



## 2021 Request for Proposals Idaho NASA EPSCoR Research Initiation Grant Program

The Idaho NASA EPSCoR program requests proposals for the NASA EPSCoR Research Initiation Grant Program. The goal of the Research Initiation Grant Program is to facilitate development and enhancement of NASA-aligned research and development capabilities in Idaho. Specifically, Idaho NASA EPSCoR seeks to provide opportunities for new researchers to gain experience and/or for established researchers to take a dramatic step in a new research direction.

To be eligible for submission, the proposed research must directly align with one or more of NASA's current research interests or activities as articulated in NASA and/or National Research Council documents (e.g., technology roadmaps, NASA solicitations, decadal surveys, etc.). Some possible resources include, but are not limited to, NASA's Technology Taxonomy at <https://www.nasa.gov/offices/oct/taxonomy/index.html> or NASA's Human Research Roadmap at <https://humanresearchroadmap.nasa.gov/> or NASA's Science Mission Directorate at <https://science.nasa.gov/>.

Any submission that does not clearly align with NASA's current activities will not be considered for funding. Research funded through the Idaho NASA EPSCoR Research Initiation Grant Program should result in future proposals to NASA and/or other federal, state, and private organizations for further funding and continued program development.

### **Award Information**

Proposers may request up to \$42,000 including indirect/F&A costs. Research Initiation Grants require a non-federal cash or in-kind match equal to the amount requested from Idaho NASA EPSCoR. The Idaho NASA EPSCoR contribution is limited to \$42,000 for the award year. Although the minimum amount of cost share for any proposal must equal the amount requested, any additional cost share above 1:1 is welcomed.

*Please note: The funding of all Idaho NASA EPSCoR research initiation grants is contingent upon availability of funds.*

### **Eligible Organizations**

Research Initiation Grants support NASA-related research and projects conducted by Idaho's higher education institutions. Eligible institutions include:

*Boise State University ★ Brigham Young University – Idaho ★ College of Southern Idaho ★  
★College of Western Idaho ★ Idaho State University ★ Lewis-Clark State College ★ North Idaho College ★  
Northwest Nazarene University ★ The College of Idaho ★ University of Idaho ★*

*Please note: Researchers that have been awarded a Research Initiation Grant from Idaho NASA EPSCoR or a in the past 3 years are not eligible to apply.*

### **Proposal Preparation**

All research proposals submitted through an eligible institution and satisfying the specific proposal guidelines below are eligible for funding consideration. Prior to submission, the appropriate higher education institution research/grant office must approve the proposal.



## Proposal Guidelines

### ■ Proposal information

Please note: Proposers should have the following items prepared to enter into the online proposal submission form available at <https://www.idahonasaepscor.org/submit>. More details on submission guidelines are included below.

- Name of project
- Principal investigator (P.I.) contact information
- A project abstract (not to exceed 250 words)
- Name of primary NASA or STEM industry collaborator on the proposed research (if any).

### ■ Proposed Research Description (Page limit: 5)

The research plan should include, at a minimum:

- *Description of the proposed research including the scientific and/or technical merit.* The research plan should be presented in plain language so that individuals who are not experts in the proposed research area will be able to effectively evaluate the research plan.
- *Alignment of proposed research to NASA activities/research interests and Idaho NASA EPSCoR goals.* The alignment should be demonstrated by references to specific documents, solicitations, technology roadmaps, decadal plans, etc.
- *Anticipated outcomes and potential impact of research.* Include a description of the benefits to NASA and the state of Idaho.
- *Planned collaboration/partnerships.* Describe established and proposed collaborations with NASA researchers and/or private aerospace industry partners. If you lack a connection to a NASA researcher, Idaho NASA EPSCoR may be able to assist you if you contact Idaho NASA EPSCoR at [ine@uidaho.edu](mailto:ine@uidaho.edu) (Note: Any collaboration/partnerships correspondence should be included as an appendix to the proposal and will not count toward page count.)
- *Research sustainability.* Outline the possibilities and any plans for sustaining the proposed research beyond the Idaho NASA EPSCoR 1-year grant period. Please include a statement regarding the prospect for future funding. The proposal must identify a specific NASA or other agency program announcement to which a future research proposal will be submitted. Alternatively, the proposal can identify possible commercial uses or technology transfer potential.
- *Student Participation.* A description of undergraduate and/or graduate student involvement in the research efforts. Idaho NASA EPSCoR actively encourages the involvement of underrepresented individuals in all programs.
- *Program timeline and assessment.* Include a 1-year research timeline with associated milestones and metrics to measure research success. (If necessary, the timeline can be submitted as a separate file and will not count toward the page count.)

### ■ Curriculum Vitae (CV) (2-page limit for principal investigator; 1-page limit for each co-investigator)

- Proposers should include a CV for the principal investigator and a CV for each co-investigator.

### ■ Proposed Budget and Budget Justification (no page limit)

- The budget details should provide sufficient details on the planned expenditures in table form to allow proposal reviewers to assess the reasonableness of the proposed budget. The budget details should be prepared in an MS Excel workbook. Describe how each dollar amount was calculated, if not immediately apparent in the budget spreadsheet.
- Funding for a Research Initiation Grant requires a non-federal cash or in-kind match equal to the amount requested from Idaho NASA EPSCoR.
- The budget justification should explain the purpose of each expenditure and the sources of cost share. The planned expenditures should align with both the budget details and the activities outlined in the body of the proposal.



- Please keep in mind the following restrictions when preparing your budget:
  - Idaho NASA EPSCoR funding cannot be used for food, international travel, capital outlay (i.e., equipment over \$5,000 and/or having a useful life over 1 year), or items considered to be souvenirs such as t-shirts, hats, etc. Although food is not allowed, per diem is allowed for travel.
  - NASA EPSCoR funding cannot be used to purchase general-purpose equipment (e.g., desktop workstations, office furnishings, reproduction and printing equipment, etc.) as a direct charge.
  - Indirect costs for institutions are limited to the negotiated rate and negotiated base of the institution. University of Idaho proposers should use 47.5% as the indirect rate.
- **Appendices** (only required for some proposers; page limits vary)
  - *Documentation of proposed support/collaboration*: This appendix should include letters of support and/or collaboration from NASA and/or aerospace industry partners.
  - *Summary of research accomplishments*: Researchers who have received previous Idaho NASA EPSCoR funding for closely related research are required to submit a summary of research accomplishments resulting from the award, including proposals submitted, papers presented at professional conferences or published in refereed journals, and research contacts and potential collaborations initiated with NASA and industry.

### ***Grant Duration and Required Reporting***

The project period is up to 1 year and may commence as early as Summer 2021.

A brief summary of activities and progress will be required on a semi-annual basis. A final report is required at the end of the funding period. Both the progress and final report formats are available online. Additional reporting information will be provided at the time of award. Any publications or presentations related to the research should also be submitted to Idaho NASA EPSCoR.

Any students participating on the project will need to complete student participation forms which will be submitted to NASA.

### ***Proposal Evaluation Criteria***

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Merit of Research Plan, including timeline, milestones, and metrics** – 30%
- **Relevance to, and collaboration with, NASA and/or the aerospace industry** – 10%
- **Relevance and benefit to Idaho and the goals of Idaho NASA EPSCoR** – 10%
- **Involvement of undergraduate and/or graduate students in research and inclusion of students typically underrepresented in STEM fields** – 15%
- **Proposed budget and anticipated cost share** – 20%
- **Future funding and/or technology transfer potential** – 15%

### ***Proposal Submission***

Proposals should be single spaced, 11-point font, and have one-inch margins on all sides. Submissions should be no more than 5 pages in length (excluding the curriculum vitae, budget, timeline, and appendices). The main proposal should be a PDF file. The budget should be an MS Excel spreadsheet. Proposers may also submit a separate file with the research timeline.

**Research Initiation Grant proposals should be submitted via the Idaho NASA EPSCoR website. Please visit [www.idahonasaepscor.com](http://www.idahonasaepscor.com) and click the Submit Proposals tab. Please follow the instructions on the submission form.**

**Submission Deadline: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 (11:59 pm Pacific Time)**