

NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP)
egfp@nsf.gov

**EGFP an opportunity for
Academic Institutions in EPSCoR Jurisdictions
and GRFP HMs**

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Lead Program Director**



The details provided in this presentation are subject to change in alignment with NSF's most current mission and policies. See [NSF.gov](https://www.nsf.gov) for more information.

Institution deadline – June 1, 2026
Student deadline varies
See [ETAP.NSF.GOV](https://www.etap.nsf.gov)

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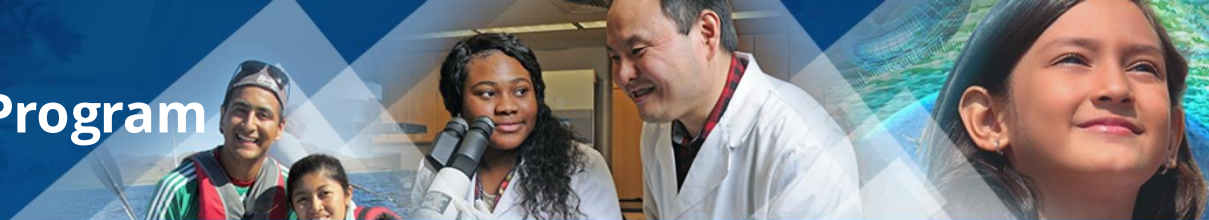
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NSF EPSCoR

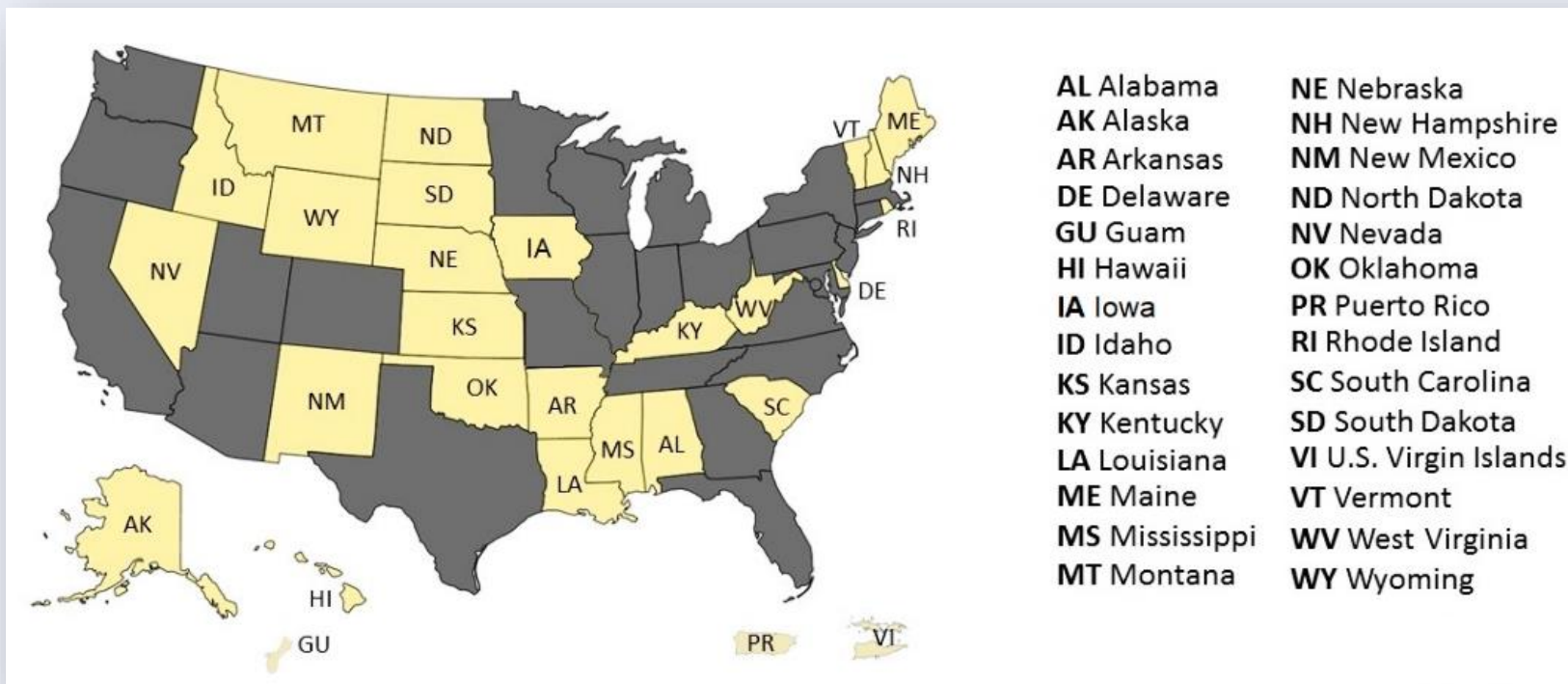




The NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program (EGFP) supports institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions by providing funding for graduate fellowships for new or continuing EGFP eligible students

Mission: To enhance the STEM research capacity and competitiveness of EPSCoR jurisdictions by providing funding to graduate degree-awarding institutions that will allow them to recruit NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellows

Vision: To advance graduate talent recruitment, development, and retention at graduate institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions



GRFP Basics versus EGFP Basics

Graduate Research Fellowship Program	EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program
Eligible student applicants apply for a GRF	Eligible institutions apply for EGFP
Reviews more than 12,000 student applications/year • Funds ~2,000 new GRFs/year • Other qualified applicants receive an Honorable Mention (HM) distinction • GRFP HMs are eligible for EGFP	Does not review fellow applications • Awards institutions • Institutions fund fellowships and distribute Fellowship funds • Has funded 300+ Fellowship slots in 22/28 EPSCoR Jurisdictions
GRFs take the award to an institution that they select	Eligible applicants view EGFP Awardee institutions in NSF Education & Training Application (ETAP.NSF.GOV)
GRFs can change institutions	Fellows forfeit if they change institutions or programs within an institution



Institutions do not need to
have any GRFs or any
previous association with NSF
to be an EGFP institution



EGFP Institution Support



EGFP awards are made to institutions in EPSCoR jurisdictions

Awards provide three years of stipend and cost-of-education allowance for each NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellow

- Stipends must be budgeted at the level of \$37,000 per year per Fellow
 - Awardees will administer the awards such that the Fellows receive the full stipend amount
- Cost-of-education allowances of \$16,000 per year per Fellow
 - Institutions retain the full cost-of-education allowance during the three years that each Fellow receives support
- Fellow must be given up to five years to utilize the support

No other associated costs will be supported by EGFP



EGFP Eligible Students



EGFP student eligibility is unrelated to EGFP institution eligibility!

EGFP eligible students received a GRFP HM distinction in the last 3 years

- New students (E.g., transferring in, just starting graduate school, etc.)
- Current students (E.g., transferring from MS to PhD, finishing last, etc.)
- EGFP provides another chance at funding for graduate school

Having a group of distinguished applicants is useful

- 2026 ~ 1400 GRFP HMs
- 2025 ~ 3,000 GRFP HMs
- 2024 ~ 1700 GRFP HMs
- 2023 ~ 800 GRFP HMs

**2023 GRFP HMs must apply in
ETAP.NSF.GOV in 2026**



EGFP Application Process



By June 1st, 2026

Early Spring 2027

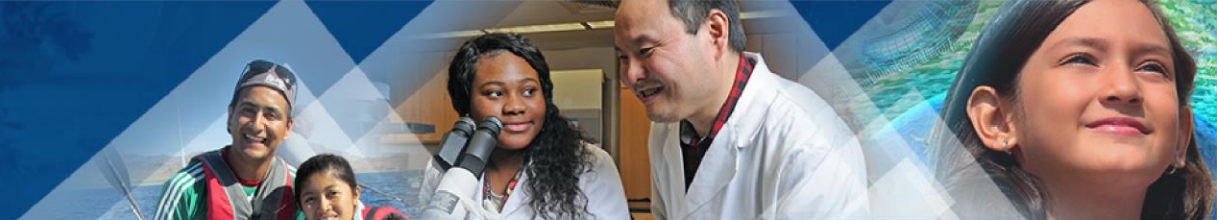
Spring – Summer 2027

Fall 2027 and Forward

“Potential EGFP
Fellows” exclusively
applies to applicants
with the distinction
of GRFP HM within
the past 3 years from
ETAP application date



U.S. National Science Foundation
Directorate for STEM Education



The NSF EPSCoR Graduate Fellowship Program

Solicitation Specifics



General Institution Responsibilities



Proposing institutions must

Provide **clear evidence of an existing graduate program** in the discipline(s) relevant to the proposal

- **Focus** on one or more EGFP topic areas described to be considered (Others will be returned without review)
- **Present a plan** for ensuring that all project participants, including employees of the proposing institution, as well as supported Fellows, will comply with NSF's requests for information related to program-level evaluation, including requests to participate in surveys, interviews, and other methods for collecting evaluation data
- **Ensure** potential Fellows be informed of and agree to this obligation prior to receiving support



General Institution Responsibilities



Proposing institutions must

- Provide a graduate student **Mentoring Plan**, prepared in accordance with the guidance contained in the PAPPG
- Certify that every graduate student receiving support through this program has an **Individual Development Plan (IDP)**
- **Use ETAP in conjunction with institution strategies** to recruit and accept prospective Fellows
- Be prepared to provide a high-quality graduate experience in the discipline(s) in which each Fellow will pursue a graduate degree
- Follow the requirements in the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) that apply to all NSF research proposals and awards (<https://www.nsf.gov/policies/pappg>)



EGFP General Fellow Responsibilities



Fellow Responsibilities

- Apply for EGFP via **ETAP**
- Submit any **additional documentation** required by the institution(s)
- Be **enrolled full-time** in an eligible master's or doctoral degree-granting program and make ongoing satisfactory progress
- **Must remain enrolled** in the same degree program/discipline as when they were admitted by institution as an EGFP Fellow
 - Full-time enrollment (must be certified by institution's registrar or equivalent)



EGFP Proposals



Who May Submit Proposals:

- Accredited Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) with a campus located in an eligible **EPSCoR jurisdiction** at the time of proposal submission and offer **at least one master's and/or doctoral degree** in an aligned STEM discipline

Limit on Number of Proposals per Organization: 1

- Each submitting organization is limited to **one proposal per annual** competition. Potential PIs are advised to contact their institutional office of research (or equivalent) regarding the submission process

Institutions supporting Fellows in multiple topical focus areas must submit a single proposal that addresses all topical areas of interest



EGFP Proposals



Who May Serve as PI:

- As of the submission deadline, PIs, co-PIs, or other Senior/Key personnel must hold primary, full-time, paid, and continuing appointments at an eligible institution. Individuals holding term-limited appointments are not eligible

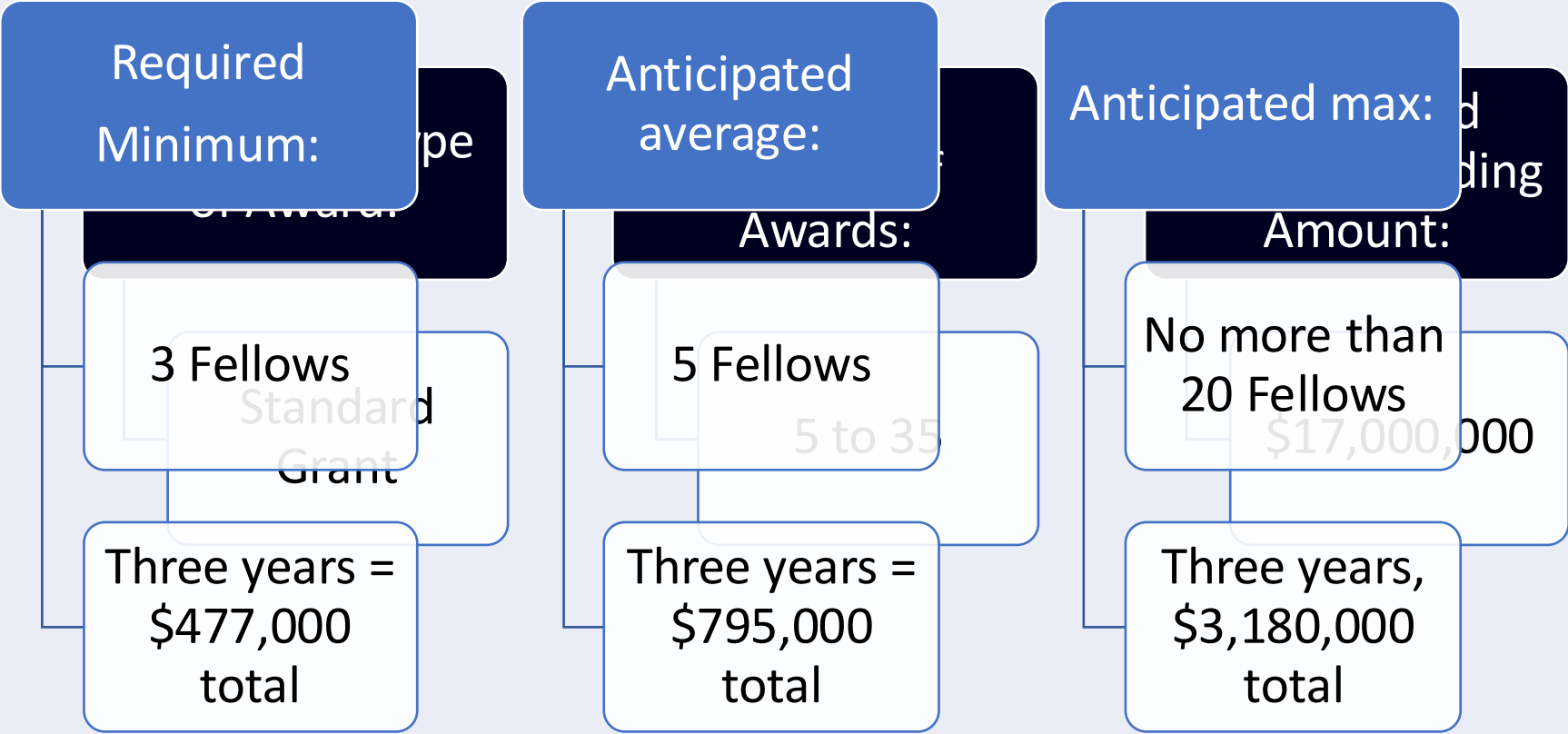
Limit on Number of Proposals per PI or co-PI: 1

- An individual must not participate as PI, Co-PI, or Senior/Key Personnel on more than one proposal submitted for the same deadline

Number of awards and award sizes are subject to the availability of funds and quality of proposals submitted

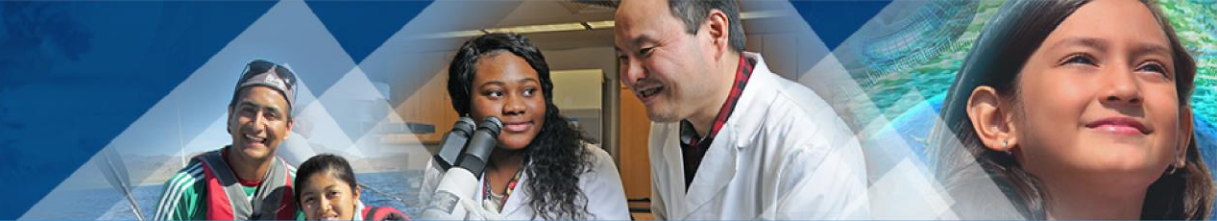


EGFP Award Information



Inclusion of voluntary committed cost sharing is prohibited

Other Budgetary Limitations:



Proposal should develop a three-year budget

- During the years in which students are receiving fellowship support, the institution is required to **exempt Fellows from paying tuition and fees** normally charged to students of similar academic standing
 - Unless such charges are optional or are refundable
 - **The institution is responsible for tuition and required fees in excess of the cost-of-education allowance**
 - A Fellow's cost-of-education allowance, to be used at the **discretion** of the institution

Both stipends and cost-of-education allowances must be listed as Participant Support Costs in the NSF proposal budget



Solicitation Criteria



Proposing institutions are strongly encouraged to make the application process as simple and straightforward as possible for prospective Fellows

- Applicants have already been pre-screened and received an Honorable Mention

In the Other Supplementary Documents section of the proposal, all proposals must include:

- **Letter of Collaboration** from institution's Graduate School Dean, or from a person with similar responsibility and authority for the relevant graduate programs
- Graduate student **Mentoring Plan** for all the proposed Fellows

See the EGFP solicitation and the NSF PAPPG for additional instructions



EGFP Merit Review Criteria



Broader Impacts: The potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes

Intellectual Merit: The potential to advance knowledge

Both criteria are given full consideration during the review and decision-making processes; neither, by itself, is sufficient



EGFP Merit Review Criteria



Reviewers are asked to consider **what the proposers want to do, why** they want to do it, **how** they plan to do it, **how** they will know if they succeed, and **what** benefits could accrue if the project is successful

- Issues apply both to the **technical aspects** of the proposal and the way in which the project may make **broader contributions**
- Reviewers will also be asked to review the **Data Management and Sharing Plan and the Mentoring Plan**, as appropriate



EGFP Merit Review Criteria



Reviewers will consider the extent to which the proposal addresses:

- The **capacity and exemplary characteristics** of existing graduate education and research programs in the discipline(s) relevant to the proposed project at the proposing institution
- The **effectiveness of graduate education and mentoring programs** in the relevant discipline(s) at the proposing institution in retaining students to degree completion and preparing them for success in their future careers
- The extent to which the proposed project will **enhance the capacity for research and/or contribute to innovation in the EPSCoR jurisdiction**



EGFP Merit Review Criteria



- To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and **explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?**
- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities **well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale?**
- Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to **assess success?**
- How well qualified is the **individual, team, or organization** to conduct the proposed activities?
- Are there **adequate resources** available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?
- Does an institution have a **process for streamlining the application process** for potential Fellow who will be new to the institution?
- Does an institution have a process for **acclimating new Fellows** to their new institution and the surrounding community?



Things to Know



The EGFP Solicitation should be your first stop for questions

Your second stop for question should be the NSF **Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)**

Email and ask simple/general questions

EGFP 20-minute PO One-on-Ones

- Not required for full-proposal submission
- Meeting requirements:
 - One page proposal outline
 - Outlines should be emailed to EGFP@nsf.gov
 - Once received, a program officer will contact you to make an appointment



Becoming an EGFP Reviewer



EGFP welcomes reviewers from the academic, industrial, and government sectors

Send an e-mail to EGFP@nsf.gov,

Email Subject: **EGFP Reviewer Interest**

- Introduce yourself and identify your areas of expertise and attach a short CV with current contact information

If you are selected the EGFP team will contact you with additional details

Benefits:

- You are providing a great **service** to NSF and the STEM community
- Reviewers gain firsthand **knowledge** of the peer review process
- Learn **common problems** with proposals and discover **strategies** for writing strong proposals
- **Meet** colleagues and NSF program officers with similar research interests



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Questions



Thank You

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