Request For Applications

Vermont Space Grant Consortium
Vermont NASA EPSCoR

2027 Faculty Research Grant Program

Released: October 8, 2026
Amended: October 26, 2026
Application Deadline: February 12, 2027 at 11:59 p.m.

BACKGROUND: The Vermont Space Grant Consortium (VTSGC) and Vermont NASA EPSCoR seek to strengthen Vermont's research capacity by helping faculty build NASA partnerships and compete successfully for external funding in NASA-related fields. To advance these goals, VTSGC and Vermont NASA EPSCoR invite applications for Research Pilot Grants (up to $13,000 in direct costs) and Small-Scale Research Grants (up to $30,000 in direct costs). Projects must align closely with current NASA research priorities or technology needs and should demonstrate potential to connect Vermont faculty with NASA Centers.

ELIGIBILITY: Principal investigators must be full-time faculty members at an accredited Vermont institution of higher education.

TYPES OF GRANTS AVAILABLE: Applicants may request support under one of the following grant programs:

- *Research Pilot Grants* – Awards of up to $13,000 in direct costs provide seed funding for novel NASA-aligned research projects. Preliminary data are not required.
- *Small-Scale Research Grants* – Awards of up to $30,000 in direct costs support the advancement of more established research projects. Applications must include preliminary results and data that justify the proposed work.

The period of performance for each grant program is one year with earliest start date of June 1, 2027 (if requesting VTSGC funds) or October 1, 2027 (if requesting Vermont NASA EPSCoR funds).

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING: Awards are subject to the availability of NASA funding. At the time of release of this RFA, it is expected that funding will be available to support up to 6 awards.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION: Applications must be submitted as a single PDF document containing the following components in the order listed:

Required component (listed in order of assembly)	Page limit
1. Cover page using template	1 page
2. Project description	5 pages (Small-Scale) or 3 pages (Pilot), excluding references
3. NASA Alignment	1 page
4. References cited	As needed
5. Budget table and budget narrative	As needed
6. Biosketches *SciENcv-formatted biosketches for the principal investigator and any co-investigators.*	As needed
7. Cost-sharing commitment letter(s) *Include letters of commitment from the appropriate institution officials responsible for the source of matching funds*	As needed
8. Other letters of commitment *Include letters documenting specific project commitments; letters of endorsement are not permitted.*	As needed
9. Subrecipient commitment form *For non-UVM PIs only, include a completed, signed subrecipient commitment form. The form is available from the UVM Sponsored Project Administration website.*	As needed

Items 2–5 must be typed and single-spaced with a page size of 8.5 inches by 11 inches with 1-inch margins on all sides. The typeface must be at least 12 points in size. Applications that do not adhere to these requirements will be returned without review.

Applications must be submitted electronically to the VTSGC/Vermont NASA EPSCoR Office no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 12, 2027. The application must be saved as a single PDF file and emailed to SG.Director@uvm.edu using the subject line "2027 Faculty Research Grant Application".

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project description is the primary scientific component of the application and should be written for a scientifically literate audience. Applicants should avoid excessive technical jargon and provide sufficient context for evaluation by accomplished researchers who may not be experts in the specific research area. A strong project description will address the following:

- Research goals, hypotheses, and significance of the proposed work
- Preliminary results and data supporting the proposed research (required for Small-Scale Research Grants; optional for Research Pilot Grants)
- Technical approach and methodology, including relevant experimental designs, methods, techniques, and innovations
- Expected outcomes, impacts, and contributions to the field

NASA ALIGNMENT: Applicants must clearly demonstrate the relevance of the proposed research to NASA's mission, research priorities, or technology needs. The NASA Alignment section should explain how the proposed work advances one or more NASA objectives and identify the specific NASA programs, mission directorates, research areas, or technology priorities to which the project is aligned. Applicants should cite relevant NASA planning and strategy documents, such as NASA's initiatives to achieve America's national space policy ("NASA Ignition"), NASA Technology Taxonomy, or recent solicitations posted in NSPIRES. Strong applications will articulate both the significance of the proposed work to NASA and its potential to foster future collaborations with NASA researchers or Centers.

Updated 10-26-2026: NASA Ignition [https://www.nasa.gov/ignition]
NASA Technology Taxonomy [https://techport.nasa.gov/taxonomy]
NSPIRES [https://nspires.nasaprs.com]

BUDGET TABLE AND BUDGET NARRATIVE: Applications must include both a budget table and a budget narrative. The budget table must itemize all requested costs. A budget table template is provided in the Appendix. The budget narrative must describe and justify each budget item.

All requested costs must be allowable under federal grant regulations. Allowable costs include personnel salaries and fringe benefits, materials and supplies, domestic travel, publication costs, consultant services, computing expenses, and other project-related costs that are allowable under federal guidelines. Equipment with a unit cost greater than $5,000 and international travel are not allowable.

For projects that include graduate student support, stipend, tuition, and fringe benefit costs must be consistent with current institutional policies. Undergraduate student compensation must likewise comply with institutional wage policies and include fringe benefits where applicable.

Facilities and Administrative (F&A) costs must be requested in addition to direct costs and must be calculated using the federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement applicable to the principal investigator's institution.

COST SHARING: Funding requested from VTSGC and Vermont NASA EPSCoR must be matched on a 1:1 basis for the first $25,000 in direct costs. Cost sharing must be provided from non-federal sources. Common forms of cost share include in-kind contributions, such as faculty research effort during the academic year. Waived or differential tuition may not be used as cost share. F&A may not be used as cost share. The budget table must identify both requested NASA funds and cost-share contributions. The budget narrative must identify and justify all sources of cost share.

INSTITUTIONAL AUTHORIZATION: Applications must be approved by an authorizing official at the institution of origin. University of Vermont applicants must coordinate with their departmental representative from Sponsored Project Administration (SPA) and route a funding proposal through UVMClick. All other applicants must coordinate with the SPA equivalent at their institution and submit a completed and signed subrecipient commitment form.

REVIEW CRITERIA AND SELECTION: Applications determined to be responsive to this RFA will be reviewed by a panel of faculty experts. Reviewers will assess the strengths and weaknesses of each application in the following domains:

- *Scientific/Technical Merit* – Clarity, significance, and scientific or technical rigor of the proposed research aims, objectives, goals, hypotheses, and expected outcomes
- *Approach* – Clarity, feasibility, and appropriateness of the proposed methods and research plan in relation to the project goals and objectives
- *NASA Alignment* – Significance and relevance of the proposed research to NASA scientific, technology, or exploration priorities
- *Investigators* – Qualifications, expertise, and complementary capabilities of the study team to conduct the proposed research successfully
- *Overall Impact* – Overall assessment of the proposed project, reflecting the strengths and weaknesses identified across the review domains and the potential for the project to achieve its stated objectives

Applicants will receive written reviewer critiques. Final selections will be made by the VTSGC Director in consultation with the VTSGC/Vermont NASA EPSCoR Boards of Advisors.

OBLIGATIONS WITH AWARDS: All awardees will be required to complete a demographic survey and final research progress report within 30 days of the end of the award period. Additional research progress update(s) may be requested after completion of the project to address NASA reporting requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Please direct any questions about this program to:

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Appendix: Budget Table Template

Vermont Space Grant Consortium / Vermont NASA EPSCoR
Faculty Research Grant Program

	NASA funds	Cost share	Total funds
A. Personnel salaries			
Principal Investigator			
Co-Investigator(s)			
Other personnel (add rows as needed)			
Total salaries			
B. Fringe benefits			
Principal Investigator			
Co-Investigator(s)			
Other personnel (add rows as needed)			
Total fringe benefits			
C. Materials and supplies			
Item 1			
Item 2			
Other items (add rows as needed)			
Total materials and supplies			
D. Domestic travel			
E. Other direct costs			
Publication costs			
Consultant services			
Computing expenses			
Other items (add rows as needed)			
Total other direct costs			
Total direct costs			
Indirect cost (F&A)			
Total			

Total direct costs must not exceed $13,000 for Research Pilot Grants and $30,000 for Small-scale Research Grants. F&A costs should be calculated using the federally negotiated rate agreement applicable to the principal investigator's institution. The cost-sharing requirement is a 1:1 match on the first $25,000 in direct costs.

The Budget Table must be followed by the **Budget Narrative** (see instructions).

This template is available in MS Word format from the VTSGC webstite.