

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Education & Broadening Participation Seed Grants Arkansas NSF EPSCoR

Program Description:

Data Analytics that are Robust and Trusted (DART) and the Arkansas NSF EPSCoR Central Office are soliciting proposals for project-related mini-seed grants for STEM education, outreach, and broadening participation. This RFP is supported by NSF award number OIA-1946391.

Eligible activities include special events, curriculum development, outreach programs, and related activities that will increase the size and diversity of the STEM-skilled student and worker pipeline in Arkansas, with emphasis on data science and computer science related fields. Successful proposals will align with, but not duplicate the proposed efforts of DART (below).

The goals of the education component of DART are to foster the establishment of a Statewide Data Science Educational Ecosystem by:

- Developing a combination of model programs, degrees, pedagogy, and curriculum including a 9-week middle school coding block; a technical certificate, certificate of proficiency, and associate of science in data science; and a Bachelor of Science in data science with minors or concentrations.
- Providing resources and training for educators including \$5,000 Seed Grants for project-related Education & Broadening Participation (this program); Career Development Workshops for project participants and educators; and K12 teacher professional development on data science topics.
- Providing educational opportunities inside and outside the classroom for students. Undergraduate and graduate research assistantships in DART labs will be funded along with intensive data science and computing summer camps for undergraduates and research-based capstone projects and internships with industry partners.
- Ensuring broad participation to impact the pipeline of data science skilled workers through Summer Undergrad Research Experiences in DART labs for underserved students, scholarships for underserved students to the Arkansas Summer Research Institute (ASRI); and by connecting students to opportunities through the Arkansas Center for Data Sciences (ACDS).

Eligible Applicants:

Eligible entities include Arkansas K12 school districts, Arkansas post-secondary institutions, educational service co-ops, non-profits, or other entities supporting data science and computer science related STEM education and outreach activities in Arkansas. Currently funded DART participants are NOT eligible.

Award Amount and Duration:

Awards will range from \$500 to \$5,000 to support special events or activities with a duration of less than one year. We ask that indirect be waived due to the size of the awards, or if necessary, limited to 8%. We anticipate awarding up to \$20,000 total in projects per year over two solicitations.

Solicitation #1 Important Dates and Submission Deadline:

Proposals due Friday October 29, 2020
Awards announced Friday December 3, 2020
Awards begin January 1, 2021

Solicitation #2 Important Dates and Submission Deadline:

Proposals due Friday April 2, 2020
Awards announced Friday May 21, 2021
Awards begin July 1, 2021

Program Director:

Jennifer Fowler
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Application procedure:

To be considered for seed funding, a PDF submission must be emailed to Jennifer Fowler at JFowler@ArkansasEDC.com by 5:00PM CST on the due date. The submission must include a completed proposal template (separate document) and any necessary supplemental information not to exceed 5 additional pages.

The proposed budget should be as detailed as possible and include a descriptive justification for the expenses. The budget **should not** contain any salary support for faculty or staff.

Review Criteria:

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee including representatives from the Arkansas NSF EPSCoR Central Office, plus outside representatives with relevant experience if necessary. Reviewers will be asked to determine if it seems likely that the proposed project will increase the size and diversity of STEM-skilled students and workers in Arkansas.

General Conditions of the Award:

Arkansas EPSCoR must comply with NSF EPSCoR reporting requirements. Therefore, each awardee will be required to comply with expenditure report deadlines and submit a narrative outcomes report to the central office once the project is complete.

Awardees will also be invited to attend the Arkansas NSF EPSCoR Annual Conference, where one awardee will be invited to give a presentation about their project.

In the event of any changes to contact information regarding the project, Jennifer Fowler must be notified.

All publications resulting from the award must include the following statement of acknowledgment: *This work was supported by the National Science Foundation under award number OIA-194639.*

Additional conditions may be specified on resulting award letters.

PROPOSAL TEMPLATE – SEPARATE DOCUMENT