

UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest and pre-proposals for the **NSF, EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (FEC) (NSF 24-573)** limited competition. This funding opportunity builds inter-jurisdictional collaborative teams of EPSCoR investigators in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) focus areas consistent with the current National Science Foundation Strategic Plan. Projects are investigator-driven and **must include researchers from at least two EPSCoR eligible jurisdictions** with complementary expertise and resources necessary to address challenges, which neither party could address as well or as rapidly independently. Proposals that address the national key critical and emerging technologies or NSF key technology focus areas are particularly encouraged. Proposed research should be motivated by a societal challenge or national need. EPSCoR recognizes that the development of early-career faculty is critical to sustaining and advancing research capacity. **Subawards to organizations in non-EPSCoR jurisdictions are not allowed.**

Sponsor: NSF

Opportunity Title: EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (FEC)

Opportunity Number: NSF 24-573

Sponsor Due Date(s): Required LOI due 12/15/2026; Full proposals due 01/26/2027.

Award Range: If organizations from two eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions collaborate on a proposal, the award amount may not exceed \$4 million for up to four years. If organizations from three or more eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions collaborate on a proposal, the award amount may not exceed \$6 million for up to four years.

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: One (1) as lead institution. However, an organization may serve as a non-lead in a collaborative submission or as subawardee on any number of additional proposals.

Solicitation: [EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Focused EPSCoR Collaborations Program | NSF - National Science Foundation](#)

Limited Comp. STEP 1: Required SOI Due Date: **NOON on July 7, 2026** (for planning purposes)

Limited Comp. STEP 2: Pre-proposal Due Date: **NOON on August 17, 2026**

Limited Comp. Instructions: We will be conducting a two-step internal competition to ensure we have a review committee in place by the pre-proposal deadline. You must complete both steps if you are interested in participating.

STEP ONE: Please submit your **statement of interest** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). 1.) Identify the institution(s) with which you will partner; 2.) list all Co-PIs; 3.) include a brief abstract of the research to be addressed (1 – 2 paragraphs). This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered. Note that SOIs will NOT be scored; we require them so that we can form a review committee early.

STEP TWO: Please submit your 5-page pre-proposal, abbreviated budget, and CVs for key personnel via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). You will receive an email when the InfoReady competition has been converted from the SOI application to the pre-proposal application, but you may work on your documents outside the system before that. No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposal should address the major topics that will be included in the proposal narrative, including:

- Cover sheet: project title and all senior personnel with institution and contact information
- 5-page project description (in NSF allowable format) that includes:
 - **Research:**
 - Provide a concise description of the long-term research, education goals, and intellectual focus in sufficient detail to enable their scientific merit and broader impacts to be assessed.
 - Present proposed research in the context of other efforts in the field (with appropriate references), state the major challenges and how they will be addressed, and comment on novelty and/or originality of the proposed approach.
 - **Inter-jurisdictional Collaborations and Partnerships:**
 - Identify the institution(s) with which you will partner. Present the rationale for the composition of the teams, a description of the leadership structure, and the context for establishing the collaboration.
 - Include a specific discussion of how the collaboration will positively impact each participating jurisdiction and its respective target population including methodologies and metrics for measuring success. Proposals should also explain how each participating jurisdiction will contribute to, and benefit from, the collaboration.
 - **Sustainability**
 - A plan for long-term sustainability of the proposed activities and infrastructure (physical, cyber, and human) beyond the lifespan of the project is required. Plans should clearly delineate what the expected impacts will be on the jurisdiction(s) involved and how they will holistically tie into affecting populations of the jurisdiction(s) involved. Provide realistic, annual metrics to assess the short- and long-term economic impacts.
 - **Workforce Development Plan:**
 - Plans for recruitment/development of early-career faculty, describing the mechanisms to attract and mentor these individuals, to enable their development and success as educators and researchers, and their specific contributions to achieving the project's goals in the focus area.
 - Present an implementation strategy, informed by best practices for building research competencies, and research mentoring. The implementation strategy should include an initial baseline assessment, clearly articulated goals, milestones, and timelines.
- Budget overview and 1-page budget justification
- Biosketches (NSF format) for PI and Co-PIs

The 5-page pre-proposals/project descriptions will be evaluated on the following:

- **Research Capacity:** What is the potential impact of the project on enhancing STEM research competitiveness and developing STEM research capacity and infrastructure in the jurisdictions?
- **Workforce Development:** How will the recruitment and development of early-career faculty and postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate trainees contribute to the preparation of a full spectrum of diverse, new cadre of skilled researchers, innovators, and educators able to work across boundaries and interface with stakeholders in areas associated with the project focus?
- **Inter-jurisdictional Collaboration:** Is there a balanced, sustainable, collaborative effort of activities such that each jurisdiction is contributing to and benefiting from the project at an appropriate level?
- **Integration of Project Elements:** How well developed is the integration of, and synergy between, the research, education, workforce development, sustainability, and project coordination elements of the project?

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu for more information.