REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
ND-ACES EMERGING AREAS SEED AWARD PROPOSALS
Issued: July 10, 2024
Application Deadline: 11:59 pm CDT, September 2, 2024

Purpose:
ND EPSCoR seeks to provide emerging areas seed awards of up to $40,000 each in direct costs (appropriate F&A will be added to each award) to researchers at institutions collaborating on the NSF EPSCoR Track-1 award New Discoveries in the Advanced Interface of Computation, Engineering, and Science (ND-ACES) in areas of North Dakota's broad and emerging biosciences ecosystem with potential for high impact and transformation especially research areas related to the Center for Cellular Biointerfaces in Science and Engineering (CCBSE). More information can be found on the CCBSE webpage on the ND EPSCoR website.

Eligibility:
Applications must be made by a faculty member from Cankdeska Cikana Community College (CCCC), Dickinson State University (DSU), Mayville State University (MaSU), Minot State University (MiSU), Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College (NHSC), North Dakota State University (NDSU), Sitting Bull College (SBC), Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC), University of North Dakota (UND), United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) and Valley City State University (VCSU) who do not have an active ND-ACES emerging seed award. Researchers who are currently associated with the current NSF Track-1 award, ND-ACES, are eligible for this solicitation as long as the proposed work is significantly different from their current work under the ND-ACES award. Collaboration among TCUs, PUIs, and/or RUs is encouraged. Members of traditionally underrepresented populations in STEM disciplines are especially encouraged to apply.

Emerging Areas:
The ND-ACES team recognizes there are several areas of spin-off and emerging research that may expand the reach and capacity of ND-ACES and increase the opportunity for sustainability. All eligible faculty (particularly early career) are encouraged to submit proposals focusing on high-risk, high-impact emerging areas or gaps in the current biosciences research that will also be linked to the broader impact activities through PROmoting Sustainable Partnerships in Education and Research (PROSPER). Those receiving awards will be incorporated into the CCBSE during the time of their award and encouraged to participate in the programmatic efforts of PROSPER.

Primary evaluation criteria. (Priority will be given to early career faculty at ND-ACES participating institutions). Primary evaluation criteria will include:
1. Scientific merit
2. Broader impacts
3. Fit within the current ND Science & Technology plan (Learn more)
4. Linkages with the ongoing ND-ACES CCBSE efforts; and, if proposing researcher is currently associated with ND-ACES, include a statement on how the proposed research is significantly different from their current work under ND-ACES.
5. Linkages and enhancement of the ongoing project elements of ND-ACES PROSPER (PROSPER webpage).
6. Submitted plan to sustain the proposed effort and leverage the proposed project outcomes.

Allowable expenses (total of up to $40K in direct costs):
1. Faculty salary (up to ½ month of summer salary) plus related fringe benefits;
2. Student salary and related fringe benefits;
3. Research supplies (including minor equipment);
4. Core facility or recharge center fees;
5. Domestic travel up to $2,000 (i.e. to collaborating institutions or field study sites, or for conference presentations).
Budgets over $40K in direct costs will be considered for an application involving a significant multi-institutional collaboration; however, prior notification must be given to, and approved by Jim Doolittle in the ND EPSCoR Office. Capitalized equipment, visiting scholars/researchers, and post docs are not allowed under this award.

**Application Requirements:**

*Electronic submission:* Submit items through NDSU’s InfoReady submission portal (Click here). A guide for accessing NDSU InfoReady is available (Click here).

**Checklist of Requirements:**

1. Project Summary - One-page limit, double spaced.
2. Project Description: No more than four (4) double-spaced pages, font no smaller than 10. Required sections: 1) Introduction, 2) Proposed research, 3) Nature of collaborative fit between the ND-ACES CCBSE, 4) Incorporation of potential ties to ND-ACES PROSPER elements, and 5) Anticipated results. An additional single-spaced page with literature cited can be included.
3. NSF-PAPPG compliant Bio-sketch. (Learn more) Collaborations provide a Bio-sketch for each collaborator.
4. NSF-PAPPG compliant Current and Pending form. (Learn more) Collaborations provide a Current and Pending form for each collaborator
5. Budget form available through the submission portal and also (here). Collaborations add tabs for each collaborator and an overall project tab to the budget form (spreadsheet).
6. Budget justifications with a clear alignment to the budget form. Collaborations add separate budget justifications for each collaborator’s budget.
7. A tentative list of specific federal programs to which future proposals may be submitted as a result of this support.

**Additional Information:**
ND EPSCoR has approximately $260,00 in federal and state funds to award through this solicitation. Appropriate F&A will be added to awards utilizing federal funds. No F&A is allowed on awards utilizing state funds. Awards will be announced on or before September 15, 2024. The effective award dates are from September 16, 2024 – June 30, 2025 (9 months) after which time all remaining funds will be relinquished. A no-cost extension will not be possible. Awards are contingent upon availability of funds from the National Science Foundation and the State of North Dakota.

Please direct questions to:
- Jim Doolittle at james.doolittle@ndsu.edu

For information about:
- ND EPSCoR’s NSF RII Track-1 ND-ACES, please visit the [ND-ACES webpage](#).