New Mexico EPSCoR

INFRASTRUCTURE SEED GRANT PROGRAM
2013/14
"ENERGIZE NEW MEXICO"

BACKGROUND

The New Mexico EPSCoR (National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research; nmepscor.org) grant seeks to improve our understanding of how New Mexico can realize its energy development potential in a sustainable manner. The current focus areas include:

- Bioalgal Energy Development
- Geothermal Energy Resources and Sustainability
- Solar Energy Research
- Osmotic Power Development
- Uranium Transport and Site Remediation
- The Social and Natural Science Nexus
- Cyberinfrastructure
- Communicating Research to the Public
- Broadening Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

INFRASTRUCTURE SEED GRANT OBJECTIVES

The Infrastructure Seed Grant (ISG) program is designed to increase the impact of NM EPSCoR on the undergraduate student population at New Mexico's non-PhD granting institutions. The intent of the ISG program is to increase the access of undergraduate students, especially women and members of underrepresented groups, to research experiences by increasing non-PhD granting institutions' capacity to provide research experiences for students. The ISG may be used to purchase research and teaching equipment related to the NM EPSCoR focus areas listed above and to pay for student researcher salaries, research supplies and student conference travel.

ELIGIBILITY

Faculty members at any public (including Bureau of Indian Education) 2 or 4-year New Mexico institution of higher education that does not offer STEM PhD degree programs are eligible to apply. The proposed infrastructure improvements must serve to enhance undergraduate research opportunities. Collaborations with PhD-granting institutions are allowed in order to leverage additional resources and access additional expertise, but the focus must remain on building the non-PhD granting institutions' capacity to support undergraduate research experiences. A PhD granting institution cannot be the lead institution for ISG proposals. No more than one proposal from an institution should be submitted.

FUNDING AMOUNT AND AWARD PERIOD

Funding for each proposal will not exceed $50,000, including any allowable indirect costs (F & A). Funding is for one year; the anticipated award period will be April 1, 2014 through March 30, 2015.

FORMAT OF PROPOSAL

Proposals must be submitted in digital format in MS Word or as a PDF file, using a standard font in 11 point or larger, with one-inch margins. A maximum of 7 pages, excluding appendices, is allowed but must include the information below. Reviewers will not review proposals that exceed the page limit.

Proposal Cover Page (1 page)	• Proposal Title • Lead Investigator, Co-Investigator(s), primary affiliation, and all contact information • Date of Submission
Project Summary	• Half-page summary statement (maximum of 200 words)
Project Description	• Overview, objectives and significance • Background: description of need and context of proposed infrastructure improvement • Description of activities, including the education and research use of equipment to be purchased • Timetable of activities • Statement of anticipated outcomes and benefits (e.g., number and type of undergraduate research opportunities created, number of students impacted, links to further STEM education opportunities created) • If the investigator already receives support from NM EPSCoR, explain how the seed award is different from other EPSCoR funding.
Budget with Justification	• Budgets are to be submitted in NSF format. Budgets may include: equipment; undergraduate student salaries, fees, and tuition; supplies; travel; and up to one month of summer salary support for one faculty member at the lead institution. The budgets must include appropriate fringe benefits on all personnel salary and must include any allowable F&A. Proposers should use the appropriate F&A rate for their institution.
Appendices (not included in the 7 pages)	• Curriculum vitae of all investigators (maximum 2 pages each) • Statement agreeing to provide a final report within 2 months of award completion as well as timely responses to additional requests for information from the NM EPSCoR office. • Catalog information on equipment to be purchased.

INVOICING TERMS
Monthly invoices with supporting documentation will be submitted to the NM EPSCoR office for reimbursement of allowable costs, using a template provided by NM EPSCoR. All funds must be expended within one year from the start date of the award.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Grantees are required to submit a final report (1-3 pages) within 2 months of the end of the grant period. The report should detail the activities, equipment purchased, publications, new courses developed, extramural grant application(s), and/or extramural grant awards arising from support. Include names, degrees, and demographic information for any students supported by the award. In addition, grantees are required to provide information on activities as requested by the NM EPSCoR External Evaluator.

PROPOSAL REVIEW
External reviewers will review proposals, using a process overseen by the EPSCoR Management Team. Proposals will be reviewed for relevance to NM EPSCoR's aims, justification of budget, potential for increasing undergraduate students' access to research experiences, especially for women and those from underrepresented groups. A sub-committee of the NM EPSCoR Management Team will make final funding decisions.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION
Proposals should be submitted as a single complete document with any graphics embedded in the document. Submit the proposal document by email to: Tracy Hart, NM EPSCoR Project Administrator, at tlhart@unm.edu.

Proposals must be submitted electronically by **5:00 pm January 31, 2014**.

Proposers are encouraged to contact the New Mexico EPSCoR Associate Director for additional information:

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