



## 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. Please provide communication from a NASA researcher that the proposed work is of interest to NASA.

- Proposers may request a Research Building Seed Grant of **up to \$85,680**, including F&A costs.
- 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.
- If selected and travel restrictions are lifted, the NASA collaborator may provide a statement of commitment agreeing to host the faculty member. Include a general description of the type of

work the faculty member will assist NASA in advancing.

- Descriptions of intra-state or industry collaboration opportunity and connection to Iowa’s Economic Development goals are required.
- Submission to future NASA EPSCoR R3, ISS Flight Opportunity, and/or Research Award is expected.
- A brief progress report will be required after 6 months, with a final report due at the end of the funding period (due September 14, 2022).

\*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. This program encourages participation by PIs who are women, underrepresented minorities/populations, or persons with disabilities.

### Cost-Sharing

The Iowa NASA EPSCoR Research Building Seed Grant requires a **1:1.25 match** in non-federal cash or in-kind cost-share. Salary and contributed F&A costs are the most common form of cost-share. Contact your Sponsored Programs or Business Office for assistance in determining what is allowed at your institution.

### F&A Costs

F&A (a.k.a. Indirect Costs) should be included in the budget calculations and charged as appropriate for the home institution. F&A may also calculate into the match requirement of 1:1.25.

### Proposal Submission

One PDF document consisting of the following items should be submitted no later than **September 10, 2021** to: [RBS Submission](#)

### Proposal Preparation

Required Section	Page Limit
Scientific/Technical/Management Plan: Research proposal that describes the technical and scientific merit, NASA connections to NASA and STEM strategic plans, and links to the NASA Mission Directorates.	5
Budget and Narrative*	As needed
Curriculum Vitae of PI	2
Letter(s) of support from NASA collaborator(s) – email format is okay	As needed

\*Budget format can be appropriate for your institution, with a justification for each line item. See below if you need a budget template. For projects that contain support for graduate students, salary and fringe rates must mirror current guidelines set by the institution.

**Unallowable Expenses and Award Restrictions**

- Foreign travel
- Permanent equipment (>\$5,000) or general-purpose 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.
- Civil-service personnel labor or travel
- Promotional materials

Budget template can be downloaded here: [https://ianasaepscor.engineering.iastate.edu/files/2021/09/Budget-Template-Seed-Grants\\_2021.xlsx](https://ianasaepscor.engineering.iastate.edu/files/2021/09/Budget-Template-Seed-Grants_2021.xlsx)

University ( <i>insert name</i> ) P.I. ( <i>insert name here</i> )	NASA	MATCH
EPSCoR Project Title: <i>Insert project/activity name here</i>	EPSCoR Funds Request	Non-Federal (Cost Share)
<b>Salaries/Personnel Expenses</b>		
Salary (PI)	\$ -	\$ -
Salary (Co-I)	\$ -	\$ -
Salary (GRA/Post-doc)	\$ -	\$ -
Wages (Undergraduates)	\$ -	\$ -
Fringe Benefits	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Subtotal - Personnel Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Supportive Expenses</b>		
Travel (Domestic)	\$ -	\$ -
Supplies and Services	\$ -	\$ -
Tuition	\$ -	\$ -
Other (please describe below)	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Subtotal - Supportive Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS*</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<i>Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)</i>	\$ -	\$ -
<i>(NOTE: MTDC = Total Direct Costs - Tuition - Equipment - Participant Support Costs)</i>		
<b>INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
NASA Indirect (see rates below)	53.0%	
Match Indirect (see rates below)	53.0%	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Notes:</b>		
Use university appropriate government approved indirect rate. (Drake = 36.7%, ISU = 53%, UI = 54.5%, UNI = 35.1% )		
Match requirement is 1:1.25		
Change/add expense type as appropriate, add rows as needed.		
Check all calculations for accuracy when adding rows.		
<b>Include budget justification below, or as a separate word document.</b>		
<b>Unallowable expenses include:</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment (defined as >\$5,000 per item)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign travel		
<input type="checkbox"/> Facility renovations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotional materials (i.e. t-shirts, swag, etc.)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Funds shall not be used to fund research carried out by non-U.S. institutions.		

Submission questions or problems can be directed to: [nasaepscor@iastate.edu](mailto:nasaepscor@iastate.edu).