

EPSCoR Guidelines

In 2017, NSF will issue an RFP for Delaware to apply for renewal of the current EPSCoR grant, which expires 2018. The State EPSCoR Steering Committee, with support from the State EPSCoR Office, is responsible to (1) oversee and guide the execution of the EPSCoR RII Project to ensure completion of all commitments on time and on budget, (2) lead and manage the grant renewal process and (3) oversee the operational responsibilities associated with execution of the grant. The new grant will begin in 2018 and run through 2023

The EPSCoR grants are infrastructure-building awards focused on a broad area of endeavor that is aligned with the needs of the State. The substantial investment in physical and human infrastructure in the current Track-1 project, *Meeting Delaware's 21st Century Water and Energy Challenges through Research, Education, and Innovation* has laid important ground work over the last four years. The EPSCoR State Steering Committee is soliciting a call for pre-proposals for the next Track-1 grant that utilize and build upon these investments. The pre-proposal should consist of ten to fifteen pages describing research thrusts that would be applicable for an NSF EPSCoR RII Track 1 project.

There are a number of important guidelines to be considered when applying for an EPSCoR Track-1 program:

The Delaware EPSCoR State Office, located at the University of Delaware, will administer and serve as the fiscal agent for the project.

The Project Director and the Principal Investigators of EPSCoR projects must be affiliated with research universities, agencies, or organizations within the jurisdiction. In addition, the Project Director must be the lead Principal Investigator and be employed by the University of Delaware as the fiscal agent.

The project must involve a network of collaboration among the participating Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) who will share in the budget – state and federal

Projects are research infrastructure–building awards focused on major areas of endeavor that are aligned with the State’s science and technology interests e.g. The Environment, Human Health (only in areas supported by NSF, e.g., brain and cognitive sciences), Cybersecurity, Advanced Materials/Manufacturing, Renewable Energy and Energy Management, and Agriculture.

The subject matter of the new grant must:

- Contain sections covering Research and Education, Workforce Development, Diversity Planning, Partnerships and Collaborations, Communications and Dissemination, Sustainability and Evaluation and Assessment.
- Clearly demonstrate that it will provide meaningful impact on research, education and innovation capability and capacity at the state, institution and regional levels

Two Key Items to Note:

The Track 1 is not designed for individual, single institution, or small group faculty research proposals. A proposal that fails to demonstrate broader participation of diverse individuals, institutions and organizations in the project's science and engineering research, education and workforce development initiatives will not be considered.

The selected team will work with the Delaware EPSCoR State Office to develop and submit the final proposal to NSF. If the proposal is selected for funding, the Delaware EPSCoR State Office will manage the project.

Pre-proposal Format – 10-15 Pages Maximum

The research and education program is the central piece of the RII Track-1 proposal. The intellectual merit and broader impacts of the proposed activities provide the rationale for the requested infrastructure investments that, in turn, enhance the overall research capacity and competitiveness of the jurisdiction.

Project Description:

Status and Overview (1 page maximum) - Describe the current status of the jurisdiction's academic R&D enterprise and provide a convincing rationale for the project's scientific vision and relevance to the state's needs. It should also be indicated how the overall strategy, proposed implementation mechanisms and infrastructure support will improve academic research competitiveness and enhance economic development.

Research and Education Program - (5 pages maximum) - Description of the scientific hypotheses, goals, and research and training methods (laboratory, field, theoretical, computational, or other) such that experts in the field of proposed research or closely related fields may accurately judge the intellectual merit and broader impacts of the proposed research. Any proposed activities to develop, improve, and deploy cyberinfrastructure must be integrated with, and be appropriate to the pursuit of the goals of the RII Track-1 project. Innovative use of cyberinfrastructure and technologies to broadly engage institutions, organizations, and sectors across the jurisdiction are encouraged.

Identify the senior leadership and estimate the numbers of postdoctoral, graduate, and undergraduate research participants.

Workforce Development Plan (2 pages maximum). Describe briefly planned STEM workforce development activities that are integrated with the research and education program

Seed Funding and Emerging Areas (1 page maximum) – Describe briefly the mechanisms that will be employed to catalyze research in emerging areas.

Diversity Plan (1 page maximum) - Describe strategies for increasing diversity. The narrative must describe how the full diversity of the jurisdiction's resources will be engaged in the STEM enterprise.

Partnerships and Collaborations (1 page maximum) – Describe any planned activities that demonstrate how the project will enhance partnerships and collaborations to increase research competitiveness, build and strengthen the STEM pipeline, provide opportunities for commercialization of research and education products, or pave the way for economic development.

Communication and Dissemination Plan (1 page maximum) – Describe briefly how the project activities will promote sharing of data and findings, and ways to broadly disseminate results. The proposal should clearly describe plans for two-way communication with stakeholders and broad dissemination of the project's results and impacts.

Sustainability Plan (1 pages maximum) - Describe briefly plans for long-term sustainability of the proposed activities and the education and human resources development goals for sustainability.

Post RII Track-1 extramural funding (1/2 page) – Describe briefly a vision and specific plans for sustaining the research and education activities beyond the duration of RII Track-1 support.

Project Management Plan (1/2 page). Describe the ability and experiences of the team in managing large interdisciplinary programs/projects.

Evaluation and Assessment Plan (1 pages maximum) – Briefly describe plans for evaluation and assessment of the RII Track-1 project goals, objectives and milestones.

Other information to include that will not be part of the 15 page maximum

- A 2 page cv must be included for the project PI
- A list of participants must be included as a separate document
- Reference can be included