

DOE EPSCoR Implementation Grants

Answers given in response to questions asked pertaining to the Request for Proposals as of **March 6, 2014**.

The last day to answer questions is **March 6, 2014**.

Proposals Due: March 11, 2014

Question: Tuition remission and fringe benefits for GAs were not prohibited in the DOE FOA, nor were they prohibited in the BoR RFP. Could you please confirm that the institutions which have federally approved tuition remission and GA fringe benefits rates are allowed to include such costs at the approved rates in their budgets?

Answer:

Since the RFP is silent on the issue of tuition remission and fringe benefits, the BoR has no objection to their inclusion in the budgets.

Question: The BoR DOE EPSCoR RFP limits the indirect costs to the Board's 25% of salaries, wages, and fringe. In the NSF EPSCoR RII Track 2 RFP, the Board allowed the institutions to use their federally negotiated indirect costs rates via an addendum to that RFP. We are wondering why indirect costs rate on the DOE funds is limited to 25% in the Board's DOE EPSCoR RFP while the federally negotiated rate was allowed in the Board's NSF EPSCoR RFP.

Answer: NSF has new rules regarding cost sharing and no longer allows waiving or reducing indirect cost rate recovery; the DOE does not have these restrictions.

Question: Would you like to see a commitment letter from the institution at the NOI stage or only if a project is selected to submit a full proposal?

Answer: Commitment letters at the NOI stage are helpful; they are required for the proposal stage.

Question: Can I participate in two proposals, one as the PI, the other as a Co-PI?

Answer: There is no restriction in the RFP precluding this.

Question: Is there some way the LOI deadline can be extended to the end of next week; and a couple of weeks following that for the full proposal?

Answer: The tight timeframe established by the DOE prevents any flexibility in the timeline.

Question: Who will be PI on the proposal submitted to DOE?

Answer: The Louisiana EPSCoR Project Director (Dr. Michael Khonsari) will be the project director listed on the proposal; one of the institutional PIs will be the science lead.

Question: In the DOE EPSCoR call, they require a number of letters. Are these letters required for the proposal?

Note: this refers to letters of commitment/endorsement as noted below:

a) Principal Investigator: The PD and PI must provide letters of commitment from a responsible member of their institution's administration confirming that they each will be making a significant time commitment to administering the project should it be selected for an award.

A letter of endorsement from the jurisdiction's EPSCoR Committee or its designee must accompany both the letter of intent and application.

b) LETTER subsection of section IV C, Content and Application Forms: Letters of support or commitment must be included for all collaborations and consultants described or listed in the application as contributing to the research effort.

c) Appendix VI Institutional and EPSCoR Jurisdiction Commitment subsection of section IV C, Content and Application Forms:the applicant must provide a letter or letters of commitment describing any jurisdictional, institutional or private sector commitments towards the research effort. Examples of previously successful contributions have included, but are not limited to: faculty hires, equipment purchases, facility renovations, faculty time, graduate student and post-doctoral fellow support, and travel support. Commitment by the institution or jurisdiction will be a factor included in the evaluation process.

Answer: The panel of reviewers who evaluate the proposals will need some indication of the support available for the proposal. These letters (or lack thereof) will help them gauge this.

Question: Is there a limit on the number of Co-PIs? Can the Co-PIs change between the NOI and full proposals?

Answer: There is no limit; CO-PIs can change between the NOI and proposal.