

## UNM Limited Competition Announcement

Dear UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting statements of interest in the **NSF EPSCoR RII: EPSCoR Research Fellows (ERF)** program. NSF EPSCoR facilitates the establishment of partnerships among academic institutions, government, industry, and non-profit sectors that are designed to promote sustainable improvements in a jurisdiction's research infrastructure, Research and Development (R&D) capacity, and R&D competitiveness of EPSCoR-eligible jurisdictions. This opportunity is intended to provide support for PIs to collaborate with facilities of national prominence that would not otherwise be possible without the fellowship.

The NSF EPSCoR RII: EPSCoR Research Fellows program offers the following two sub-tracks: **1) RII: NSF** and **2) RII: @NASA**. RII: NSF is open to a broad community of EPSCoR Research Fellows; RII: @NASA focuses on faculty from institutions with high enrollments of students from underrepresented populations in STEM to collaborate with researchers at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) research centers. **PIs who are eligible for both tracks may apply for only one track per competition cycle.**

**New Mexico EPSCoR invites researchers to an informational Q&A session about this opportunity. The session will be held on Tuesday, October 21 at 12:00 PM (MT) and will include insights from previous award recipients.**

**Register here:** <https://unm.zoom.us/meeting/register/wla815NrTB-c33S3MeglSg#/registration>

**Sponsor:** NSF

**Opportunity Title:** EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: EPSCoR Research Fellows (ERF)

**Number:** NSF 24-528

**Sponsor Due Date(s):** 4/14/2026

**Award Range:** \$300,000 for RII: NSF; \$360,000 for RII: @NASA (additional \$60K provided by NASA)

**Award Period:** Maximum 24 months

**Number of Submissions Allowed from UNM:** 8 total: **maximum four (4) RII: NSF proposals and four (4) RII: @NASA proposals.**

### Additional Information:

- Eligible PIs must
  - Be in an early-career, or mid-career-track position at an eligible non-degree-granting organization or
  - Hold a non-tenured or tenured faculty position at the Lecturer, Research Faculty, Assistant or Associate Professor rank (or in an equivalent position) at an institution of higher education.
- The PI must be positioned to build sustainable research capacity at the home institution during and beyond the fellowship, which generally takes three years or more.
- Non-tenured research assistant professors or lecturers are eligible to apply for this opportunity if they have a long-term appointment.
- Only single-PI proposals will be considered. No Co-PIs should be included on the proposal.
- For some NASA research facilities, PIs and trainees must be U.S. Citizens, unless otherwise specified. Lawful Permanent Residents are eligible for research opportunities at NASA centers.
- Previous or current Research Fellows **are not eligible** to apply for the EPSCoR Research Fellows program.

**Solicitation:** <https://www.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/epscor-research-infrastructure-improvement-epscor-research/nsf24-528/solicitation>

**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.

**Limited Comp. STEP 1: Required SOI Due Date: NOON on October 28, 2025** (for planning purposes)

**Limited Comp. STEP 2: Pre-proposal Due Date: NOON on November 18, 2025**

**STEP ONE:** Please submit your ~100-word **statement of interest and approval by department chair (upload email into InfoReady)** in UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). The statement should include the following information:

- PI name, department, rank, and track (either **RII: NSF** or **RII: @NASA**)
- Description of area of research interest
- Names of potential host organization(s)

This is a required step, and no late submissions will be considered. Note that SOIs will NOT be scored; we require them to assist us in forming a review committee.

**STEP TWO:** Please submit your 3-page pre-proposal and PI CV 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 include:

- PI name, department, rank, host institution and name of collaborator(s) at host institution, and track (either **RII: NSF** or **RII: @NASA**)
- Description of the research to be conducted and anticipated impact on your career, including:
  - Goals and objectives for the fellowship.
  - Research plan for achieving the goals and objectives.
  - Role of the host site in achieving the research goals.
  - Explanation of how the PI's research program would specifically benefit from the fellowship mechanism – identifying what specific opportunities will be made possible via the PI's collaborations and visit(s) to the host site.
  - How UNM will benefit from this fellowship in the future.
  - Timeline for meeting project goals and objectives.
- Letter of support signed by your department chair or dean.
- Letter of tentative agreement from your collaborator at the host organization.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact HSC Limited Competition at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu) for more information.*