



# Montana NASA EPSCoR 2021 Research Group

## Call for Pre-proposals

*Pre-proposals are due October 16, 2020*

### PURPOSE

NASA will soon issue an announcement for the 2021 NASA EPSCoR Research Group program. Montana is allowed to submit one Research Group proposal for potential funding. Research Group awards are for three years and up to \$750,000 with a 50% non-federal cost share requirement. Funds need not be spent evenly over the life of the grant. *Funded teams and their respective departments provide cost share.*

All interested faculty groups at Montana institutions of higher education are invited to submit a pre-proposal that will be reviewed to determine which group will be invited to submit a full proposal to NASA for the 2021 competition. Pre-proposals are reviewed by external experts as well as a panel of Montana college and university administrative-level stakeholders. The final decision is made by the Montana University System research officials. We expect to notify the chosen group in mid-December, 2020.

### KEYS TO SUCCESS

- The focus of NASA EPSCoR Research Group awards is to fund research *that NASA currently wants performed*. Excellent science or engineering is not sufficient. Therefore, all Research Group pre-proposals should include the strongest possible evidence that the group has *active, well established* ties to researchers at NASA Centers or Headquarters (HQ). Involved NASA collaborators/colleagues will be expected to be knowledgeable about the proposed research program and should be willing to act as advocates for funding of the proposal. NASA's current areas of interest are available at: <http://www.nasaepscor.montana.edu/interest.html> .
- Successful pre-proposals should demonstrate interdisciplinary collaboration. Interdisciplinary research might look different in engineering vs. science but, within reason for the proposed work, teams with larger varieties in investigator areas of expertise will be favored.
- Pre-proposals must show that sources of cost sharing are available to them should they be selected to go forward.
- At the jurisdiction level (Montana in this case) NASA's stated intention is to "contribute to the overall research infrastructure, science and technology capabilities, and economic development of the jurisdiction."

### FORMAT

All pre-proposal sections: 8.5x11" pages; at least 12-point font; one inch margins.

Pre-proposal sections	page limit
Cover page	1
Table of contents	1
Abstract	1
Scientific/Technical/Impact	10
References	as needed
Biographical Sketches	2 for each investigator
Letters of support	as needed
Budget and cost share description	2

**The Scientific/Technical/Impact** section must describe the proposed work, including the scientific and/or technical merit of the proposed research, unique and innovative methods, approaches, concepts, or advanced technologies, and the potential impact of the proposed research on its field. Provide baseline information about existing/current research activities. **Pre-proposals will be reviewed based on the science/technical merit and the following key items.**

- **NASA Alignment.** What current NASA mission(s) and needs will your research program address? In which Mission Directorate at NASA does your research activity fall? Which recent NASA solicitations are relevant to your work? What NASA personnel (names and locations) are involved in your proposed research? Identify the level of existing and planned collaborations.
- **Montana impact.** Explain how funding your group will build new connections for NASA-related science and/or engineering research in Montana, impact the number of Montana faculty working in NASA-related areas, and develop competitiveness for follow-on NASA funding. Also consider: Will this project impact your institution's research goals? Will this project contribute to the state's overall economic development [optional]? Are there connections with Montana industry [optional]?
- **Research Group membership.** What role does each investigator play? Highlight NASA involvement/connections.
- **Evaluation.** Document intended outcomes and metrics. Use of milestones and timetables is recommended.

**Letters of support** from Department Head(s) or equivalent are required. These letters should include a statement about available cost share.

**Letters of support** from NASA collaborators/supporters are strongly encouraged.

Include a basic high-level **budget** and list of available **cost share sources**. Amount and stability of cost share will be taken into consideration in the review.

## SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

*All groups:*

- Pre-proposals are due by 5 pm, Friday, October 16, 2020.
- Proposals **must be uploaded online as a single unlocked PDF file** via the submission link

on the Montana NASA EPSCoR website, <http://nasaepscor.montana.edu> . We use a Submittable system for proposal submission.

***MSU-Bozeman groups only:*** In addition to submitting the pre-proposal on the MT NASA EPSCoR website, you must also submit the pre-proposal in the MSU limited submission pre-proposal system. Use the Office of Sponsored Programs electronic Proposal Clearance Form (ePCF) available at <http://www.montana.edu/research/osp/>. Prepare a “Limited Submission Pre-Proposal” and select the sponsor, “National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) [F],” and the program, “Montana NASA EPSCoR 2021 Research Group.”

- Submit the full pre-proposal as an attachment in the form. The attachment must be in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.
- Pre-proposals are due by 5 pm, Friday, October 16, 2020.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact: Dr. Angela Des Jardins, Director, Montana NASA EPSCoR,  
[angela.desjardins@montana.edu](mailto:angela.desjardins@montana.edu)