



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF Partnerships for Research and Education in Physics (PREP) (NSF 24-514)

Date: December 21, 2023

The Partnerships for Research and Education in Physics (PREP) program aims to enable and grow formal partnerships between minority-serving institutions and the Physics Frontiers Centers and eligible centers or institutes to increase the participation of members of groups that are most underrepresented in physics through excellent research and education endeavors that advance physics research goals. A PREP proposal must address research topics in the sub-fields of physics within the purview of the Division of Physics, as listed below. The collaborative effort by the participants from both partnering institutions should be based on common intellectual interests and complementary backgrounds, skills, and knowledge. Teams of faculty members with focused research activities are encouraged in order to maximize the potential impacts of the PREP partnership on all partners. A PREP proposal should define a vision for the partnership that simultaneously promotes research excellence and inclusiveness. In a partnership framework the role of each institutional partner should be explicit, and project goals to achieve the vision should be clearly defined and addressed. Anticipated challenges and expected outcomes in both research outcomes and increased diversity should be identified and addressed for all partners. Plans for student/faculty reciprocal exchange between partnering institutions are required. Each PREP proposal must be submitted in partnership with one or more PFCs or eligible centers or institutes (see list of eligible partners in the full solicitation). The proposal might include a subaward to the PFC, center, or institute, consistent with the proposed partnership activities.

Successful PREPs are expected to:

- Engage in compelling scientific research. Partnerships must have a well-integrated research program with compelling intellectual merit. Research plans must demonstrate clear benefits from a collaborative approach with substantive intellectual engagement from all partners and well-defined research roles.
- Promote increased diversity in at least one segment of the recruitment, retention, degree-attaining pathway through research and training opportunities. Challenges and progress throughout the stages of recruitment, retention, and degree attainment are anticipated and addressed.
- Implement a partnership framework that successfully promotes and advances diversity and research excellence at both partnering institutions. Establish reciprocity through faculty and student exchanges as a core component of the partnership.
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- Specify gains for each partner both in increased diversity and research output. Assessments of the gains in the component of the PREP pathway that a specific partnership is targeting are encouraged.

A PREP award may address any area of research supported by the NSF Division of Physics including experimental and theoretical research in the following major subfields of physics: Atomic, Molecular and Optical Physics; Elementary Particle Physics; Gravitational Physics; Nuclear Physics; Particle

Astrophysics; Physics at the Information Frontier; Physics of Living Systems; Plasma Physics; and Quantum Information Science. Interdisciplinary projects at the interface between these physics areas and other disciplines and physics sub-fields may also be considered, although the bulk of the effort must fall within one of those areas within the purview of the Division of Physics. For a detailed description of the research supported by the PHY core programs visit <https://www.nsf.gov/phy>.

The full solicitation can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2024/nsf24514/nsf24514.htm>.

Awards are expected to be up to \$300,000 per year for up to 3 years. Proposals are limited to two (2) per lead institution and must be submitted by a minority-serving college or university. Full proposals are due **March 12, 2024**.

**This is a limited competition. Each institution is limited to 2 (two) applications.** 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 200-word **statement of interest** including a list of anticipated participating UNM senior personnel with their departments, and name of partnering PFCs or eligible centers or institutes by **NOON on January 18, 2024** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). This is a required step and no late submissions will be considered.

**STEP TWO:** Submit a 3-page pre-proposal (plus budget and CVs) by **NOON on January 24, 2024** via UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposal should address the following:

- Provide a list of participating faculty and/or scientific personnel from both the lead institution and from the partnering center or institute. (The NSF solicitation provides a list of Eligible Partners.)
- Partnership vision statement: concise vision for the proposed partnership, i.e., the framework, is provided by describing its overall research and education goals, along with the diversity objectives.
- Research description that defines the research goals, planned research and education activities; describe the role and intellectual contribution of each faculty member associated with the PREP, both at the lead institution and at the partnering center or institute.
- Description of the scope of the partnership; advancement in diversity and research capacity; strategy for increased recruitment, retainment, and degree attainment in the PREP pathway; and the impact of partnership both on minority-serving institution and the partnering center or institute.
- Management plan for the administration of the PREP, including the student/faculty exchange plan between partners as well as student mentoring.

The 3-page pre-proposal narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated CV(s)**.

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, you must submit you application materials to HSC Limited Competitions at [HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu](mailto:HSC-LimitedComps@salud.unm.edu)*