

NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals, FY2023

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals as of **August 17, 2022**, which was the last day to answer questions.

Notices of Intent are due: July 20, 2022
Last Day to Answer Questions: August 17, 2022
Preproposals are due: August 31, 2022

Question:

Are postdocs eligible? It is not explicitly mentioned...

Answer:

The guidelines clearly state: "Individuals holding a tenured, tenure-track, or research faculty position at any of Louisiana's public institutions of higher education, as well as accredited independent institutions of higher education that are members of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, are eligible to submit pre-proposals under this solicitation." Post-docs are not research **faculty** members and thereby do not qualify to lead a project. I strongly suggest you reach out to your colleagues about being a part of a team proposal.

Question:

Is the number of Co-Investigators limited to four (4)? On the NOI page, there are only 4 lines for Co-Is.

Answer:

There is not a limit to the number of Co-Investigators. However, it should be noted that each Co-Investigator must have a significant key role in the research project, and the Co-I role must be specified in the proposal management plan. The rating of a proposed effort would likely be weakened if there are a number of Co-Investigators that have minor/not well-defined roles.

Question:

I am assisting an LSU faculty member to submit a pre-proposal for NASA EPSCoR (due 08/31). I have a question regarding the indirect costs for NASA funds.

In the RFP, the following is stated for indirect costs:

F&A (Indirect) Costs

Include rates and the base, plus total cost. 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. Include a reference link or copy of the letter that specifies your institution's current federally negotiated F&A and fringe benefits rates. But, in the budget form example, it says that the federal indirect cost should be calculated from line 3, which is the Salaries, Wages and Fringe line. My question is if on the NASA funds, should indirect costs be calculated using LSU's federally negotiated rate of 50% **MTDC**, or should it be 50% of **Salaries, Wages and Fringe**?

But, in the budget form example, it says that the federal indirect cost should be calculated from line 3, which is the Salaries, Wages and Fringe line.

13 INDIRECT COSTS (Specify rates.)

1. Federal: XX% of line 3
2. BOR: 25% of line 3
3. Institutional: (specify rate)

Total Indirect Costs

Answer:

Federal funds should use LSU's federally negotiated indirect cost rate. If that is 50% MTDC, then that is what you use for the federal portion. The support fund is limited to 25% salaries, wages, and fringe.

Question:

Does LSU's Office of Sponsored Programs submit the pre-proposal? Or does the PI submit? The RFP says both:

II.E. SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSAL

The pre-proposal must be submitted to the Board of Regents by the submitting institution's authorized representative no later than the close of business (4:30 p.m.). The pre-proposal must be submitted by the PI to the Board of Regents through the LA EPSCoR online submission system, <https://laepscor.piestar-rfx.com/opportunities>, no later than the close of business (4:30 p.m.) **Wednesday, August 31, 2022**. Deadlines listed in the RFP are absolute. The proposal submission system will automatically close at 4:30 p.m. Central on the deadline date.

Answer:

The first sentence was inadvertently left in. The PI submits the proposal. The proposal has to include the authorization letter provided in Appendix C which serves as the institutional approval.

Question:

We have a faculty member preparing a proposal for the upcoming NASA EPSCoR CAN opportunity. The BoR due date is 8/31. A professor from Baton Rouge Community College is participating in the project and we would like clarity on how BRCC should be included. Is BRCC eligible to receive a subaward from LSU or do they have to be listed as consultants?

Answer:

Baton Rouge Community College is eligible to receive a subaward.

Question:

The situation is that a faculty member is definitely leaving Lamar at the end of the academic year (May 2023), which is before, if we were successful in our proposal, our contract would be in place. He does not yet have another position, and Tulane is one of the places he is inquiring about a position (he remains an Adjunct Professor at TU but that is not a funded position). Since we don't know where he will be at the time the project might commence, would it be possible to place some summer salary at Tulane for him as a "Visiting Research Scientist" category, at least in year 1 of the project? That would allow him to work at Tulane with our team that first year prior to taking a permanent position.

Answer:

The current FY23 NASA EPSCoR Research pre-proposal solicitation very clearly states that neither NASA EPSCoR nor LA Board of Regents funding can be used for salary support for personnel located outside of Louisiana. Further, all La BoR cost share funding must be used exclusively to support research activity in the state of Louisiana and NASA EPSCoR funding cannot be used to support institutions in non-EPSCoR states.

An important part of a proposal review concerns the research management and whether the proposed research team has the capability to successfully accomplish the proposed goals and objectives. A statement that major research objectives are assigned to a person who might or might not actually become part of the research team would very likely be viewed as a major risk by a reviewer. Of course there are instances where the exact list of personnel on a proposal is TBD, but such personnel are usually post-docs or graduate students who are managed by senior faculty.

Also keep in mind that an institution must sign off on the statement of work and budget. I doubt that an institution will be willing to commit to a series of research tasks assigned to a faculty member they have not yet committed to hire.