

SD EPSCoR – Education/Workforce Development Request for Proposal – 2015

Full proposal deadline: All proposals must be submitted electronically to Jane.Gubrud@state.sd.us by 5pm CST, March 5, 2015. Please mail a hard copy with signatures to Kim Van Den Hemel at: 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291

Award notification: March 13, 2015

Scope: \$170,000 will be granted to schools. Grant awards will cap at \$30,000 each. Projects may begin following award notification in March 2015. Funds must be expended by prior to June 30, 2015.

Purpose & Priorities:

EPSCoR is the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research, which was established by the National Science Foundation to strengthen research and education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and drive science-based economic development.

Proposals for SD EPSCoR funds through the Department of Education aim to increase the number of STEM graduates skilled in informatics and biosciences at all levels by partnering industry with K16 education and research activities to meet the growing workforce needs of South Dakota. Funds are awarded on a competitive basis to projects which allow students to explore STEM-related disciplines or which are parts of an approved Career & Technical Education (CTE) program in the following career clusters:

- 1) Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
- 2) Information Technology (*Analytics and Programming*)
- 3) Health Science (*Research & Development*)
- 4) Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (*Research & Development*)

Grant awards will be made based on alignment with the following priorities:

1. **Student participation:** Demonstrates a capacity for a large number of students to participate in the project.
2. **STEM Awareness:** Increases student awareness, knowledge and skills in the full range of STEM careers available in South Dakota.
3. **Partnership with business and industry:** Provides for networking opportunities for teachers and students, collaboration on work-based learning experiences, guidance related to student organization activities or other efforts. Business partners are encouraged to consider co-funding of internships via the Dakota Seeds program. The business partner should make this application via www.dakotaseeds.com

4. **Cooperation with postsecondary education** (technical institutes or public universities): Provides support for the grant project through activities such as dual credit opportunities, guest speakers, teacher training, or program alignment. Innovative partnerships are encouraged.
5. **Diversity:** Strengthens STEM education for diverse audiences, improving instruction for under-represented groups of students and those located in rural areas of the state.

Eligibility

Applications may be submitted by school districts and educational service providers in South Dakota. Applications must demonstrate partnerships with economic development corporations or industry partners.

School districts that receive funding will be expected to fulfill the requirements of approved CTE programs in South Dakota during the 2015-16 school year.

Use of Funds

SD EPSCoR grants are intended to assist with project start-up costs; grant projects must be self-sustaining beyond this initial investment. Costs must be necessary and reasonable to complete the project; documentation must be available to support all expenditures.

Funds may be used to support a variety of activities including (but not limited to):

- Rigorous curricular programs
- Online course development
- Teacher training
- Teacher externships
- Student capstone experiences or work-based learning opportunities in STEM fields, such as Project Lead The Way (PLTW) applications
- Competitive student events related to STEM
- Career camps
- Equipment and materials related to the content of project activities
- Expenses associated with student assessments/certifications
- Industry tours and guest speakers

Grant funds cannot be used for:

- Salaries and benefits
- Costs associated with writing the grant proposal
- Contractual obligations which begin prior to the award date or are not approved for use prior to June 30, 2015
- Purchases that become the property of any individual or organization other than the eligible recipient
- Purchases or services beyond the project outcomes or activities

Considerations

Questions to consider when vetting potential grant projects include:

- In what ways will the project add opportunity for more students to increase their skills within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics?
- How will the project expose students to the full range of STEM-related workforce areas in South Dakota?
- How will funds, resources and partnerships be leveraged to support the project over time?
- How will this project help to develop a bridge between the local educational system and business and industry?
- How will this project increase diversity within the STEM industry?

Maximum Grant Amount

The maximum amount, per individual award, will be \$30,000. Total funds available from the SD EPSCoR grant are \$170,000.

Application Deadline & Award Process

All proposals must be submitted electronically to Jane.Gubrud@state.sd.us by 5 pm CST, March 5, 2015
Please mail a hard copy with signatures to Kim Van Den Hemel at: 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291

Final award notifications will be announced by Friday, March 13, 2015

Significant progress is expected to be made on the grant project during Spring 2015. All grant activities must have final approval prior to June 30, 2015.

SD EPSCoR grants will be awarded through a competitive process. All proposals will be read and judged by a review committee. The review committee will determine award winners based on the grant priorities and criteria using a scoring rubric.

Both successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified. Award decisions made by the review committee are final.

Reporting Requirements:

Grant award recipients will:

- Provide requested student participation data per the request of the South Dakota Department of Education upon completion of the award
- Submit detailed documentation of each expenditure of funds
- Deliver a project completion narrative with the final request for payment describing how the goals of the project were met through the grant award.

Contact

Direct questions regarding grant applications to Jane Gubrud (Jane.Gubrud@state.sd.us, 605.295.1892).

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Application Submission Checklist

All proposals must be submitted electronically as a single PDF to Jane.Gubrud@state.sd.us by 5 pm CST, March 5, 2015. Please mail a hard copy with signatures to Kim Van Den Hemel at: 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2291

Complete applications will include the following elements:

- Application Cover Page
- Partnership Form(s)
- Grant Details:
 - Abstract
 - Narrative
 - Project Goals, Measurable Outcomes & Evaluation Plan
 - Implementation Timeline
 - Budget
 - Appendices, if applicable

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Application Cover Page

Lead District or Multi-district	
District/Fiscal Agent Number	
Participating Postsecondary Entity(ies) or Industry Partner(s)	<i>Business partners are encouraged to consider co-funding of internships via the Dakota Seeds program. The business partner should make this application via www.dakotaseeds.com</i>
Project Title	
Project Duration	Grant Start Date: Grant End Date: <i>Grant projects can begin after award announcements are made in March 2015. Significant progress is expected during Spring 2015. All grant activities must have final approval prior to June 30, 2015.</i>
Lead Contact Person	
Phone Number(s)	
Email Address	

Assurances and Certification Statement:

The applicant assures this project will be administered in compliance with state laws and regulations applicable to the use of these funds. The applicant certifies, to the best of its knowledge, that the information contained in this application is accurate and complete.

If selected for the SD EPSCoR grant, the applicant will:

1. Complete the project as described in this proposal,
2. Provide requested data upon completion of the award
3. Submit detailed documentation of each expenditure of funds
4. Deliver a project completion narrative describing how the goals of the project were met through the grant award with the final request for payment

Authorized Representative (Typed)	Title
Original Signature – Authorized Representative	Date
Mailing Address	Direct Phone Number

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Partner Form

Each of the grant partners (postsecondary entities, industry partners, etc.) must complete the following form to signify support of and involvement in the development and implementation of the grant project described in this application. Business partners are encouraged to consider co-funding of internships via the Dakota Seeds program. The business partner should make this application via www.dakotaseeds.com

Each partner will complete and submit this form to the applying fiscal agent/lead district.

Authorized Representative Name & Title			
Email			
Name of School District, Postsecondary Entity or Business/Industry Partner			
Major Role(s) in Project			
Address			
Phone Number			
Original Signature of Authorized Representative		Date	

Narrative - continued

Describe the following elements of the project: (use the fill in box or add additional pages)

8. How the project will be sustained beyond the funding period.

III. Project Goals, Measurable Outcomes & Evaluation Plan (use the fill in box or add additional pages)

Outline clear and realistic project goals. Indicate how students' knowledge of and skills in STEM will be impacted as a result of the project. Describe how the project will be evaluated through assessment, data, anecdotal records, etc.

Note: Photos or videos of minor students used in reporting documents must be accompanied by signed releases from a parent or guardian.

IV. Implementation Timeline (use the fill in box or add additional pages)

Detail major milestones in the development and implementation of the grant project.

V. Budget - There is no match requirement for the SD EPSCoR grant to the SD Department of Education Provide an itemized budget for developing, implementing and evaluating the grant project. Outline expenses that will be paid for through grant dollars and those expenses that can be covered through matching funds.

Feel free to make use of the budget templates on the following page or modify them to meet your needs. Grant awardees will be required to provide detailed documentation of each expenditure of funds.

VI. Appendices, where applicable

Include supporting charts, graphs, tables, estimates or other materials that are referenced in the Narrative or Budget.

SD EPSCoR – Education/Workforce Development Itemized Budget

Budget Request	Purchased Services	Travel	Instructional Materials	Equipment	Total
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
					\$
Total Budgetary Needs	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

Category	SD EPSCoR Funds Requested	Additional Supporting Resources		
		Local Funds	Local Perkins Allocation	Other Funds or In-Kind Contributions
Purchased Services				
Travel				
Instructional Materials				
Equipment				
TOTAL	\$	\$	\$	\$