

Nebraska EPSCoR* *Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

Since 1991**, EPSCoR/IDeA federal programs have awarded more than $728 million to Nebraska**, including more than $217 million from NSF and $452 million from NIH. These programs support a **vital research ecosystem** for Nebraska: advancing scientific collaborations and training future generations of scientists and engineers.

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Our Mission and Programs

Nebraska EPSCoR is a partnership of Higher Education, State and Federal Government, and Private Industry.

The **mission** of Nebraska's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and Institutional Development Award (IDeA) is to

- ***BUILD the state's research capacity and competitiveness,***
- ***INVEST in workforce development, and***
- ***FOSTER public-private partnerships in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).***

Federal EPSCoR funding enables NE EPSCoR programs including:

- NSF Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) **TRACK-1 $20M, 5-year collaboration** on *Emergent Quantum Materials and Technologies (EQUATE)* – grows cutting edge research and development.
- **FIRST Awards:** competitive assistance of $25,000 (1:1 match required) to Nebraska's early-career, tenure-track faculty. Grants help early-career faculty initiate their research programs and compete more effectively for NSF CAREER grants.
- **NESTIP**: Nebraska EPSCoR shares the cost of student internships at private companies in-state for up to 12 months, by reimbursing up to 50% of the student's salary and related FICA taxes <$5,000 in a 6-month period.
- **Nebraska Research & Innovation Conference (NRIC):** Each year Nebraska EPSCoR gathers speakers and communities focusing on topics to benefit the state. Research posters by students add to the day's events.
- **Small Colleges and Universities' Teaching and Research Equipment "TRE" Awards** at Nebraska's small public or private colleges (with annual research expenditures of less than $8 million). Shared-use equipment and instrumentation enhances research and/or educational activities for STEM learning.
- **Undergraduate Research Experiences at Small Colleges and Universities:** Faculty working with undergraduates can annually submit a STEM project proposal to earn funding (maximum budget of $5,000).
- **Young Nebraska Scientists (YNS)** provides STEM enrichment activities for middle and high school students – including SUMMER CAMPS at Nebraska colleges and universities; HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCHER paid positions; and MOBILE LABS that equip remote schools with equipment and curriculum.

Our Partners

Nebraska EPSCoR partners include our state's higher education institutions:

Bellevue University
Bryan College of Health Sciences
Central Community College
Chadron State College
College of Saint Mary
Concordia University
Creighton University
Doane University
Hastings College
Little Priest Tribal College
Metropolitan Community College
Mid-Plains Community College
Midland University
Nebraska Indian Community College
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Northeast Community College
Peru State College
Southeast Community College
Union Adventist University
University of Nebraska at Kearney
University of Nebraska–Lincoln
University of Nebraska Medical Center
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Wayne State College
York University

Nebraska EPSCoR coordinates talent at the state's universities and colleges to collaborate and compete for merit-based federal funding that supports research infrastructure and capacity building projects. We contribute to the state's workforce development via educational and research opportunities for K-16 students, graduate students and junior faculty, and spur economic development in partnerships with private industry.

Success Stories

NEBRASKA EPSCoR brings the science of quantum materials to 170+ science teachers from across the state. When the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science (NATS) held its annual conference—October 2025 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln—representatives from NSF's Nebraska EQUATE project demonstrated physics curriculum that teachers can use in their classrooms. Also, Nebraska EPSCoR sponsorship of this event helped dozens of rural teachers attend.





CITIZEN SCIENCE / BIOTECHNOLOGY TRAINING: "DOG GENETICS"
With support from Nebraska EPSCoR and industry partner Neogen, Southeast Community College leads the curriculum shared with Nebraska secondary school teachers--to directly connect biotechnology careers with students, via humane testing of the dogs in their lives. Hands-on activities, engaging discussions, and real-world applications boost workforce development for the Nebraska biotech industry.

https://www.southeast.edu/academics/programs/biotechnology/k9-project.php

Major Recent Federal Basic Science Research Funding to Nebraska

Program/Grant Name	Institution/s (Lead)	Years	Cong. District	Amount
NIH COBRE: Center for Pediatric Brain Health (PI: Tony Wilson, PhD)	**Boys Town National Research Hospital (BTNRH)**	2022-27	Bacon	$12,500,000
NSF EPSCoR RII Track-2: Stoichiometric Traits of Organisms In their Chemical Habitats/ STOICH (PI: Jessica Corman, PhD)	**UNL** , Univ. of Wyoming, Central Arkansas Univ., Middlebury College	2021-26	Flood	$6,000,000
NIH COBRE: Translational Hearing Center (PIs: J. Zuo, PhD; P. Steyger, PhD)	**Creighton University**, BTNRH, University of Nebraska Medical Center	2021-26	Bacon	$10,800,000
NIH IDEA-CTR (Clinical and Translational Research) – Great Plains (PI: Matthew Rizzo, MD)	**UNMC**, UNL, UNO, UNK, BTNRH, Children's Hospital, Creighton, Omaha VA	2021-26	Statewide	$20,300,000
NIH COBRE: Center for Heart and Vascular Research (PI: Rebekah Gundry, PhD)	**University of Nebraska Medical Center**	2024-29	Bacon	$11,800,000
NIH ECHO (Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes) (PI: Russell J. McCulloh, MD)	University of Nebraska Medical Center (Lead: University of Kansas Medical Center)	2025-30	Bacon	$2,250,000
NIH ECHO (Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes) (PI: Ellen Kerns, PhD)	**University of Nebraska Medical Center** UNK, Nebraska Medicine, Children's Nebraska	2025-30	Bacon	$5,000,000
NIH COBRE: Cognitive Neuroscience of Development and Aging "CONDA" Ctr (PI: Anna Dunaevsky-Hutt, PhD)	**University of Nebraska Medical Center** BTNRH, UNO, Creighton Univ.	2020-30	Bacon	$11,470,890
NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1: Emergent Quantum Materials and Technologies (EQUATE), (PI: Matthew T. Andrews, PhD)	**UNL**, UNO, UNK, Creighton, LPTC, NICC	2021-26	Statewide	$20,000,000
NASA: NASA Nebraska EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Development Grant (PI: Scott Tarry, PhD)	**University of Nebraska at Omaha**	2022-27	Bacon	$1,000,000
NIH INBRE (IDEA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence) (PI: Paul Sorgen, PhD)	**UNMC**, Bryan Coll. of Health Sci, Chadron State Coll., Coll. of St. Mary, Creighton U., Doane U., Neb. Indian Comm. Coll., Neb. Wesleyan U., UNL, UNK, UNO, Wayne State	2020-26	Statewide	$22,595,800
NIH COBRE: Center for Cardiovascular Research in Biomechanics (CRiB) (PI: Alexey Kamenskiy, PhD)	**University of Nebraska at Omaha**	2024-29	Bacon	$10,973,465