>

Marshall Space Flight Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall>

Stennis Space Center: <http://www.nasa.gov/stennis>