

Idaho NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 Brainstorming Sessions

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Session outline

1. Re-cap on NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 program
2. Summary of previous Listening Sessions
3. Process and timeline
4. Proposed RII Track-1 Theme area
5. Brainstorming discussion

NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)

- the purpose of RII Track-1 is to provide support for sustainable improvements in a jurisdiction's academic research infrastructure that lead to **increased research capacity and competitiveness**
- the program aims to **improve jurisdictional capacity** in areas of STEM research and education that are supported by the National Science Foundation and **aligned with the jurisdiction's science and technology priorities.**



NSF Idaho EPSCoR RII Track-1 Objectives

- build the **academic research infrastructure** of the State, by helping colleges, departments and programs transform themselves;
- build **regional, national and international recognition** of the project participants and organizations
- **add value to existing institutional priorities**, departments, and programs in which the institutions also are willing to invest
- **catalyze new initiatives** that have significant financial and personnel commitments from institutions and colleges



Mar-Apr Listening Sessions Summary

A selection of items raised:

- BioTech for Rural Communities Farm/Forestry/mining
- Internet of Things Environmental monitoring: Ag, like precision Ag
- Resilience related to Bio Processes or future industries
- Cybersecurity in some form.
- Eco-Friendly materials and processes - relates to Advanced Manufacturing
- Rural and clean energy
- Resilient infrastructure
- GeoHealth – environmental and other risk in rural and underserved communities
- Bridging the Rural urban divide for STEM in Idaho
- Better serving Latinx and Native American communities and people in Idaho
- Leveraging remote, learning anywhere in Idaho (connectivity)

RII Track-1 Process & Timeline

1. **Strategic SWOT analysis** and selection of **RII Theme** (Spring 2021)
 - a) Brainstorming sessions (early-May)
 - b) Finalize RII Theme (late-May)
2. **Selection of RII proposal topic and leads** (Summer 2021)
 - a) Workshop for invited senior researchers to request Research Innovation Briefs (June)
 - b) Preparation of Research Innovation Briefs (June-Aug)
 - c) Merit review of RIB (Aug)
 - d) Approval of research topic, overarching research question(s), hypotheses, and institutional leads.
3. Prepare first **complete draft of RII proposal** (Fall 2021 – Spring 2022)
4. Prepare and **submit full RII proposal** (Summer 2022)

Aug 1, 2022



RII Track-1 Theme area

Draft theme area:

- **Innovation pathways for resilience of natural resources and critical infrastructure**

Specific theme elements:

- Resilience
- Natural resources
- Infrastructure
- WFD elements

In general terms:

- Broad umbrella for research topic identification
- Provides bounds for developing overarching research questions and hypotheses
- Allows for narrowing in on innovative research directions

Theme area external review

Concerns:

- Need to be focused
- Need to articulate novelty
- Need clearer alignment with future NSF budget, OSTP, American Jobs plan, etc.

Suggestions:

- Identify critical challenges/problem statements
- Use state as a living laboratory; leverage existing assets
- Identify a few priority areas or sectors with economic impact

Some ground rules for discussion

Questions, comments?

Discussion ...



Discussion

- 1. What are some critical problem statements for Idaho that science can advance?**
- 2. What are some tentative titles that encapsulate these problem statements?**
- 3. Why Idaho?**

