

**Louisiana Materials Design Alliance  
(LAMDA)  
Seed Funding  
Track 1 C: Postdoctoral Research  
Award**

*FY 24-25 Request for Proposals:*

DEADLINE DATES:

RFP ISSUE DATE: (April 5, 2024)

Last day for questions and answers about this RFP: (May 24, 2024)

Proposals due: (June 7, 2024, 4:30 PM Central Time)



**LA EPSCoR**

**LOUISIANA ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE  
RESEARCH (EPSCoR)**

**Supported by:**

**The National Science Foundation and the Louisiana Board of Regents**

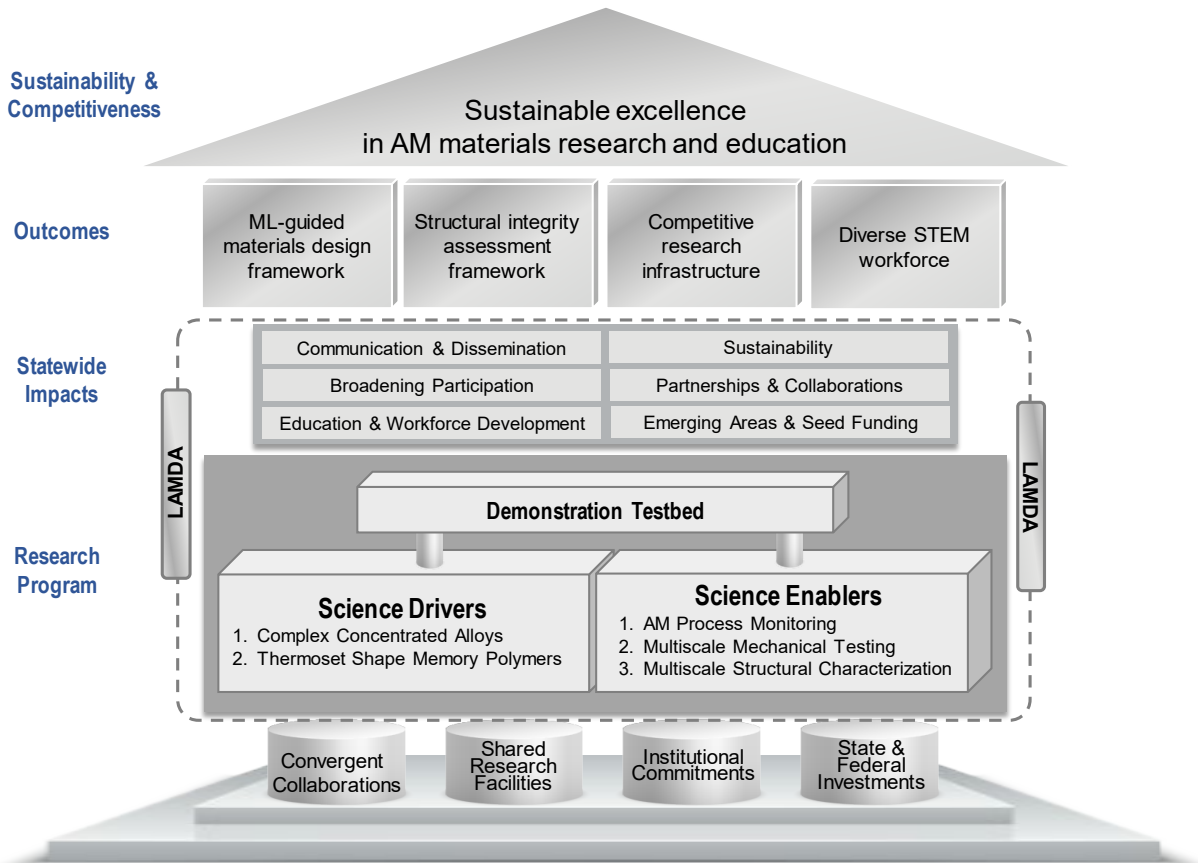
1201 North Third Street, Suite 6-200

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802

(225) 342-4253

[www.laregents.org](http://www.laregents.org)

**Introduction:** The Louisiana Materials Design Alliance (LAMDA), an NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 project, solicits proposals for LAMDA Seed Funding Track 1 C: Postdoctoral Research Award to support research projects relevant to LAMDA’s research themes. LAMDA’s research program represents a convergence of machine learning (ML), experimental and computational materials science and engineering (MS&E), and additive manufacturing (AM). The vision of LAMDA is to propel the State to a nationally competitive position in the field of ML-guided materials design for AM.



**Figure 1. LAMDA strategic research and education roadmap to achieve goals and vision.**

The research road map of LAMDA is shown in Figure 1. As illustrated in the roadmap, the LAMDA research program is anchored by two Science Drivers: Complex Concentrated Alloys (CCAs) with balanced mechanical performance (SD-1) and AM-compatible Thermoset Shape Memory Polymers (TSMPs) with enhanced service life (SD-2). Using ML-guided materials design, LAMDA research will predict composition and processing variables for CCAs and TSMPs capable of meeting multi-criteria specifications. The SDs are supported by three Science Enablers (SEs): AM Process Monitoring (SE-1), Multiscale Mechanical Testing and Simulations (SE-2), and Multiscale Structural Characterization (SE-3). Detailed data from AM-process monitoring, structural characterization across length scales, and multiscale mechanical property measurements will provide the foundations for an ML-guided framework for AM materials design and structural integrity assessment, positioning LAMDA for sustainable excellence in AM materials research and education.

This RFP is for the LAMDA Seed Funding Track 1 C: Postdoctoral Research Award program. Postdoctoral Research Projects are designed to provide seed grants to postdoctoral researchers for R&D that is relevant to LAMDA activities as stated in the LAMDA Strategic Plan. The proposed topics must be relevant to LAMDA research activities, particularly ML, MS&E, and AM.

## Eligibility Guidelines

Individuals who hold a regular postdoctoral researcher position at any Louisiana public institution of higher education, or at any Louisiana higher education institution that is a member of the Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, are eligible to apply. One and only one individual must be listed on the cover sheet as principal investigator. However, post docs must identify a faculty mentor.

## Award Information

- Selection criteria are expected to include (a) the potential for short- and long- term impact on ML-guided materials design for AM, (b) utilization of the LAMDA-CUF, and (c) potential to seed unique directions and collaborations within LAMDA to advance the two SDs.
- Proposal must include a letter of commitment from a faculty mentor.
- Priority will be given to proposals in high-payoff directions aligned with the two SDs.
- Seed funding is meant to support programs that potentially may grow into externally funded projects aligned with LAMDA.
- Seed funding is also a mechanism by which LAMDA hopes to increase the participation of women and under-represented minorities (URM) in the project.

The Seed Funding Track 1 C: Postdoctoral Research Award program will be administered through the BoR's Office of Research and Sponsored Initiatives and will operate under the guidance of the State's EPSCoR Committee. The awards are anticipated to be \$5,000 – \$7,500 for a Postdoctoral Research Project. Charges for student tuition and salaries are not allowable expenses. Award dollars may be used, for example, to support travel and the purchase of scientific equipment, supplies, fabrication of specimens/prototypes, and publication charges. Any scientific equipment requested must have a strong justification included in the project description. Cost sharing is not required. Funds will be made available by contract from the BoR to the Principal Investigator's (PI) institution. Institutions are strongly encouraged to waive the F&A on these awards to maximize the impact of the seed grants. All funds must be expended during the active period of project as proposed.

## Award Conditions

Successful applicant is expected to participate fully in the activities of LAMDA including providing materials needed for reports, participating and presenting in LAMDA meetings (two meetings per year in Baton Rouge; anticipated to be in April and July), responding to data collection requests by the LAMDA External Evaluator and recommendations made by the LAMDA External Review Board. All publications and presentations resulting from the seed grant should use the following acknowledgment statement, "This work is supported by the US National Science Foundation under grant number OIA-1946231 and the Louisiana Board of Regents for the Louisiana Materials Design Alliance (LAMDA)."

## Schedule

|                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Request for Proposals Released | April 5, 2024                |
| Last Day for Q&A               | May 24, 2024                 |
| Proposals Due                  | June 7, 2024                 |
| Award Notification             | June 28, 2024                |
| Project Dates                  | July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025 |

## Proposal Format

Proposals must use 1-inch margins, 11-point font or larger (Arial or Helvetica) and single line spacing. The following outline is to be followed:

- Title page (Please use the one provided with this RFP)

- NSF demographic survey (please use the form provided with this RFP) Note: this information is voluntary.
- Proposed Research (2 pages max)
  - Rationale: discussion of the technical background and engineering/scientific justification. This should include project objectives, justification for the work, e.g., demonstrating that it has not been done before, how it will advance the goals of LAMDA, and how it will support the LAMDA activities as stated in the LAMDA Strategic Plan.
  - Research Plan: What exactly will be done? How will the objectives be met? What are the motivations, methods, likely outcomes, milestones, and future directions?
- Synergism, Diversity, and Sustainability (1-page max):
  - Synergism: How will the Seed project take advantage of the capabilities of others in the LAMDA program? What specific collaboration will be used to meet the project goals?
  - Describe the role of the faculty mentor and planned collaborative work.
  - Describe any industrial collaboration and partnership.
- References (not included in the page count)
- Sponsored Programs Approval Letter (template provided). Must indicate approval of the submission of the proposal by the submitting institution's sponsored programs authorized representative. If this is not received, the proposal will be returned without review.
- Letter of Commitment from faculty mentor.
- Budget (Please use the form provided). A one-page budget justification/explanation must also be included. The Budget page must be approved and signed by the submitting institution's authorized representative.
- Biosketch (2-page limit; use NSF format)

### **Proposal Submission**

The 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 day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday, June 7, 2024. All proposals must include a certification letter that the proposal has been approved by the submitting institution's authorized representative, see requirement in the Proposal Format section above.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Potential for short- and long- term impact on ML-guided materials design for AM.
- Potential to seed unique directions within LAMDA to advance the two SDs.
- Collaborations with LAMDA senior investigators.
- Establish and/or expand industrial collaborations.
- Involvement of women and under-represented minorities in research.
- Support letter from faculty mentor.

Specific questions concerning this RFP and the requirements set forth herein should be directed in writing to Ms. Jessica Patton, Federal Programs Administrator, by sending an email message to [jessica.patton@laregents.edu](mailto:jessica.patton@laregents.edu). Questions will be accepted and answered through July 8, 2022. A running compilation of all questions asked about this RFP and all answers provided in response to those questions will be periodically posted on the BoR website at <http://web.laregents.org>.



## 2022-23 LAMDA Seed Grants Proposal Track 1 C: Postdoctoral Research Award

### 1. Applicant's Name, Position & Contact Information

|                          |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <hr/>                    |                          |                   |
| <i>(Last Name)</i>       | <i>(First Name)</i>      | <i>(MI)</i>       |
| <hr/>                    | <hr/>                    | <hr/>             |
| <i>( )</i>               | <i>( )</i>               |                   |
| <i>Phone</i>             | <i>Fax</i>               | <i>Email</i>      |
| <hr/>                    |                          |                   |
| <i>(Institution)</i>     | <i>(Department/Unit)</i> |                   |
| <hr/>                    |                          |                   |
| <i>(Mailing Address)</i> |                          |                   |
| <hr/>                    |                          |                   |
| <i>(City)</i>            | <i>(State)</i>           | <i>(Zip Code)</i> |

### 2. Project Title:

### 3. Faculty Mentor:

### 4. Project Summary (250 words max):

[Project Summary Word Count: \_\_\_\_\_ words]

**5. Acceptance of Program Requirements:** By submitting my proposal electronically, I agree that I have read and understand the program requirements detailed in this RFP under Award Conditions. If awarded, I agree to ensure timely compliance to all program requirements.

## 2022-23 LAMDA Seed Grants

### For National Science Foundation Reporting Purposes Only

**Gender:**  Male  Female

**Ethnicity:** (Choose one response)  Hispanic or Latino  Not Hispanic or Latino

**Race:** (Select one or more)

Asian  American Indian or Alaska Native

Black or African American  Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

White  Prefer not to respond

**Disability Status:**

Hearing Impairment  Mobility/Orthopedic Impairment

Visual Impairment  Other  None

Prefer not to respond

### **Why this information is being requested:**

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is committed to providing equal opportunities for participation in its programs and promoting the full use of the Nation's research resources. To aid in meeting these objectives, NSF requests information on the gender, race, ethnicity and disability status of individuals participating in NSF-sponsored activities. Provision of this information is voluntary.

*The above information will be used for NSF reporting purposes only and will not be considered as a precondition of a LAMDA Seed Funding award.*

| SUMMARY PROPOSAL BUDGET                                                                                                                             |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|-----|-------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ORGANIZATION                                                                                                                                        |  |  | PROPOSAL NO.                  |     | DURATION (MONTHS) |                             |                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                     |  |  |                               |     | Proposed          | Granted                     |                                 |
| PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR/PROJECT DIRECTOR                                                                                                             |  |  | AWARD NO.                     |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| A. SENIOR PERSONNEL: PI/PI, Co-PIs, Faculty and Other Senior Associates<br>List each separately with name and title. (A.7. Show number in brackets) |  |  | NSF-Funded Person-months      |     |                   | Funds Requested By Proposer | Funds Granted by (If Different) |
|                                                                                                                                                     |  |  | CA                            | ACA | SUMR              | \$                          | \$                              |
| 1.                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 2.                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 3.                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 4.                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 5.                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 6. ( ) OTHERS (LIST INDIVIDUALLY ON BUDGET EXPLANATION PAGE)                                                                                        |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 7. ( ) TOTAL SENIOR PERSONNEL (1-6)                                                                                                                 |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| B. OTHER PERSONNEL (SHOW NUMBERS IN BRACKETS)                                                                                                       |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 1. ( ) POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATES                                                                                                                      |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 2. ( ) OTHER PROFESSIONALS (TECHNICIAN, PROGRAMMER, ETC.)                                                                                           |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 3. ( ) GRADUATE STUDENTS                                                                                                                            |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 4. ( ) UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS                                                                                                                       |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 5. ( ) SECRETARIAL - CLERICAL (IF CHARGED DIRECTLY)                                                                                                 |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 6. ( ) OTHER                                                                                                                                        |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| TOTAL SALARIES AND WAGES (A + B)                                                                                                                    |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| C. FRINGE BENEFITS (IF CHARGED AS DIRECT COSTS)                                                                                                     |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| TOTAL SALARIES, WAGES AND FRINGE BENEFITS (A + B + C)                                                                                               |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| D. EQUIPMENT (LIST ITEM AND DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR EACH ITEM EXCEEDING \$5,000.)                                                                         |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| TOTAL EQUIPMENT                                                                                                                                     |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| E. TRAVEL 1. DOMESTIC (INCL. CANADA, MEXICO AND U.S. POSSESSIONS)                                                                                   |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 2. FOREIGN                                                                                                                                          |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| F. PARTICIPANT SUPPORT                                                                                                                              |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 1. STIPENDS \$ _____                                                                                                                                |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 2. TRAVEL _____                                                                                                                                     |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 3. _____                                                                                                                                            |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| SUBSISTENCE _____                                                                                                                                   |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 4. OTHER _____                                                                                                                                      |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ( )                                                                                                                    |  |  | TOTAL PARTICIPANT             |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| COSTS                                                                                                                                               |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| G. OTHER DIRECT COSTS                                                                                                                               |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 1. MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES                                                                                                                           |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 2. PUBLICATION/DOCUMENTATION/DISSEMINATION                                                                                                          |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 3. CONSULTANT SERVICES                                                                                                                              |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 4. COMPUTER SERVICES                                                                                                                                |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 5. SUBAWARDS                                                                                                                                        |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| 6. OTHER                                                                                                                                            |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS                                                                                                                            |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| H. TOTAL DIRECT COSTS (A THROUGH G)                                                                                                                 |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| I. INDIRECT COSTS (F&A) (SPECIFY RATE AND BASE)                                                                                                     |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS (F&A)                                                                                                                          |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| J. TOTAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS (H + I)                                                                                                          |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| K. RESIDUAL FUNDS (IF FOR FURTHER SUPPORT OF CURRENT PROJECT SEE GPG II.D.7.j.)                                                                     |  |  |                               |     |                   |                             |                                 |
| L. AMOUNT OF THIS REQUEST (J) OR (J MINUS K)                                                                                                        |  |  |                               |     | \$                | \$                          |                                 |
| M. COST SHARING: PROPOSED LEVEL \$                                                                                                                  |  |  | AGREED LEVEL IF DIFFERENT: \$ |     |                   |                             |                                 |

**INSTITUTION**  
**Authorized Sponsored Programs**  
**Representative Office**

<Date>

Ms. Jessica Patton  
Federal Program Administrator  
Board of Regents, State of  
Louisiana 1201 North 3rd Street,  
Suite 6-200 Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Dear Ms. Patton:

<Institution> agrees to participate as a subrecipient in the proposed project entitled "**<Title>.**" The <institution> portion of the work as described in the attached proposal will be under the primary direction of <principal investigator>.

The amount requested for <institution>'s participation in this research project is **<total budget amount>**. <Institution> has reviewed and approved the budget and budget justification for this proposal.

We look forward to a rewarding and productive research effort.

Sincerely,

<Authorized Organization Representative>

<Office of Authorized Organization Representative>

Enclosures: <Any necessary attachments>