



To: Distribution List

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

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF: EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-4:
EPSCoR Research Fellows (NSF 23-535)

Date: January 16, 2024

EPSCoR RII Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows provides awards to build research capacity in institutions and transform the career trajectories of investigators and further develop their individual research potential through collaborations with investigators from the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers. The fellowship provides opportunities to establish strong collaborations through extended or periodic collaborative visits to a selected host site. Through collaborative research activities with the host site, Fellows will be able to learn new techniques, develop new collaborations, advance existing partnerships, benefit from access to unique equipment and facilities, and/or shift their research toward potentially transformative new directions. The experiences gained through the fellowships are intended to have lasting impacts that will enhance the Fellows' research trajectories well beyond the award period. The benefits to the Fellows are also expected to improve the research capacity of their institutions and jurisdictions more broadly.

EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows offers the following two sub-tracks: **1) RII Track-4: NSF** and **2) RII Track-4: @NASA**. While the two tracks are similar in achieving the same goals, RII Track-4: NSF is open to a broad community and RII Track-4: @NASA focuses on faculty from institutions with high enrollments of students from underrepresented populations in STEM (See Section "IV. Eligibility Information" for more details) 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 will be hosting a webinar about this funding opportunity on January 23 at noon. Learn more and register here: <https://nmepscor.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN-ngKNo2FTsSAk3k-PCFimQ#/registration> ****

Eligibility:

PIs of proposed RII Track-4 projects must have their primary appointment with the submitting organization. PIs must either:

- hold a non-tenured faculty position at a degree-granting institution of higher education; or hold long-term faculty positions outside of the tenure track regardless of their position title or rank.
- be in an early-career, career-track position
- hold a non-tenured or tenured faculty position at the Assistant or Associate Professor rank (or in an equivalent position)

Persons who hold transitional fixed-term postdoctoral appointments are not eligible to apply as PI. Only single-PI proposals will be considered. No Co-PIs should be included on the proposal. No PI who has received an award in any previous RII Track-4 competition may submit a proposal under this solicitation.

Additional Eligibility Requirements for RII Track-4:@NASA (Not for RII Track-4:NSF)

To access NASA facilities for the fellowship, the PI and potential trainee must show proof of United States Citizenship as part of an on-boarding process that is managed by NASA.

Budget Parameters:

- The award amount will not exceed \$300,000 for Track-4:NSF and \$360,000 for RII Track-4:@NASA (additional \$60K provided by NASA). Project duration is limited to 24 months. In all cases the requested supports expected to closely align with the duration of the fellowship visit(s) to the host institution.
- Budgets may include up to six months of salary and fringe benefit support for the PI over the course of the fellowship. Support may be in the form of an academic year, calendar year, or summer months. For both Fellow tracks, PIs must be able to demonstrate a significant commitment to the research activity, and as such must dedicate significant time-effort to the activity.
- Up to a total of six months of salary and fringe benefit support (including tuition at the home institution, if appropriate) is also allowed over the course of the fellowship for one student participant or postdoctoral researcher.
- Budget justifications must clearly describe and justify travel expenses, to cover both the PI and one additional trainee. The requested travel budget must conform to additional requirements. This includes any local transportation (car rental) and living expenses during the fellowship visit(s). Multiple trips between the home institution and the host site are allowed. Detailed justification for the requested transportation costs must be provided. Under no circumstances may the living expense charges (Lodging, Meals, and Incidental Expenses) exceed the per diem rates set by the home institution's travel policy.
- Additional direct costs are allowed. These funds may be used for shipping, purchasing materials and/or supplies, publication charges, equipment, facility fees, attending conferences, or other similar costs which are directly related to the research activities.
- RII Track-4:@NASA awardees will receive additional \$60,000 from NASA EPSCoR to support their research at the home institution; this fund is awarded through the NASA EPSCoR, Research Infrastructure Development (RID) cooperative agreements, coordinated through the designated jurisdiction's director, and should help to build the awardees' research infrastructure and capacity. PI submits statement of work and budget request to his/her jurisdiction's director for processing. Equipment items with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more must have the prior written approval of the NASA Grants Officer.
- Collaborators at the host institutions are not eligible to receive salary or fringe benefit support under this award. Host institutions may receive payment for accommodations provided to the PI or student-level participant during the fellowship visit; these expenses may include lodging, meals, and incidental expenses. Host institutions may also receive payment for services directly related to research activities during the fellowship visit; such costs must be consistent with established fee structures at the host institution. Under no circumstances may there be a subaward to the host institution.
- Up to \$10,000 may be requested for the host collaborator for travel related to the fellowship project which includes visit to the PI's home site and/or participation in conferences where the collaborative work is presented.

Full proposals for both the NSF and @NASA programs are due to NSF on **April 9, 2024**. See the program solicitation for complete program and eligibility details:

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=506125&ods_key=nsf23535

This is a limited competition. UNM may submit a maximum total of eight proposals, including a **maximum of four (4) RII Track-4:NSF proposals and four (4) RII Track-4:@NASA proposals**. An investigator may serve as PI on only one (1) proposal submitted in response to this solicitation. **This limited competition will have a two-step process:**

1. By **NOON on February 9, 2024**, please submit a **required** statement of interest via UNM's InfoReady Review portal <https://unm.infoready4.com/> with:
 - a. Your name, department, rank, and program submitting to: NSF or @NASA
 - b. 100 word (maximum) description of area of research interest
 - c. Approval by department chair (upload email into InfoReady)
 - d. Names of potential host organization(s)

2. By **NOON on February 23, 2024**, please submit a 3-page preliminary proposal via UNM's InfoReady Review portal <https://unm.infoready4.com/> that includes:
 - a. Your name, department, rank, host institution and name of collaborator(s) at host institution, and program submitting to: NSF or @NASA
 - b. Description of the research to be conducted and anticipated impact on your career
 - c. Letter of support signed by your department chair and dean
 - d. Letter of tentative agreement from your collaborator at the host organization

Additional details on what to include in the preliminary proposal are provided in the attached preliminary proposal instructions below.

Note: The submission of the statement of interest is required for the preliminary proposal to be reviewed by the limited competitions committee. No late applications will be accepted.

If you have any questions, please contact us limited@unm.edu.

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

Attachment

Preliminary Proposal Instructions for NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track 4: EPSCoR Research Fellows (RII Track-4), NSF 23-535

Due by NOON on February 23, 2024 via UNM's InfoReady Review portal <https://unm.infoready4.com/>

3 page maximum, 11 point font, 1 inch margins

Top of page 1:

Name

Department

Rank

Host institution and name of collaborator(s) at host institution

Program submitting to (NSF or @NASA)

Narrative should address in language understandable to a broad scientific audience:

- Goals and objectives for the fellowship
- Research plan for achieving the goals
- Role of the host site in achieving the research goals
- Explanation of how the PI will benefit from the fellowship; and the opportunities it will provide that are not available at UNM
- How UNM will benefit from this fellowship in the future
- Timeline for meeting project goals

Also required, but not included in the pre-proposal 3-page limit:

- References cited in the narrative
- Biographical sketch for the PI (3 page maximum, in NSF approved format)
- Statement of support/approval signed by the Department Chair and Dean
- Brief letter of intent to collaborate from primary research collaborator(s) at host site

The preliminary proposal should NOT be entered into Streamlyne; it will be used for the limited competition review process only.

NOTE: Eligibility for RII Track-4:@NASA

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. This requirement only applies to RII Track-4:@NASA fellowship awardees.