Call for Proposals:

NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement
Western Tri-State Consortium

Innovation Working Groups 2015-2016

Please Note: This Call for Proposal document specifically addresses requests for Innovation Working Groups among the three states of the Western Tri-State Consortium: Idaho, Nevada, and New Mexico.

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Overview and Deadlines

Innovation Working Groups

The Idaho, Nevada and New Mexico NSF EPSCoR-funded programs formed a consortium of EPSCoR states with similar research agendas related to climate change and water resources, and cyberinfrastructure. The **Western Tri-State Consortium** significantly increases opportunities for scientific collaboration and enhances each state's ability to secure competitive funding and tackle complex research and cyberinfrastructure agendas. In keeping with the Consortium mission, Innovation Working Group (IWG) funds are being made available to support collaborative, trans-disciplinary work by the three member states. The Western Tri-State Consortium IWG program is managed by a three-state team of Project Directors and EPSCoR staff.

IWGs provide a venue for engaging scientists and educators, along with key nationally and internationally recognized experts, to address the grand challenges that can transform science and education. This program supports working group activities that are modeled after those hosted by the highly successful NSF-supported National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS). Direct involvement in an EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII)-funded project is NOT a prerequisite for participation in this program. **A strategic final objective of the IWGs is the submission of proposals that target NSF crosscutting programs and/or the publication of synthesis papers in peer reviewed journals.**

What IWG Funds Will Support

IWG funds are designated for projects that are clearly related to the research, cyberinfrastructure, education, diversity, and outreach topics of the current EPSCoR RII Track 1 and Track 2 programs, as described in the original proposal of each Consortium state. Track 1 and 2 proposal summaries and project information are found at www.nsf.gov, are available upon request, and are found at:

Nevada: http://epscorspo.nevada.edu/ - RII: The Solar Energy-Water-Environment Nexus in Nevada
New Mexico: http://www.nmepscor.org/ - RII: Energize New Mexico
Idaho: https://www.idahoecosystems.org - RII: Managing Idaho's Landscapes for Ecosystem Services

Track 2: http://westernconsortium.org - Western Consortium for Watershed Analysis, Visualization and Exploration (WC-WAVE)

Topics that position teams for NSF opportunities related to Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS) are particularly encouraged. IWG support is aimed at working groups that emphasize the collaborative development and testing of important ideas and theories, cutting-edge analysis of recent or existing data and information, the use of sound science policy and management decisions, and investigation of social issues. An IWG typically will support 8-12 scientists, engineers, or educators who work collaboratively for 3-5 days on their proposed challenging issues.

Who Should Apply

- Any individual (faculty and/or postdocs) from an Idaho, Nevada or New Mexico institution or national laboratory may submit proposals.
- IWGs are not intended to fund the collection of new data or field research.

Proposal Deadlines

Proposals are normally solicited four times per year. The next **due dates are September 1, 2015, December 1, 2015; June 1, 2016; and September 1, 2016.** Proposals may be submitted at other times after consultation with the EPSCoR Director of that state. Proposers will be given a response approximately one month after submission.

Expectations for IWG Scientists

Funding Source Acknowledgement. Acknowledgement of the funding sources is requested and should be formatted as: "This work was conducted as a part of an Innovation Working Group supported by the [insert State names] EPSCoR Programs, and funded by NSF (Grant # NSF- [for Track 1, insert NM 08814449, IIA-1301792 and/or NV IIA-1301726 as applicable)."

Reporting and Evaluation. The IWG lead investigator must write a summary report of the IWG efforts and outcomes within six months of award. For example, IWGs resulting from June 1 submission must convene and complete reports to EPSCoR prior to December 1 of the same year. In addition, it will be the responsibility of the lead investigator to ensure that NSF required data regarding IWG participants have been given to the designated EPSCoR person collecting the data. Evaluation and assessment questionnaires will be requested of participants and should be returned before the IWG meeting ends.

Tracking of Science Products. NSF requires that EPSCoR track science products resulting from the IWGs. The IWG lead and all participating scientists will need to provide their state EPSCoR Program with proposal submissions related to the IWG topic, the result or success of proposals, and relevant publication citations.

Writing an IWG Proposal

Content:

- IWGs should focus on topics related to the research, education, diversity and/or outreach agendas of the Consortium's Track 1 or Track 2 projects.
- Topics that position teams for NSF opportunities related to Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy and Water Systems (INFEWS) are particularly encouraged.
- IWG activities should be question-driven and product oriented.
- Proposals are evaluated on the collaborative and synthetic nature of the ideas.
- Proposals addressing crosscutting areas of science, engineering, or specific NSF cross-disciplinary programs are sought.
- Proposals should specify publication outcomes, especially journals targeted for special issues.
- IWGs should specify whether proposal development is a goal, and state the specific grant or NSF program targeted.
- IWGs should consider how to share their experience and results through campus seminars, broadcast seminars, online materials at the State EPSCoR websites, public media, and other approaches.

Requesting more than one convening:

- Proposals should request only one IWG convening session. In some cases, a face-to-face planning session prior to the IWG may be justified. A successful IWG may request funds in a subsequent proposal solicitation to convene again for follow up or continued development on the topic.

Participants:

- IWGs of 8 – 12 individuals working for 3 - 5 full days have been shown to be the most productive.
- IWGs should include a diverse array of participants and pay attention to gender balance and participation by underrepresented institutions or groups.
- Two consortium states must be represented and participation from three consortium states is encouraged.
- Postdocs are encouraged to serve as co-Leads
- One or more graduate students and/or post docs should be involved.

Location:

- IWGs meeting off-campus are preferred
- Field stations and LTER sites are possible meeting locations and help keep budgets reasonable. (e.g., NM – Sevilleta, Valles Caldera; Idaho – Priest River, McCall Outdoor School; NV –Sagehen Field Station (near Reno); Walking Box Ranch (near Las Vegas). Please discuss options with the State NSF EPSCoR Project Director.

Management

- IWGs should designate who will be responsible for managing: meeting logistics, participant information, finances, evaluation and assessment materials, and submission of the final report.

Guidelines for Proposals

Formatting and Submission

Proposals should be submitted in digital format in MS Word or as a PDF file. They should be submitted as a single complete document with graphics embedded in the document and should be less than 5MB in size. Please submit the proposal document by email to:

Attention: Marcie Jackson, NV EPSCoR (copies will be distributed to each participating state's EPSCoR office).

Email: marcie_jackson@nshe.nevada.edu **Phone:** 702-522-7079

Proposal Preparation

IWG proposals are relatively short but must include the information requested below. A maximum of 6 pages is allowed using 12pt font. Please include all of the information requested for the Project Description section below.

I. Proposal Title Page	1 p.	• Proposal Title • *Please state: "Western Tri-State Consortium IWG Proposal"* • Lead Investigator, Co-Investigator(s) • All affiliation and contact information for the above people • Date of Submission
II. Project Summary	1 p.	• Half-page summary statement
III. Project Description	2 – 3 ps.	• Problem statement • Scientific questions/hypotheses addressed • Proposed IWG topic and activities • Participating states • IWG convening dates and location • Name of individual participants, including institutional contacts and *whether confirmed* • Name of person designated to collect participant demographics and evaluation and assessment questionnaires • Timetable of activities including pre-meeting coordination, tentative working group agenda, and post-meeting deliverables • Statement of anticipated outcomes and benefits
IV. Budget	1 p.	• Budget

Proposal Budget and Finance Information

IWG support includes participant travel costs, which includes airfare, mileage, ground transportation, lodging and per diem (meals and incidentals). Meeting facility costs and food provided to participants when the meeting is occurring are also allowable. If a proposal is approved, the IWG leader is expected to remain within the proposed budget, and will work with the awarding institution's financial staff to process all expenses through the awarding institution. No sub-awards will be awarded so do not include indirect costs in the proposed budget. The granted budget must be expended during the specific period of the proposal. IWGs do not support salary for participants. All international travelers must adhere to NSF travel guidelines and the Fly America Act. Although there is no set limit on an IWG budget request, the EPSCoR Directors anticipate that well-justified budgets will not exceed the $12,000 - $15,000 range.

The budget should include all of the information below. Please put the budget in a table (or Excel) format. Clearly state the grand total amount requested.

I. Travel	Domestic	Number of domestic participants Travel amount per domestic participant Airfare Mileage Lodging Per diem: Use the meeting location appropriate GSA rate (http://www.gsa.gov) Ground transportation
	International	Number of international participants Travel amount per international participant Airfare Mileage Lodging Per diem: Use the meeting location appropriate GSA rate (http://www.gsa.gov) Ground transportation
		Total travel expenses
II. Meeting Facility Expenses		Meeting rooms, AV or computer equipment, etc. Food provided during the meeting *Total meeting facility expenses*
III. Total		**Total amount requested**

Proposal Review

Proposals will be reviewed by a team of Project Directors from all three states. In addition, up to three anonymous external reviewers may be sought for each proposal. Proposals are reviewed for merit, novel approaches, and rationale related to the Consortium's Track 1 research and education goals. Review criteria include:

- **Topic aligned with EPSCoR Track 1 or Track 2 research, education, diversity, and/or outreach agendas**
- **Question driven**
- **Product and outcome oriented**
- **Minimum of two Consortium states represented**
- **Significant participation by women, members, and institutions of underrepresented groups**
- **Participation of graduate students or postdoctoral scholars**
- **Multi-and trans-disciplinary participation**
- **Intellectual merit and transformative nature of the project**

Contact Information

For More Information:

Marcie Jackson, Nevada EPSCoR
Email**: marcie_jackson@nshe.nevada.edu** Phone: 702-522-7079

State NSF EPSCoR Project Directors:

Nevada: Dr. Gayle Dana (Gayle.Dana@dri.edu; 775-674-7538)
New Mexico: Dr. William Michener (william.michener@gmail.com, 505-277-2769)
Idaho: Dr. Peter Goodwin (pgoodwin@uidaho.edu; 208-850-1211)

NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Project Summaries

See Award Search at www.nsf.gov