The National Science Foundation Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (NSF EPSCoR) has announced the following funding opportunity: Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-4: EPSCoR Research Fellows (RII Track-4). Only three RII Track-4 proposals may be submitted in response to this solicitation by any single organization in a RII-eligible jurisdiction.

- RII Track-4 provides opportunities for non-tenured investigators to further develop their individual research potential through extended collaborative visits to the nation’s premier private, governmental, or academic research centers.
- There is a limit of three proposals from each submitting organization.
- PIs must be Non-tenured faculty members (both those who hold tenure-track appointments but have not yet received tenure, and those who hold long-term non-tenure-track positions). Postdoctoral appointments are not eligible.
- Proposals may focus on any area of science or engineering that NSF supports.
- Host sites for fellowship projects must be located within the United States, its territories, or possessions and should be outside their EPSCoR jurisdiction.
- Support Letters will be required for those proposals selected to move forward (at least one letter of support from each of: the PI’s Dept. Chair or Dean; the Research Collaborator/s at the host site and; the host institution).

If selected to move forward, the Full proposal is due March 12, 2019 to the NSF. Please note that Co-PIs are not allowed. Also, PIs who have received an award in any previous RII Track-4 competition may not submit a proposal under this solicitation.

This announcement is to allow you as much time as possible for preparation for the pre-proposal process. The FY 2018 solicitation is still in effect for the 2019. [https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18526/nsf18526.htm](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18526/nsf18526.htm) The eligibility list will be updated as needed, but that will not affect Vermont.

We ask that you submit a 3-page pre-proposal by **4 pm on January 16, 2019** via epscor@uvm.edu that addresses:
- A project description and a statement about how the fellowship collaboration will benefit the PI career trajectory and their home institution and/or their EPSCoR jurisdiction.
- The name of the host site and proposed collaborator/s
- A Letter of Support from the PI’s Chair or Dean confirming support of the project and that release time will be provided (may be outside the 3-page limit)
- CV of the PI (may be outside of the 3-page limit)

It is expected that the OVPR will notify potential applicants of proposals selected before the end of the January 2019 in order to provide sufficient time for the routing packet to be completed by SPA 2 weeks before the NSF deadline of March 19, 2019. You may contact Hilda.Alajajian@uvm.edu with questions.