

NSF EPSCoR – FY 2013

EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition Advocacy Material

FY 2012 Appropriation:	\$150.9 million
FY 2013 Budget Request:	\$158.19 million
EPSCoR States Request:	\$158.19 million

Background

- The NSF EPSCoR program is designed to ensure: (1) a national research community that includes and utilizes all our nation's resources; (2) a competitive research infrastructure in each state; and (3) the avoidance of an "undue concentration" of NSF funding as directed in the original NSF legislation.
- Currently, any state that received 0.75 percent or less of NSF funding calculated for a three year period, is eligible for NSF EPSCoR. States currently eligible are: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, Wyoming, U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam.
- EPSCoR is an authorized program whose mission is to help moderate the skewed allocation of NSF and other Federal R&D funding to very few states.

National Benefits

- At a time of increasing global competitiveness and economic challenges, the U.S. must invest in the research that will lead to new technologies and train the people who will compose the workforce of the future. Our economic prosperity, our standard of living, the quality of our health care system, the resolution of energy, water, climate and many other outstanding issues demand no less.
- The U.S. must engage all its people – wherever they are located – in a national research community. The U.S. needs the talents and expertise of students and faculty in all states, just as students and researchers in all states should have the opportunity to pursue answers to the challenges that face our nation.
- Today, more than half the states still do not fully participate in the \$25 billion federal R&D effort. Twenty-seven (27) states and two jurisdictions, with 20 percent of the population and 25 percent of research universities only receive about 10 percent of all NSF research funding. Yet, these states are major participants in many of the areas begging for attention. For example, they educate large numbers of engineers; they are major energy producing states; they lead in oceans policy and research, and they are in the forefront of disciplines related to climate change.

State Benefits

- A strong research base is important to every state in order to provide sound education and research opportunities for its students (most students attend college within 100 miles of home) and for supporting both existing and emerging businesses, especially in the high technology area. Studies show that high technology businesses tend to cluster where they have a trained workforce and strong research capability and support.
- EPSCoR states have growing research bases that should be expanded and enhanced. But additional investments in basic infrastructure – people, scientific equipment, and related support – are badly needed. NSF

has a key role to play since it provides three-fourths of all basic scientific research funding for colleges and universities.