

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 University; College of Southern Nevada; Great Basin College; Truckee Meadows Community College; Western Nevada College; Desert Research Institute

Applications must be submitted by:
Friday, February 20, 2026; 5:00 pm PT

Period of Performance: August 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027

Tips & Q/A Meeting: Thursday, Jan 15, 2026, at 2:00 pm PT

[Click here to join meeting](#)

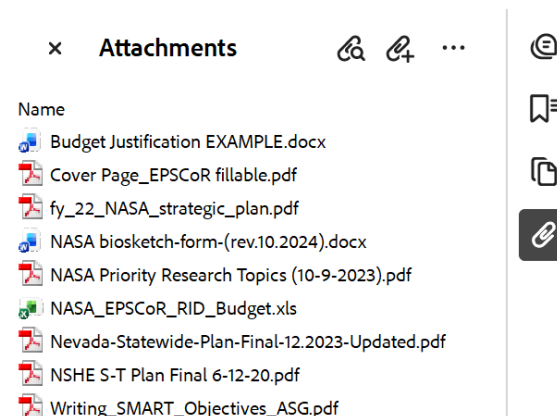
Please note this webinar will be recorded and made available on the NV NASA Programs website. Email daranda@nshe.nevada.edu if you have any trouble with the meeting link.

NOTE: Please open this document in Adobe Acrobat to view attached paperclip resource files relevant to this solicitation.

**NV NASA EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Development (RID)
Cooperative Agreement Number:
80NSSC22M0037**

Paperclipped Attachments

Please note, to view all relevant attachments to this solicitation including the budget summary, cover page, NASA Mission Directorates, etc., please open this PDF document in Adobe Acrobat and select the paperclip on the side of the screen (you may need to click the arrow to expand the panel where the paperclip is located). Any questions regarding the paperclip attachments or how to access these documents can be directed to Darlene Aranda at daranda@nshe.nevada.edu.



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 2022 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.

PROPOSAL INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS

Eligibility

- Faculty within any Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Institutions 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 either the NVSGC Research Infrastructure or NV NASA EPSCoR RID Seed Grant solicitation in the same solicitation year, not both.**

Award: Funding Information

Depending on available funds, it is anticipated that 2 projects will be awarded. Project total should not exceed \$31,000 in federal funds. There are no state program match funds or institution match requirements. 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. Please note that potential delays in Congressional appropriations and release of funds may result in late sub-awards. We currently anticipate making sub-awards during Summer 2026. Proposed project period is August 1, 2026 through May 31, 2027.

Award Obligations

Award recipients are required to prepare progress and final reports 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. Failure to report may result in a period of ineligibility for future sub-awards from NV NASA EPSCoR and NV Space Grant.

Award recipients are also expected to attend and make a presentation at the annual NV NASA Programs Statewide Meeting that alternates between northern and southern NV. Travel for this meeting should be included in your budget. The meeting will be held in Reno in spring 2027.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals must be typed, single-spaced, and use a Times New Roman 12-point (or similar) font with numbered pages and 1-inch margins. Please remember that review panel members may come from a range of scientific disciplines and may not be experts in your specific topic area. Write your proposal so that someone with a general STEM background can clearly understand the project's objectives, the significance and expected impact of the proposed work, 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)

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

- a. Title;
- b. Summary of Project (300 words);
- c. Project goals, objectives and methods (tasks);
- d. Anticipated project products, i.e., publications, proposals, hardware, software, websites, etc. Specifically list anticipated future proposal(s) resulting from the project;
- e. 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;
- f. Description of how the effort will contribute to the NSHE Science and Technology Plan 2020 (attached) and/or the State of Nevada's Economic Development Plan (attached) respectively; and
- g. Description of how the effort will align with either or both of the NASA priority research topics and the NASA Strategic Plan 2022 (both documents are attached). Please make sure that your proposal states which NASA Mission Directorate your project is most closely aligned with (see attached files and/or <https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/>).

3. Budget and Budget Justification

Faculty may request funds for salary, travel, materials and supplies and other resources necessary to successfully complete the proposed project.

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). All budgets must be signed by the applicant institution's Business Office/Office of Sponsored Projects.

4. NASA Funding History (limited to one page)

Provide a detailed list of previous & current NASA funded projects (particularly projects funded by NV Space Grant and NV NASA EPSCoR) for the lead PI. Include the title of the project, the project period, the funded amount, project outcomes and if a final report was submitted.

5. References/Citations

No page limit.

6. Biographical Sketch

Biosketches are required for the PI and Co-PI(s) who have a major role in the project. Use the current NASA biosketch form in the attachments (<https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/biosketch-form.docx>).

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.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals will be accepted until **5:00pm PT, on Friday, February 20, 2026**. 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/2026-rid-seed-grant/>

The PDF proposal 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.

EVALUATION AND AWARD CRITERIA

The screening and selection process will include an internal NSHE faculty review panel (a minimum of three faculty, one each from DRI, UNLV and UNR) that will focus on the following criteria:

- Quality of the research proposal as evidenced by:
 - a. Well defined research goals/objectives and statements about the importance of the proposed research.
 - b. Clearly defined methods that adequately address the objectives.
 - c. Demonstrated ability of faculty to conduct the anticipated work and submit timely final reports and/or peer review publications.
 - 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 of 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, and a detailed budget justification is provided.
- NASA support/collaboration is well defined with NASA letter defining level of support.

Deadline


The deadline for application submission is **5:00 pm Pacific Time, on Friday, February 20, 2026**. Only applications for which all required materials have been received will be reviewed. Incomplete

or late applications will NOT be reviewed.

Informational Webinar

NVSGC Research Infrastructure and NV NASA EPSCoR RID Seed Grant

A Solicitations and Proposal Preparation Tips & Q&A Session will be held via Microsoft Teams:

 Thursday, January 15, 2026

 2:00 PM PT

 [Click here to join the meeting](#)

This session will be recorded and made available on the NV NASA Programs website. Contact daranda@nshe.nevada.edu if you encounter technical issues with the link.

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For more information about Nevada's NASA Programs visit:

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