Iowa NASA EPSCoR Research Building Seed Grant

Request for Proposals

Release Date: August 9, 2021
Proposals Due: September 10, 2021
Awards Announced: September 17, 2021
Period of Performance: September 17, 2021 – August 14, 2022
Progress Report Due: June 10, 2022
Final Report Due: September 14, 2022

RBS Description

The Iowa NASA EPSCoR Research Building Seed Grant (RBS) program encourages, supports, and facilitates the development and enhancement of NASA relevant science and engineering research within the State of Iowa. Funding is intended to build research infrastructure and help Iowa’s academic faculty establish NASA collaboration in order to become nationally competitive for NASA EPSCoR research funding.

Research projects must be in an area that is aligned with a new or continuing NASA research priority or technology need, and the proposal narrative must make an explicit connection with NASA and NASA Mission Directorates goals and objectives as identified in NASA 2018 Strategic Plan and the STEM Education Strategic Plan -2018. The research agenda of the Iowa NASA EPSCoR Economic Development program supports the goals and objectives of the state as determined by the Iowa Economic Development Authority. The relevant economic sectors for the RBS include Advanced Manufacturing and Biosciences.

RBS awards are intended to initiate new or ongoing research collaborations with NASA, and will allow the PI to begin conducting research important to the Agency, as well as support graduate or undergraduate students to develop preliminary data for research. Recipients of this grant will be expected to submit concept papers in the next round of Iowa NASA EPSCoR competitions, and propose to national NASA EPSCoR funding opportunities. The RBS proposal should include detailed plans for establishing or strengthening links with NASA researchers. A communication from the NASA researcher that the proposed work is of interest to NASA is required.

- Funds may be used to support a Research Building Seed Grant of up to $56,000.
- Domestic travel expenses are allowable to NASA Centers* for in-person collaborative engagement, resident research experience at a NASA Center, or other forms of collaboration that promote the establishment of a new or ongoing research collaboration building long-term relationships with NASA and other in-state colleagues. Faculty must conduct virtual or in-person meetings with NASA collaborators.
- Funds may be used for graduate or undergraduate student salary support and/or tuition. In support of students, we strongly encourage the involvement of the student in the NASA collaboration.
- The NASA collaborator may provide a statement of commitment agreeing to host the faculty member if selected and travel restrictions are lifted, and a general description of the type of
work the faculty member will assist NASA in advancing.

- Description of intra-state or industry collaboration opportunity and connection to Iowa’s Economic Development goals is required.
- Submission to future NASA EPSCoR R3, ISS Flight Opportunity, and/or Research Award is expected.

*Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic situation, travel has been indefinitely restricted to NASA centers. It is expected, therefore, that virtual meetings with NASA collaborators take place until travel restrictions are lifted. Please budget accordingly.

**Eligibility**

PIs from any of Iowa’s higher educational institutions, industry, or governmental agencies are eligible to apply. This grant will promote junior faculty from academia, as well as researchers from industry and government agencies in Iowa. The program encourages participation of PIs who are women, underrepresented minorities, or persons with disabilities.

**Cost-Sharing**

The Iowa NASA EPSCoR Research Building Seed Grant requires a 1:1.25 match in cost-sharing. Waived Indirect Costs are allowed as cost-share. Federal dollars are not allowed for use as match.

**Proposal Submission**

One PDF document consisting of the following items should be submitted no later than September 10, 2021 to: RBS Submission

**Proposal Preparation**

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<td>Scientific/Technical/Management Plan: Research proposal that describes the</td>
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<td>technical and scientific merit, NASA connections to NASA and STEM strategic</td>
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<td>plans, and links to the NASA Mission Directorates.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget and Narrative*</td>
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<td>Curriculum Vitae of PI</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letter(s) of support from NASA collaborator(s) – email format is okay</td>
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*Budget format shall be appropriate for your institution, with a justification for each line item. Indirect Costs are required and factored in over and above the allowed $56,000 in Direct Costs. For projects that contain support for graduate students, salary and fringe rates must mirror current guidelines set by the institution.

**Restrictions**

- Permanent equipment may NOT be included.
- Proposals shall not include bilateral participation, collaboration, or coordination with China or any Chinese-owned company or entity.
- NASA EPSCoR has no citizenship requirements, but it should be noted that foreign nationals (individuals who are neither U.S. citizens nor permanent residents) are not normally allowed access to NASA facilities.

Submission questions or problems can be directed to: nasaepscor@iastate.edu.