

NASA EPSCoR Authorization 202X – November 10, 2022

TITLE III –

ESTABLISHED PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH ON
AERONAUTICS AND SPACE

SEC. 301. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the NASA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NASA EPSCoR)

SEC. 302. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that--

- (1) the report of the Advisory Committee on the Future of the United States Space Program provided a framework within which a consensus on the goals of the space program were developed;
- (2) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's science, aeronautical research, human exploration, and space technology programs serve as a fulcrum for future initiatives by the United States in civil aviation and space programs;
- (3) colleges and universities in many States are currently not able to compete successfully for research grants awarded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through its science, aeronautical research, human exploration, and space technology programs;
- (4) balanced programs of science, aeronautical research, human exploration, and space technology should include initiatives designed to foster competitive research capacity in all geographic areas of the Nation; and
- (5) by strengthening the competitive research capacity in those geographic areas of the Nation which are not currently fully competitive, the education and training of scientists and engineers important to the future of the United States civil aviation and space programs will be fostered.

SEC. 303. POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States that--

- (1) the Administrator, in planning for national programs in science, aeronautical research, human exploration, and space technology, should ensure the resilience of the aeronautics and space research infrastructure;
- (2) a stable and balanced program of science, aeronautical research, human exploration, and space technology should include programs to assure that geographic areas of the United States that currently do not participate at an equitable funding rate in competitive aeronautical and space research activities are enabled to become more competitive; and
- (3) programs to improve competitive capabilities should be a part of the research, missions, and the educational activities of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

SEC. 304. REQUIREMENTS.

- (a) **COMPETITION**- Making use of the existing NASA EPSCoR and Space Grant jurisdiction administrative infrastructure established in eligible States by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and in coordination with each State's overall state science and technology goals and plans and other EPSCoR programs, the Administrator shall conduct a merit grant competition among the eligible States in areas of research mutually important to the mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and to the eligible states. With respect to a grant application by an eligible State, the Administrator shall consider--
- (1) the application's merit and relevance to the mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;
 - (2) the potential for the grant to serve as a catalyst to enhance the ability of researchers in the State to become more competitive for regular National Aeronautics and Space Administration funding;
 - (3) the potential for the grant to improve the environment for science, technology, engineering and mathematics research infrastructure in the State; and
 - (4) the need to assure the maximum distribution of grants among eligible States, consistent with merit.
- (b) **TYPE OF GRANTS**—In carrying out the grants outlined in Sec. 304(a), the Administrator shall issue the following grant categories to eligible states:
- (1) **Research Infrastructure Development**—20 percent or more of funds authorized under this title shall be for Research Infrastructure Development (RID) grants, which includes support for overall infrastructure development within the NASA EPSCoR jurisdictions, including support for jurisdiction attendance at NASA EPSCoR focused Technical Interchange Meetings with NASA Centers for eligible EPSCoR states (NASA EPSCoR TIM), as well as augmentations to support multi-jurisdiction planning projects and enhancement of research capacity) in NASA EPSCoR jurisdictions.
 - (2) **Collaborative Research**—45 percent or more of funds authorized under this title shall be for major three to five year collaborative basic research projects focused on NASA relevant research based on areas of interest as provided by NASA.
 - (3) **Special Awards**— No more than 25 percent of funds authorized under this title shall be for awards including multi-jurisdiction research projects, rapid research response, flight missions, partnerships with other agency EPSCoR programs, and other special awards.
- (c) **ADMINISTRATIVE FEES**—No more than 10 percent of funds authorized under this title shall be set aside for NASA EPSCoR program administration, assessment, and reporting which shall account for all NASA supporting capability and infrastructure costs including the annual NASA EPSCoR-only TIM and STIMULI research document under three components: direct costs attributed to

NASA EPSCoR comprising support service costs and civil service salaries and benefits, allocated indirect center and facility general and administrative costs, and allocated indirect headquarters general and administrative costs.

(d) ELIGIBLE STATES DEFINED- In this section, the term `eligible State' means a State or Jurisdiction designated by the Administrator as eligible to compete in the National Science Foundation's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research.

SEC. 305. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

In carrying out the programs listed in section 102(a), there are authorized to be appropriated \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, \$36,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, and \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2026