

SC NASA EPSCoR 2026-2027 \$35K Research Grant Program (RGP)

See website: <http://scnasaepscor.cofc.edu/>

PROGRAM GOAL: The goal of NASA EPSCoR is to provide seed funding that will enable jurisdictions to develop an academic research enterprise directed toward long-term, self-sustaining, nationally-competitive capabilities in aerospace and aerospace-related research.

- *Each funded SC NASA EPSCoR proposal is expected to establish research activities that will make significant contributions to the strategic research and technology development priorities of NASA and South Carolina.*

SUMMARY OF KEY INFORMATION

This is the call for Letters of Intent (LOIs) and Institutional Endorsements for the SC NASA EPSCoR Research Grant Program (\$35,000). Endorsed projects are eligible to submit proposals to this program in accordance with the guidelines below. In consideration of the extremely high historical interest in this program, SC NASA EPSCoR has instituted a per-institution limit of **up to 4 proposals** that may be submitted for consideration in this competition. Accordingly, the SC NASA EPSCoR office has instituted the following process:

February 24, 2026	Letter of Intent (LOI) from PI due by midnight to the SC NASA EPSCoR office to scsgrant@cofc.edu (see below)
February 24, 2026	Institutional Endorsement by email from your institution's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) to scsgrant@cofc.edu
March 24, 2026	Proposals due by midnight to the SC NASA EPSCoR. All Proposals shall be submitted (with all signatures on budgets and cover page) through the SC NASA EPSCoR submission website: https://spacegrant.net/proposals/submit/?sponsor_id=14

LATE OR NON-COMPLIANT APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Proposal Submission Guidelines

- **Once you have been nominated by your institution, the potential PI may submit a full proposals (including Items 1 – 8 below) with all required signatures in ONE single PDF document to https://spacegrant.net/proposals/submit/?sponsor_id=14. NOTE: Multiple individual pdf documents of proposal sections will not be considered for review.**
- **Standard NASA Formatting Rules apply:** Proposals in response to this solicitation are to be prepared in ~12-point font with 1" margins. Tables and figure captions may not be less than 10-point font. For accessibility – we strongly recommend using Sans Serif fonts (like this one).
- **Proposals submitted without signatures, or that are incomplete will be considered as non-compliant and will not be considered for review.**

ELIGIBILITY

This program is open to faculty at any institution of higher education within South Carolina. Your institution does not need to be a member of the NASA SC Space Grant Consortium to apply.

Principal Investigator Qualifications and Limitations

Principal Investigators/Project Directors (PI/PD) of proposed NASA EPSCoR projects must be tenured or tenure track faculty at any of South Carolina's institutions of higher education. A PI may only submit one LOI/Proposal. An investigator may serve as PI or Co-PI on only one LOI or Pre-Proposal submitted in response to this solicitation. ***Only investigators with strong, established, active relationship(s) with staff at a NASA research and spaceflight center(s) are encouraged to apply. Prior recipients of the NASA EPSCoR \$750K CAN award are not eligible.***

- ➔ Prior PIs are not permitted to reapply as the PI or for a significant portion of a research effort until a minimum of 3 years after the completion of a previous SC NASA EPSCoR \$35K Research Grant Program award. The EPSCoR program recognizes their experience and would welcome their participation as a mentor and/or in a minor role.
- ➔ For prior Co-Is who did not receive significant funding from a NASA EPSCoR award may submit as PI and/or as a team member. Their proposal should clearly indicate prior support from and their role in the previous NASA EPSCoR grant(s).

SELECTION OF PROPOSALS

All applications that meet the eligibility requirements and guidelines established for this SC NASA EPSCoR Program will be reviewed for merit. Applications will be rated based upon the extent to which they meet the following criteria and will be ranked in each subprogram. The SC NASA EPSCoR Technical Advisory Committee will make the final decisions on funding proposals.

1. Intrinsic merit of the proposed project (scientific/technical) (35%)
2. NASA Relevance (35%)
3. Project contribution(s) to the research and technology development in SC and plans for project sustainability (20%)
4. Realistic budget with sound justification (10%)

TIMETABLE

January 29, 2026	Announcement of Opportunity Released by SC NASA EPSCoR Office
February 24, 2026	Letter of Intent (LOI) from PI due by midnight to the SC NASA EPSCoR office to scsgrant@cofc.edu
February 24, 2026	Institutional Endorsement by email from your institution's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) to scsgrant@cofc.edu
March 24, 2026	Proposals due by midnight to the SC NASA EPSCoR. All Proposals shall be submitted (with all signatures on budgets and cover page) through the SC NASA EPSCoR submission website: https://spacegrant.net/proposals/submit/?sponsor_id=14 LATE OR NON-COMPLIANT APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
May 7, 2026	Award Notifications released and 12-month projects begin.
June 2027	Final reports must be submitted to SC NASA EPSCoR main office.

Letter of Intent Requirements:

A letter of intent (LOI) is required for the SC NASA EPSCoR \$35K Research Grant Program (RGP). Information provided in the LOI's will be used to help identify potential program reviewers.

***Due by midnight on February 24, 2026.**

1. Principal Investigator Information
 - PI Name
 - Institution and Department:
 - Address:
 - Phone:
 - Email:
2. Proposed Project Title:
3. Proposed Project Abstract (one paragraph):
4. Mission Directorate and NASA Center Alignment: Identify the NASA Mission Directorate and the NASA Center(s) that best align with your proposed research.
5. Four (4) suggested reviewers for your project, current position, employer and email address (1 should be a NASA scientist familiar with your research project discipline). Suggested reviewers must be free from conflict of interest with this project. **Suggested reviewers may not have collaborated with you, may not have provided a letter of support in the past 5 years, nor have been your student or advisor, nor be employed at your current institution.**

Institutional Endorsement Requirements:

***Due by midnight on February 24, 2026.**

An email directly from your institution's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) must be sent to scsgrant@cofc.edu on or before the due date of the letters of intent. These shall state the PI's name and project title of up to 4 proposals that the institution is endorsing for submission. This is in addition to the necessary institutional approvals on the proposal documents (budget, cover page) to be submitted later.

- ➔ Once selected and endorsed by your institution, PIs are to move forward with your proposal preparations. NOTE: The SC NASA EPSCoR office does not approve or select the proposals to move forward from your institution.
- ➔ Any letters of intent and proposals submitted that are not included in the AOR's endorsement email will be considered non-compliant and WILL BE returned without review.
- ➔ If the institution fails to submit an email of endorsement by the specified due date, no letters of intent or proposals will be reviewed from that institution.

Proposal Format and Contents

***Due by midnight on March 24, 2026.**

*Proposals must be submitted as one complete .pdf file. All Proposals shall be submitted (with all signatures on budgets and cover page) through the SC NASA EPSCoR submission website:

https://spacegrant.net/proposals/submit/?sponsor_id=14

1. Proposal cover page with authorizing signatures
2. Research Proposal (maximum five-page proposal, including figures and tables, excluding references)
 - a. Research Project Description – Should include a clear definition of research questions, methods, and expected outcomes
 - b. NASA Relevance
 - Clear demonstration of how proposed effort is relevant to NASA's mission, goals and objectives will support NASA's research infrastructure (e.g., discuss how the proposed investigation addresses the goals and objectives of the specific program element)
 - c. Summary of how proposed research activities will make (a) significant contribution(s) to the research and technology development in SC and a summary of plans for project sustainability (see the SC Vision 2030)
 - d. Competency of the project personnel as relates to (c) above
 - e. Summary of student opportunities, if applicable
 - f. References / Resources Cited
3. PI Curriculum Vitae (limited to 2 pages)
4. Co-I(s) Curriculum Vitae (limited to 1 page each)
5. Budget form* and Budget Justification (USE NASA BUDGET TEMPLATE*)

\$0 COST SHARING AND: SC NASA EPSCoR RGP awards are NO LONGER required to match NASA 1:1. *There is not a match requirement this year!*

ALLOWABLE COSTS: Per SC NASA EPSCoR RGP policy, SC NASA EPSCoR funds cannot be used for indirect costs, overhead charges, international travel or to purchase computers. Applications solely for the acquisition of equipment cannot be funded.

6. Current and Pending Support*

*These forms may be downloaded from our SC NASA EPSCoR web site:

<http://scnasaepscor.cofc.edu>

Include the following information on your proposal cover page:

SC NASA EPSCoR RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM

1. Title of Project:

2. Principal Investigator:

Name:

Highest Degree Earned:

Institution / Department:

3. PI Contact Information

Mailing address:

Phone:

e-mail:

4. Co-Investigator(s): (include ALL of the following information for each Co-I)

Name:

Email:

Highest Degree Earned:

Institution / Department:

5. Sponsored Programs Office Contact

Name:

Mailing address:

Phone:

Fax:

e-mail:

6. Total SC NASA EPSCoR Funds Requested (up to \$35,000): \$

By signing and submitting this proposal, the signatories are certifying that the institution and the proposed project are in compliance with all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. By signing, you also agree to allow the SC Space Grant Consortium and SC NASA EPSCoR to issue news releases if your project is selected.

Name and Signature(s) of All Investigators

/ Date signed

Name and Signature of Authorized Institutional Official

/ Date signed