

NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals, FY2017

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals as of **November 9, 2016**, which was the last day to answer questions.

Last Day to Answer Questions: November 9, 2016

Notices of Intent are due: November 10, 2016

Preproposals are due: December 2, 2016

Question:

My first question relates to how we submit proposals. Do individual PIs submit pre-proposals, or does the state submit one proposal? Do individual PIs, or small teams or PIs, submit a proposal based on a core area of research or is this intended to be a larger submission?

My second question regards involvement of outside collaborators. We are may want to include collaborators at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory- a Federally Funded Science Center for which NASA is the primary sponsor. Are there any limitations on this?

My third question is what is the relationship between these pre-proposals and the full proposal. What additional information will be requested for the full proposal.

My final question regards our statistical chances. Are there public statistics for how many pre-proposals are submitted and how many are ultimately funded? Do you have any sense of how many pre-proposals are expected this year?

Answer:

Most of the questions are already addressed in the Louisiana NASA EPSCoR Pre-Proposal RFP document.

The procedure for submitting the required NOI and the pre-proposal is documented in section II.

Eligibility issues are discussed in section I.C

Funding out-of-state efforts is discussed in sections I.C and I.D and unless convincingly justified will end up being a liability.

The structure for the Pre-proposal (and, in essence, the full proposal) is given in section II.C and Appendix B (Note that pre-proposal must fully comply with both section II.C and Appendix B.)

The procedure for preparing the full proposal for NASA submission is given in section I.E (Note that NASA EPSCoR proposals are submitted through the BoR with the jurisdiction NASA Space Grant / EPSCoR Director, me, as PI. The lead science institution receives a subaward from the BoR in the event NASA selects the proposal for funding.)

In recent years we have received 8 to 15 pre-proposals per competition and one is selected for submission to NASA. We have been very successful over the last several years in having the Louisiana proposal selected by NASA for funding.

Question:

Can you clarify if the indirect rate on the NASA portion is charged only on salaries, wages, and fringe or if it can be applied on modified total direct costs.

Page 30 of the RFP states: ‘Note that for this proposal, F&A (indirect) is limited to 25% of total salaries, wages, and fringe on funds from the Board of Regents; your campus’s federally negotiated rate applies for the funds requested from NASA.’; however, the budget template states indirect costs ‘Federal: XX% of line 3’ (which is wages, salaries, and benefits).

Answer:

For NASA funds you can use the federally negotiated indirect cost rate. Each institution has their own federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement, i.e. it may or may not include modified total direct costs. You need to contact your Office of Sponsored Programs, and they can assist you with the budget for this proposal including the specifics regarding F&A for your institution.

Question:

Can you tell me if the LA NASA EPSCoR program will entertain an Earth system based proposal?

My colleagues and I would like to pose the use of InSAR and possibly other data to examine:

- 1) Louisiana statewide subsidence; and,
- 2) Hydrologic and surge flood extent and depth.

Both of these are essential to building better tide & surge models with added benefits to ecological models. No. 1 is obvious I think. No. 2 is needed to meet immediate flood evacuation, emergency response & recovery needs, and is essential to verifying wetting/drying algorithms for tide & surge, as well as to validate tide & surge models.

Answer:

Your proposal has to clearly show how your research is relevant to NASA goals, objectives, and roadmaps. You can look at the resources on the Louisiana NASA EPSCoR website at <http://lanasaepscor.lsu.edu/nasa-research-information/>. You can also look at the FY2016 CAN (<http://lanasaepscor.lsu.edu/research-infrastructure/>) which has an extensive list of NASA objectives. Earth resources and remote sensing would be under the Science Mission Directorate – Earth Science Division. Remember that in the proposal you will need to show support (participation) of NASA researchers.

Question:

Is it possible to include one of the JPL scientists as a contractor? I want to provide them with some level of financial support.

Answer:

Yes this is possible. However please note that per the RFP, “This program is designed to improve aerospace research capability in Louisiana and, consequently, funding should primarily support effort within the state. Funding allocated to researchers outside of the state must be well justified with compelling evidence that such an investment would still offer substantial permanent improvement to Louisiana’s research infrastructure. A statement that funding to external sites would improve the probability of proposal selection would not be sufficient justification.”

Question:

I am writing in regards to page two of the pre-proposal NOI application form for this program dealing with potential reviewers. There is a space on the application for ‘confirmation of availability/willingness to serve’ for each reviewer. Does this mean that the PI is to contact each reviewer and confirm their willingness or is this a space only for BoR use? If the PI is to reach out, would a ‘yes’ suffice in this space?

Answer:

The PI should contact each reviewer and confirm their willingness to serve. A yes in this space will suffice.

Question:

Do you have some time today to discuss a question about providing funding to NASA scientists? Assuming he can provide justification and compelling evidence as mentioned in the RFP, how should the funding for NASA be budgeted? Federal agencies have restrictions on paying federal employees with federal grant funds. I have asked the PI to advise his NASA collaborators to consult their agency as to whether they, as federal employees, can receive NASA funds. In the meantime, we would like to know if he can put the funding to support the NASA scientists in the BoR’s column. Does the Board have concerns with receiving funding from NASA on one hand and providing the Board’s money back to NASA through a subcontract.

Answer:

1. The NASA RFP for the FY2016 EPSCoR CAN explicitly says the NASA funds may not be used to support NASA civil service participation including salary and travel.
2. NASA EPSCoR cannot withhold funding from an award to send to a center for FTE support.
3. Non-NASA funds can be used to support a civil servant, but it has to be provided by a funding vehicle between the jurisdiction and NASA center such as a Space Act Agreement.

Board of Regents funds cannot be used out-of-state. This is consistent with our clause in the FY2017 Pre-proposal that the NASA EPSCoR funds are intended to support research infrastructure development within the state of Louisiana. Researchers at JPL are considered contractors so NASA funds can be used to support such people. NASA EPSCoR requires that the funds be “identified” so that they can be withheld and transferred accordingly at the beginning of the award. Therefore, the JPL funds would have to be included in the NASA column of the budget as a subaward and would have to be well justified in the budget narrative as the previous statement that NASA EPSCoR funds are intended to support research infrastructure in the state still holds.