



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 21-610)

Date: October 26, 2021

UNM Researchers,

The NSF Division of Physics' Partnerships for Research and Education in Physics (PREP) program aims to enable and grow partnerships between minority-serving institutions and Division-supported Physics Frontiers Centers to increase the participation of members of underrepresented groups 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. The collaborative effort by the participants from both partnering institutions should be based on common intellectual interests and complementary backgrounds, skills, and knowledge. Each PREP proposal must be submitted in partnership with one or more PFCs. The proposal might include a subaward to the PFC, 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.
- 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/2021/nsf21610/nsf21610.htm>.

In FY2022 awards are expected to be up to \$300,000 per year for up to 3 years. Proposals are limited to one per lead institution and must be submitted by a minority-serving college or university. Full proposals are due January 21, 2022.

This is a limited competition. Only one application per institution is allowed. Please submit a 3-page pre-proposal (plus budget and CVs) by NOON on November 9, 2021 via UNM's InfoReady Review portal <https://unm.infoready4.com/>. No late submissions will be considered.

The pre-proposal should address the major requirements of the proposal:

- Provide a list of participating faculty and/or scientific personnel from both the lead institution and from the PFC. (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 PFC.
- 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 Physics Frontiers Center.
- Management plan for the administration of the PREP, including the functions of key personnel.

The 3-page narrative should be accompanied by a **draft budget overview** and an **abbreviated CVs**.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.