

**Issued: January 25, 2021**

**For UND, proposals: Due to UND Office of Research and Sponsored Programs: 5:00 p.m.,  
February 16, 2021**

**Due to ND EPSCoR: Noon, February 18, 2021  
Award Start Date: March 8, 2021**

### **ND EPSCoR State Office Announcement for Participating Campuses**

The ND EPSCoR State Office's mission is to support efforts of participating institutions of higher education across the state that result in increased STEM faculty capacity and competitiveness; a stronger STEM pathway that produces our next-generation workforce, educators, and researchers; and an informed citizenry that values the STEM ecosystem and economy.

Thus, the ND EPSCoR State Office is now accepting proposals to fund STEM activities at EPSCoR participating institutions: research universities (RUs; NDSU and UND), master's college/university (MCU; Minot State University), primarily undergraduate institutions (PUIs; Dickinson, Mayville, and Valley City State Universities), and the tribal colleges/universities (TCUs; Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College, Sitting Bull College, Turtle Mountain Community College, and United Tribes Technical College).

#### **A. Proposal Categories**

1. Equipment. Proposals will be accepted for pieces of equipment (up to \$75,000) that help advance scientific inquiry and R&D. Preference will be given to proposals that: 1) show collaborative use across multiple institutions/colleges/departments; 2) request equipment not currently available on the proposer's campus; and 3) engage a large number of undergraduate and graduate students in research and learning. Proposals must contain: 1) introduction, justification, and description of the equipment to be purchased; 2) users (i.e., institutions, colleges, departments, etc.) of the equipment including an approximate number of students who would be trained per year; 3) statement of whether this equipment is redundant with other pieces of equipment on campus; and 4) discussion of how this equipment would lead to more proposals to external funding agencies. An allowable budget does not include non-capitalized equipment (<\$5,000) or consumable supplies (even if they are required for the operation of the equipment).
2. Equipment repair. Researchers are often limited in performing certain experiments/analyses due to faulty/broken equipment. Many times, small investments in the repair of equipment is all that is needed. Proposals will be accepted from faculty researchers for the repair of equipment (up to \$10,000) currently located in research laboratories. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a high usage rate of the piece of equipment to be repaired. Proposals must contain: 1) introduction, 2) justification, and description of the equipment to be repaired; 3) users (i.e., institutions, colleges, departments, etc.) of the equipment including an approximate number of students who would be trained per year if the equipment worked; and 4) discussion of how this equipment would lead to more proposals to external funding agencies.

#### **B. Eligibility**

All tenure-track and tenured faculty, or faculty at a tribal college, from an EPSCoR participating institution are eligible to apply for funding. Applicants with past due final reports on other current ND EPSCoR-awarded projects are not eligible to compete.

### C. Priority

The intent of this funding is to build research infrastructure and capacity across the state. In addition, funding priority will be to applicants who did not receive an EPSCoR equipment award in 2019 or 2020.

### D. Proposal Submission Deadline

- February 16, 2021 (5pm): UND's deadline to submit proposals to the UND Office of Research and Sponsored Programs: Submit complete proposal in a single PDF file to [cathy.lerud@UND.edu](mailto:cathy.lerud@UND.edu) via e-mail attachment. Please indicate subject line as "STEM Equip/Repair Proposal."
- Proposals are due to the ND EPSCoR office no later than noon on February 18, 2021.

The state office has a limited amount of funds to disburse; thus, the submission of a proposal does not automatically guarantee funding.

### E. Funding Availability

It is anticipated that funds will be released by March 8, 2021 and may be used through May 31, 2021.

### F. Proposal Preparation Guidance

The proposal narrative should be no longer than four pages. In addition to the category specific information noted for each category in section A, the narrative must also contain a section on ***how the research/activity fits into the strategies outlined in the North Dakota Science and Technology Plan (the July 1, 2018 version)***. This section must include references to specific strategies. The current ND Science and Technology Plan can be found at: <https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/documents/NDSTPlanFINALJune2018.pdf>

Each proposal must contain a cover page and budget (and justification).

- Cover page is at:  
<https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/STEM/CovSheetNDUSEQPT2021.pdf>
- Budget form is at:  
<https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/STEM/2020NDEPSCoRStandardBudgetForm.xlsx>

### G. Proposal Submission

Applicants from the primarily undergraduate institutions, master's college/university, and tribal colleges/universities. Please follow your institution's standard process for routing and approving proposals submitted to external agencies.

Applicants from UND. Your proposal requires review and approval through the UND Division of Research and Economic Development, as outlined in "D," above.

Applicants from NDSU. Your proposal requires the signatures of the Department Chair/Dean. Once you have those signatures, you will submit your proposal straight to the ND EPSCoR office.

Please submit your proposal electronically as a single, searchable PDF to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen

[www.ndepscor.ndus.edu](http://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu)

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([jean.ostrom@ndus.edu](mailto:jean.ostrom@ndus.edu)) with a copy to Janelle Smith ([janelle.smith@ndus.edu](mailto:janelle.smith@ndus.edu)).

If you have any questions, please contact Kelly A. Rusch [kelly.rusch@ndsu.edu](mailto:kelly.rusch@ndsu.edu) or Jean Ostrom-Blonigen.

## **H. Proposal Evaluation**

Proposals will be evaluated for fit with ND EPSCoR's mission, the ND S&T Plan, and national priorities related to broadening participation in the STEM ecosystem.

## **I. Award Requirements**

All awards require: 1) an end of award report submitted to ND EPSCoR within 30 days of the award expiration date and 2) acknowledgment of ND EPSCoR as the funder.