



To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office (FRDO)  
Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF, Innovation Corps Hubs Program (I-Corps™ Hubs), NSF 22-566

Date: March 2, 2022

Dear UNM Researchers,

The NSF seeks to further develop and nurture a national innovation ecosystem that guides the output of scientific discoveries closer to the development of technologies, products, processes, and services that benefit society. The goal of the NSF Innovation Corps (I-Corps) Program, created in 2011 by NSF, is to reduce the time and risk associated with translating promising ideas and technologies from the laboratory to the marketplace, to increase the economic competitiveness of the United States, to encourage collaboration between academia and industry, and to train NSF-funded faculty, students, post-docs, and other researchers in innovation and entrepreneurship skills. The I-Corps Program utilizes experiential learning of customer and industry discovery, coupled with first-hand investigation of industrial problems and processes, to quickly assess the translational potential of inventions. The I-Corps Program is designed to support the commercialization of so-called "deep technologies," i.e., those based on fundamental discoveries in science and engineering. The I-Corps program addresses the skill and knowledge gap associated with the transformation of promising basic research outcomes into deep technology ventures (DTV).

Please distribute this notice to departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

I-Corps Hubs are consortia of institutions of higher education spanning distinct geographic regions with common goals and challenges to collaborate to provide entrepreneurial training to members of the scientific community (students, postdocs, faculty, and other researchers). These collaborating institutions participate in a Hub to achieve operational excellence and to facilitate interactions with stakeholders in their entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem. Each Hub has a Lead institution to oversee operational management of the consortium and seven initial Partner institutions that contribute to the success of the Hub objectives, activities, and expected outcomes. A Lead institution may be a current or former I-Corps Node or Site (Track 1), or they may be entirely new to the I-Corps program (Track 2). NSF I-Corps Hub awardees will be supported at a level of up to \$3,000,000 per year for up to five years. All funds are awarded to the Lead institution; Partner institutions receive funding as subawardees. Additional details can be found in the [program solicitation](#). The deadline for full proposals to the agency is May 11, 2022.

This is a limited competition. **Each institution is limited to ONE proposal (as either a Lead or Partner).** If you are interested in applying, please submit a brief (200-300 word) statement of interest through the [InfoReady Review Portal](#) by **NOON on Tuesday, March 15, 2022**. **This is a required step** that will help us determine if a call for preproposals is necessary. Should we receive more than one statement of interest, we will request a 3-page preproposal from all interested parties. No late submissions will be considered.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact us at [limited@unm.edu](mailto:limited@unm.edu).

*If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact [Corey Ford](#) or [Cassandra Misenar](#) for more information.*