Pre-Proposal Solicitation for Limited Submission Opportunity

National Science Foundation
EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Program: Track-2
Focused EPSCoR Collaborations (RII Track-2 FEC)

What: Internal pre-proposal competition for UNI faculty and staff interested in submitting a proposal to the National Science Foundation EPSCoR RII Track-2 FEC program. Awards will be up to $4 – 6 million over up to four years.

The program theme for this year is “Harnessing the Data Revolution to solve problems of national importance”. All proposals must align with this theme.

The proposed project must involve a collaboration with an institution in a different EPSCoR eligible state (see solicitation for list). UNI may be the lead applicant (PI) or a subrecipient (co-PI).

When:  
Pre-proposals due to RSP Thursday, 11/14/19  
Applicants informed of results Friday, 11/22/19  
Letter of Intent due to NSF Friday, 12/20/19  
Full Proposal due to NSF Friday, 1/24/20

How: Review the information below and submit a pre-proposal to rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu.

Background: The National Science Foundation (NSF) RII Track-2 FEC builds inter-jurisdictional collaborative teams of EPSCoR investigators in scientific focus areas consistent with NSF priorities. Projects are investigator-driven and must include researchers from at least two RII-eligible jurisdictions with complementary expertise and resources necessary to tackle those projects, which neither party could address as well or rapidly alone. The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) research and education activities should seek to broaden participation through the strategic inclusion and integration of different types of individuals, institutions, and sectors throughout the project. Proposals must describe a comprehensive and integrated vision to drive discovery and build sustainable STEM capacity that exemplifies diversity of all types (individual, institutional, geographic, and disciplinary). The development of diverse early-career faculty is a critical component of this sustainable STEM capacity.

This program will only accept one proposal from each institution. As such, the UNI Office of Research and Sponsored Programs is conducting an internal pre-proposal competition to select the proposal that will be submitted from UNI. Pre-proposals are scored by UNI faculty and staff reviewers. Reviews are not blind, however, reviewers are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest.

Instructions: Review the Program Solicitation 20-504 and the program website carefully. Proposed projects must fit the program guidelines. We encourage you to contact an NSF program officer to verify your project’s suitability or answer any questions about your project prior to submitting a pre-proposal. Any information from NSF program officers should accompany your pre-proposal.
Include the following components in your Pre-Proposal. Submit the pre-proposal to rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu by Thursday, November 14th.

1) Limited Submission Cover Page (Department Head signature required)

2) Project Description (3-page limit, not including references cited)

Describe how the proposal will:

- Align with the theme, “Harnessing the Data Revolution to solve problems of national importance”
- Involve collaboration among researchers in different EPSCoR jurisdictions (states)
- Add significantly to the research capability of the participating jurisdictions in a designated focus area
- Contribute to the advancement of research and innovation in the proposal's focus area
- Illustrate how the participating jurisdictions’ research capacities will be positively impacted by the collaborative effort
- Outline clear plans for the recruitment and/or development of diverse early-career faculty
- Engage the full diversity of the participating jurisdictions' resources in STEM workforce development
- Present a detailed strategy to generate subsequent, sustained non-EPSCoR funding from federal, jurisdictional, or private sector sources.

Questions: If you have questions or would like to learn more please contact: Rebecca Rinehart, Preaward Specialist at 3-6482 or rebecca.rinehart@uni.edu, or Tolif Hunt, Director of Research and Sponsored Programs at 3-3025 or tolf.hunt@uni.edu.

RSP preaward staff are available to discuss this program and to review your pre-proposal prior to submission upon request, if received early enough.