



2024 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 early career 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](#) resources and/or [National Academies publications](#) (e.g., decadal surveys, etc.). Some websites for general NASA opportunities and resources can be found on the Idaho NASA EPSCoR website at: <https://www.idahonasaepscor.org/nasaresources>

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 \$50,000 including indirect/F&A costs. **No cost share is required, but proposers may voluntarily offer cost share.** The project period is approximately 1 year and may commence as early as Summer 2024. *Please note: The funding of 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 Eastern 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 in the past 3 years are not eligible to apply.

Proposal Compliance

All research proposals submitted through an eligible institution and satisfying the specific proposal guidelines below are eligible for review. To be considered compliant, each proposal must contain the following:

- Project abstract
- Proposed research description
- Alignment with NASA’s activities.
- Benefit to Idaho
- Future funding and/or technology transfer potential
- Project management plan
- CVs of PIs/Co-Is
- Budget Justification
- Budget Details

Prior to submission, the appropriate higher education institution research/grant office should approve the proposal. More details on proposal materials are included in the Proposal Guidelines section below.



All proposal materials must be submitted via the online proposal submission form available at <https://www.idahonasaepscor.org/submit>. Only two files should be uploaded with the form:

- 1) A single PDF file with all required proposal sections, and any optional sections.
- 2) A single Excel file with the budget details table.

Proposal Guidelines

Required sections:

- **Project abstract:** A brief description of the proposed project, not to exceed 250 words.
- **Proposed Research Description:** The proposed research description should describe the project and its scientific/technical merit. The research plan should be presented in plain language so that scientifically-literate individuals will be able to effectively evaluate the research plan.
- **Alignment with NASA's activities:** The alignment should be demonstrated by references to plans, solicitations, technology roadmaps, decadal plans, etc. Describe any established collaborations with NASA researchers and/or aerospace industry partners. Proposers without a connection to a NASA researcher may contact Idaho NASA EPSCoR at ine@uidaho.edu for assistance.
- **Benefit to Idaho:** Include a description of the benefits to the state of Idaho. How will this research promote the development of research expertise and infrastructure that will allow Idaho researchers to be nationally competitive in aerospace-related research?
- **Future funding and/or technology transfer potential:** Outline any plans for sustaining the proposed research beyond Idaho NASA EPSCoR funding. The proposal should identify a specific NASA or other agency solicitation to which a future research proposal will be submitted. Alternatively, the proposal can identify possible commercial uses or technology transfer potential.
- **Project Management Plan:** The description should include a research timeline with associated milestones and metrics to measure research success.

The sections above should total no more than 5 pages. The remaining sections have associated page limits.

- **Curriculum Vitae for P.I. and Co-Is (2-pages for PI; 1-page for each Co-I):** CVs for the P.I. and Co-Is must be included.
- **Budget Justification (5% of evaluation score) (No page limit):** The budget justification should explain the purpose of each expenditure and the sources of any optional cost share. The planned expenditures should align with both the budget details and the activities outlined in the body of the proposal.
- **Budget Details (5% of evaluation score) (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. While the budget table can also appear in the proposal – the Excel file should also be submitted. Describe how each dollar amount was calculated, if not immediately apparent in the budget spreadsheet. Budget templates are available on the INE website at <https://www.idahonasaepscor.org/resources>.

Please keep in mind the following restrictions when preparing the budget:

- All individuals (including students) supported with Idaho NASA EPSCoR funds must be U.S. citizens. Exceptions to this policy exist for faculty members of accredited U.S. institutions of higher education. Please contact ine@uidaho.edu for details.
- 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.
- Idaho NASA EPSCoR funding cannot be used to purchase general-purpose equipment (e.g., desktop workstations, office furnishings, reproduction and printing equipment, etc.).
- Idaho NASA EPSCoR funding cannot be used to support NASA civil servant salaries or travel.



- Indirect costs for institutions are limited to the negotiated rate and base of the institution.

Optional Sections:

- ***Collaboration Letters/Letters of Support (No page limit):*** Any letters from NASA, industry, or other organizations, should be included in this section.
- ***References, if needed (No page limit)***
- ***Summary of research accomplishments (No page limit):*** Researchers who have received previous 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 collaborations initiated with NASA and industry.

Required Reporting and Invoicing

Progress and final reports are required for selected projects. Additional reporting information will be provided at the time of award. Any publications or presentations related to the project should also be submitted to Idaho NASA EPSCoR. Awarded projects should be prepared to invoice Idaho NASA EPSCoR monthly for project expenditures.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- **Proposed Research Description** - 40% of evaluation score
- **Alignment with NASA’s activities** - 20% of evaluation score
- **Benefit to Idaho** - 10% of evaluation score
- **Future funding and/or technology transfer potential** - 10% of evaluation score
- **Project Management Plan** - 10% of evaluation score
- **Budget Justification** - 5% of evaluation score
- **Budget Details** - 5% of evaluation score

Proposal Submission

Proposals should be single spaced, no smaller than 11-point font, and have one-inch margins on all sides. Submissions will be evaluated for compliance with the page limits described in the proposal guidelines above. The main proposal should be a PDF file. The budget should be an MS Excel file.

Research Initiation Grant proposals must be submitted via the Idaho NASA EPSCoR website. Please visit www.idahonasaepscor.org and click the Submit Proposals tab and follow the instructions on the submission form.

Pre-Proposal Webinar

Idaho NASA EPSCoR will hold a pre-proposal webinar for proposers. The webinar date is:

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 3:30 pm Pacific/4:30 pm Mountain

Meeting link: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/81313998678>

Meeting ID: 813 1399 8678

The teleconference will be recorded, and a link made available on the Idaho NASA EPSCoR website.

Submission Deadline: Friday, February 16, 2024 (11:59 pm Pacific Time)