2026 AK NSF EPSCoR Student Research Seed Grant Solicitation

Deadline: May 8, 2026

Purpose: The Alaska NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Interface of Change project is soliciting proposals for seed grants from student researchers to carry out new and innovative research projects that support Interface of Change goals. Seed award projects should address themes relevant to the EPSCoR "Interface of Change" project.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a full-time student at an Alaska institution of higher education.

Amount and duration of awards: We intend to fund 7 awards during this project period. Awards are contingent on receiving funding from our federal agency. The maximum amounts should not exceed $4,000 in direct costs per award. The award period is July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027. Awards will be announced by June 1, 2026.

Proposal requirements:
1. Online application form with the name, campus and UA ID number of each team member (if applicable).
2. Two-page (maximum) Project Description to include:
    a) Detailed overview of project and science question;
    b) Description of how the project aligns with and contributes to Interface of Change goals;
    c) Details of how project outcomes will be shared with academic and public audiences
3. Two-page (maximum) C.V., following NSF formatting guidelines.
4. Budget Justification Form and Budget Spreadsheet. Total direct cost should not exceed $4,000. Budgets must include appropriate campus Facilities and Administrative (F&A) rate as defined in the FY23-FY26 Negotiated Agreement. Period of performance is non-extendable and unused funds are non-transferable, except in exigent circumstances
5. Statement of support for the project from the applicant's faculty advisor.
6. Signature Form signed by applicant as well as by the appropriate dean/director and fiscal officer.

Proposal submission: Applicants are encouraged to follow their institutional procedures for proposal submissions. Any proposals reviewed by a UA applicant's grants or proposal departments should **not** be entered into Banner; these funds are already in the UA system and entering them in Banner could distort Statewide PAIR data. Project PI will email a single PDF

document that includes each of the required items in the above order to Tara Borland (taborland@alaska.edu) by **5pm AKDT May 8, 2026.** Please contact Tara Borland at (907) 474-6288 or taborland@alaska.edu with any questions.

Review criteria: Proposals will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team and ranked on overall merit, feasibility, and how well they integrate with Interface of Change goals. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a strong fit or collaboration with the Interface of Change project. Projects that involve a community/community member will be given priority over other, equally ranked proposals.

Post-award conditions:
1. Complete any required Institutional Review Board training and/or review.
2. Participate in the Alaska EPSCoR All Hands Meeting in Fall 2026.
3. Participate in a public outreach activity.
4. Submit a final written report following Alaska NSF EPSCoR guidelines by **July 31, 2027.**

IoC Award Guidelines and Agreements: Please visit IoC Award Guidelines and Agreements to view the award terms and conditions to be used for these awards.

Fiscal Staff Procedures:

For UAF:
EPSCoR Seed Awards are not required by EPSCoR to go through the UAF proposal or grants office. Since EPSCoR seed funding comes from our larger National Science Foundation award, which already has a Banner proposal number, a new Banner proposal number for a seed award is not needed. Please follow your department's fiscal protocols.

For UAA:
EPSCoR Seed Awards are considered "internal awards." As such, they do not require Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) approval. However, OSP can provide support if needed. Please follow your department's protocol for internal award submission.

For UAS:
UAS faculty preparing proposals for EPSCoR Seed Awards must pass the proposal packet through the standard UAS approval routing including the Grants and Contracts Office prior to submission.

Please contact the UAS Grant Proposal Coordinator for assistance in budget development and approvals routing prior to submitting your proposal to EPSCoR. Or, if

you prefer to prepare the proposal documents on your own, please route the packet through your Dean and the Grants and Contracts Office for approvals prior to submission.

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For "Non-UA Applicants":

Please follow your institution's proposal submission policies and guidelines. Proposal submissions must include the required elements noted above. Additionally, non-UA EPSCoR Seed Award applicants should be sure to include:

1. URL link or PDF document of your institutional Facilities and Administration (F&A) rate agreement.

2. A complete Statement of Work, including a list of tasks to be performed, all deliverables or milestones, and work start and end dates. Your budget justification should also include a summary of your Statement of Work.