

## FY19 NASA Nebraska EPSCoR Statewide Pre-Proposal Competition

### Pertinent Dates

Pre-Proposal Due:	May 21, 2018 *
Reviews	May 23-June 4, 2018 *
Selection Notification	June 7, 2018 *

\* Dates subject to change, especially if the NASA RFP is released earlier than expected.

Pre-Proposals Must be  
Submitted Through:

<https://nespacegrant.infoready4.com/>

### Background and Purpose

In anticipation of a national NASA EPSCoR Request for Proposals, the NASA Nebraska EPSCoR program invites pre-proposals for participation in the next national competition. While there is no RFP from NASA at this time, and no official date as to when the RFP will be issued, the NASA Nebraska EPSCoR program is initiating this pre-proposal process at the state level to evaluate research with merit for full development upon NASA's official announcement of the national competition. NASA Nebraska EPSCoR will only consider successful pre-proposals from this call to be eligible in the national NASA EPSCoR competition upon release of an RFP.

Public Law 102-588 authorized NASA to initiate the NASA EPSCoR program to strengthen the research capability of States that have not in the past participated equably in competitive aerospace research activities. Since its inception, NASA EPSCoR has been closely linked to the NASA Space Grant Program. The goal of NASA EPSCoR is to provide seed funding that will enable states to develop an academic research enterprise directed toward long-term, self-sustaining, nationally competitive capabilities in aerospace research. This capability will, in turn, contribute to the state's economic viability and expand the nation's base for aerospace research and development.

Each funded NASA EPSCoR project is expected to establish research programs that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology priorities of NASA, and contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, higher education, and economic development of the state. The NASA EPSCoR funded projects must perform scientific and/or technical research in areas that support the strategic research and technology priorities of one or more of NASA's four Mission Directorates and/or one or more of the ten NASA Field Centers. An emphasis should be placed on developing a core expertise capable of successfully competing for funds from NASA sources outside of the EPSCoR program and from other non-NASA sources. The programs should move increasingly toward gaining support from sources outside the NASA EPSCoR program by aggressively pursuing additional funding opportunities offered by NASA, industry, other agencies, and elsewhere.

### Requirements

Eligibility requirements:

- Faculty members at Nebraska colleges and universities

- Previous NASA-related research; priority will be given to those with a documented history of funded collaborative research with NASA scientists
- No more than one pre-proposal per faculty member

As NASA has not yet distributed an RFP or indicated whether Nebraska will be eligible this year, the established due date for Pre-Proposals is tentative.

The scope of the work should be aligned with the anticipated budget amount of \$621,250 over 3 years. A minimum of \$375,000 in matching funds or cost share will likely be required by NASA and this may be in kind or cash.

A signed letter from the College Dean(s) must be uploaded with the pre-proposal. The pre-proposal will not be forwarded for review if it does not state the College's commitment to the estimated \$375,000 cost share. Cost share may be either cash, in kind, or a combination of both.

### **Pre-Proposal Submission**

Although a due date is stated above, this date is subject to change based on the actual RFP release date from NASA. It is possible the due date could be earlier. Late pre-proposals will not be considered. Proposers must submit per the requirements on the **NASA Nebraska InfoReady Review website**: <https://nespacegrant.infoready4.com/>

### **Pre-Proposal Document Format**

Pre-proposals should be PDF documents in the following format:

- Single-spaced
- On standard 8 ½ x11 paper size
- No smaller than 12-point Arial font
- 1-inch margins throughout.

Sections 1 - 11 should be no more than 7 pages total. Sections 12 & 13 should be no more than 10 pages combined but may be as few as 5 pages. Clearly label the sections as outlined below. If there is nothing to report in a section, please state accordingly.

#### **Title Page**

Include a descriptive title of the proposed research; name, institution, address, e-mail, and telephone number of the Principal Investigator and all Key Personnel. Indicate how many institutions will receive funds under this award (how many subcontracts to be issued).

#### **Abstract of Research Proposal**

Limit to one single-spaced page. Focus should be on conveying the importance and impact of the research in layman's terms.

#### **Section 1: Alignment with NASA Vision**

Describe the clear alignment between the proposed research and the overall mission of NASA, citing relevant NASA documents such as the Vision, current Strategic Plan, etc.

## Section 2: Alignment with NASA Mission Directorate

Describe the clear alignment between the proposed research and a specific NASA Mission Directorate (MD) or Mission Directorates. Demonstrate how the proposed research will be of value to the MD in achieving MD objectives.

## Section 3: Connections with NASA Field Centers

Describe your past and present connections with NASA Field Centers in this or related research. When describing connections to and collaborations with NASA Centers, please be specific with respect to the Center. Document visits to NASA Field Centers in this section, including purpose and dates.

## Section 4: Collaborations with NASA Scientists

Describe your past and present collaborations with NASA scientists in this or related research. Describe your achievements and progress since establishing collaborations with individual NASA scientists. Identify NASA scientists who will collaborate on the proposed research. When describing these collaborations, be specific as to the NASA researcher's title, Field Center, and contact information. Letters of support for the proposed research may be uploaded with the pre-proposal. Letters of support may strengthen a pre-proposal but are not required.

## Section 5: Collaborations with Industry

Identify industry collaborators who will participate in the proposed research. When describing these collaborations, be specific as to the industry name and location. Letters of support for the proposed research may be uploaded with the pre-proposal. Letters of support may strengthen a pre-proposal but are not required.

## Section 6: Contribution to NASA Workforce and the Aerospace Workforce Pipeline

The NASA Office of Education strongly emphasizes workforce development contributions that support NASA's efforts to build linkages among students and connect students with meaningful research experiences. The NASA Human Capital 2015 plan (<https://www.hq.nasa.gov/office/hqlibrary/documents/o53003551.pdf>) may provide guidance and direction to assist you in aligning your efforts with NASA. Document what opportunities will exist for students in the proposed research and how these experiences make a meaningful contribution to the future workforce.

## Section 7: Potential for Sustainability and Technology Transfer

Document how the proposed research will remain sustainable after the three years of NASA funding expires through leveraging opportunities, etc. Also, document the technology transfer contributions the research will provide, including the potential for patents, publications, and subsequent proposals.

## Section 8: Value of Research to Nebraska

EPSCoR research should not only be important and aligned to NASA's goals, but should also be important to the state. Document the contribution the proposed research will make to the state of Nebraska. Where possible, cite how the proposed research will contribute to the state's goals and objectives.

## Section 9: Minority-Serving Institutions in Nebraska

NASA advises to be “particularly attentive to the continuing opportunity to involve the minority-serving institutions in your state in NASA EPSCoR. Often the scientific and technical talent of the faculty and students at these institutions is underutilized in the development of the broader aerospace research capabilities in EPSCoR states. You are encouraged to develop relationships between these institutions and your research universities, NASA Mission Directorates and Field Centers, and possibly industry, as appropriate.” Document how the proposed research will contribute toward this goal of NASA, as well as efforts to include underrepresented minorities and female participation in the research. The only minority-serving institutions in Nebraska per NASA’s requirements are Nebraska Indian Community College and Little Priest Tribal College.

#### Section 10: Other Resources

This section provides an opportunity to describe other resources, unique capabilities, matching funds, in-kind support, etc. that may be of interest to reviewers.

#### Section 11: Previous Involvement with NASA Nebraska Space Grant & NASA Nebraska EPSCoR Mini-Grants

Researchers should document previous success with the NASA Nebraska Space Grant or NASA Nebraska EPSCoR mini-grant programs. Discuss if reports were submitted on time, cite goals that were met, and discuss progress made toward research objectives.

#### Section 11a: Previously Funded NASA EPSCoR Researchers

If a researcher was funded under a nationally competitive NASA EPSCoR grant he or she must describe how this pre-proposal project is a new line of research and is not connected to the previous research grant. (Research that is connected to previously funded projects will not be given priority due to the overall national goals of the NASA EPSCoR program.)

NASA EPSCoR researchers who were previously successful in the national competition are eligible to apply in future years provided that they demonstrate the research is substantively distinct from the previously funded work and demonstrate they have leveraged significant external funding from the award to build valuable capacity for the institution and state. If previously funded in the national competition, researchers must explain the following in this section:

- Title of the project and dates funded,
- How the research is substantively difference than the previous line of research,
- How the researcher leveraged the previous award,
- How the previous award allowed the researcher to build additional capacity for state and their institution,
- How the award allowed the researcher to build sustained relationships with NASA researchers,
- What outcomes (in terms of metrics) the researcher achieved from the previous award since the funding period ended, and
- Why NASA should invest more resources in building additional capacity in this area.

#### Section 12: Research Proposal

Provide the research proposal in this section. Keep in mind the research described should be specific (provide enough detail to know exactly what will be done) and realistic (set appropriate targets based on the anticipated budget level). Include a time frame that describes short term and long-term goals for the three years of funding.

#### Section 13: Evaluation Plan

Describe the evaluation approach you propose to assess the quality of research, as well as the impact at the department, university, state, and NASA levels. Use quantitative metrics and expected qualitative outcomes. The established long- and short-term goals from the previous section should be measurable and describe the tangible evidence of completion (metrics).

#### Budget:

No budget is required for the pre-proposal; however, the scope of work should target a funding level of \$621,250.

#### **Questions**

Questions or clarifications should be addressed to Michaela Lucas at [Nasa.Nebraska@unomaha.edu](mailto:Nasa.Nebraska@unomaha.edu) or 402-554-3772.