Telecon Notes:

- Proposers should note several factors can affect selection of proposals at the national level, in addition to having a good research plan. A general description of these factors can be found in the proposal evaluation section of the national NASA EPSCoR RA RFP, to be released in late 2019. A link to the most recent national RFP is in the NASA KY RFP-19-004 document (pg.2) on our website. Kentucky selects pre-proposals based on evaluation of the research as well as competitiveness among programmatic factors, including:

  1) Return on Investment (ROI) – ROI is higher if the proposal offers a research plan that establishes research capacity with a high chance of follow-on competitiveness for non-EPSCoR funding, including factors such as specialized equipment and research mentoring that would enable further research. This program is considered a multi-investigator seed award with the intent of supporting career development for young researchers to help the state achieve more research capability. Typically teams of 2-3 investigators and pairings of an experienced researcher with a younger researcher are often successful.
  2) Diversity among institutions and researchers are considered favorably, as are partnerships among institutions, industry, and government agencies.
  3) It is a plus to involve more than a single NASA Center and mission directorate.
  4) NASA expects a tightly-aligned research relationship. Proposals that lack existing strong relationships with NASA collaborators will not be competitive. There is a strong focus at NASA to emphasize their missions and mission directorates (Space Tech, Science, Aeronautics, Human Exploration).
  5) EPSCoR funding leaving EPSCoR states is not desired.

- Only 1 proposal is allowed to be submitted per state. It is the intent of the NASA Kentucky EPSCoR program to submit Kentucky’s most competitive proposal. Typically there are 10-12 proposals in-state. 28 states submit proposals to the national competition – all are usually very competitive. Selections by the national program vary, from 6-8 to up to 17. National selection is usually balanced among Mission Directorates.

- Kentucky’s pre-proposal process:
  1) NASA KY receives pre-proposal submissions.
  2) Submissions go to external reviewers
  3) NASA KY selects and develops a proposal to meet the national RFP timeline; selection of a pre-proposal will be approx. mid-November 2019.
  4) National submission deadline expected to be Jan/Feb 2020

- Additional notes:
1) Specialized equipment is allowable as an expense and existing equipment can be used as cost-share when appropriately documented and certified by the institution
2) Cost-share must be from non-Federal sources
3) The state EPSCoR office will provide cost-share for the selected proposal, however the university should also show cost-share; helps to indicate institutional support for the research
4) Only a 1 pg budget narrative is needed for the pre-proposal, including potential sources of cost-share

**Q & A:**

1) NASA collaborators should be unfunded in the proposal. NASA collaborators should provide commitment through support for the research.
2) Limited funding can go to facility/lab use at NASA Centers.
3) Average number of Kentucky researchers per proposal is 2-3
4) Researchers are encouraged to refer to the NASA Technology Roadmaps and identify multiple lines of research in order to expand partnerships.
5) Travel funding will be provided for the selected PI to meet with NASA collaborators prior to final proposal submission. A collaboration meeting is highly encouraged.
6) How many awards are typical at the national level? 15-20

See the FAQ linked on the [NASA KY EPSCoR page](#) for additional information.