

UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting pre-proposals for the **DOE Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs) (DE-FOA-0003614)** limited competition. This funding opportunity aims to bring together world-class teams of scientists from universities, DOE national laboratories, and other institutions to perform energy-relevant basic research with a scope and complexity beyond what is possible in single-investigator or small-group awards. These multi-investigator, multi-disciplinary centers accelerate transformative scientific advances for the most challenging topics in materials sciences, chemical sciences, geosciences, and biosciences. EFRCs integrate experiments, theory, computation, and AI/ML; develop innovative experimental and theoretical tools that illuminate fundamental processes in unprecedented detail; and create an enthusiastic, interdisciplinary, workforce of energy-focused scientists.

Topic areas are open to both new and renewal applications, unless noted otherwise in the solicitation. The OVPR may use this internal competition as an opportunity to identify synergies across UNM researchers and units that could strengthen proposals or inform future strategic collaborations.

Sponsor: DOE

Opportunity Title: Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRCs)

Opportunity Number: DE-FOA-00033614

Sponsor Due Date(s): 4/1/26 (required pre-application); 7/1/26 (full submission)

Award Range: \$12M–\$18M

Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM: Three (3) as lead institution

Solicitation: <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361309>

Limited Comp. Instructions: Please submit your **1-page** pre-proposal and abbreviated PI CV/biosketch via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered.

Limited Comp. Pre-Proposal Due Date: **NOON on March 10, 2026**

The 1-page pre-proposal should address the major topics that will be included in the pre-application, including:

1. **Four-Year Scientific Mission & Goals** — 2–4 bullet “mission” statement and integrated 4-year goals designed to support that mission.
2. **Driving Hypothesis/Questions & Research Approach** — concise statement of at least one hypothesis or central question motivating the proposed work; outline the integrated experimental/theory/computation/AI/ML plan; note distinctive capabilities and required- user facilities (if any).
3. **Scientific Impact & Need for an EFRC** — what new science will be enabled; why a centrally managed team science center is required vs. single PI- awards.

Pre-proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Potential for high scientific impact
2. Appropriateness of the proposed research approaches

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.