



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

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF Innovation Corps Hubs Program (I-Corps™ Hubs) NSF 20-529

Date: January 28, 2020

The goal of the NSF Innovation Corps Program is to reduce the time and risk associated with translating promising ideas and technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace. The I-Corps Program utilizes experiential learning of customer and industry discovery, coupled with first-hand investigation of industrial processes, to quickly assess the translational potential of inventions. The I-Corps Program is designed to support the commercialization of so-called "deep technologies," or those revolving around fundamental discoveries in science and engineering. The I-Corps program addresses the skill and knowledge gap associated with the transformation of basic research into deep technology ventures.

Through this solicitation, NSF seeks to evolve the current structure, in which NSF I-Corps Teams, Nodes, and Sites are funded through separate programs, toward a more integrated operational model capable of sustained operation at the scope and scale required to support the expansion of the program. In this more integrated model, I-Corps Hubs, comprising a Principal institution and at least two Partner institutions, form the backbone of the National Innovation Network, and each Hub has at least five Affiliates that extend the network to other institutions.

Teams are encouraged to recruit diverse members at all levels, from I-Corps leadership to team composition. Hubs are required to submit a Diversity and Inclusion plan. The lead PI **must** be in a senior academic administrative role at the level of Dean or higher. Each Partner institution must identify a senior academic administrator at the level of Dean or higher to be included as Senior Personnel.

Proposals are due to the NSF on April 14, 2020.

NSF I-Corps Hub awardees will be supported at a level of up to \$3,000,000 per year for up to five years as cooperative agreements. Up to five I-Corps Hubs will be funded in 2020. For complete program details, please follow this link: <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20529/nsf20529.htm>.

This is a limited competition. Institutions may only be a participant (Principal, Partner, or Affiliate) in one proposal per deadline. If you are interested in submitting a proposal as a Principal, Partner, or Affiliate, please send a statement of interest with a tentative project title, a brief description (200 words), and a **list of Partner and Affiliate institutions** by **noon, Friday, February 14, 2020** via e-mail to limited@unm.edu with the subject line: I Corps Hubs – your name.

Based on the number of statements of interest received, the Limited Competitions Management Team may announce a call for preproposals. Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

If you are affiliated with HSC, contact Corey Ford at 272-6950 for more information.