

Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) Overview



Dr. Jennifer Becker
DEPSCoR Program Manager
Basic Research Office
DEPSCoR Webinar

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Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) Team

Dr. Bindu Nair

Director for the Basic Research Office (BRO)

Dr. Jennifer Becker

Dr. Melissa Edwards

BRO

Drs. Michael Finnin and Allison King

Scientific Advisors

Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA)

Ms. Patricia Gorski

Grants Officer for Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)



DEPSCoR Program Overview

- Defense *Experimental* Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was created by Congress in FY91 DoD appropriation, and legislatively authorized in 1994
- Defense *Established* Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (DEPSCoR) was reauthorized in 2017
- Appropriations (\$20M): FY23 Defense Appropriations Congressional supplement to the Basic Research Initiatives program line dedicated to DEPSCoR



Program Goals

DEPSCoR Objectives as mandated by Congress:

1. **Enhance the capabilities** of institutions of higher education (IHE) in eligible State/Territories to develop, plan, and execute science and engineering (S&E) research that is relevant to the mission of the DoD and competitive under the peer-review systems used for awarding Federal research assistance
2. **Increase the number of university researchers** in eligible States/Territories capable of performing S&E research responsive to the needs of the DoD
3. **Increase the probability of long-term growth** in the **competitively awarded** financial assistance that IHE in eligible States/Territories receive from the Federal Government for S&E research

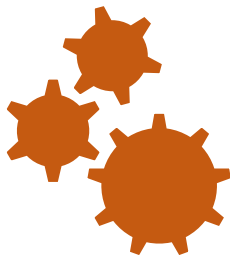


DEPSCoR: Defense Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Program Goal

To increase the number of university researchers and improve the capabilities of institutions of higher education in eligible jurisdictions to perform competitive basic research in science & engineering relevant to the DoD mission & reflect national security priorities.

Key Components



**Capacity Building
DEPSCoR
Competition**



**Research Collaboration
DEPSCoR
Competition**

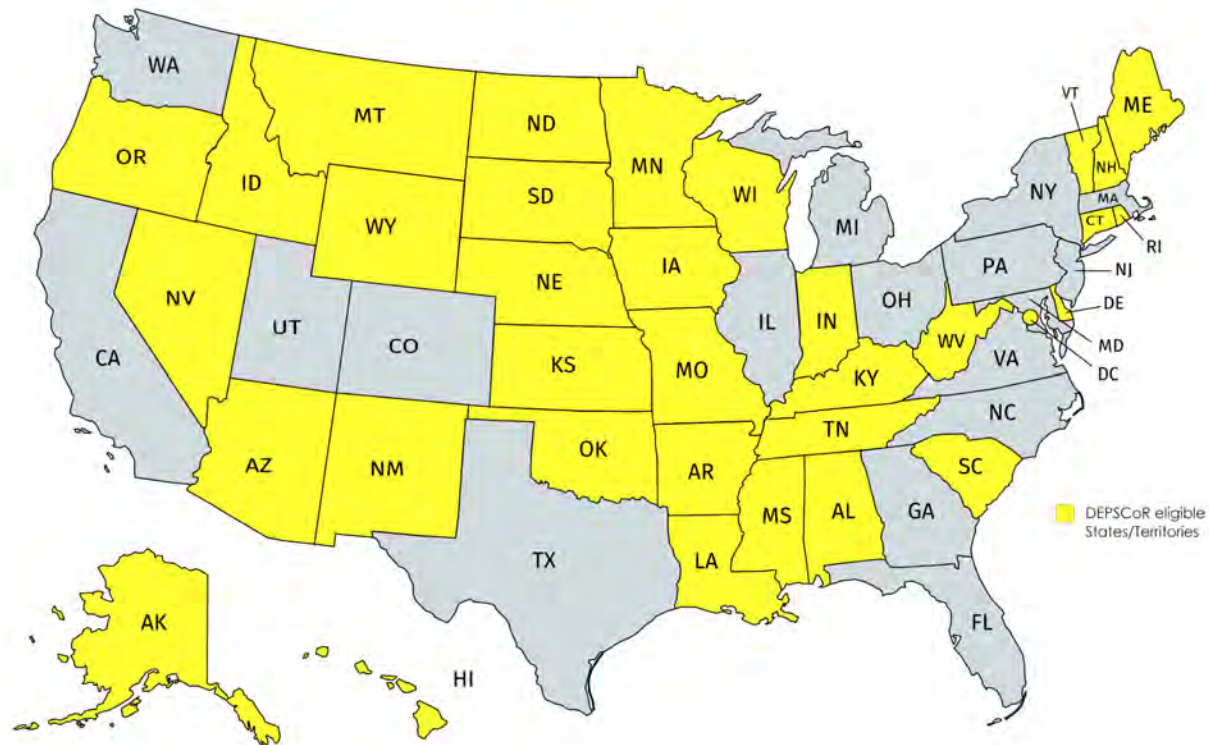


**Outreach &
Education**



FY23 Program Eligibility

Congressionally-directed eligibility criteria: “States or territories that received less than 60% of 1/50th of the total DoD S&E research obligations to U.S. IHE are eligible if a commitment to developing S&E research is demonstrated.”



*Eligible territories include Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

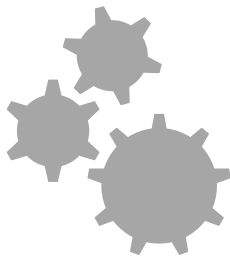


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DEPSCoR Outreach Events

Montana State University
May 2023

University of South Dakota
Jul 2022

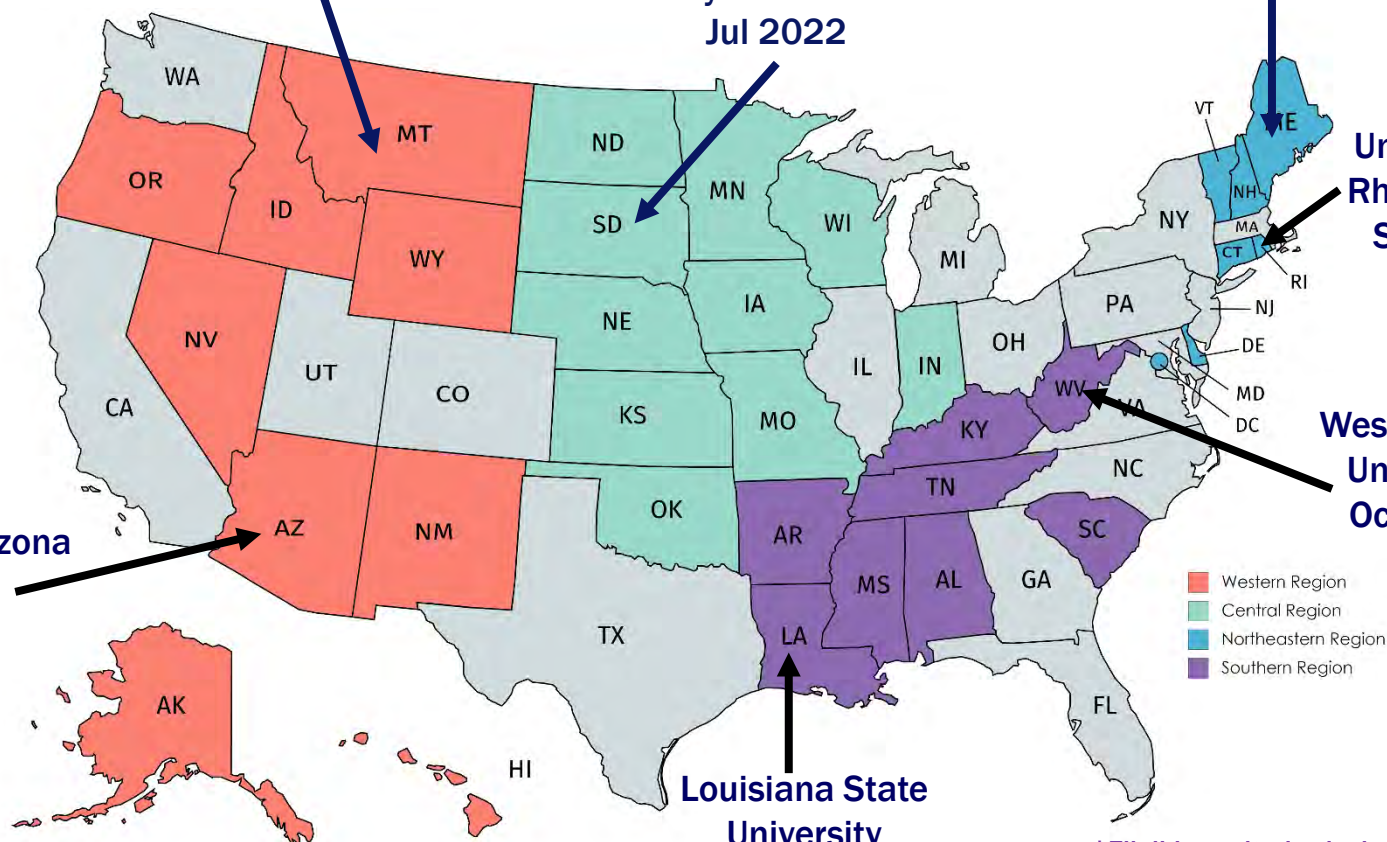
Portland, Maine
TODAY

University of
Rhode Island
Sep 2019

West Virginia
University
Oct 2022

University of Arizona
Feb 2022

Louisiana State
University
Feb 2020



*Eligible territories include Guam, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands

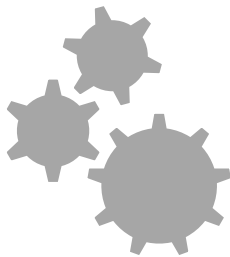


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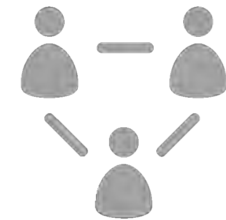
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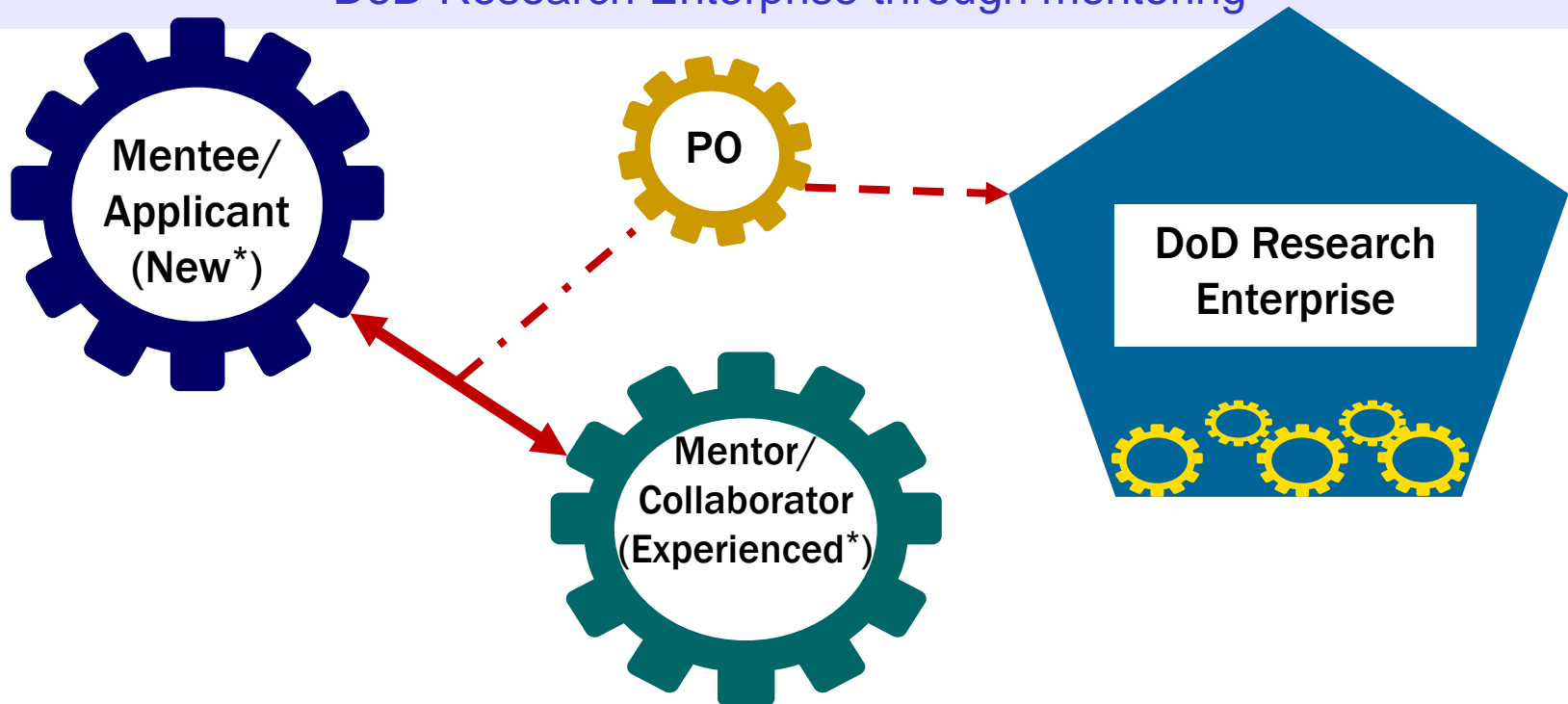


Outreach &
Education



Research Collaboration DEPSCoR Competition

Integrate new researchers from DEPSCoR-eligible states/territories into the DoD Research Enterprise through mentoring



Program Structure:

- 2-person team from DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply
 - \$200K/year (total cost) for three years
- **FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0008 CLOSED 12 JUNE 2023**



DEPSCoR – Research Collaboration Competition

- Collaborative research grants
- **Strongly encouraged to flesh out proposal idea with a tri-Service Program Officer listed in the FOA**
- One white paper submission per Applicant
- Collaborator may partner with more than one Applicant
- Security clearance is not required to receive award
- U.S. citizenship is not required
- Approximately 25 proposals will be selected for funding



DEPSCoR – Research Collaboration Competition

- Both Applicant and Collaborator must be **tenured or tenure-track faculty members** with appointments at an IHE in a DEPSCoR eligible State/Territory
- Applicant must be a full-time faculty member who has **never** served as a PI on a prior DoD-funded award
- Collaborator will collaborate on research AND provide *mentorship* to the Applicant. Collaborator must have **served as a PI on a DoD-funded research award actively between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2023.**



Establishing a Collaboration

Defense Technical Information Center - non-comprehensive repository of government-funded scientific, technical, and engineering information for the DoD.

<https://discover.dtic.mil/products-services/>

Connect and Collaborate - site where prospective Applicants and Collaborators, seeking collaboration in this DEPSCoR opportunity can post their interest. [https://dod-](https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)

[basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor](https://dod-basicresearch.nvision.noblis.org/program/depacor)

Discussing proposed research with the Program Officer could identify possible networking leads.

Ways To Engage with tri-Service Program Officers



Email preferred for most POs



Phone (hit or miss due to travel)

Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)	Army Research Office (ARO)	Office of Naval Research (ONR)
<p>https://www.wpafb.af.mil/afrl/afosr/</p> <p>On grants.gov search using keyword(s) “Research Interests of the Air Force Office of Scientific Research” to see the latest core announcement. The current funding opportunity number for general research interests is FA9550-23-S-0001.</p>	<p>https://www.aro.army.mil/</p> <p>Select “Collaborate with Us”; then “Funded Research”; then “Learn More”; and then “ARL Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)” to see the most recent ARO Core Broad Agency Announcement for Fundamental Research for 21 November 2022 - 20 November 2027, W911NF-23-S-0001.</p>	<p>https://www.onr.navy.mil/</p> <p>Select “Work With Us” and then “Funding Opportunities/Announcements” and then select FY23 Long Range Broad Agency Announcement for Navy and Marine Corps Science and Technology, N00014-23-S-B001. Navigate to https://www.nre.navy.mil/our-research/onr-technology-and-research for a list of ONR-sponsored research. Select a technology area which will provide program officer and specific program details.</p>

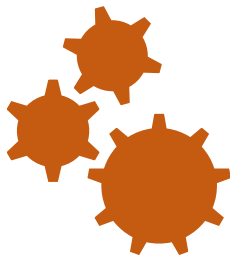


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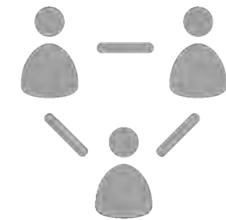
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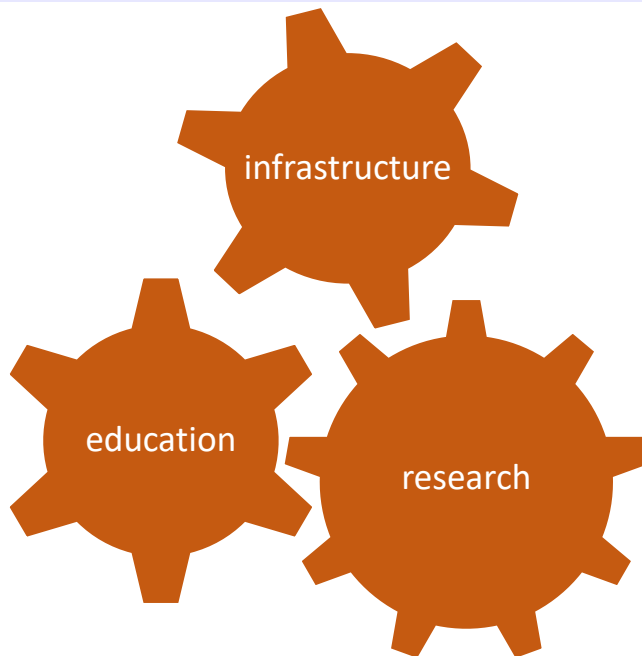


Outreach & Education



Capacity Building DEPSCoR Competition

Support the strategic objectives of IHEs to achieve basic research excellence in areas of high relevance to the DoD



- Jumpstart capability development in the State/Territory through increased human, technical, and management resources
- Achieve excellence in a DoD-relevant research area through funding to support equipment, education, research, and other relevant activities

Program Structure:

- IHE's executive office, such as Vice-President of Research, in DEPSCoR-eligible States/Territories can apply
 - \$750K/year for 2 years
- **FOA-AFRL-AFOSR-2023-0007 CLOSED 12 JUNE 2023**



DEPSCoR – Capacity Building Competition

- Applications must present the opportunities for enhanced academic research and development competitiveness and, if appropriate, industrial or economic competitiveness, for the State/Territory. **A strategic plan to sustain the investment after the DEPSCoR award period of performance must be discussed.**
- Applications must identify basic research gaps currently at the IHE and the required capabilities that need to be developed at the applicant IHE to achieve full and competitive basic research capability in a DoD-relevant research area.
- Applications must present a management plan for coordinating multiple thrusts working on a common basic research theme that will fill the research gaps and develop new basic research capabilities. These thrusts could include, but are not limited to, purchasing new equipment, supporting new hires, and support for graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. Adequate provision for **substantive commitment by the IHE's executive offices and appropriate administrative support is an important factor contributing to the success of this Capacity Building effort.**



Questions



Thank you



<https://basicresearch.defense.gov/Pilots/DEPSCoR-Defense-Established-Program-to-Stimulate-Competitive-Research/>