



Established Program to
Stimulate Competitive Research

ND EPSCoR RFP

Announcement for NDSU Campus

EPSCoR's mission is to support efforts that result in increased STEM faculty capacity and competitiveness and a stronger STEM pipeline that produces our next generation workforce and educators. Subsequently, the NDSU campus of ND EPSCoR is accepting proposals for funding STEM activities in the following areas:

1. Equipment
2. Travel for students (undergraduate and graduate) to present at a national conference
3. Travel for faculty to travel to work on collaborative proposals
4. Seed awards for faculty to collect preliminary data for the preparation of federal STEM proposals
5. External proposal review for large, collaborative STEM efforts
6. Seed awards for faculty and students to engage K12 in STEM outreach activities

While there are no specified deadlines for proposal submission, NDSU EPSCoR has a limited amount of funds to disburse, thus, proposals submitted in the near future have a higher likelihood of funding. **All proposals must indicate how they fit into the strategies outlined in the North Dakota Science and Technology Plan (the July 1, 2018 version).** The current ND Science and Technology Plan can be found at:

https://www.ndepscor.ndus.edu/fileadmin/ndus/ndepscor/documents/ND_S_T_Plan_Eff_July_1_2018.pdf

Equipment – proposals will be accepted for small pieces of equipment (up to \$40,000) that help advance scientific inquiry and R&D. Preference will be given to proposals that: 1) show collaborative use across multiple departments/colleges; 2) request equipment not currently available on campus; and 3) engage a large number of undergraduate and graduate students in learning. All STEM tenure-track/tenured faculty are eligible to apply. Proposals must contain: 1) introduction, justification, and description of the purchase of the equipment; 2) users 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 federal agencies. Funds must be used by May 31, 2019.

Travel for students to present at national conferences – professional development of students is crucial to their long-term success. Thus proposals will be accepted from undergraduate and graduate students who have an accepted presentation (oral and/or poster) at a national conference. The proposal must contain a short discussion of the student's research and professional goals. The student's faculty advisor/mentor must sign off on the proposal acknowledging that the student performed the research. Along with the proposal, the student must submit correspondence from the conference organizing committee that states his/her abstract was selected for presentation. Awards up to \$2,000 will be provided, and all travel must be domestic. Travel must take place prior to June 15, 2019.

Travel for faculty to work on collaborative proposals with researchers in other jurisdictions - Growing capacity and competitiveness includes establishing collaborations at other institutions and national labs that result in well-balanced teams positioned for success in attracting large, interdisciplinary federal awards. Funds will be provided to researchers who have active collaborations with other EPSCoR jurisdictions (top priority) or non-EPSCoR states (second priority) and are actively pursuing federal funding. Proposals must contain: 1) description of the research and research team; 2) name and affiliation of the collaborators; 3) federal agency (including program and due date) to which the proposal will be submitted; and 4) a short description of the long-term plans for this collaboration. Awards up to \$2,000 will be provided, and all travel must be domestic. Travel must be completed by June 15, 2019.

Seed awards for faculty to collect preliminary data for the preparation of federal STEM proposals - Funding will be provided to researchers for the specific purpose of gathering preliminary data needed for proposal preparation and submission to a federal agency. Funds may be used for materials and supplies, student support (undergraduate and graduate), and operating services (e.g., recharge center fees). Proposals must provide an introduction and justification for the research, description of the research and data to be collected, a budget, and the specific federal agency RFP to which a proposal will be submitted. Proposals should be no longer than three pages. Priority will be given to collaborative, interdisciplinary teams/research. Awards of up to \$10,000 will be provided, and all funds must be used by May 31, 2019.

External review of large, interdisciplinary proposals - The competition for federal research dollars has grown substantially over the past decade. In addition, federal agencies are placing a significant focus on interdisciplinary, cross-cutting efforts. Funds for external peer review will be provided to large, interdisciplinary teams/efforts to help position NDSU researchers for even greater success in receiving federal awards. Requests for funds must include: 1) list of researchers/affiliations; 2) title of proposal; 3) executive summary of proposal; 4) funding amount; and 5) federal agency/program and proposal due date. Requests must be received at least four months in advance of the proposal due date so reviewers/review entity can be arranged. Most reviews take approximately one month once the review entity receives the proposal. Awards up to \$5,000 will be made, and all funds must be expended by May 31, 2019.

Seed awards for faculty and students to engage K12 in STEM outreach activities - Strengthening and diversifying the STEM pipeline is a core goal of ND EPSCoR. Proposals will be accepted that focus on activities that build stronger partnerships with K12 STEM education in the state. Of particular interest are activities that engage a diverse student body, resulting in an increased awareness and interest in STEM careers. Proposal must include: 1) introduction and justification for the activity (i.e., is it grounded in a best practice); 2) description of the activity; 3) description of the K12 partner entity; 4) is this a new or existing activity with this partner; 5) target audience (i.e., grade level, student demographics, etc.); 6) is this a formal or informal activity program; and 7) budget. If an IRB will be needed, proof of an exemption/IRB number will be needed prior to releasing funds. Awards up to \$5,000 will be made; all funds must be expended by May 31, 2019.

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact Kelly A. Rusch kelly.rusch@ndsu.edu or Jean Ostrom-Blonigen jean.ostrom@ndus.edu.

Proposal Submission: Please send electronic proposals to Kelly A. Rusch with copies to Jean Ostrom-Blonigen and Janelle Smith janelle.smith@ndsu.edu.