



EPSCoR Research Fellows Informational Webinar

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Webinar Outline



- The NSF EPSCoR Program
- The EPSCoR Research Fellows Mechanism
- Proposal Content Overview and Requirements
- Merit Review Criteria
- Closing Remarks

NSF EPSCoR: Building Jurisdiction-wide Research Capacity



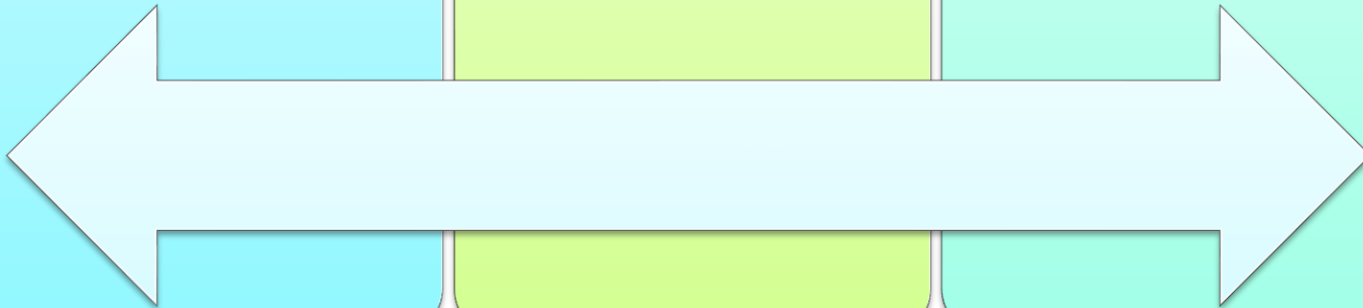
**Discovery &
Innovation**



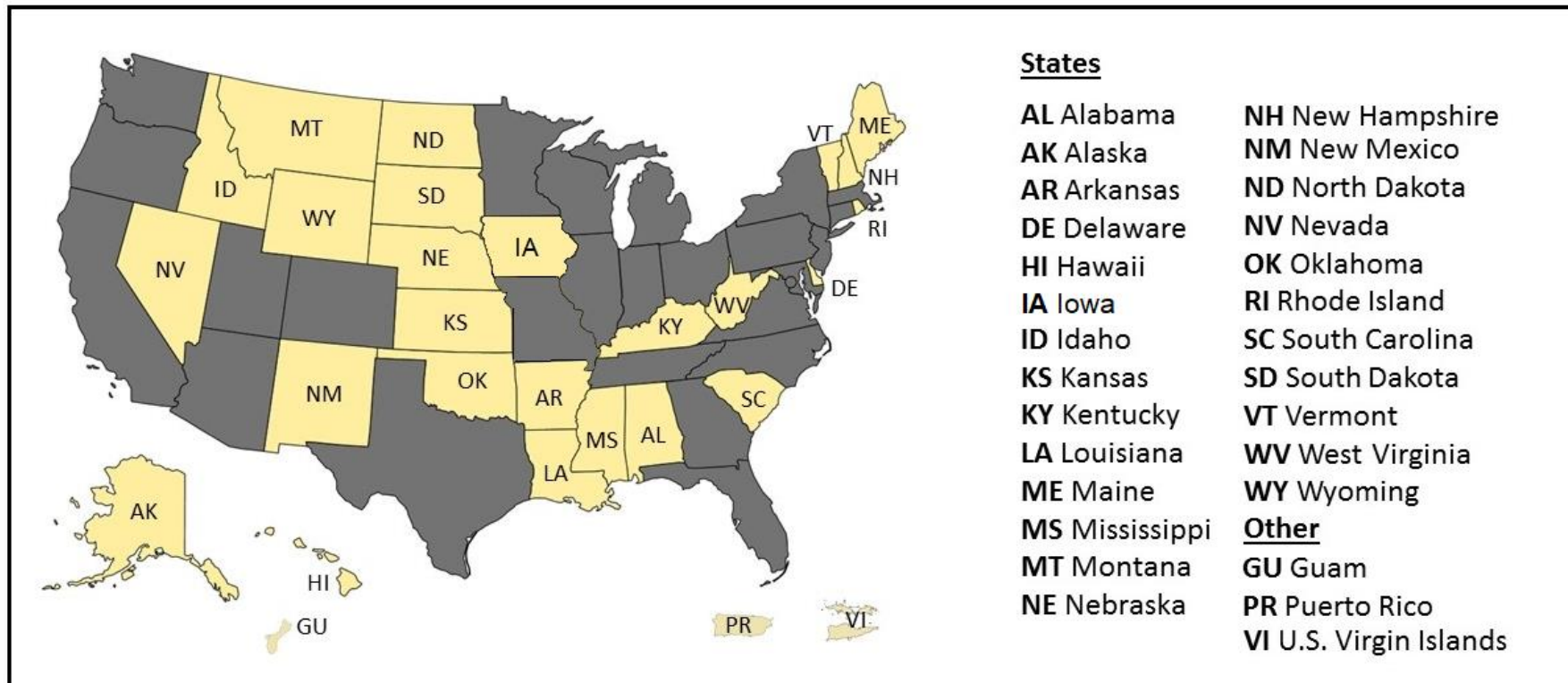
**Education &
Workforce**



**Economic
Development**



NSF EPSCoR FY22 Eligibility



- FY22 States, Commonwealths, and Territories are eligible for funding if their most recent 5-year level of total NSF funding is equal to or less than 0.75% of the total NSF budget.
- Eligibility table updated annually and publicly available:

https://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/epscor/nsf_oia_epscor_eligible.jsp

Motivation for the EPSCoR Research Fellows Opportunity



- Majority of NSF EPSCoR's research infrastructure improvement (RII) resources go toward large, center-like projects:
 - RII Track-1: Jurisdiction-wide awards, typically \$20M over 5 yrs.
 - RII Track-2: Collaborations across jurisdictions, \$4-6M over 4 yrs.
 - Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (NSF 22-536): Bridging EPSCoR Communities (RII-BEC)
- Additional investments in individuals or small teams through co-funding mechanism.
- In discussion with our community, recognized opportunity to catalyze the career trajectories for a new generation of research leaders.
 - Time to develop new or extend current research directions.
 - Pathway to strengthen research connections with partners nationwide.

RII Track-4 EPSCoR Research Fellows Vision

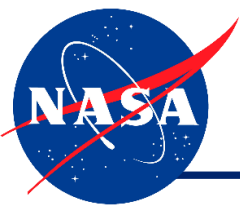


- Provides opportunities for non-tenured (or equivalent) investigators to further develop their individual research potential through extended collaborative visits to the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers.
- Fellows will be able to:
 - learn new techniques,
 - benefit from access to state-of-the-art equipment and facilities
 - strengthen collaborative partnerships,
 - extend their research toward transformative directions.
- Experiences gained through fellowships are intended to provide benefits that will impact the recipient's career in years to come.
- PIs may bring a trainee-level researcher along for the fellowship visit
- These benefits to the Fellows are also expected to in turn enhance the research capacities of their institutions and jurisdictions.

EPSCoR Research Fellows Now Features Two Tracks



- RII Track-4:NSF, host sites may be any research institution within the United States or its territories/possessions.
 - Generally expected to be beyond easy commuting distance from the home institution.
 - Any topic that NSF funds is eligible
- RII Track-4:FAST, host sites are selected NASA Research Centers
 - FAST stands for “Fellows Advancing Science and Technology”
 - Specific topics are eligible based on the NASA Research Center (links to these topics are available in the solicitation)
 - Specific Institution types are eligible



NASA and NSF EPSCoR Fellows Advancing Science and Technology (FAST)



- RII Track-4: [FAST](#) is a collaboration between the NASA and NSF EPSCoR programs.
 - It provides an opportunity to strengthen relationships with research communities while also building on experience and know-how.
 - The collaboration will engage the NSF EPSCoR MSI community with NASA Researchers, and open new pathways for NASA EPSCoR jurisdictions to compete for larger research projects.
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RII Track-4:FAST Funding Information



Planning to fund up to 10 proposals

Access to NASA facilities starting as early as Q1 2023

Teams can visit NASA facilities for 24 weeks during the two-year timeline

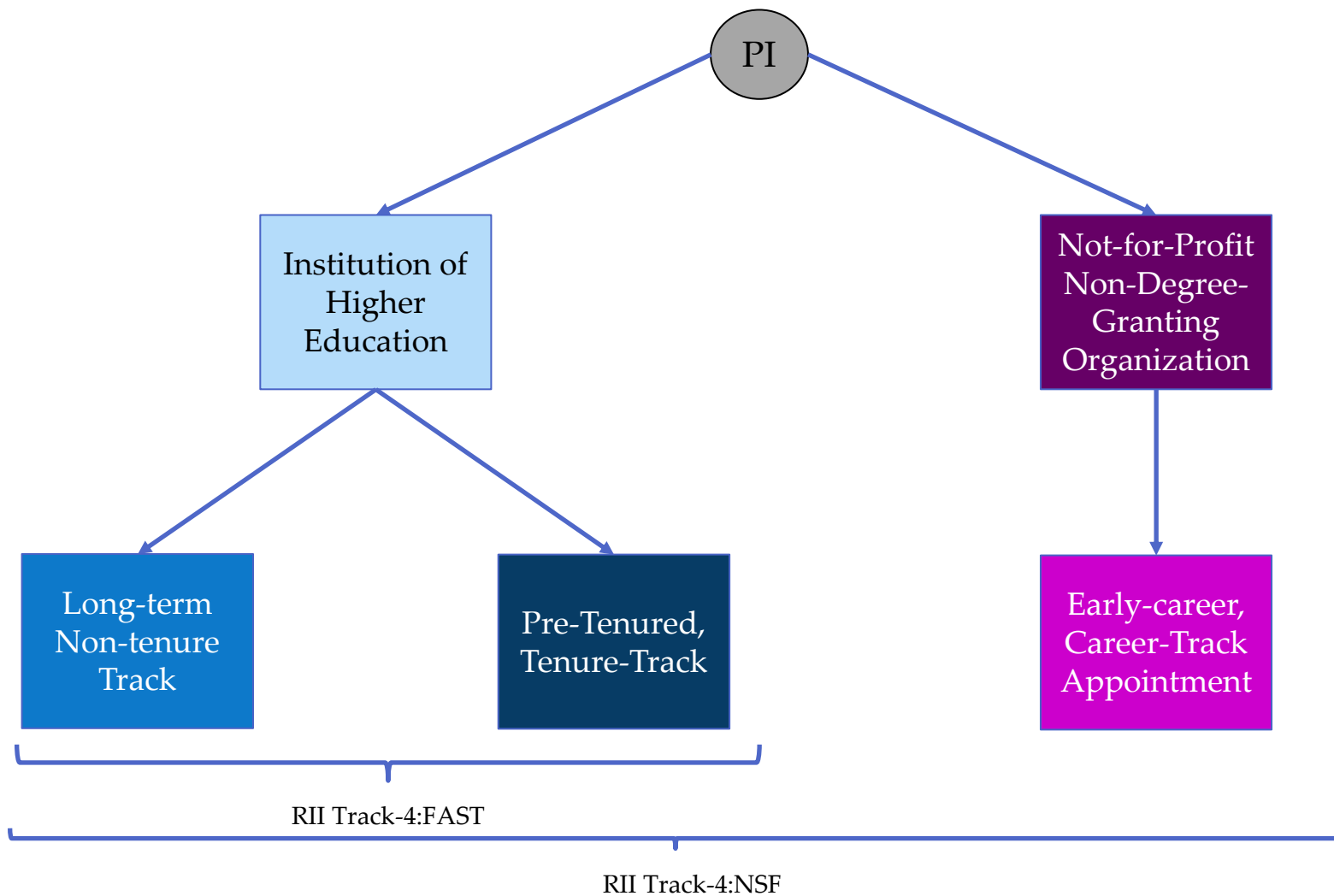
The NASA research collaborator also serves as mentor to the PI and Technical Monitor for the project; will provide site visits and annual reports.

Proposals Submission Considerations

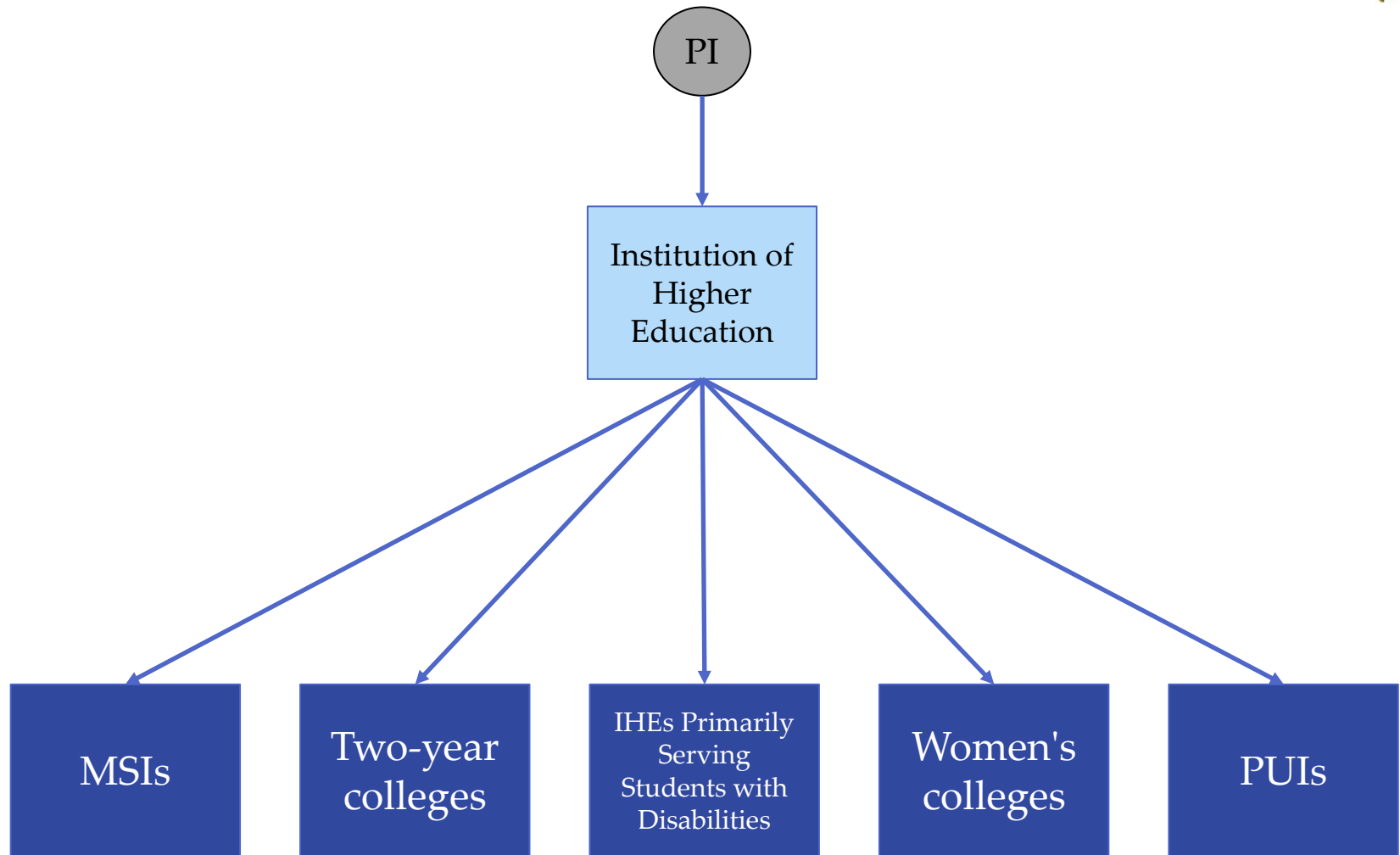


- For RII Track-4:NSF there is an institutional limit of three proposals
- For RII Track-4:FAST there is an institutional limit of six proposals
 - Many submitting institutions are running internal competitions for these slots – check with them for details!
 - For submitting institutions eligible for both tracks the maximum number of submissions is nine proposals

RII Track-4: NSF Eligibility



RII Track-4:FAST Eligibility



FY21 RII Track-4:FAST Awards



Dr. Justin Stopa of the University of
Hawai'i!

*Title: An investigation of tropical cyclone
intensity using synthetic aperture radars
and complementary satellite ocean
observations*

Collaboration with JPL's Ocean
Circulation and Air Sea Interaction
Group

Dr. Christopher Herdman of
Middlebury College!

*Title: Numerical Simulations of Bose-
Einstein Condensates in Microgravity
(NumeriCAL)*

Collaboration with JPL's Quantum
Sciences and Technology Group





What Goes in the Proposal?

- Successful RII Track-4 proposals will present exciting, vibrant fellowship ideas that will positively impact and potentially transform the PI's individual career trajectory and more broadly impact his/her research field, institution, and jurisdiction.
- All proposals should include:
 - Motivation and research context for the work to be conducted;
 - Defined, reasoned, and organized research objectives which could be driven by specific research questions or hypotheses
 - PI's specific plans for the fellowship period; and
 - Discussion for how the benefits gained from the fellowship would be sustained beyond the award;
 - Clear specifications of fellowship goals, performance metrics, and a timetable;
- Explain how/why the RII Track-4 award will advance the work – what specific opportunities will be made possible *via* the PI's extended visit(s) to the host site?
 - The parameters for the partnership should be clearly established.
- Describe how the activities will lead to long-lasting impacts for both the PI's career and the home institution/jurisdiction.

EPSCoR Research Fellows: Budget Request Overview

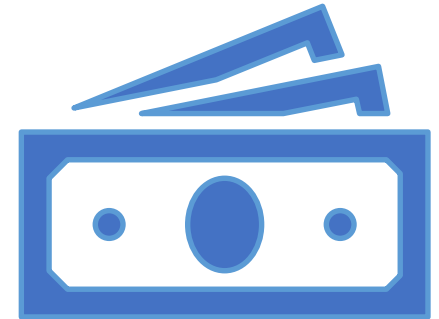


- For both tracks, NSF budget requests may be up to \$300,000 over a duration of 24 months
 - Up to 6 months of salary support for the PI and one trainee-level participant
 - Includes up to \$75,000 in travel and living expenses for the PI and trainee-level participant
 - Includes up to \$10,000 (total) for fees, supplies, equipment, publication costs, *etc*
 - Includes up to \$5,000 (total) for other research-related travel
- **For RII Track-4:FAST**, an additional \$60K Research Infrastructure Development (RID) grant from NASA for research infrastructure at home institution is available

NASA Research Infrastructure Development Award



- From NASA: \$60K RID award (\$30K/year)
 - Only those with FAST award will get the extra 60K over two years performance period in addition to the NASA RID award
- NASA manages the process, do not include in budget requests to NSF
 - Institutions will need to apply through the NASA EPSCoR Lead institution
 - Be sure to contact your NASA EPSCoR State Director: [Link](#)
- The RID augmentation applications follows the same rules, regulations and process as any other RID augmentation



Trainee Eligibility for RII Track-4:FAST



**The awarded PI
selects the
qualified trainee.**

Undergraduate
and Graduate
students

Students from
institutions
within the PI's
EPSCoR
jurisdiction

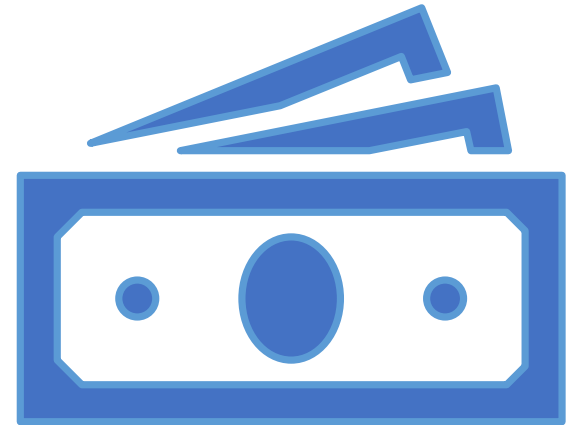
Postdoctoral
Researchers (RII
Track-4:NSF
only)

Students from
partnering
institutions
within any
EPSCoR
jurisdiction

RII Track-4: FAST Additional Details



- NASA will cover Technical Monitor travel for site visit
 - At least once during the research period maybe two depend on the both researchers (NASA and faculty)
- NASA will cover Professional Conference travel for the NASA mentor/ Technical monitor
 - Encouragement to apply and summit peer review papers and co-present



RII Track-4:FAST Limitations



NO MORE THAN SIX
APPLICANTS PER
INSTITUTION



A TWO-YEAR NASA
CENTER/FACILITY
ACCESS LIMIT



A TWO-YEAR RESEARCH
PERIOD



A NO COST EXTENSION
MAY BE GRANTED,
DEPENDING ON THE
RESEARCH BEING
PERFORMED

- U.S. citizenship is required for research opportunities at specified NASA Centers.
 - Lawful permanent residents are eligible for research opportunities at specified NASA Centers.
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Required Letters



Please provide all letters as supplementary documents

At least one letter is required in each of these three categories:

1. From the appropriate supervisory administrator at the PI's home institution.
 - Should confirm the institution's support of the PI's plans and particularly should verify that the PI will receive release time from other academic duties to complete the project as proposed.
 - Should also confirm the PI's employment status at the home institution as it pertains to eligibility for the RII Track-4 competition.
2. From the identified primary research collaborator(s) at the host site.
 - Should confirm the collaborator's understanding of the goals of the fellowship and provide evidence to demonstrate that the PI will receive the support necessary to complete the proposed activities.

Required Letters (cont.)



3. From the appropriate administrative managers at the host institution.
 - Should confirm that all necessary logistical arrangements (site access, office space, cyber connectivity) to ensure that the project can proceed as proposed.
 - In the rare cases where the PI believes the primary research collaborator at the host site is also the appropriate administrative manager, the PI should contact a program officer from NSF EPSCoR for guidance.

Additional Letters of Support from other parties may be submitted only if they are needed to verify specific tangible commitments related to activities described in the proposal. PIs will be required to remove letters that do not meet this standard.

Required Letters For RII Track-4:FAST



4. Primarily Undergraduate Institutions (PUIs)
 - For this category, a fourth letter, from an Authorized Organizational Representative, certifying that the originating and managing institution is an accredited college or university
 - that awards Associates degrees, Bachelor's degrees, and/or Master's degrees in NSF-supported fields,
 - **and** has awarded **20** or fewer PhD/DSci degrees in all NSF-supported fields during the combined previous two academic years
- Optional: PIs may also include a letter from their respective NASA EPSCoR State Director
 - Link to NASA EPSCoR State Director:
https://www.nasa.gov/stem/epscor/home/EPSCoR_Directors.html
 - Assistance with processing paperwork

Merit Review Criteria



All NSF proposals are evaluated through use of two National Science Board approved merit review criteria.

- Intellectual Merit—the potential to advance knowledge
- Broader Impacts—the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.



Merit Review Criteria cont.

For each of these criteria, the following elements are considered as part of the merit review process:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
 - a. Advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit); and
 - b. Benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Merit Review Criteria cont.



- Solicitation-Specific Criteria:
 - What evidence is presented to demonstrate that the proposed research outcomes can be achieved **within the constraints of the fellowship period**, with the work being **performed primarily at the host site**?
 - How will the fellowship have **a transformative impact** on the trajectory of the PI's research career both during the period of the award and beyond?
 - How will the fellowship yield **tangible benefits to the home institution and/or jurisdiction** beyond the individual benefits to the PI?
 - What **evidence** is there that the home institution and the host site are each committing the necessary resources, both scientific and administrative, to lend confidence that the fellowship project will be successful in achieving its intended outcomes?

Future Outreach Events



- NSF EPSCoR welcomes interested applicants to register for one or more of the following outreach sessions. Please Note all times are at 3:00PM ET.
- NASA Webinars:
 - Wednesday, January 26, 2022
- Matching Events (Tentative Dates)
 - February 9, 2022
 - February 16, 2022
- Office Hour Dates—all times at 3:00PM ET; Specific dates are TBD
 - **February 2022**
 - **March 2022**
 - **April 2022**
- Please Submit questions in advance to cwhitley@nsf.gov
While real time captioning will be available, requests for additional accommodations may be sent to cwhitley@nsf.gov 14 days in advance.

Contact information



- National Science Foundation:
 - Chinonye Nnakwe Whitley, NSF, telephone: (703) 292-8458, email: cwhitley@nsf.gov
 - Jose Colom-Ustariz, NSF, telephone: (703) 292-7088, email: jcolom@nsf.gov
 - Subrata Acharya, NSF, telephone: (703) 292-2451, email: acharyas@nsf.gov
 - National Aeronautics and Space Administration:
 - Jeppie Compton, NASA, telephone: (321) 867-6988, email: jeppie.r.compton@nasa.gov
 - Grace Johnson, NASA, telephone: (321) 867-4332, email: grace.k.johnson@nasa.gov
 - Constance Meadors, NASA, telephone: (501) 500-3823, email: constance.y.meadors@nasa.gov
 - Please consult the NSF EPSCoR Website for information on [Office Hours](#) to be hosted in February, March and April 2022
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In Summary



Steps to a successful application:

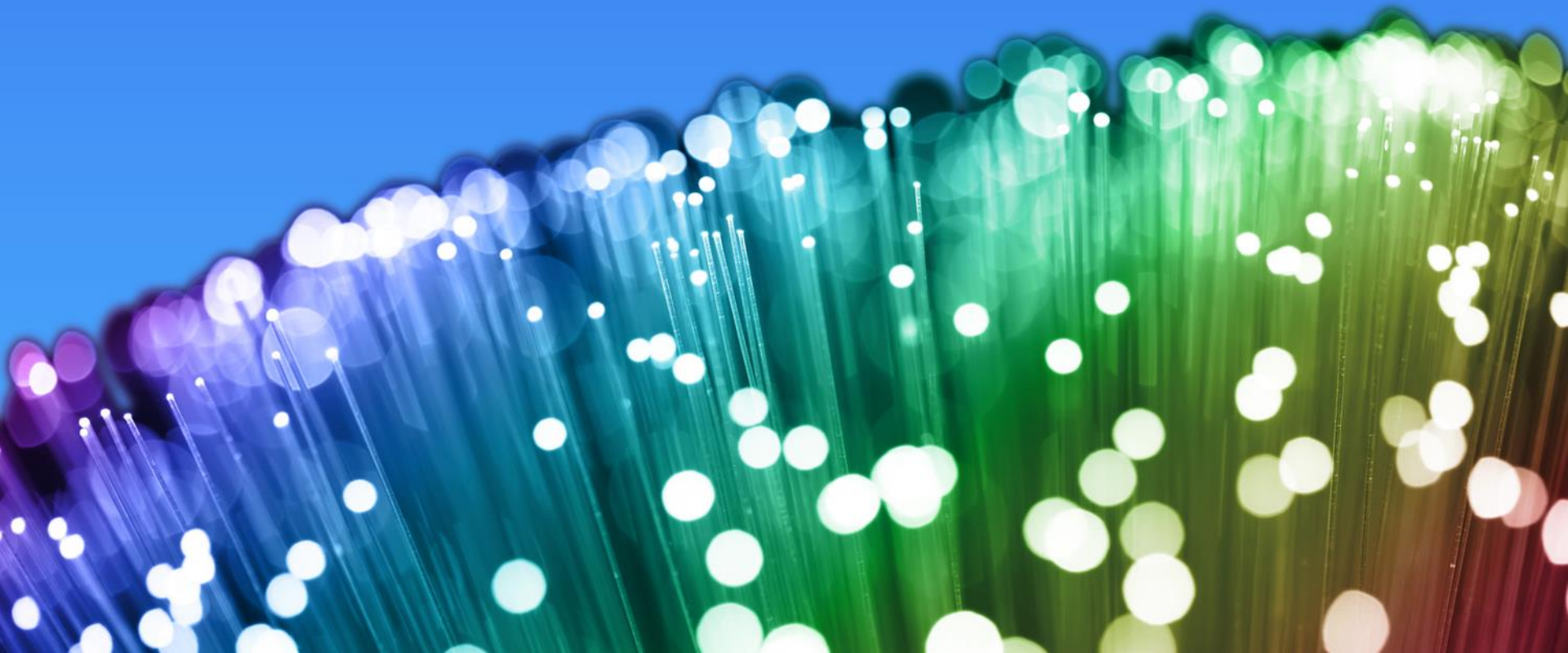
1. Identify a collaborator at a host site or NASA Center*
2. Consult with your sponsored research office regarding internal competitions
3. Obtain letter(s) of support
4. Contact NSF and NASA POC regarding questions
5. Submit your proposal through [Research.gov](https://www.research.gov)**

* For RII Track-4:FAST: Review the research areas in the solicitation

**Additional information including Frequently Asked Questions, video tutorials, and how-to guides is available on this Research.gov “About Proposal Preparation and Submission” page: <https://www.research.gov/research-web/content/aboutpsm>



Thank you!





Questions?

