



## 2026 Faculty Research Development Academy

The Academy is an initiative by the South Carolina EPSCoR Program designed to empower faculty members from primarily undergraduate institutions and historically black colleges and universities across South Carolina to pursue external funding from any NSF program (related to research, education, workforce development, etc.). The goal of the Academy is to equip participating faculty members with the necessary skills and resources to enhance their research productivity and competitiveness in securing external funding. This will not only bolster their individual competitiveness but also contribute to the overall productivity and student engagement at our academic institutions.

By offering a comprehensive curriculum in a hybrid learning format (virtual and in-person) during the summer, the program aims to foster a culture of research excellence and innovation within our academic community. At the end of the program, we expect participating faculty members will emerge as effective proposal writers.

**Overview:** The Academy features a structured curriculum encompassing various aspects of proposal development. Through a series of interactive sessions led by experts, participants will delve into topics such as writing compelling proposals, engaging with NSF program officers, developing a competitive project description, budgeting, and more. Additionally, the program will provide proposal review services and a stipend to each participant who completes the program.

The program will be conducted from May 22 to August 1, 2026. Virtual sessions will be on Fridays from 10 AM to Noon. There will be two in-person sessions (in Columbia). *Attendance at all sessions is required.* Sessions will be led by experts in proposal preparation and proposal review and include a presentation by an NSF program officer. In addition, one of the two in-person sessions involves a panel of experts that will review participants' project.

**Anticipated Product:** A complete proposal by each participant for submission to NSF. Each participant will receive a \$2,000 stipend after their proposal is successfully submitted to NSF.

**Application Deadline:** By 5 PM on Friday, March 20, 2026.

**Application Review Process:** Applications will be reviewed based on the requirements listed below. The review involved compliance with the requirements, quality of the application material and quality of proposed project. Admission decisions will be emailed to the applicants by April 17, 2026

**Application Process:** Applications must be submitted by the faculty applicant using the following link: <https://scepscor.org/faculty-research-academy-application-form/>. Applications must include:

1. Contact information
2. CV in NSF format (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>) of the faculty member applicant.
3. PDF of the NSF solicitation that will be pursued (download from the nsf.gov)
4. Project Statement: Each applicant must submit a brief project statement not to exceed five pages and must use 1-inch margins, single line spacing, and a font size of 11 or 12.

The Project Statement must include the following sections with headings:

- a. **Project Overview** (Briefly describe what you plan to do.)
- b. **Motivation/significance** of project (Why is this project important?)
- c. **Background** (What has been done – i.e., literature review)
- d. **Preliminary Work** (Describe preliminary work done by the applicant, if any.)
- e. **Plan and Methodology** (Explain how the work will be done - e.g., methods, experiments, data collection, timeline, training, etc.) This section is usually the longest section of the Project Statement.
- f. **Potential outcomes.** (If successful, what are the benefits of the project to advancing knowledge, benefits to society, etc.?)

Include a list of references used (Not part of the five-page limit).

5. Institutional Support Letter: A statement of support from the institution (Dean or Provost) indicating what type of support they are willing to provide to the faculty member for participating in this program (e.g., financial, travel support to in the person sessions, other).
6. Institutional Commitment to Research/Scholarship: The institution must also show evidence of commitment to research (letter from provost detailing how research and scholarship are used in the faculty evaluation/tenure process, copy of strategic plan highlighting the institution's research and scholarship goals, etc.)