

Letter from the Principal Investigator

November 2016

Greetings to everyone,

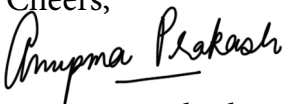
We're fresh off our EPSCoR Annual Meeting, which took place here at UAF on November 3-4. It was wonderful seeing so many of our researchers and students from across the state gathered together, and hard to believe this is the last time we'll all be in one place. It was a productive two days, in which we learned about each other's progress and charted a course for our final year, with a focus on translating all of our hard work into publications and tangible products. Thanks to everyone who made this meeting a reality.

Of course, technically speaking, it wasn't the EPSCoR annual meeting, it was the "Alaska NSF EPSCoR Track-1 Research Infrastructure Improvement Award" annual meeting." "Track-1" is the designation the NSF gives to its principal state and territorial EPSCoR projects such as ours. But it's just one of numerous NSF EPSCoR funding sources. As you may know from our social media and website, the NSF is currently soliciting applications for two of those award lines, "Track-2" and "Track-4." The former will fund collaborations across EPSCoR jurisdictions on the theme of "Genomes to Phenomes," and the latter will support fellowships for non-tenured faculty for extended collaborative visits to private, governmental, or university research centers across the country. You can find more information about both solicitations on our [website](#).

And there's also another way that EPSCoR helps researchers in Alaska: co-funding. When other NSF departments find themselves with more worthy proposals than they can support, NSF EPSCoR steps in and provides them the money they need to make sure that these projects (specifically, projects in EPSCoR jurisdictions) get off the ground. Since co-funding began in 2001 NSF EPSCoR has co-funded [95 proposals](#) in Alaska, of which [10 proposals](#) are currently active. Those 10 proposals, which are listed on our website, are worth a total of \$6.7 million and range in subject matter from energy efficiency to ethnobotany to teacher retention and middle-school STEM and art education.

There's no way to apply for co-funding, which is why it's such a little-known element of the NSF EPSCoR program. But it's an important method for funding worthwhile research that has had material benefits for Alaska, so I wanted to take the opportunity to spread the word.

Cheers,



Anupma Prakash

(aprakash@alaska.edu)



NSF EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM TO STIMULATE COMPETITIVE RESEARCH