

Frequently Asked Questions for DE-FOA-0001432, Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR); Building EPSCoR-State/National Laboratory Partnerships

1) Is there any limitation on number of applications submitted by either an institution or by an EPSCoR State or Jurisdiction?

A. There is no limitation on numbers of applications from institutions. There is no limitation on numbers of applications from EPSCoR jurisdictions. There is a limit of one application per Principal Investigator (PI). One may participate as a co-PI on others' pre-applications.

2) I was previously supported as a Principal Investigator (PI) or Project Director on a DOE-funded grant or a DOE-funded FWP or an SBIR or STTR award.

a) May I receive funding under this FOA?

A. No

b) May I serve as an unfunded co-PI and as the advisor for a graduate student or post doc supported under an award under this FOA?

A. If allowed by your university or institution, yes.

c) As an unfunded co-PI may I be supported by the university to participate in this research through release time?

A. Yes.

3) The national laboratory collaborator

a) requests if s/he may receive travel support to visit the PI's institution?

A. The national laboratory collaborator may receive support for lodging and sustenance while at the awardee's institution in an EPSCoR jurisdiction.

b) requests a subcontract from the awardees institution to support her/his time or effort.

A. This is not permitted under this FOA.

4) I have an existing collaboration with a National Laboratory staff member. May that existing partnership be the basis for the collaboration proposed in response to this FOA?

A. Yes, however please be thoughtful with respect to how the research proposed will build, extend and deepen a partnership versus merely continuing an existing partnership.

5) I have a previous or current award from: a) a National Laboratory; or b) a consortium operating a DOE National Laboratory or user facility, for example, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), the Battelle Energy Alliance (BEA); or c) the Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP); or d) the Office of Science, Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists. Am I eligible to apply?

A. If the award was from the National Laboratory or the consortium itself and not directly from DOE, yes. If the Nuclear Energy University Program award was through a National Laboratory, then yes as well. If the award was from the Office of Science, Office of Workforce Development for Teachers for the Students Faculty and Student Teams (FaST) program or Visiting Faculty Programs through a DOE National Laboratory or a DOE contractor you are also eligible to apply.

6) May I contact DOE program managers, program directors or program staff to obtain further information about their program areas or regarding their possible interest in my research?

A. Yes, many DOE programs provide staff contact information on their websites. If you are having difficulties finding further program information or the appropriate DOE staff to contact, please contact the DOE EPSCoR program for assistance.

7) I noticed that the FOA was released by 'Basic Energy Sciences' (BES) program, but I think it would cover all the DOE programs, but not only BES, right? For example, if I want to submit a proposal that is relevant to the 'Biological and Environmental Research' or the Office of Fossil Energy or the Office of Vehicle Technologies in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, it would be OK, right?

A. Yes, pre-applications and application relevant to all DOE programs listed on pages 3-4 would be eligible. You may contact DOE program staff to discuss further your research and their program interests before the pre-application due date. (see also answer 6 above) Some may not be able to respond in time due to their schedule or workload. This should not prevent you from listing them or their program areas on the pre-application.

8) May I collaborate with more than one National Laboratory? Will I need an endorsement letter or letters from each laboratory?

A. Yes, you may collaborate with more than one National Laboratory. For the pre-application an endorsement letter or letters from one of the National Laboratories will suffice. For the formal application an appropriate endorsement letter or letters from each National Laboratory involved in the collaboration would be appropriate.

9) May more than one university be involved in a proposed collaboration with a National Laboratory.

A. Yes. Funding is restricted to those institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions.

10) Who may sign the endorsement letter for the State EPSCoR Committee? Are there specific content requirements for this endorsement letter?

A. Anyone who is authorized by the State EPSCoR Committee or its local equivalent may sign. Some sample language, "On behalf of the ...[organization name]... which acts as the State EPSCoR Committee for the State of ..., I am pleased to endorse the application" There are no specific requirements for this endorsement letter.

11) My National Laboratory collaborator holds a joint faculty appointment with the University of.... Is s/he an appropriate collaborator?

A. Yes. The application narrative and endorsement letter or letters from the National Laboratory should make it clear that the research collaboration will involve the National Laboratory.

12) A couple months ago I submitted a pre-application to another DOE FOA for the DOE Early Career Award (DOE-FOA-0001386) and was invited for a full submission. I am currently preparing this for submission which is due on 11-19. Is it plausible to submit the same (or closely related) pre-proposal to the DOE EPSCoR FOA that I submitted for the DOE Early Career Award?

A) You may submit the same or a closely related pre-proposal or proposal to the EPSCoR FOA as to another FOA. Please clearly note what you are doing in the Current and Pending Support section.

13) Does the pre-application need to include a full list of collaborators? Does the National Laboratory Collaborator need to include a full list of collaborators?

A) Yes to both questions. The list of collaborators is used in the process of identifying conflicts of interest for potential reviewers. An updated listing of collaborators is requested with the formal application.

14) May there be small changes in the budget request from the pre-application to the formal application?

A) Yes, the budget for the pre-application is an informal best estimate of total expenses by the Investigator (please keep to one paragraph or less) and does not require a formal budget submission.

15) Cost share by state or by institution is not a requirement, but is permitted. How much is the cost share by the state or institution considered in the evaluation?

A) Cost-sharing, per se, is not required and will not be considered. There is however a requirement for a letter or letters of institutional, jurisdictional or private sector commitment as noted on page 21 of the FOA.

16) Is it possible to be funded as a Co-PI on one award and as the lead-PI on another?

A) Yes, it is possible.

17) How will the pre-applications be reviewed?

A) Reference page 10 of the FOA near the bottom.

19) Is there a preference between staffing with graduate students versus post-doctoral fellows?

A) No, you may choose what is most suitable to the research being undertaken.

20) May I contact DOE program staff after I submit the pre-application?

A) You may contact DOE personnel at any time. They may not be able to discuss matters involving items currently under review.