



Iowa NASA EPSCoR

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Iowa NASA EPSCoR Request for Pre-Proposals

FY2026 NASA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

Research Award

Announcement Number: TBD

Pre-Proposal Due: November 3, 2025

The Iowa NASA EPSCoR office is requesting **pre-proposals** in advance of the Research Award FY2026 NOFO release. If you are planning to submit a pre-proposal for this opportunity, please **submit a notice of intent** [here](#). It is anticipated that the National NASA EPSCoR solicitation will be released in late-October, with a *single* strong full proposal due from Iowa in January 2026. To allow sufficient time to select and develop this proposal, the Iowa NASA EPSCoR office is soliciting for pre-proposals in advance of the FY2026 NOFO release. Based on past NOFO solicitations, no significant changes are anticipated. You can review the FY2025 Research Award NOFO on our [website](#).

Eligibility: Faculty throughout Iowa, particularly junior faculty, are encouraged to apply. NASA EPSCoR has no citizenship requirements; however, it should be noted that foreign nationals are not normally allowed into NASA Centers.

Funding: Iowa may submit one proposal in accordance with EPSCoR Eligibility and Proposal Acceptance. Proposals will be selected from this solicitation for FY2026 funding. It is anticipated that ten (10) to fifteen (15) awards of up to **\$750,000 to be expended over a three-year period of performance** may be made under this NOFO. Cost-sharing by proposers is required at a level of at least **50%** of the requested NASA funds, bringing the total funding to \$1,125,000 (i.e., \$750K in federal funds and \$375K in matching funds). In-kind cost-sharing is allowable.

Each funded NASA EPSCoR proposal is expected to establish collaborative research activities with a NASA Center scientist that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities of NASA's national program. In addition, a strong pre-proposal will contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science, and technology capabilities, higher education, workforce development, and economic development of the state of Iowa.

Pre-Proposal Submission Instructions

In order to allow time for internal competition, pre-proposals must be submitted as one PDF file (name as: PI Last Name_NASA RA) to [Pre-Proposal Submission](#) by **November 3, 2025**.

- Cover Page (on Iowa NASA EPSCoR Website)
- Project Description: includes Scientific/Technical summary, goals, objectives, timeline, expected outcomes, management/evaluation, and collaborators. (5 page maximum*)
- Budget and Narrative
- Letter of Support from NASA Collaborator

*References are not included in the page count

Pre-Proposal Review Process

The Iowa NASA EPSCoR program will hold an internal competition for the jurisdiction using a Technical Advisory Committee, which is comprised of members from the research community, government, and industry under the management of the Iowa NASA EPSCoR Director. As a panel, reviewers will recommend *one* pre-proposal for development into a full proposal to be submitted in January 2026. Selected proposal will be announced mid-November 2025. The proposal will be selected based on the following criteria:

- **Intrinsic Merit (35% of score)**
 - Proposed Research (Scientific/Technical summary): clear goals and objectives; address the expectations described in the announcement; effectively utilize the program management; demonstrate high probability for successful implementation
 - Prior and Current Research
- **NASA Alignment and Partnerships (35% of score)**
 - Relevance of the proposed research to NASA and to Iowa's research priorities
 - Strength of NASA and industry collaborations; use of NASA content/people/facilities
 - Sustainability of partnerships and continued funding for Iowa
 - Proposals shall state how they plan to develop research competitiveness both in Iowa and nationally
- **Management and Evaluation (15% of score)**
 - This section shall describe the management structure for the proposed research, and coordination with Iowa's NASA EPSCoR project management. The following elements shall be included:
 - *Personnel*: The proposal shall include a list of the personnel participating in this research program, including all Co-Investigators, Research Associates, Post-Doctoral Fellows, Research Assistants, and other research participants. The credentials of the researchers are important; however, EPSCoR includes the concept of encouraging and helping *new researchers*.
 - *Research Project Management*: A description of the PI's management structure of the proposed research project, and the extent to which the project's management and research team will lead to a well-coordinated, efficiently-

managed, and productive effort shall be included.

- *Multi-Jurisdiction Projects*: If the proposed research is a collaboration between more than one NASA EPSCoR jurisdiction, one jurisdiction shall be identified as the lead with additional partners identified as sub-awardees. The proposal shall detail the inter-jurisdiction management structure of the proposed research project, including a list of the participating jurisdictions, and the participating universities and agencies within each jurisdiction.
 - *Project Evaluation*: Proposals shall document the intended outcomes and offer metrics to demonstrate progress toward and achievements of these outcomes. They shall discuss metrics to be used for tracking and evaluating project progress. Milestones and timetables for achievement of specific objectives during the award period shall be presented.
 - *Results of Prior NASA EPSCoR Research Support (if applicable)*: Examples of accomplishments commensurate with the managerial and administrative expectations of the award shall be provided.
- **Budget Justification: Narrative and Details (15%)**
 - The proposed budget shall be adequate, appropriate, reasonable, and realistic, and demonstrate the effective use of funds
 - A detailed budget, including both NASA provided and cost-share funds, is required. This section shall include detailed budgets for each of the three years of the funding and a summary budget for all three years. All sources of cost-sharing shall be thoroughly described and documented.
 - A budget narrative shall be included that discusses relevant budgetary issues such as the extent and level of jurisdiction, industrial, and institutional commitment and financial support, including resources (staff, facilities, laboratories, indirect support, waiver of indirect costs, etc.).

Award Obligations

Award recipients are required to prepare annual and final reports following NASA EPSCoR guidelines. Additional obligations will be communicated upon notification of award.

For more information, please visit our website <http://ianasaepscor.engineering.iastate.edu/> or contact nasaepscor@iastate.edu.