

# Office of Research Development Lunch & Learn

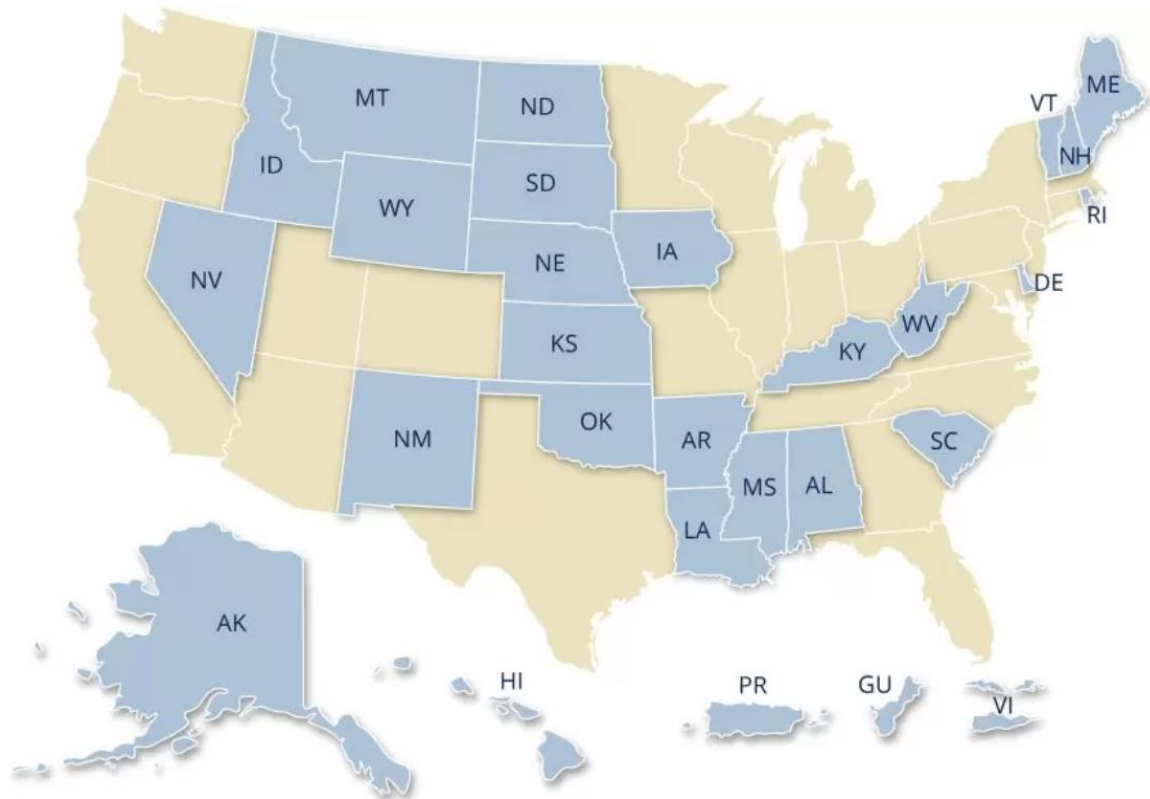
**Congress Wants More EPSCoR:  
Get Your Proposal Out the Door!**

October 22, 2024

- What is EPSCoR?
- Leveraging EPSCoR status respectfully and responsibly
- Working with ORD to get your proposals out the door
- Montana NSF EPSCoR
- Montana NASA EPSCoR
- Q&A

# What is EPSCoR?

- The Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) was established by the NSF in 1979
- Participating agencies
  - NSF, NASA, DOE, DOD
  - USDA (FASE)
  - NIH (IDeA)



# What is EPSCoR?

- Goals vary slightly across participating agencies, but broadly EPSCoR programs take a geographic approach to:
  - Catalyze research capability and competitiveness of jurisdictions;
  - Establish STEM professional development pathways;
  - Broaden participation of diverse groups/institutions in STEM;
  - Impact jurisdictional economic development.

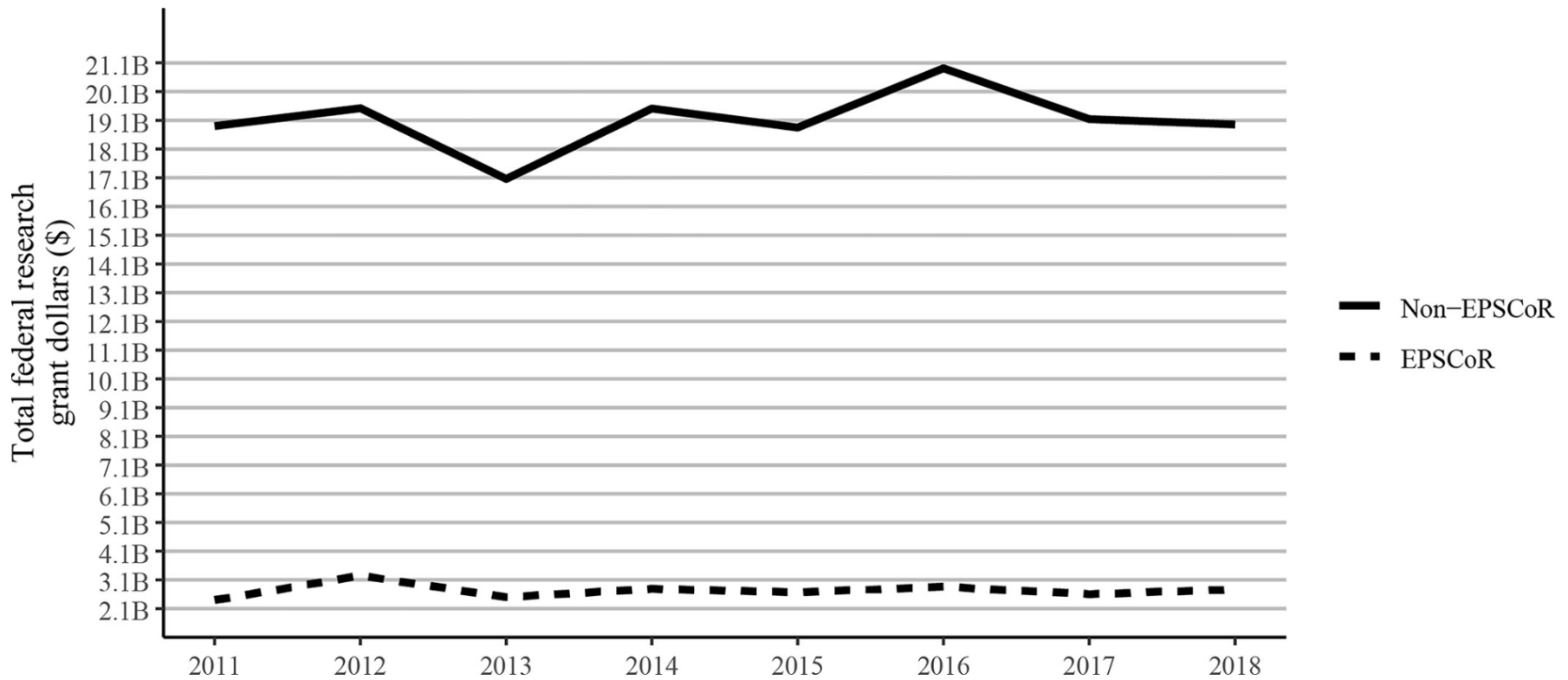


**NSF EPSCoR**  
ADVANCING GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY IN STEM



# EPSCoR Funding

NSF	NASA	DOE	DOD	USDA	NIH
Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (RII) (E-CORE, E-RISE, FEC, ERF)	EPSCoR Research Fellows (ERF)	Implementation Grants	Research Collaboration	New Investigator Grants	INBRE
Workshop Grants	Jurisdiction-specific research awards	EPSCoR-State/Nat'l Laboratory Partnership Grants	Capacity Building	Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships	COBRE
Co-funding across NSF		DOE Office of Science Early Career Awards		Strengthening Grants	
Directorate-specific calls					



**Fig 1. Total federal grant dollars received by investigators at Ph.D. granting universities in EPSCoR and non-EPSCoR states between 2011 and 2020.** EPSCoR mean = \$2.7B  $\pm$  \$0.78B; non-EPSCoR mean = \$19.3B  $\pm$  \$0.78B;  $p < 0.01$ .

Mohammadi et al., 2023, *PLoS ONE*

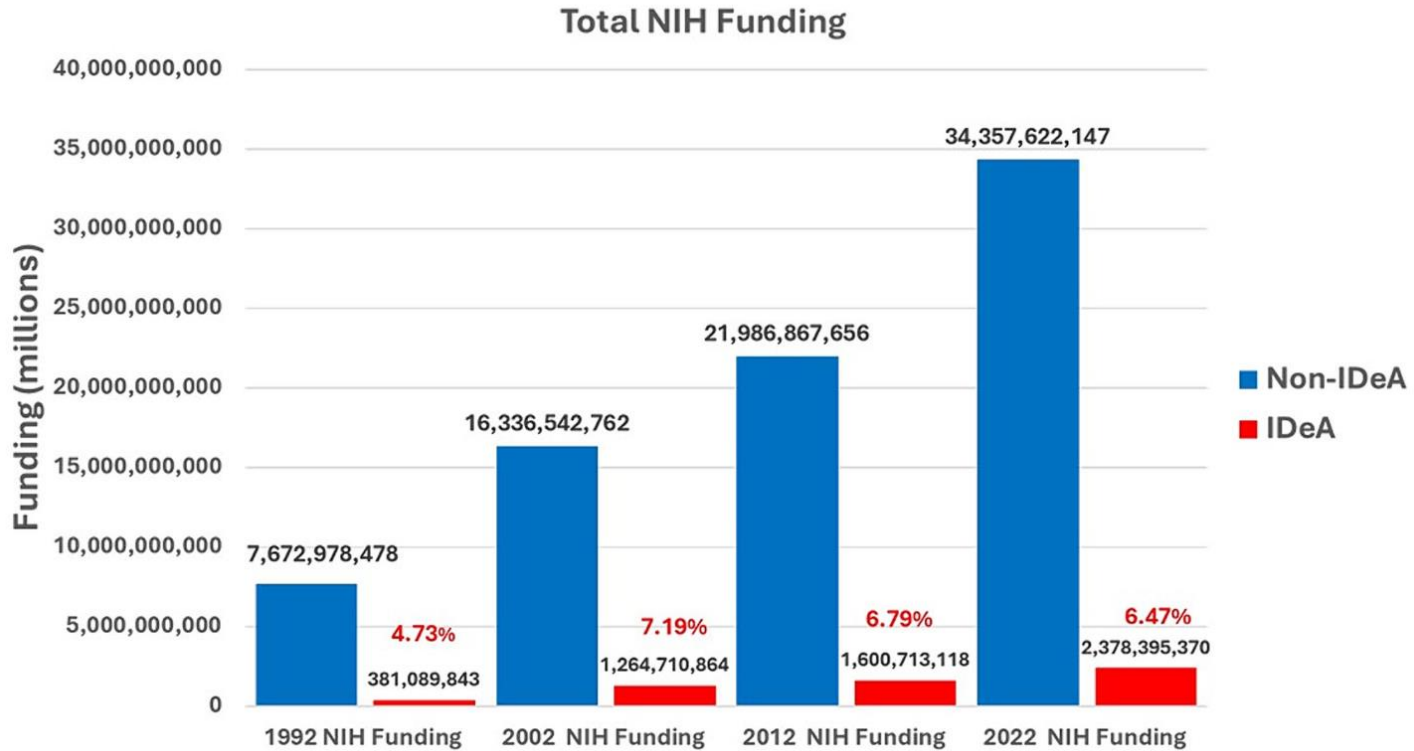


FIGURE 10

Total NIH funding received by non-IDeA vs. IDeA states in 1992, 2002, 2012, and 2022. The percentage of funding received by IDeA states has been depicted in red font.

# EPSCoR Funding

- In FY2023,
  - EPSCoR programs represented **2.48%** of NSF's total budget
  - IDeA programs represented **0.89%** of NIH's total budget



# The Federal EPSCoR Push

- **EPSCoR in the CHIPS and Science Act (2022)**

“It is the sense of Congress that-- (A) because maintaining the Nation's scientific and economic leadership requires the participation of talented individuals nationwide, EPSCoR investments into State research and education capacities are in the Federal interest and should be sustained.”

(Section 10325)

# The Federal EPSCoR Push

- **EPSCoR in the CHIPS and Science Act (2022)**
  - NSF funding targets for EPSCoR institutions growing from 15.5% of total budget in FY2023 to 20% in FY2029
    - Extensive internal education and outreach
    - Directorate-specific calls and events
    - Annual reporting to congress on EPSCoR progress
  - DOE Office of Science required to spend 10% of research funds on EPSCoR institutions

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**... but they can't fund what they don't have.**



Select Institution Name

Montana State University



# Montana State University

Bozeman, Montana

MSI : Non-MSI

ERI : Non-Emerging Research Institution

Current EPSCoR State : YES

As of Date: September 27, 2023

## FY 2019-2023 - Fast Facts

393  
Proposals  
Evaluated

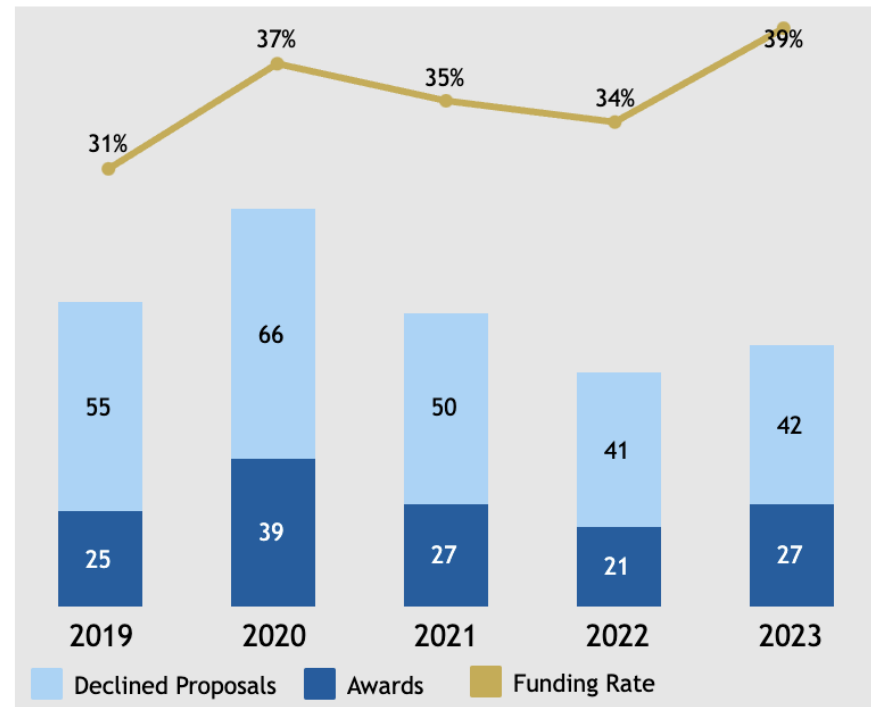
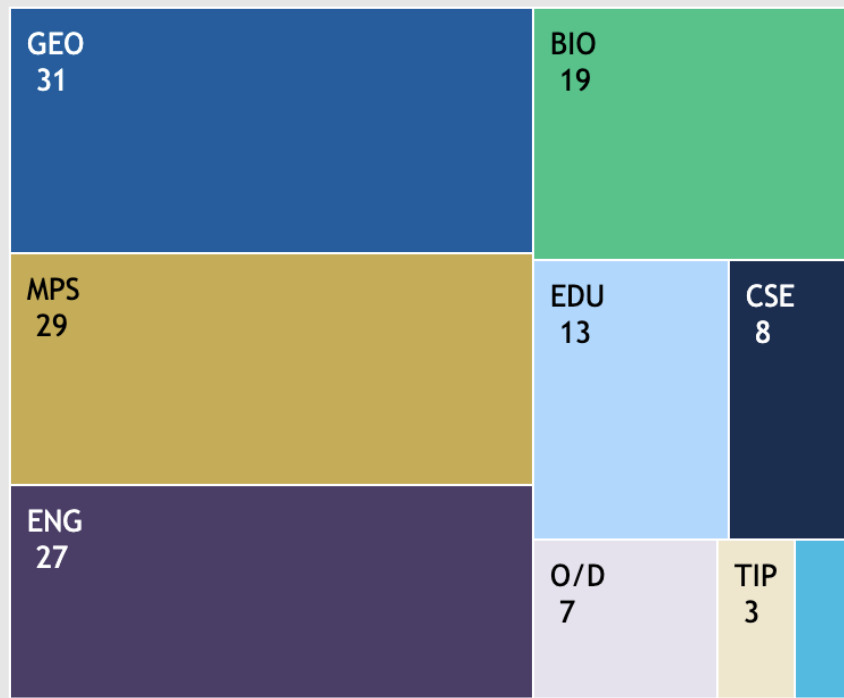
139  
New Awards  
Funded

35%  
Funding Rate  
NSF 2023 avg. 29%

\$99 M  
Award  
Obligation

174  
PIs and Co-PIs  
on Awards

## FY 2019-2023 - Awards by Managing Directorate and Trends



# Proposals at MSU

- **Compared to FY23, FY24 saw:**
  - **14%** increase in submissions
  - **11%** increase in awards
  - **6%** increase in funded PIs

# Campus Partners and Resources

- **Building STEM pathways**
  - Undergraduate Scholars Program/Undergraduate Research
  - Science Math Resource Center (SMRC)
  - Center for Research on Rural Education (CRRE)
  - Center for Mental Health Research and Recovery (CMHRR)
  - Hilleman Scholars
- **Broadening participation**
  - Community Engagement Core
  - Empower Student Center
  - Montana EPSCoR Offices
  - Office of Diversity & Inclusion

# Campus Partners and Resources

- **Impact Jurisdictional Economic Development**
  - Office of Research and Economic Development
  - Technology Transfer Office

# Working with ORD

- Funding opportunity identification
- Proposal development support
- Repository of recorded webinars
- Internal competitions for limited submissions
  - **Dec. 16:** EPSCoR Research Fellows





# Working with ORD

- Upcoming Events
  - Oct. 29: **Use-Inspired Research with NSF**
  - Oct. 30: **DOD Young Investigator Awards**  
(External consultant & awardee panel)
  - Nov. 6: **USDA Equipment Grant Program**  
(Program officer & awardee panel)
  - Nov. 20: **Generating Creative, Original, and Transformative Ideas Workshop**
  - Jan. 7-10: **Joint MSU-UM Proposal Writing Retreat at Homestake Lodge**
  - Jan. 31: **Intro to Grants and Finding Funding**
  - Spring 2025: **Grant Writing Bootcamp**

# Tips

- Align project with EPSCoR goals *in addition to* programmatic goals and agency-level strategic priorities
- Meet with program officers as an EPSCoR representative
- Weave Montana's EPSCoR status throughout entire narrative
- Remember the need to give back to your EPSCoR jurisdiction
- Partner strategically within *and* outside of MSU
- Engage with Montana's MUS Science & Technology Plan
- **GET YOUR PROPOSAL OUT THE DOOR!**

# References

- Caulder et al., 2024. “Geographic Inequality in funding by National Institutes of Health negatively impacts almost one-half of the states in the United States”. *Frontiers in Public Health*, 12.
- Mohammadi et al., 2023. “The impact of geographic inequality in federal research funding: A comparative longitudinal study of research and scholarly outputs in EPSCoR vs. non-EPSCoR states”. *PLoS ONE*, 18(6).