KANSAS NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH (EPSCoR)

May 2012

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

• Education & Diversity Grants

Proposals Due June 29, 2012

Funded by the National Science Foundation and the State of Kansas through the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR)
1.0 Contact Information

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Staff

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Kansas NSF EPSCoR Budget Form

The Kansas NSF EPSCoR Budget Form may be downloaded from the Kansas NSF EPSCoR web site: http://www.nsfepscor.ku.edu/funding.html

2.0 Introduction

2.1 NSF EPSCoR

The Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) is a program designed to fulfill the National Science Foundation's (NSF) mandate to promote scientific progress nationwide. The EPSCoR program is directed at those jurisdictions that have historically received lesser amounts of NSF Research and Development (R&D) funding. Twenty-eight states, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U. S. Virgin Islands are currently eligible to participate.

The program operates under the premise that universities and their science and engineering faculty and students are valuable resources that have the potential to influence a state’s development in the twenty-first century much the same way that agricultural, industrial, and natural resources did in the twentieth century. Through this program, NSF establishes partnerships with government, higher education and industry that are designed to effect lasting improvements in a state's or region's research infrastructure, R&D capacity and hence, its national R&D competitiveness.

2.2 Objectives

In keeping with the overall NSF EPSCoR mission, the specific objectives of Kansas NSF EPSCoR are to:
• add significant and measurable value to the research capability in one or more of the designated focus areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics that are funded by the NSF;
• generate sustained non-EPSCoR funding from federal, state, or private sector sources as a result of Kansas NSF EPSCoR funding;
• increase diversity by enabling participation in the project’s activities by women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities to the extent possible within the scope of the project; and
• develop stronger linkages between research and education.

3.0 Education & Diversity Grants

3.1 Purpose
Education & Diversity Grants are designed to enhance science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education in Kansas by supporting activities that will lead to an expanded STEM workforce or prepare a new generation for STEM careers. These awards are targeted to leverage the educational strengths of the four-year universities in Kansas. An Education & Diversity Grant proposal may target any level of the student population; the general public; K-12 teachers; community or four-year college faculty; or employees in the Kansas workforce. The initiative may employ formal or informal educational methods. Priority will be given to proposals with a significant component that increases diversity by enabling participation in the EPSCoR project’s activities by women and men, minorities, persons with disabilities and members of other underrepresented groups (such as first generation college students or participants in geographically underserved locales).

3.2 Amount and Duration of Award
An Education & Diversity Grant may receive up to $5,000 direct costs per year for up to two years (for a total not to exceed $10,000) with an expected started date of August 1, 2012.

3.3 Matching Funds
Education & Diversity Grants do not require matching funds.

3.4 Examples of Eligible Activities
Due to the importance of building on existing program strengths, only proposals related to climate and energy will be considered. These two areas are the focus of the current EPSCoR initiative (see http://www.nsfepscor.ku.edu/ph6.html for more information).

Below are examples of activities consistent with the Kansas NSF EPSCoR program objectives.
- Innovations in education that will expand student career options and facilitate the entry of members of underrepresented groups within the state (i.e., minorities, women and persons with disabilities) into STEM fields.
- Partnerships with other universities, four-year colleges or community colleges in Kansas that provide educational and/or research opportunities for faculty and/or students.
- Development of materials, collections, presentations, or media that extend STEM educational opportunities to targeted segments of the Kansas population.
- Design and implement programs that overcome barriers to existing educational resources in STEM.
- Professional development programs or other initiatives to enhance K-12 education in STEM.
- Programs that introduce K-12 students to STEM fields, such as a math or science summer camp.

3.5 Eligibility
Faculty members and principal academic administrators at Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Pittsburg State University, and Washburn University may submit proposals as Principal Investigators. Only proposals related to climate and energy will be considered for this program.

3.6 Proposal Preparation Instructions
Proposals must be prepared as a single PDF including all of the components in the order listed below. Proposals must be submitted by the institution’s research office (or equivalent), which will send the PDF as an email attachment to the Kansas NSF EPSCoR Project Director at nsfepscor@ku.edu by 5:00 p.m., Friday, June 29, 2012. The Proposal should follow the NSF margin and spacing requirements in the NSF Grant Proposal Guide, NSF 11-01 (http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg) and include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components</th>
<th>Guidelines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cover Sheet</td>
<td>Prepared using the form in NSF’s forms kit (<a href="http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf002/kit/forms.htm">http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf002/kit/forms.htm</a>) or in FastLane. If the initiative will result in a proposal submission, specify the NSF center or program where the proposal will eventually be targeted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Summary</td>
<td>Prepared in accordance with the NSF 11-01. It must clearly address in separate statements: (1) the intellectual merit of the proposed activity; and (2) the broader impacts resulting from the proposed activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Prepared in accordance with the NSF 11-01, except limited to five or fewer pages. The project description should describe:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• The purpose and rationale for the initiative
• Specific goals and expected outcomes
• The proposed activities and how they will achieve the specific project goals and the purpose of Education & Diversity Grants (Section 3.1)

Biographical Sketch For the PI and Co-PI’s, prepared in accordance with the NSF 11-01.

Budget Prepared on the Kansas NSF EPScoR Budget Form available on the Kansas NSF EPScoR web site (http://www.nsfepscor.ku.edu/funding.html). State direct costs only. Do not include any indirect costs (F&A). When awards are made F&A will be added on top of the direct costs requested at the appropriate institutional rate. Include one form for each 12-month period PLUS a cumulative form.

Budget Justification Prepared in accordance with the NSF 11-01.

Project Timeline 1 page that specifies when the project activities and expenditures will occur.

Current and Pending Support Prepared in accordance with the NSF 11-01

Facilities Prepared in accordance with the NSF 11-01

Letter(s) of Support From the department chair or research office (or equivalent) for each partnering institution or organization that describes the partnership arrangements, participation commitments, access to facilities, teacher or student time, or other resources required for the success of the initiative.

4.0 Review Criteria

Proposals for activities that show the greatest potential for long-term impact on enhancing education and diversity in Kansas will receive priority.

In reviewing proposals, Kansas NSF EPScor uses the general merit review criteria established by the National Science Board. The two merit review criteria are listed below. The criteria include considerations that help define them. These considerations are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. While investigators must address both merit review criteria, reviewers will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the proposal being considered and for which he/she is qualified to make judgments.
What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?
How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?
How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Kansas NSF EPSCoR will give careful consideration to the following in making funding decisions.

Integration of Research and Education
One of the principal strategies in support of NSF’s goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities
Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

5.0 General Conditions of Award

Award of proposals selected in response to this RFP is contingent on full funding and approval by the National Science Foundation.
If a proposal is selected for funding, the Project Director reserves the right to negotiate the budget and the term of the award.

During the term of the award and for two years after the end date, the principal investigator must inform the Project Director of: 1) changes in the principal investigator’s contact information, 2) proposals submitted, and 3) awards received as a result of the Kansas NSF EPSCoR award. Information about proposals and awards should include the title of the proposal or award, the PI and, when applicable, co-PIs, the funding agency, the amount of the proposal or award, and its duration.

During the term of the award and for one year after the end date, the principal investigator and co-principal investigators are encouraged participate in the annual Statewide EPSCoR Conference.

The Principal Investigator of each project will be required to submit annual reports and a final project report. The PI will receive more information about reporting requirements and deadlines in the award letter.

Any publication resulting from the award must include the following statement of acknowledgment: This research is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under EPS-0903806 and support from the State of Kansas through Kansas Board of Regents.