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NEW! Now Open To Private Sector

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
2015-2016 PILOT PROJECT AWARDS FOR FACULTY OR SMALL BUSINESSES

RESEARCH ON ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE LAKE CHAMPLAIN BASIN: NEW UNDERSTANDING THROUGH COMPLEX SYSTEMS MODELING

Application due by web submission on January 28, 2015 by 4:00 p.m.
Web Submission available on October 1, 2014

Vermont EPSCoR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) requests proposals for pilot projects that are aligned with the current VT EPSCoR RII Track-1 grant, Research on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Lake Champlain Basin (RACC).

Program Overview

We seek proposals for research that is complementary to our RACC research, and especially welcome proposals from potential collaborators outside the immediate UVM community. These awards are for innovation; and to move research forward. While undergraduate support is allowed, faculty Pilot Awards are not intended for primarily undergraduate research.

- Applications must be submitted on our application website, accessible beginning October 1, 2014, at http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR/redir/pilot.
- Web application deadline is January 28, 2015.
- The maximum amount of each Pilot Project award is $10,000.
- Funding may not be used to support Masters students' salaries.
- Private sector applications may not include funding support for university salary, wages or operating expenses.
- Awards contingent upon NSF funding for Vermont EPSCoR.

Period of Support

The period of support for this round of competition is **June 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016**.

Cook Physical Science Building. 82 University Place. University of Vermont. Burlington, VT 05405
(802) 656-7969. FAX: (802) 656-2950. epscor@uvm.edu www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR
A Partnership of Higher Education, Private Industry and State Government

Eligibility Requirements

Higher education institutions and government organizations in the state as well as businesses and non-profits registered in Vermont are eligible to apply. **All small business applicants must include at least one letter of collaboration from a full-time faculty researcher** at a Vermont college or university.

Funding Obligations

- Registration of your DUNS number into the System for Award Management (SAM) at sam.gov prior to submitting your application. If you do not have a DUNS number, please register for one at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform. Dun & Bradstreet can create a DUNS number within one business day.
- Your final financial report will be due to the EPSCoR office within thirty (30) days of the end of your funding period.
- You are expected to complete an electronic final report, complete an annual VT EPSCoR Survey and provide data for our Annual Progress Report through 2017. All requests will be sent from the EPSCoR office by email.
- Attendance is required at the VT EPSCoR annual meeting, where you should present your work, however preliminary, in a poster or talk as requested through 8/31/2017.
- Award funds will begin by June 1, 2015, contingent upon continued NSF support, and *must* be expended by March 31, 2016.
- Identification of in-kind funding is not required, but is encouraged. Examples of in-kind matching include percent effort, materials, supplies, or space donated by others toward your Pilot Award efforts. For more information, please contact epscor@uvm.edu.
- If awarded, UVM affiliates must comply with University Policies and Procedures http://www.uvm.edu/policies/?Page=alphalist.php and have a contractual agreement with UVM if UVM space is utilized for this research.
- Undergraduate students, graduate students and Post-Doctoral Associates supported by faculty Pilot Award funding must take an approved course in Scientific Integrity as required by the National Science Foundation.

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Proposal Content

Proposals should include the following components:

- Abstract (1 page maximum)
- Brief description of your project in non-technical language (1-2 sentences)
- Budget and Justification (2 page maximum)
- Appropriate budget line items MAY include, but are not limited to, graduate student support (excluding Masters students' salary), PI salary, software, equipment, and travel to assist in collaborations.
- Sustainability Plan for data models created and shared (2 page maximum)
- Research Plan (not to exceed components listed below)
  A. Specific Aims (1 page maximum)
  B. Background and Significance (1-2 pages)
  C. Preliminary Studies (substantial preliminary data not required, but helpful) (1-2 pages)
  D. Research Design and Methods (2-3 pages)
  E. Literature Cited (extra pages as needed)
- Curriculum Vitae or resumes for key personnel (2 page maximum per person)
- Current and Pending Funding
- Letter of Support from Department Chair, Dean, or Upper Management (2 page maximum)
- A Letter of Support is required from each potential collaborator and must be included in the application package. This includes collaborators that are providing use of facilities as well as technical expertise. (2 page maximum per letter)
- If your project involves research on human subjects (e.g., work with human tissue, interviews or medical trials with human subjects, and collection or analysis of data and medical records, etc.), live vertebrate animals, or recombinant DNA, then your work must meet federal requirements for review and approval of these regulated activities. Please check details about protocol submission requirements and additional information at http://www.uvm.edu/rpo/. If you have any additional questions about regulations regarding work involving human subjects, contact the Research Protections Office at (802) 656-5040.

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Evaluation Criteria

A panel of scientists and engineers representing Vermont's business, academic, and government sectors will be selected to evaluate the proposals. Criteria include:

- Intellectual merit of research plan
- Broader impacts of project on education or society
- Synergy with RACC research objectives
- Innovation potential
- Appropriate use of budgetary resources

Submission Process

Web-based submissions are the only acceptable form of submission. Beginning October 1, 2014, you can access the application on the VT EPSCoR website at http://www.uvm.edu/EPSCoR/redir/pilot. You are encouraged to submit early to avoid any potential submission complications.

1. **Web submissions are due January 28, 2015 by 4:00 p.m.**
2. **Signature Page and Letters of Intent from potential collaborators are due by mail only (no FAX), by January 28, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.** Send to:

   Vermont EPSCoR
   University of Vermont
   Cook Physical Science Building, Room 529
   82 University Place
   Burlington, VT 05405.

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* Note that signing the cover page will indicate your willingness to publicly share the abstract.

If you do not wish your abstract made public, do not sign the cover page. Any proprietary information will be treated with strict confidence. All results of any supported research will remain the property of the award recipient unless there is an academic collaborator. In the case where an academic collaborator is not acting as an independent consultant paid through the company, or if the faculty member will use University/College facilities, there will need to be a Memorandum of Understanding negotiated with the appropriate institutional grants office (Office of Sponsored Program for UVM faculty). This must be done before any work on the project commences and funding is released.

With respect to any invention developed with EPSCoR support, the award recipient retains title (noting the exception described above). However, certain government use provisions and disclosures will apply due to the federal funding involved. Specifically, recipients will be required to disclose inventions to the University so that the University may make a disclosure to the federal sponsor. While the inventor retains full ownership of his/her intellectual property, the federal government retains the right to a non-exclusive license to practice inventions which result from federal funding. This requirement is rarely invoked and has never occurred in any disclosures from the University of Vermont.

Neither the State of Vermont, Vermont EPSCoR, nor the University of Vermont will make any claim to any product or process developed with this funding with the possible exception of intellectual property developed by an academic collaborator.

Based on the review of the proposals, more detailed documentation may be sought for projects which show promise.

Questions?

Email epscor@uvm.edu or phone (802) 656-7931

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