To: Distribution List

From: Faculty Research Development Office
           Office of the Vice President for Research

Subject: Limited Competition: NSF: EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track 4: EPSCoR
           Research Fellows (RII Track-4) NSF 21-557

Date: January 21, 2022

UNM Researchers,

The Office of the Vice President for Research is requesting preproposals for the NSF EPSCoR Research
Infrastructure Improvement Track 4: EPSCoR Research Fellows (RII Track-4). Please distribute this notice to
departments and individuals whom you believe would be interested.

NOTE: The solicitation has been revised to include a new **RII Track-4:FAST pilot program** that aims to
further develop non-tenured faculty's individual research potential through extended collaborative visits to
NASA research facilities located at NASA Centers throughout the US.

The original program is still in place, and is now called **RII Track-4:NSF**. This original Track-4 program
provides support to further develop non-tenured faculty's individual research potential through extended
collaborative visits to the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic research centers of choice.

Full proposals for both the NSF and FAST programs are due to NSF on April 12, 2022. For complete program
and eligibility details: https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21557/nsf21557.htm.

Synopsis:
RII Track-4 provides opportunities for non-tenured investigators to further develop their individual research
potential through extended collaborative visits to the nation's premier private, governmental, or academic
research centers (RII Track-4:NSF) or to NASA research facilities located at NASA Centers throughout the US
(RII Track-4:FAST). During these visits, the EPSCoR Research Fellows will be able to learn new techniques,
develop new collaborations or advance existing partnerships, benefit from access to unique equipment and
facilities, and/or shift their research toward potentially transformative new directions. The experiences gained
through the fellowships are intended to have lasting impacts that will enhance the Fellows' research trajectories
well beyond the award period. These benefits to the Fellows are also expected to in turn improve the research
capacity of their institutions and jurisdictions more broadly. Those submitting proposals must either hold a non-
tenured faculty appointment at an institution of higher education or an early-career career-track appointment at
an eligible non-degree-granting institution.

Eligibility:
PIs of proposed RII Track-4 projects must have their primary appointment with the submitting organization. PIs
must hold a non-tenured faculty appointment, or its close equivalent. This may be in the form of a pre-tenure
tenure-track position or a long-term non-tenure-track position. Persons holding non-faculty research staff
positions or transitional (less than 3 years) fixed-term postdoctoral appointments are not eligible for this
program. Only single-PI proposals will be considered. No co-PIs should be included on the proposal. No PI who
has received an award in any previous RII Track-4 competition may submit a proposal under this solicitation.

Additional Eligibility Requirements for RII Track-4:FAST (Not for RII Track-4:NSF)

To access NASA facilities for the fellowship, the PI and potential trainee must show proof of United States Citizenship as part of an on-boarding process that is managed by NASA.

This is a limited competition. Only three (3) RII Track-4:NSF and six (6) RII Track-4:FAST proposals may be submitted in response to this solicitation by any single organization in a RII-eligible jurisdiction. An investigator may serve as PI on only one (1) proposal submitted in response to this solicitation.

Budget Parameters:
- Funding requests are for a total duration of 24 months. Total funds requested may not exceed $300,000.
- Budgets may include up to six months of salary and fringe benefit support for the PI. Support may be for academic, calendar, or summer months. Up to six months of salary and fringe benefit support (including tuition at the home institution if appropriate) is also allowed for one additional trainee-level participant. The six-month limit on salary and fringe benefit requests for each participant is total, not per year.
- Travel expenses for the PI and one additional trainee-level researcher may be requested solely for travel between the PI's home institution and the host site. Multiple trips between the two sites are allowed, however the total budget for travel expenses may not exceed $20,000.
- Living expenses for the PI and one additional trainee-level researcher are allowed during time spent at the host site. Living expense charges (Lodging, Meals, and Incidental Expenses) may not exceed the *per diem* rates set by the United States General Services Administration (GSA) for the host site location. The total budget for living expenses may not exceed $50,000.
- Up to $5,000 may be requested for other travel related to the fellowship project.
- Up to $10,000 in additional direct costs are allowed. These funds may be used for shipping equipment, purchasing supplies, laboratory or computational facility fees, publication charges, or other similar costs directly related to the research activities at the host site.
- For RII Track-4:FAST awardees, NASA will manage requests for a $60,000 Research Infrastructure Development (RID) award to be made to the home institution to build research capacity and infrastructure. Awardees should use the NASA points of contact in the solicitation to initiate the provision of this award. This award is managed solely by NASA EPSCoR and should not be included in budget requests for RII Track-4:FAST proposals. Special purpose equipment purchases (i.e., equipment that is used only for research, scientific, and technical activities directly related to the proposed research activities) are allowed. Special purpose equipment items with a unit cost of $5,000 or more must have the prior written approval of the Federal awarding agency, in this case, the NASA Grants Officer.
- Collaborators at the host institutions are not eligible to receive salary or fringe benefit support under this award. Host institutions may receive payment for accommodations provided to the PI or trainee-level participant during the fellowship visit; these expenses may include lodging, meals, and incidental expenses. Host institutions may also receive payment for services directly related to research activities during the fellowship visit; such costs must be consistent with established fee structures at the host institution and are subject to the award's overall $10,000 limit for additional direct costs. Under no circumstances may there be a subaward to the host institution.

This limited competition will have a <u>two-step process</u>:
1. By noon on **Thursday, February 3, 2022**, please submit a **<u>required</u>** statement of interest via UNM's InfoReady Review portal https://unm.infoready4.com/ with:
   a. Your name, department, rank, and program submitting to: NSF or FAST
   b. 100 word (maximum) description of area of research interest
   c. Signed approval by department chair
   d. Names of potential host organization(s)
2. By noon on **Thursday, February 17, 2022**, please submit a 3-page preliminary proposal via UNM's InfoReady Review portal https://unm.infoready4.com/ that includes:
   a. Your name, department, rank, host institution and name of collaborator(s) at host institution, and program submitting to: NSF or FAST
   b. Description of the research to be conducted and anticipated impact on your career
   c. Letter of support signed by your department chair and dean
   d. Letter of tentative agreement from your collaborator at the host organization

Additional details on what to include in the preliminary proposal are provided in the attached preliminary proposal instructions below.

Note: The submission of the statement of interest is <u>required</u> in order for the preliminary proposal to be reviewed by the limited competitions committee.

If you have any questions, please contact us limited@unm.edu.

If you are affiliated with HSC, please contact Corey Ford (CFord@salud.unm.edu) or Cassandra Misenar (CMisenar@salud.unm.edu) for more information.

Attachment

Preliminary Proposal Instructions for NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track 4: EPSCoR Research Fellows (RII Track-4), NSF 21-557

<mark>Due by noon on **Thursday, February 17, 2022**</mark> via UNM's InfoReady Review portal
https://unm.infoready4.com/

3 page maximum, 11 point font, 1 inch margins

Top of page 1:
Name
Department
Rank
Host institution and name of collaborator(s) at host institution
Program submitting to (NSF or FAST)

Narrative should address in language understandable to a broad scientific audience:
- Goals and objectives for the fellowship
- Research plan for achieving the goals
- Role of the host site in achieving the research goals
- Explanation of how the PI will benefit from the fellowship; and the opportunities it will provide that are not available at UNM
- How UNM will benefit from this fellowship in the future
- Timeline for meeting project goals

Also required, but <u>not</u> included in the pre-proposal 3-page limit:
- References cited in the narrative
- Biographical sketch for the PI (3 page maximum, in new NSF approved format)
- Statement of support/approval signed by the Department Chair and Dean
- Brief letter of intent to collaborate from primary research collaborator(s) at host site

The preliminary proposal does <u>not</u> need to be entered into Cayuse; it will be used for the review process only.

NOTE: Eligibility for RII Track-4:FAST

To access NASA facilities for the fellowship, the PI and potential trainee must show proof of United States Citizenship as part of an on-boarding process that is managed by NASA. This requirement only applies to RII Track-4:FAST fellowship awardees.