

NASA EPSCoR Caucus Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 4:00 p.m. Eastern, 5:00 p.m. Puerto Rico, 3:00 p.m. Central, 2:00 p.m. Mountain, 1:00 p.m. Pacific, 12:00 p.m. Alaska, 11:00 a.m. Hawaii, 7:00 a.m. (+1) Guam

Part 1 ExCom business (Excom and invited participants) 60 minutes
Welcome, roll, agenda C. Cole

Secretary's report (approval of minutes from last meeting) P. Oemig
NASA updates D. Berger

Discussion of RID (augmentation, renewal) and Basic Research NOFO All ExCom / NASA

Upcoming Caucus elections All ExCom / Nominating Committee

NASA EPSCoR Advocacy L. Gilbert, L. Katz

EPSCoR / IDeA Foundation J. Molesworth

Other business All ExCom

Part 2 Open session (All) 30 minutes

Comments and questions from the floor All

Adjourn

Chip: Welcomes everyone. Quorum met. Secretary's report.

Paulo: Are there any corrections or edits to the minutes from January 13? [None]

Asks for motion to approve minutes.

Chip moved to approve, Sara seconded. All in favor. None against.

Minutes from January 13 approved.

Paulo thanks Colleen for facilitating January 13 notes as well.

Dave: Provides updates and shares slides.

Meet the EPSCoR Team

- Dave Berger, Project Manager, NASA dave.e.berger@nasa.gov
- Matt Pearce, Technical Officer and Strategic Development, NASA matthew.d.pearce@nasa.gov
- James Harrington, Technical Officer, NASA james.l.harrington@nasa.gov
- Josh Parent, Project Coordinator, Barrios joshua.s.parent@nasa.gov
- Allison Rapp, Project Support Specialist, PCI allison.rapp@nasa.gov



We have our full year budget. Our team is complete. I shared the mapping each Technical Officer assigned to 14 jurisdictions. Very happy to have Josh Parent back. I don't believe he is here. Allison is providing excellent support for the impact of the EPSCoR program. I'll try to answer all the questions that were sent.

RID Supplements Update

- FY26 Funding is available for RID supplements
- AR, VI, PR, KY, and AK in process to fund
- Next batch starts in May (anniversary), will process in sequence as RPPRs are submitted

In the last week or so all FY26 funds have become available. We know we owe some of you the funding but it's in the works for AR, VI, PR, KY, and AK. Next batch starts with POPs in May.

RID Augmentation/RID Extension (in-work)

- Pending NSSC Approval
- Planning to combine RID Augmentation (\$200K) with 1-year RID Extension (\$200k)
- Augmentation funds targeted September obligation
- Extension funds to be distributed on anniversary dates
- Augmentation: Focus on new NASA priorities
 - Aerospace workforce development
 - Career and Technical Education
 - New mission and subject matter expert networks
 - Artificial Intelligence and trending areas
- 1-year extension
 - Implementing augmentation ideas and continuing state-based excellence
- 5-year RID proposal planned for FY27
- If no NSSC approval-Augmentation NOFO this spring, 5-year RID following augmentation

PENDING NSSC Approval, however, The idea is to combine the augmentation with a RID extension. NASA subject matter experts have changed; this is an opportunity to align with the agency's updated priorities and develop those ideas with the augmentation. And, next year, will be the year to write the 5-year RID proposal.

Sara: If approved, what's the potential RID augmentation timeline?

Dave: No sooner than April.

Sara: Will the one-year RID extension go into the next fiscal year?

Dave: Yes. It's our goal to get that augmentation for this year. And the extension for what it would be a 6th year award.

Denise: Quick clarification. New focus for NASA priorities; workforce and CTE seem to be more Space Grant oriented. We have always focused on research.

Dave: Still focusing on research. We're building research capacity and developing the next generation of scientists. OSTEM is asking how EPSCoR can integrate into other areas.

Chip: NSF EPSCoR has the RII program and it has built it into a workforce development component related to research. Research experiences for undergraduate students are considered workforce development.

Dave: The RII NSF Fellow program is open. There is a NASA track. I'll be glad to share it.

Paulo: Dave, are the directors the coordinators for the RII fellowship?

Dave: I don't think so. The coordinators are with the NASA EPSCoR program. I'll double check.

Basic Research NOFO Timeline

- Motivating factor: September 30th funds obligation
- Research Focus Area release: mid-February
- Basic Research Guide: mid-March
- Official Basic Research NOFO Release: mid-April
 - 60 day application window
- NOFO Close: mid-June
- Selection Announcement and Obligation: September 2026

Dave: FY25 R3 and ISS with old money.

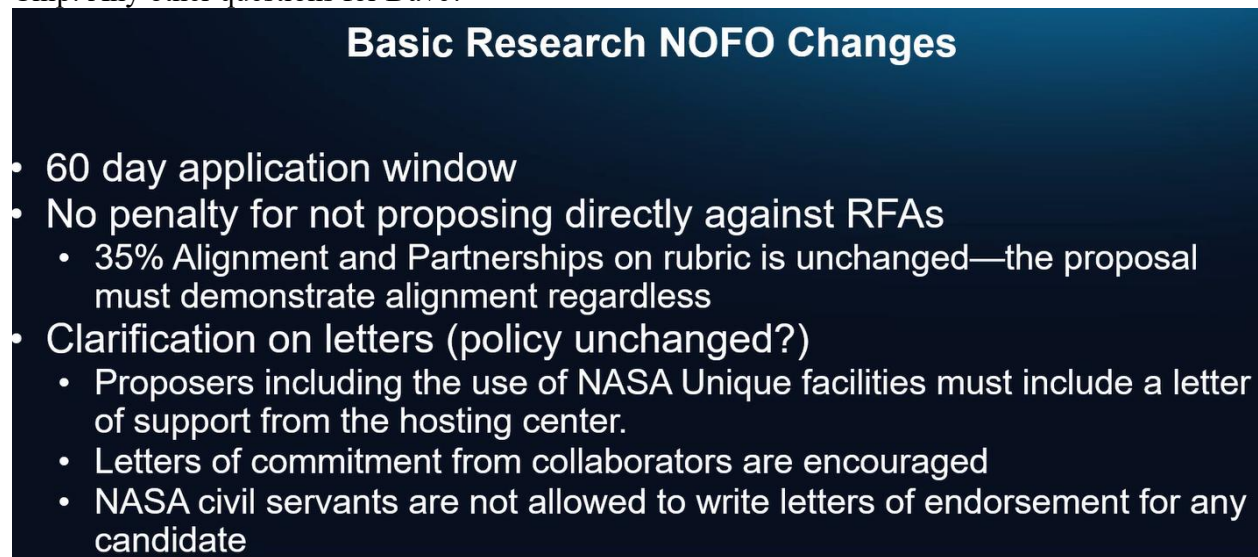
Changes are driven by selection package to NSSC; if you submit a NOFO, funds must be obligated by September 30.

We have been doing a lot of work, Matt and James, crafting the new research focus areas. The change is, while I'm working with Sara McGarvy, how to propose against the basic research NOFO. Many processes and procedures are in place before we are able to release the NOFO. We are looking at a 60-day application window. I know this is not ideal, I know you have internal processes to select your proposals. We will work with my team for next year to have a more normal timeline that you are used to.

Sara: I'm assuming one app per jurisdiction.

Dave: Yes.

Chip: Any other questions for Dave?



Basic Research NOFO Changes

- 60 day application window
- No penalty for not proposing directly against RFAs
 - 35% Alignment and Partnerships on rubric is unchanged—the proposal must demonstrate alignment regardless
- Clarification on letters (policy unchanged?)
 - Proposers including the use of NASA Unique facilities must include a letter of support from the hosting center.
 - Letters of commitment from collaborators are encouraged
 - NASA civil servants are not allowed to write letters of endorsement for any candidate

Dave: There are no penalties for not proposing. The 35% alignment has always been there. Proposers will not be penalized for not having a research focus. Letters of commitment from collaborators are encouraged. NOFO already says letters of endorsement are not allowed.

Melanie: Are the R3s from 2025 dead? or still alive?

Dave: Paused under Kathy in July. We restarted the review. NLT late March. 4th quarter period of performance start, true for ISS and R3s.

Colleen: The schedule you shared, mid-June closes, obligation end of September. Shouldn't we need to know the winners earlier?

Dave: Our selection will go out in July. Our offices are no longer allowed to notify proposers. NSSC will do that.

Colleen: When is the next R3 for 2027?

Dave: Month of October and that will give us the 90 days window.

Colleen: And due in January?

Dave: Yes.

Matt: There is currently a lot of re-evaluations going on, an example is the Decadal, but I anticipate most things will stay the same.

Leslie: Can we use the RID augmentation for equipment? Equipment library, drones and drone sensors? A lot of our fleet is no longer viable. We will need Blue List drones.

Dave: Yes, but I will run it by Sara McGarvy. It makes sense to me, though.

Chip: Next basic EPSCoR NOFO. Amount of 750,000 has been unchanged for many years. Are there any thoughts to increase the amount if possible?

Dave: It is. We are open to that conversation. But it won't be part of the FY26 NOFO. One way we're able to do it, is that we are moving into an incremental funding model.

Chip: Timeline for NOFO; what you're doing is doable and I appreciate you're putting together the guidance. My sense is that it is a nice compromise. What do you all think?

Paulo: Doable

Melanie: Doable

Denise: Doable

Chip: So, we have something of a consensus here, Dave.
Any final questions for Dave? [none]

Chip: Upcoming Caucus elections – I want to put it on your radar.

Treasurer, Melanie Page (WV)

Secretary, Paulo Oemig (NM)

Excom member, Toni Galvin (NH)

Excom member, Sara Nelson (IA)

Nominating committee member, Caitlin Milera (ND)

Their terms end on June 30, 2026

I'll work with the nominating committee to get it on the upcoming agenda, the slate.

Let me know if you are interested.

Any questions about upcoming elections? [None]

Chip: Advocacy is our next item on the agenda.

Leslee: Jessica if you want to give your update, I know you have to leave earlier.

Jessica: We will be giving people the appropriation package on February 23 at the annual EPSCoR/IDeA Coalition and Foundation meeting.

Leslee: The money is starting to flow. Congress passed FY26 funding. House also moved the NASA authorization bill. They are basically moving the same bill from 2 years ago. What the House passed two years ago. Reauthorizes Space Grant but not NASA EPSCoR. The committee has one member quite opposed to NASA EPSCoR.

On the other hand, over half of the Senate Commerce Committee is made up of Senators from EPSCoR states. But, they are moving much slowly on the Senate side.
Any questions?

Chip: That was our last agenda item. Any other items?
Registration for Caucus mtg on Feb. 28, we have 39 registered. I anticipate another 5 for a total of 44 participating.

That concludes our ExCom portion of the meeting.

Denise: Just got back from being out of the country. Guidelines for report submission?

Dave: The portals are not longer used by the NSSC and are recommending email submission. To NSSC and EPSCoR emails.
NCE can be submitted when you need it, there is no need to wait until 30 days prior to POP. That practice is no longer in use.

Colleen: Patricia Gillis sent a email with all the contacts for different things:
Performance reports: Submit to [NSSC-Grant-Report](#)
Final reports: Submit to [NSSC-Closeout](#)
Administrative supplement requests (No-Cost Extensions, Administrative Changes, Prior Approvals): Submit to <mailto:nssc-admin-supplement-request@mail.nasa.gov>
PI Transfer Requests: Submit to [NSSC-Grants-PI-Transfer](#)

Chip: Adjourns the meeting at 5:07 pm ET.
