



# NASA Kansas Space Grant Consortium

## Call for Proposals Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Enhancement



### Supplemental Call for Proposals

**Proposals Due: October 13, 2023**

#### Background

The NASA Kansas Space Grant Consortium (KSGC) is funding a program aimed at the development of new and innovative ideas to notably enhance our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). Improving the way the consortium finds, engages, and supports Underrepresented Minorities (URM), women, and people with disabilities is the priority.

In summary, this call offers funding to affiliates to develop and implement special DEI-focused projects. Selected projects will improve overall consortium DEI metrics and, just as important, identify ways for all other affiliates to significantly improve their DEI.

\$22,000 of NASA funding is available to support one affiliate project. The majority of activity should be planned to take place between November 2023 and June 2024. Proposal requirements include:

- Aligning efforts with NASA and Mission Directorate priorities
- Expending at least 30% of the awarded funds on student internships, fellowships, or scholarships (U.S. citizens only)
- Targeting at least 9% underrepresented and 45% female student participation
- A 35% cost-share rate on NASA funds

Cost-share funds can be real-dollar, in-kind, or waived/reduced indirect costs provided by the institution, industry, or private sponsors. The use of federal dollars to meet cost-share requirements is not allowed.

Submitted project proposals will be competitively evaluated based on the:

- Project's uniqueness, sustainability, scalability, and portability
- The proposal's value and return on investment
- Immediate and likely long-term impact on DEI metrics
- Potential impact on State of Kansas interests (e.g., economic, keeping STEM graduates in Kansas, etc.)
- Milestones and SMART goals that demonstrate project achievements
- The budget's clarity and appropriateness

Proposals that simply augment existing Space Grant or other standing activities will likely not be competitive. New and innovative approaches that notably improve statewide DEI are needed.

Activities, that align with NASA and mission directorate interests, could include:

- Initiating innovative new pilot or prototype STEM-focused projects that enhance DEI
- Partnerships with community colleges or Kansas industry
- Establishing new university STEM pipeline programs with underrepresented high-schools
- Independent reviews of an existing affiliate or consortium programs for bias or obstacles to improving DEI
- New ways to find, inspire and involve URM/women in NASA programs
- New incentive programs to boost the DEI of existing consortium and NASA projects

- Partnering with other organizations pursuing STEM-focused DEI improvements and infrastructure
- Assisting faculty, including URM/female faculty, who will have relevant and significant DEI roles
- Curriculum, course, or student-centered projects to enhance DEI

The submitted proposal must:

- Be less than 10-pages in total length
- Use 12-pt Times New Roman font & 1-inch margins
- Describe plans to complete all reporting and longitudinal tracking requirements, including the collection of participant data (e.g., full name, gender, ethnicity, address, the field of study, etc.) and compliance with Personally Identifiable Information (PII) data management expectations
- Include a signature from an appropriate submitting official certifying the proposed commitment to cost-share
- Be submitted as a single PDF format file of 1-MB or smaller size

Feel free to contact your Affiliate Representative or NASA in Kansas ([nasainkansas@wichita.edu](mailto:nasainkansas@wichita.edu)) with any questions. Consult NASA's Education website, for additional helpful information (<http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/about/index.html>).

Submit proposals to NASA in Kansas ([nasainkansas@wichita.edu](mailto:nasainkansas@wichita.edu)) via email any time before the deadline. Proposals will be reviewed and awards announced as quickly as possible, conditional on funding availability.

## **Appendix: Additional Helpful Information**

### **NASA Mission Directorates**

#### **Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate**

The Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) generates the innovative concepts, technologies, and capabilities needed to enable revolutionary change to both the airspace system and the aircraft that fly within it. ARMD's concepts, technologies, and capabilities will lead to a safer and more efficient national air transportation system, as well as more environmentally friendly aircraft, as ARMD focuses on green aviation. ARMD's research will continue to play a vital role in supporting NASA's human and robotic space activities.

<https://www.nasa.gov/aeroresearch>

#### **Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate**

The Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD) defines and manages systems development for programs critical to the NASA's Artemis program and planning for NASA's Moon to Mars exploration approach in an integrated manner. ESDMD manages the human exploration system development for lunar orbital, lunar surface, and Mars exploration. ESDMD leads the human aspects of the Artemis activities as well as the integration of science into the human system elements.

<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/exploration-systems-development>

#### **Space Operations Mission Directorate**

NASA's Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD) is responsible for enabling sustained human exploration missions and operations in our solar system. SOMD manages NASA's current and future space operations in and beyond low-Earth orbit (LEO), operates and maintains exploration systems, space transportation systems, and performs broad scientific research on orbit. In addition, SOMD is responsible for the agency's space communications and navigation services supporting all NASA's space systems currently in orbit.

<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/space-operations-mission-directorate>

#### **Science Mission Directorate**

The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) studies the planet with an array of Earth-observing satellites; explores the solar system with spacecraft that visit other planetary bodies; deploys robotic landers, rovers, and sample return missions; and projects humankind's vantage point into space with Earth-orbit and deep space observatories. SMD organizes its work to achieve the goals through four divisions: Earth Science, Planetary Science, Heliophysics, and Astrophysics.

<https://science.nasa.gov/>

#### **Space Technology Mission Directorate**

Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) is a dedicated technology organization within the agency responsible for identifying and developing solutions to technological challenges facing NASA missions and the nation while contributing to the nation's success at transforming discoveries into economic leadership, developing crosscutting technologies that also promote spinoffs and cultivate new business, and utilizing the nation's aerospace industry, academic, and small business workforce.

<https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/spacetech/home/index.html>

## **S.M.A.R.T. Goals**

SMART goals are:

S = Specific

M = Measurable

A = Appropriate and Attainable

R = Realistic and Results Focused

T = Timely and Trackable

Specific: Be precise about what you are going to achieve.

- Specify target
- Specify intended outcome
- One outcome per objective
- Avoid vague verbs (e.g. know, understand)
- Make sure the objective is linked to the goal

Measurable: Set criteria for measuring progress toward the attainment of each goal you set.

- Use measures as indicators of program success
- If possible, establish a baseline

Appropriate: Align with the needs of the target audience.

- Meeting the objective will advance the goal
- Identify a specific target audience
- Are inclusive of diversity within your group

Realistic: Do you have the resources to make this objective happen?

- Are important to stakeholders
- Are adequately resourced
- Can be achieved (e.g. The baseline the previous year was 2%. Is a 1% increase in one year realistic?)

Timely: A goal should be carried out within a specific time frame.

- Provide timeframe indicating when objective will be met

Here is an example of a few S.M.A.R.T. goals:

- By project end, at least 25 middle-school STEM teachers will have participated in the program
- At least 45% and 18%, respectively, of the participants will be women and underrepresented
- Follow-up surveys, 3-months after the workshop, will verify that at least 90% of the participants are using NASA and workshop material and experiences regularly in the classroom