

## Nebraska EPSCoR

### Request for Proposals

#### Trans-disciplinary, Multi-Institutional Research Clusters

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Dr. F. Fred Choobineh, P.E.

October 12, 2011

**TO:** Research Administrators, Deans and Department Chairs/Heads (**please notify appropriate faculty**)

**FROM:** F. Fred Choobineh, Director, Nebraska EPSCoR

**RE:** Call for Proposals for Creation of Tran-disciplinary, Multi-campus Research Clusters

#### Deadlines

**Letter of intent: 5:00 PM, Monday, January 9, 2012**

**Proposal: 5:00 PM, Monday, February 6, 2012**

#### Program Description

Nebraska EPSCoR is committed to capitalizing on existing strengths and strategic visions of the state's research universities for enhancing research infrastructure and competitiveness of the state. An indicator of national competitiveness is the ability to successfully compete for multi-million dollar federal research grants. Generally, successful large federal research grants support trans-disciplinary, multi-institutional research clusters. Nebraska EPSCoR is planning to provide seed money for the successful creation of up to two such clusters over a one or two year period. The number of proposals supported and the length of support depends on the quality of proposals received.

**Amount of award:** \$250,000 to \$300,000 per cluster per year.

**Potential start date:** May 1, 2012

#### Budgetary Information

**Cost sharing requirement:** 25 percent cash cost share of the amount of award is required. Cash cost share must be proportional to the amount of grant expenditure at each campus.

**Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Indirect costs are not allowed and may not be used for satisfying the cost share requirement.

**Other Budgetary Limitations:** Faculty salary may not be requested.

#### Eligibility Information

**Institutions:** Only Nebraska academic institutions are eligible to participate.

**Cluster Leader(s):** The Cluster Leader or Co-Leaders should be a tenured faculty and may participate in no more than one Research Proposal.

**Limit on the number of proposals per institution:** None

**Disciplines:** A proposed research cluster must be within the scope of disciplines supported by the NSF in basic sciences, engineering and/or mathematics. Furthermore, a research proposal must be trans-disciplinary and multi-institutional and focus on a research “cluster” that has a common scientific theme.

## **Selection Process**

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Proposals will be merit reviewed by a grant subcommittee. The State EPSCoR Committee, by considering the recommendations of the grant subcommittee, will select the proposal(s) to be funded.

## **Proposal Content**

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The proposal must be prepared using **font size 11 or greater with 1 inch margins**. A complete proposal must include Parts A, B, C, and D as described below.

### **A. Executive Summary**

The Executive Summary must be at least half a page, but not more than one page, and is not included in the main body page limit.

### **B. The Main Body**

The main body of the proposal, including references, cannot exceed **10 pages**. The main body should include the following four mandatory sections; additional sections may be added when necessary.

1. A section titled **Introduction** must provide a general description of the cluster theme and should establish the basis and importance of the proposed research.
2. A section titled **Current Status** must describe the current status and strength of cluster-related research activities by participating institutions and how they complement each other.
3. A section titled **Proposed Activities** must describe the planned activities for one year of the project and anticipated outcomes, and how the proposed investment enhances research competitiveness of the cluster.
4. A section titled **Future Activities** must provide a concise description of major activities that will be included if funding were extended for a second year and in a future large scale proposal. This section must clearly indicate which of the NSF program(s) will be targeted for submission of a large scale proposal.

### **C. Curriculum Vita**

Provide a two-page CV for the cluster leader(s) and significant collaborators. Do not append full CVs. This CV should indicate your position, degrees, and reflect your experience (grants and publications in general terms, but also in specific terms as related to the proposed research project or recent efforts) and any special background information of which you wish the Nebraska EPSCoR Committee to be aware.

### **D. Budget form and budget justification**

Complete the Nebraska EPSCoR Proposal Budget and Approval Form available from our web site <http://epscor.unl.edu/forms.shtml> and provide a maximum of one page budget justification. The budget and justification are not included in the page limit for the main body of the proposal. The budget form will be the proposal cover sheet. The appropriate campus-level approval signature(s) and account number(s) are required for the cost share commitment.

*Proposals not conforming to the above specifications will be returned without review. If you have any questions, please call the Nebraska EPSCoR Office at 402-472-8946 or e-mail: [epscor@unl.edu](mailto:epscor@unl.edu).*

### **Proposal Submission Instructions and Due Dates**

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**Letter of Intent:** The letter of intent must include the title of the proposal, the name and affiliation of the cluster leader(s), and the names and affiliations of the significant collaborators. The letter of intent must be e-mailed to the EPSCoR Office at [epscor@unl.edu](mailto:epscor@unl.edu). Failure to submit a letter of intent will result in your proposal not being reviewed.

The *letter of intent* must be received no later than **5:00 PM, Monday, January 9, 2012**

**Proposal:** The *original proposal*, in print and with the appropriate campus-level signature(s) and account number(s), must be received no later than **5:00 PM, Monday, February 6, 2012**, in the Nebraska EPSCoR office at W192 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0557.

In addition, the proposal must also be *submitted electronically* via the Nebraska EPSCoR web site at <http://ucommxsr1.unl.edu/epscor/proposal.php> no later than **5:00 PM, Monday, February 6, 2012**.

**Budget and Budget Justification note:** The budget must be submitted as one PDF file under “Budget File.” The rest of your submission must be submitted as one PDF file under “CV & Proposal File.”