



# Montana NASA EPSCoR 2019 Research Group Call for Pre-proposals *Due May 24, 2018*

## PURPOSE

We anticipate that NASA will soon issue a Cooperative Agreement Notice (CAN) announcement for the federal fiscal year 2019 NASA EPSCoR program. It is expected that there will be an opportunity for Montana to submit one Research Group proposal for potential funding under this CAN. Awards will be for three years and \$750,000 (funds need not be spent evenly over the life of the grant). We anticipate a 50% non-federal cost share requirement. Therefore, group funding will likely be on the order of \$1.125M total over three years, including indirect costs. *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 used to determine which Research Group will be invited to submit a full proposal to NASA for the 2019 competition.

## 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. In addition, address the following key questions/points:

- **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 engineering research in Montana, impact the number of Montana faculty working in NASA-related areas, and develop competitiveness for follow-on NASA funding. Will this project contribute to the state's overall economic development? Will this project impact Montana research goals (see [https://mus.edu/research/MUS\\_STPlan\\_2015.pdf](https://mus.edu/research/MUS_STPlan_2015.pdf))? Are there connections with Montana industry? How will this project's research activity continue beyond the three-year award period?
- **Research Group membership.** What role does each investigator play? Highlight NASA involvement/connections.
- **Evaluation.** Document intended outcomes and metrics to demonstrate progress toward these outcomes. 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 5PM MDT, Thursday, May 24, 2018.
- Proposals **must be uploaded online** via the submission link/button on the Montana NASA

EPSCoR website, <http://nasaepscor.montana.edu>. The password is “MSGC-MNE-2018”.

*MSU-Bozeman groups only:* 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 2019 Research Group.”

- Submit the full pre-proposal (refer to “FORMAT” section above for content) as an attachment in the form. The attachment must be in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.
- Pre-proposals are due by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 24, 2018.
- The OSP Proposal Services office is available for assistance regarding completion of the ePCF. Contact Micaela Young, Pre-Award Specialist, at [micaelayoung@montana.edu](mailto:micaelayoung@montana.edu); Elizabeth Brock, Pre-Award Specialist, at [ebrocks@montana.edu](mailto:ebrocks@montana.edu); or Sandy Sward, OSP Director, at [ssward@montana.edu](mailto:ssward@montana.edu).

## **QUESTIONS?**

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