

EPSCoR

Opportunities for Partnerships in Technology with Industry (OPT-IN)

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the Request for Proposals as of **November 21, 2013**, which was the last day to answer questions.

Proposals Due: December 3, 2013

Question:

Is OPT-IN limited to partnerships with in-Louisiana companies? If not, to in-US companies?

Answer:

The OPT-IN program is not limited to partnerships with Louisiana companies; however, the ratio of EPSCoR funds to industry match is different for in-state as opposed to out-of-state companies. Section I.C. of the RFP, "Financial Considerations", lays this out in more detail. The RFP does not make a distinction between U.S. and non-U.S. companies. Proposers should keep in mind that they may not have a substantial financial interest in the company providing matching funds.

Question:

OPT-IN requires a cash match from the industry partner. Is it possible to describe what is considered a "cash match"? Would an example be payments for the hours the company's employees work on this project? We would have students working with full-time company employees on the development of this package?

Answer:

The situation you describe (payments for hours company employees work on the project) would be considered "in-kind" contributions, not cash match. Cash match consists of funds that are made available for use by the principal investigator. The expenditure of the cash match must also be documented and reported on the required final expenditure reports.

Question:

The RFP says indirect costs are not allowed on the state portion. However, I couldn't see any rules on the indirect costs for the industry match portion. I assume that indirect costs will be charged on that portion. Would that be at the standard BOR rate (25% on salaries, wages, fringes only)?

Answer:

Since the RFP does not specifically specify indirect cost rates, institutions may charge their federally-negotiated indirect cost rate on the industry match portion if they so choose.

Question:

I cannot locate any previous award data (funded and unfunded) on this program, so that we could see what has been funded in the past and the funded amounts.

Answer:

See the table below.

	proposals submitted	Number of Category I	Number of Category II	Proposals funded	Category I funded	Category II funded	% success rate overall	% success rate Category I	% success rate Category II	average Category I award	average Category II award
OPT-IN Competitions											
Round 1 (proposals due 4/18/11)	16	12	4	8	5	3	50.0%	41.7%	75.0%	45,000	19,994
Round 2 (proposals due 12/15/11)	7	4	3	6	3	3	85.7%	75.0%	100.0%	32,738	17,139
Round 3 (proposals due 5/15/12)	4	3	1	4	3	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	29,477	20,000
Round 4 (proposals due 12/3/12)	8	6	2	5	3	2	62.5%	50.0%	100.0%	43,333	19,925
Round 5 (proposals due 5/3/13)	17	8	9	8	5	3	47.1%	62.5%	33.3%	26,405	20,000