



From: Faculty Research Development Office  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competitions: NSF Innovation Corps – Nodes Program (I-Corps Nodes) NSF 17-533

Date: October 24, 2017

The National Science Foundation (NSF) seeks to further develop and nurture a national innovation ecosystem that builds upon fundamental research to guide the output of scientific discoveries closer to the development of technologies, products, processes and services that benefit society. The goal of the program is to dramatically reduce the period of time necessary to bring a promising idea from its inception to widespread implementation.

Through this solicitation, NSF is seeking to expand and sustain the network of Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Nodes that work cooperatively to support the development of innovations that will benefit society. NSF plans to build upon the established National Innovation Network (consisting of I-Corps Nodes and Sites) to further support the needs for innovation research, education and training. The interconnected nodes of the network are expected to be diverse in research areas, resources, tools, programs, capabilities, and geographic locations - providing the network with the flexibility to grow or reconfigure as needs arise.

I-Corps Nodes will foster understanding on how to: 1) identify, develop and support promising ideas that can generate value, 2) create and implement tools, resources and training activities that enhance our nation's innovation capacity, 3) gather, analyze, evaluate and utilize the data and insight resulting from the experiences of those participating in regional programs and 4) share and leverage effective innovation practices on a national scale - to improve the quality of life for the U.S. citizenry. In addition, Nodes must identify and are expected to implement plans for sustainable scaling of their efforts beyond the duration of NSF support.

**Organizations may only be a participant in one proposal per deadline.** In addition, organizations may only be associated with one I-Corps Node that is receiving funding from NSF at a given time. UNM is eligible to participate as the lead in the Track 1: I-Corps Node Development which is for new I-Corps Node awardees. Track 1 awardees can be supported at a level of up to:

- \$1,200,000 (years 1 and 2)
- \$900,000 (year 3)
- \$600,000 (year 4)
- \$300,000 (year 5)

More details can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17533/nsf17533.pdf>. The required letter of intent is due to the NSF on February 8, 2018 with full proposals due March 13, 2018.

The lead PI *must* be an academic Administrative Lead at the level of Dean or higher, preferably at the level of a provost or vice-president. Nodes are required to coordinate with I-Corps Sites to deliver regional training to a minimum of 5 I-Corps Site teams per year.

**This is a limited competition; each institution is limited to participate in only one proposal.** If you are interested in submitting a proposal as **lead** or as a **subaward**, send a statement of interest with a tentative project title and brief description (200 words) by **noon, Tuesday, November 7, 2017** via e-mail to [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu) **with the subject line: I Corps Nodes – your name.** *Statements of interest from teams that will lead a UNM led submission to this solicitation need to include a list of at least 5 I-Corps Site teams they will be collaborating with as an I-Corps Node.*

Based on the e-mail responses received, the Limited Competition Management Team may announce a call for preproposals. Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

*If you are affiliated with HSC, contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.*