



Maine NSF EPSCoR at the University of Maine
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www.umaine.edu/epscor/RII_development.htm



National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) FY2014-2019 Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track 1 Program

Maine EPSCoR RII Track 1 Proposal Development Process

Maine EPSCoR will become eligible to submit another proposal to the NSF EPSCoR RII Track 1 solicitation during mid to late 2013. These are currently \$20M awards over five years, and are limited to one per state at any one time. Maine EPSCoR at the University of Maine administers and implements the proposal development process and the awarded projects, and the University of Maine is the fiduciary recipient for the award. The current RII project is the Sustainability Solutions Initiative, which will finish June 2014, and directly supports over 300 research participants at 10+ institutions of higher education throughout the state.

These grants are statewide infrastructure improvement awards, and as such, are not meant for individual faculty, small group, or individual institution research projects. The RII Track 1 is required to address a comprehensive, integrated, trans-disciplinary statewide focus that creates a substantial academic research infrastructure for the state & involves participants from colleges & universities throughout the state.

Maine has traditionally (and successfully) approached these RII Track 1 awards with a single research focus and the intent to create a targeted new or expanded research capacity for the state (i.e. new research centers). The specific statewide research focus needs to be in alignment with – and furthering - Maine’s Science and Technology Action Plan, which identifies seven areas of importance: marine science & aquaculture; precision manufacturing; agriculture and forestry; biotechnology; information technology; environmental/energy technology; and advanced materials and composites.

The Maine EPSCoR office will begin the proposal development process with an informational session scheduled for **1-3 p.m. on November 1, 2012**, where the RII Track 1 program and proposal development process will be described in detail. All interested parties are invited to attend in person or virtually (please contact the Maine EPSCoR office at (207)-581-2285 to make arrangements for videoconference, webcam, or conference call access).

This will be followed by a concept paper and pre-proposal process, with selected pre-proposals undergoing several layers of review including AAAS, a state panel, and the Maine Innovation and Economy Advisory Board (MIEAB). The submission of the proposal to NSF will take place sometime between July and October 2013, with a tentative start date in July 2014 if approved for funding.

See www.umaine.edu/epscor/RII_development.htm for current information, or feel free to direct any questions to Maine EPSCoR Director Vicki Nemeth at (207)-581-3399 or vicki.nemeth@umit.maine.edu.

For more information on NSF EPSCoR programs, see <http://www.nsf.gov/od/oia/programs/epscor/about.jsp>