



**NSF EPSCoR**  
**Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-2**  
***Request for White Papers***  
**NDSU SUBMISSION**

**Request for NSF Track-2 White Papers**  
**Issued: October 16, 2014**  
**DUE: NOON, November 6, 2014**  
**Selection Notification: By November 21, 2014**

FROM: Kelly Rusch, Project Director, ND EPSCoR  
RE: Request for White Papers – NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2

In anticipation of an NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2 program announcement, interested tenured, tenure-track, research faculty, and full-time researchers are invited to submit white papers to be eligible for selection **as the finalist for the NDSU submission** to the NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2 program. Research faculty and researchers can only be the lead P.I. on one proposal, but may be a collaborator on others.

Program Information: The solicitation is expected to be out in early November 2014. If you would like to review last year's solicitation, please see: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13509/nsf13509.htm>

***Please be aware that the NSF deadline for the proposal chosen to go forward from NDSU is expected to be in late January, 2015.***

The Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Track-2 (RII Track-2) awards are expected to provide funds in the range of **\$1.0 million per year to collaborations involving two eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions** and **\$1.5 million per year for consortia of three or more eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions**. The awards promote opportunities for collaborations among EPSCoR jurisdictions in all areas of science, engineering, and education supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Eligible EPSCoR states can be found on the NSF EPSCoR site:  
[http://www.nsf.gov/od/iaa/programs/epscor/nsf\\_oiaa\\_epscor\\_eligible.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/od/iaa/programs/epscor/nsf_oiaa_epscor_eligible.jsp)

This year there are two main research themes. The White Papers must address one of these areas.

- (1) **Understanding the Brain**
  - a. White House BRAIN Initiative: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/brain>
  - b. NSF Information on the BRAIN Initiative:  
[http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=128960](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=128960)
  
- (2) **Energy-Water-Food Nexus (proposal must include all three areas)** - (See NSF programs – [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov)) These documents may also be useful:

- a. <http://www.weforum.org/reports/water-security-water-energy-food-climate-nexus>
- b. <http://www.fao.org/energy/81320/en/>

**Evaluation:** White Papers will be evaluated on scientific merit, potential for impact on the one of the two research themes identified above, the strength of the research collaboration with other eligible EPSCoR jurisdictions, the strength of the research participants, and broader impacts. RII Track-2 white papers must describe a clear, comprehensive, and integrated vision to drive discovery, and train a skilled workforce capable of solving science and engineering challenges in one of the two research areas. Proposals should also include a strong rationale for the establishment of the consortium and clearly demonstrate that the consortium is well-positioned to produce results that cannot be obtained by any single partner working independently.

**Checklist Requirements** – Submit an electronic copy of the White Paper in the following format and order:

- Must be single-spaced, one-sided pages, 1” margins, with no less than a 10-point font.
- Cover Page (find at [www.ndepscor.nodak.edu](http://www.ndepscor.nodak.edu) )
- Executive Summary (separate one page)
- Research Concept (no more than five pages)
- Description of collaboration with eligible EPSCoR jurisdiction (no more than 1 page)
- Description of Broader Impacts (no more than 1 page)
- Biographical Sketches of all participants (NSF format - 2 page maximum)
- Current and Pending Support of all participants (NSF format – 2 page maximum)
- Letter from collaborating institution(s) – must be an eligible NSF EPSCoR jurisdiction

**Submit to** - Jean Ostrom-Blonigen at [jean.ostrom-blonigen@ndsu.edu](mailto:jean.ostrom-blonigen@ndsu.edu), with a cc to Elizabeth Jung, at [elizabeth.jung@ndsu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.jung@ndsu.edu)

For questions, contact Jean Ostrom-Blonigen, ND EPSCoR Project Administrator, at 231-7516.

ND EPSCoR reserves the right to reject submittals that do not comply with these instructions.