

NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals, FY2016

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals as of **October 30, 2015**.

Last Day to Answer Questions: November 6, 2015

Notices of Intent were due: October 14, 2015

Preproposals are due: November 25, 2015

Question:

In addition to faculty at LSU, our group also has one colleague from NASA JPL lab in California and one from Naval Research Lab at Stennis Center, Mississippi. Our question is what is the best way to involve them. I know they could not server as CO-I, but could we involve them in this pre proposal as sub-contractors. If we could, is there any limitation regarding support of salary, etc.?

Answer:

Nominally, Federal employees and researchers participate as collaborators and do not receive any support from EPSCoR funds. According to the NASA EPSCoR CAN from last year, page 9: *NASA EPSCoR funding may not be used to support NASA civil service participation (FTE) in a research project unless that funding is provided through a funding vehicle between the jurisdiction and NASA center, such as a Space Act Agreement or other reimbursable agreement. NASA EPSCoR cannot withhold funding from an award to send to a center for FTE support (including travel).* We interpret that to mean that the jurisdiction would have to establish a subaward directly with the NASA Center to pay the individuals working at that site under a Space Act Agreement. This would have to be the Board of Regents decision ultimately and would likely require consultation with the NASA Centers/Agencies in question. Previous successful NASA EPSCoR proposals have involved NASA Centers and other Federal agencies in a variety of different ways without exchange of funds. For example, the Center could host research visits and/or student summer internships in that research area. There might also be specialized laboratory equipment or facilities that the Center would make available for your project. Finally, JPL and NRL could support their researchers to perform a particular role in conjunction with your project. In any case you will need to include a letter of support in your proposal from these entities specifying exactly what their contribution to your project will be.

Follow-up Question:

I see your answer was referred to FTE i.e. full time employee, what about soft-money positions. It is also not clear about a subcontract running through LSU which is basically the money come to LSU and LSU distributes it.

Answer:

Funding non-civil servant employees is possible, but you must work out the logistics in advance and explain this in your proposal.

According to the National Project Manager for NASA EPSCoR: "Researchers from JPL and the NRL routinely participate in EPSCoR funded research. NASA EPSCoR funds may not be used for civil service labor or travel, but in the case of JPL, since you are a contractor run organization, EPSCoR may fund your labor/travel. It is important to identify this in the proposal budget as I will withhold the funding and provide it directly to JPL upon award and JPL will be responsible for the

management of the funds. This is important as I provide all three years of funding up front. In the case of the NRL. I do an Interagency Transfer of funds (takes much longer) and the NRL is responsible for the management of the funds as stated above.”

If you request NASA EPSCoR funds be used for these costs, you would then propose for the NASA funds as follows: 750K less \$105K (\$35K per yr) for S&T management less the amount to go to JPL less the amount to go to NRL.

Board of Regents monies are not managed in the same way as NASA funds. All of the BoR funds, in the event of an award, would be distributed directly to your institution. Your institution is then responsible for disseminating funds to project participants.

If you want to use BoR funds for the contractors, then your institution must have the capability to disseminate such monies to JPL and NRL, something you will need to investigate independently with your Office of Sponsored Programs.

Regardless of which funding stream you choose to use to support the contractors, you must explain and justify their roles in the project. You should have a Statement of Work and budget from NRL and JPL to justify the \$XXK and \$YYK just as we require for any subs to LA institutions. In the budget explanations you must justify why \$XXK is being sent to NRL for the tasks described in the proposal and \$YYK is being sent to JPL for their tasks. It is also crucial to explain why this is both beneficial AND necessary to build LA infrastructure, which is the goal of EPSCoR funding.

Question:

On page 5 of RFP, the proposal body, which includes a section called “Project Summary”, has a total page limit of 14. However, on page 18, the Project Summary is NOT listed. Do we need Summary? Will the Project Summary be counted as part of the 14 page limit?

Answer:

There is no page numbered 18, but I assume the reference is to the 18th page of the total pre-proposal guidelines packet, which is the table of contents page for the pre-proposal template. The omission of the proposal summary was an oversight. The template has been modified to include the Proposal Summary on both the TOC and on page 1 of the template. The Proposal Summary is meant to be included before Section “1. Project Description” and is limited to one page of the total 14 allowed for the body of the proposal. The amended pre-proposal packet has been posted to the LAnasaEPSCoR.lsu.edu website.

Project Summary

[Not to exceed 1 page]

Include a brief summary of the overall project, a description of the relevance of this project to NASA and the State of Louisiana, and a bulleted list of the major project goals and objectives.

1. Project Description

[Section 1 is not to exceed 13 pages, including all illustrations, tables, and figures]