

# E-CORE RII and E-RISE RII

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## Baseline: RII Track-1 (like) awards in Rhode Island

- **Drawing a Road Map to Research Excellence in Rhode Island** 0354493; Principal Investigator: Jeffrey Seemann; Co-Principal Investigator:; \$429,153
- **Rhode Island EPSCoR: Catalyzing a Research, Education and Innovation Network** 0554548; Principal Investigator: Peter Alfonso; Co-Principal Investigator: Stephen Moran, Clyde Briant, Andries van Dam, Edward Hawrot; \$8,062,500
- **Infrastructure to Advance Life Sciences in the Ocean State** 1004057; Principal Investigator: Geoffrey Bothun; Co-Principal Investigator: Stephen Moran, Charlie Cannon, David Bogen, Sheila Adamus Liotta, Mary Sullivan, Edward Hawrot, Jennifer Specker; \$21,440,481
- **RII Track-1: Rhode Island Consortium for Coastal Ecology Assessment, Innovation, and Modeling** 1655221; Principal Investigator: Geoffrey Bothun; Co-Principal Investigator: Breea Govenar, Jennifer Bissonnette, Baylor Fox-Kemper, Neal Overstrom, Bethany Jenkins, Lewis Rothstein, Jeffrey Morgan; \$19,993,095

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## Theory of change: Foundational documents

- Future of NSF EPSCoR Report - <https://nsf.gov/resources.nsf.gov/2022-08/Envisioning-The-Future-of-EPSCoR-Report.pdf>
  - Expanding and Supporting Human Capital
  - Bridge-building
  - Strengthening Resources and Infrastructure; with inclusion and diversity undergirding these three main areas
- 2M report - <https://nsf.gov/resources.nsf.gov/2022-06/EPSCoR%20Base%20Period%20Final%20Report%20-%20%28508%20Compliant%29.pdf>
  - Academic Research Excellence and Competitiveness (AREC) framework incorporates context, complexity, and temporal nature of research activities

Both commissioned by NSF EPSCoR

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## Action: E-CORE RII and E-RISE RII

- 15 May 2023
  - RII Track-1 program archived after FY24 competition
  - [E-CORE RII](#) program ([23-587](#)) and [E-RISE RII](#) program ([23-588](#)) introduced
- EPSCoR Collaborations for Optimizing Research Ecosystems Research Infrastructure Improvement Program (E-CORE RII)
  - 4 year, \$8M, renewable once
- EPSCoR Research Incubators for STEM Excellence Research Infrastructure Improvement (E-RISE RII)
  - Two Phases (4 years, \$7M; 3 years, \$4.5M)

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## E-CORE RII

- Build capacity in one or more targeted research infrastructure cores that underlie the jurisdiction's research ecosystem.
- Drivers are evidence-based, self-identified need of the jurisdiction.
- Cores: jurisdiction-wide research administration; research facilities; higher education pathways; K-16 pathways; broadening participation; WFD; community engagement and outreach; economic development and use-inspired research; and/or early career research trainee pathways.
- Development and growth of new jurisdictional networks, leveraging of existing jurisdictional networks, that can drive demonstrable and sustainable impact to advance the research ecosystem.

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## E-CORE RII +

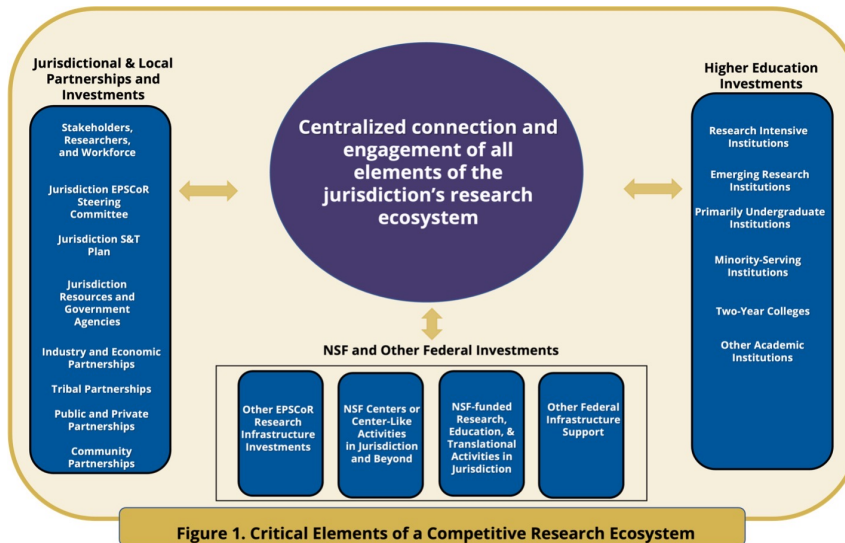


Figure 1. Critical Elements of a Competitive Research Ecosystem

E-CORE RII supports a centralized administrative core that connects and engages all elements of the jurisdiction's research ecosystem.

E-CORE RII is designed to connect the multiple components of the research ecosystem through focused activities intended to build jurisdiction-identified research infrastructure cores.

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## E-CORE RII +

- Connection and potential impact of E-CORE RII to both jurisdictional needs and research capacity, as well as EPSCoR Mission and Goals
  - Are all cores well justified to the needs of the jurisdiction? Is there the potential to benefit the jurisdictional research capacity? Aligned to EPSCoR mission and goals?
- Support of diversity and a culture of inclusion of different institution types and sectors
  - How well does the proposal describe how the project and project leadership embody DEIA throughout all of its activities to create a jurisdiction-wide vision?
- Plan for project management, leadership, and partnerships
  - Does the proposal have a set of partners from multiple organizations that have clear, deep and meaningful roles?

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## E-RISE RII

- Incubation of research teams and products in a scientific topical area that links to research priorities identified in the S&T Plan.
- Development and implementation of sustainable broad networks of individuals, institutions, and organizations that will transform the research capacity and competitiveness within the chosen field of research.
  - Research capacity building within a chosen research topic;
  - Develop a skilled workforce that is relevant to the project and its outcomes;
  - Promote diversity, equity, access, and a culture of inclusion
  - Integrate research with societal impacts in a timebound manner; and
  - Sustain beyond E-RISE RII funding.

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## E-RISE RII +

- Connection and potential impact of the project to jurisdictional research capacity building & EPSCoR goals
- Development of a skilled workforce that is relevant to the project and its outcomes
  - What is the potential for the proposed activities to sustain a pathway including those who are traditionally underrepresented in associated disciplines and industries?
- Support of diversity and a culture of inclusion of different institution types and sectors
  - How well does the proposal describe how the project will embody DEIA throughout all of its activities?
- Plan towards sustainability and societal impact
- Plan for project management, leadership, and partnerships

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## Differences

- Jurisdictional Steering Committee (JSC)
  - New requirements
    - S&T plan requires regular updates
    - JSC is a partner with E-CORE RII
    - JSC should have expertise in the E-CORE RII topics
    - JSC receives at least 5% (\$100K) annually from E-CORE RII
  - Removed requirement
    - JSC no longer required to approve E-CORE RII and E-RISE RII proposals

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## Differences +

- Eligibility
  - E-RISE RII submission requires an E-CORE RII submission and/or award in the jurisdiction
  - Institutions or organizations in jurisdictions that meet the EPSCoR eligibility criteria.

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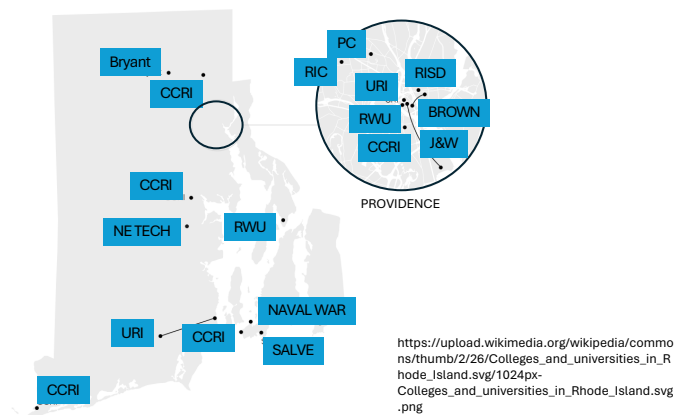
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## Steady State Solution?

There are currently 13 accredited, degree-granting institutions operating in the state, including two research universities, a community college, and a school of art.



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## E-CORE RII + E-RISE RII ≠ RII Track-1

- E-CORE RII activities must support an **administrative core** that (could) support the state EPSCoR office.
- Choose the other cores wisely
  - E-CORE RII does not have enough money to replace all the education / outreach activities in an RII Track-1.
  - If there are multiple E-CORE RII proposals coming in, suggest that the cores from one proposal complement those from the other.
  - E-CORE RII is topic agnostic.

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## E-CORE RII + E-RISE RII ≠ RII Track-1

- E-RISE RII is an incubator, not a research center.
  - Topic must align with an area of recognized national or global interest.
  - Proposals will be expected to develop high quality hypothesis- and/or problem-driven projects that will contribute to the field and will set the network for success beyond the award period.
- Societal impact:
  - E-RISE RII projects should include components that address explicit connection of the research to its end use, and how this directly connects to innovation and policy, which in turn leads to societal impact. Social scientists are required.

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## Recommendations

- Coordinate at the **jurisdiction** level
  - Focus and strategy required!
- Create strategic plans and logic models
- Talk to program staff frequently