

# THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



## BUSINESS • GOVERNMENT • EDUCATION

Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research



### *Background*

EPSCoR focuses on those states that have historically received lesser amounts of Federal R&D funding and have demonstrated a commitment to develop their research bases and to improve the quality of science and engineering research conducted at their universities and colleges. The program currently operates in 22 states: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming, as well as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### *Mission*

EPSCoR operates under the following basic premise:

*Universities and their science and engineering faculty and students are valuable resources that have the potential to influence a state's development in the twenty-first century much the same way that agricultural, industrial, and natural resources did in the twentieth century.*

EPSCoR identifies, develops, and utilizes a state's academic science and technology (S&T) resources in ways that ultimately will support a more productive and fulfilling way of life for its citizens. To achieve this end, the National Science Foundation cooperates with state leaders in government, higher education, and business to establish productive long-term partnerships in support of common goals. Such partnerships are designed to stimulate local action that will result in lasting improvements to the state's academic research infrastructure and increased national R&D competitiveness.

### *Outcome Goals*

EPSCoR increases the R&D competitiveness of an eligible state through the development and utilization of the science and technology (S&T) resources residing in its research and educational institutions, as well as in industry. EPSCoR expects the following as outcomes from its investments, taken in the aggregate and observed over time.

Sustainable S&T infrastructure improvements at the state and institutional levels that significantly increase the ability of EPSCoR researchers and institutions to compete successfully for Federal and private sector R&D support.

## *Key Investment Strategies*

Improvements in R&D competitiveness are achieved through the investment of fiscal and human resources by both the NSF and participating states in key S&T research areas and through conduct of outreach by NSF staff to EPSCoR researchers. The funding mechanisms employed by EPSCoR to achieve its objectives are described below. Each provides support for S&T areas identified by the state's EPSCoR governing committee as being critical to the state's future academic R&D competitiveness.

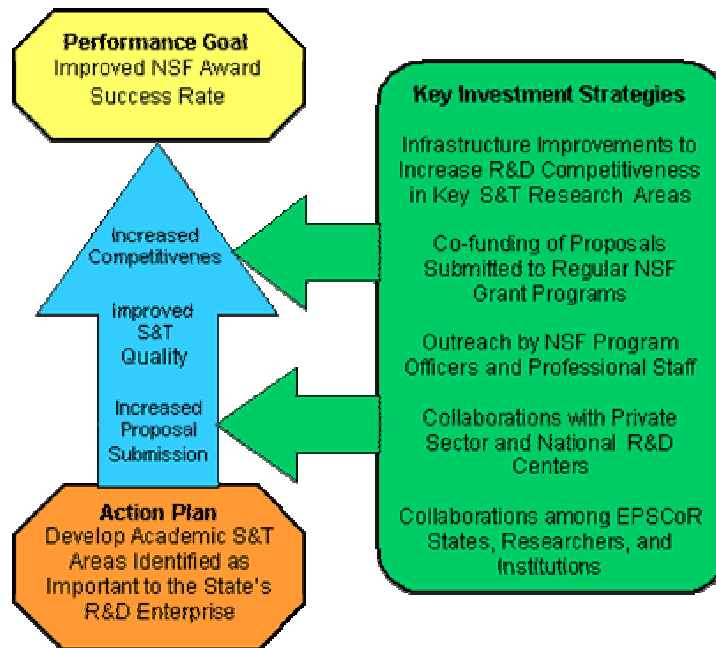
Research Infrastructure Improvement Awards - 36 month award of up to \$9.0 million total (i.e. up to \$3.0 million per year) to support infrastructure improvements. A 50% non-federal matching share over the term of the award is required.

Co-Funding Initiative - Joint support of proposals submitted by EPSCoR researchers to the Foundation's ongoing research and educational grant programs.

Outreach Initiative - Support for outreach visits of NSF program officers and professional staff to acquaint EPSCoR researchers with NSF priorities, programs, and policies and to more fully acquaint NSF staff with the R&D resources residing with EPSCoR states.

## *Performance Goals*

EPSCoR's performance goal is to increase the number of NSF awards won by researchers in EPSCoR states and institutions. This goal is directly related to the program's fundamental outcome goal: increase the ability of EPSCoR researchers to compete successfully for Federal and private sector R&D support. The relationships between EPSCoR's key investment strategies, action plan, and program goal are shown in the diagram.



## *Performance Outcome*

EPSCoR's progress towards meeting its stated performance goal shall be judged successful if the success rate for NSF awards to researchers and institutions within the 24 EPSCoR jurisdictions makes steady progress towards parity with the Foundation's overall success rate for proposals submitted by all investigators.