



Iowa NASA EPSCoR Research Building Seed Grant Request for Proposals

Release Date: August 9, 2023

Proposals Due: September 11, 2023

Awards Announced: September 15, 2023

Period of Performance: September 18, 2023 – August 12, 2024

Progress Report Due: June 7, 2024

Final Report Due: September 16, 2024

RBSG Description

The Iowa NASA EPSCoR Research Building Seed Grant (RBSG) 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 RBSG include [Advanced Manufacturing](#) and [Biosciences](#).

RBSG 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 RBSG 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.

Funding

- Funds may be used to support a Research Building Seed Grant *up to \$30,600, which includes required indirect charges at ISU*. Grants awarded to other institutions will be allowed to charge institutional rates as determined by the awardee's institution's policy. Grant amount may not exceed \$30,600 total, including all IDC amounts.
- RBSGs require a 50% cost share match from non-federal sources.
- Faculty must conduct virtual or in-person meetings with NASA collaborators. Funding may be used for travel to NASA Center.

- The NASA collaborator may provide a statement of commitment agreeing to host the faculty member if selected, and a general description of the type of work the faculty member will assist NASA in advancing.
- Description of possible intra-state or industry collaboration opportunity and connection to Iowa’s Economic Development goals is required.
- Recipients of RBSG award are expected to submit proposals to National NASA EPSCoR competitions in the next year's cycle.
- 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. NASA expects efforts toward a diverse, inclusive, and equitable student selection.

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, who do not yet have strong connections to NASA collaborators. 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 **50% cost share 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.

Proposal Submission

One PDF document consisting of the following items should be submitted no later than **September 11, 2023 by 5:00 PM** to: [RBSG 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 must be submitted with the INE budget template, with a justification for each line item. See website for the INE [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.
- Civil-service personnel labor or travel
- Promotional materials
- 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.