



To: Distribution List

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

Subject: Limited Competition: National Science Foundation MPS-Ascend External Mentoring (MPS-Ascend EM) program, NSF 22-524

Date: 12/08/2021

UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting preproposals for the National Science Foundation (NSF) MPS-Ascend External Mentoring (MPS-Ascend EM) program. The MPS-Ascend EM program aims to fund an institution (or collaboration of institutions) to provide a mentored career development program specifically designed for two cohorts of MPS-Ascend Fellows funded through the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Ascending Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MPS-Ascend [NSF 21-573](#), and [NSF 22-501](#)) programs. These activities should be designed to build cohort experiences for MPS-Ascend Fellows funded through the MPS competitions, provide professional development opportunities, and provide appropriate mentoring and professional networks to allow the Fellows to transition into, advance, and succeed in independent academic (or other) research careers. Each proposal should address the complete spectrum of MPS-Ascend Fellows, across all MPS fields. Approximately 30-50 MPS-Ascend Fellows are expected per cohort.

The afore mentioned MPS-Ascend program supports future research leaders in all MPS fields (Astronomical Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Materials Research, Mathematical Sciences) by funding their participation in postdoctoral research environments that will have maximal impact on their future scientific development. This program has a strong emphasis on increasing the participation of members of those groups most underrepresented as leaders in MPS fields, which includes Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Native Pacific Islanders. Details of the MPS-Ascend program can be found [here](#).

A single three-year award will be made with an estimated funding amount of up to \$900,000.

NSF's proposal deadline is **February 15, 2022**, at 5:00 p.m. More information can be found in the [funding announcement](#).

**This is a limited competition. Each institution is limited to one proposal as a lead organization or up to two as a non-lead collaborating organization, or sub awardee.**

**Please submit your 5-page pre-proposal (plus budget and CV) by NOON on Friday, January 7, 2022** using UNM's [InfoReady Review portal](#). The pre-proposal should include: (1) a plan for career mentoring, cohort building and professional development for the MPS Ascend Fellows; (2) A description of the plans for creating a network of informal mentors the challenges that can face underrepresented groups, especially Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics, Latinos, and Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Native Pacific Islanders in STEM fields; and (3) a list of proposed key personnel including the PI, co-PI, senior personnel and any partnering institutions. The pre-proposal should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated PI CV**.

No late submissions will be considered.

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 Corey Ford ([CFord@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CFord@salud.unm.edu)) or Cassandra Misenar ([CMisenar@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CMisenar@salud.unm.edu)) for more information.*