

NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals, FY2025

Answers given by Board of Regents staff in response to questions in response to the NASA EPSCoR Request for Preproposals as of **October 10, 2024**, which was the last day to answer questions.

Notices of Intent are due: September 19, 2024
Last Day to Answer Questions: October 10, 2024
Preproposals are due: October 17, 2024

Question:

For the FY 2024 LA BoR NASA EPSCoR Pre-proposals:

Can salaries be included for sub-awards that are non-LA institutions with non-LA employees (e.g., a postdoc or graduate student at another non-LA institution of higher learning)? Or would these costs be considered "Direct labor costs"?

Answer:

Out of state Subawards, which can include salary, fringe and indirect, can only be issued under the NASA portion of the budget to an institution in another EPSCoR state. The Board of Regents (BoR) portion of the budget can only be used for institutions within the state. Keep in mind, however, that NASA keeps a very close watch on the drawdown of NASA funds. Therefore, a subaward on NASA funds can delay reporting expenditures to the federal government and can result in significant extra reporting requirements to NASA.

Further, the BoR views the NASA EPSCoR program as important to the development of research infrastructure in Louisiana. Therefore, proposals that include funding to other states must provide a convincing justification as to how the out-of-state funding improves research infrastructure in Louisiana. A statement that just discusses collaborating with the out-of-state institution would likely review poorly.

Question:

I'm reaching out with a few questions regarding the NASA EPSCoR Basic Research Opportunity program. I will be serving as the PI for a proposal, and we have a NASA contact who will be providing a Letter of Collaboration. Should the letter be directly addressed to me, or is there a preferred format?

Additionally, this proposal will be a collaboration between a PI at LSU and myself. Could you clarify the maximum percentage of funds that can be allocated to LSU, considering the LSU team and the SUBR team will be performing equivalent amounts of work?

Answer:

We don't have a required format for the NASA support letter, but usually the letter would be addressed to you and the content would explicitly state the level of support/collaboration the NASA researcher is willing to provide (e.g. letter of general endorsement, ability to provide feedback, use of facilities, literal collaboration, etc.). Likewise, there is no strict cost-distribution model to follow. Funding should be allocated as appropriate to the tasks associated with the

project. There is a general expectation that the Science-Investigator (you) would be one of the most significantly committed, but there is no prohibition against other investigators committing to similar levels of investment.