



I-CREWS Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) Funding Request for Applications - 2024

[Click here to Apply](#)

Priority Deadline: December 5, 2024 12pm (PST)

- *with additional Spring semester rolling deadlines*

Introduction

Idaho NSF EPSCoR I-CREWS funding is available to facilitate the development of VIP (Vertically Integrated Project) courses related to the I-CREWS research areas. VIP is a program to increase student access to hands-on learning with faculty mentors and diverse teams. The VIP approach is at the center of the Idaho NSF EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Track-1 I-CREWS Education, Workforce Development, and Diversity plans.

I-CREWS

This VIP Funding program is part of Idaho's multi-year (2023-2028) statewide NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Track-1 Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) award, "Idaho Community-engaged Resilience for Energy-Water Systems (I-CREWS)." The project is highly aligned with Idaho's *Higher Education Research Strategic Plan*.

I-CREWS Vision

I-CREWS Vision Idaho envisions generating world-class research competitiveness and capacity in collaboration with resilient urban, rural, and tribal communities that can adapt to climate, population, and technological changes impacting E-W interactions. The I-CREWS mission is to co-create research and solutions that transform the relationship between research, education, technologies and Idaho's urban, rural and tribal communities.

The motivating research hypothesis is that communities undergoing changes in their E-W systems can be characterized at different scales to determine patterns of multisystemic resilience to change. Thus, EW system resilience will be more effectively and equitably evaluated, shaped, and implemented by incorporating co-produced local knowledge, and governance dynamics with advanced data analysis and modeling of stressors.

Purpose of VIP Funding

Idaho NSF EPSCoR I-CREWS funding is available annually to facilitate the development of VIP (Vertically Integrated Project) courses related to the I-CREWS research areas.

The VIP program unites undergraduate education and faculty scholarship in a team-based context. Within this context, undergraduate and graduate students in VIP teams earn academic credit for their participation in design/discovery efforts that assist faculty and their research teams with research and development issues in I-CREWS areas of interest and expertise. VIP teams are: (I) vertically-integrated – maintaining a mix of freshman through postdoctoral fellows each semester; (II) long-term – each student may participate for the duration of their education; and (III) multidisciplinary – drawing students from all disciplines on campus. Providing course credit to faculty and students incentivizes participation, while aligning stakeholders from freshman-to-faculty-to-funding agencies makes the program sustainable at the faculty level.

The VIP courses will be set up to allow maximum flexibility and long-term engagement.

- Some VIP courses may be designed to have no prerequisites.
 - Students must have permission from the instructor.
 - Depending upon the course, undergraduate students may register for 1 or 2 credits; each credit equals about 40 hours of work for the semester.
 - Graduate students may register for credits.
 - Course credits typically count as elective credits.
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- Visit the national consortium for VIP for more information www.vip-consortium.org/.
 - Visit <https://idahocrewws.org/education/> for more information about VIP in I-CREWS.
 - Visit <https://idahocrewws.org/research/> to learn more about I-CREWS research areas.

Faculty are encouraged to consider collaborating with or adapting existing I-CREWS VIP courses to expand VIP offerings across institutions.

Eligibility

Faculty at Boise State University, Idaho State University, and the University of Idaho are eligible to apply for this VIP funding. Faculty from Idaho 2-4 year colleges are also encouraged to apply. Prior or current involvement in the NSF EPSCoR RII Track-1 I-CREWS project is NOT a prerequisite for participation in this VIP Funding program; however, faculty members not yet involved in I-CREWS are strongly encouraged to contact I-CREWS leads and VIP Coordinators (see below) at the respective institutions to explore alignment and synergies. All proposers should discuss creation of a VIP course with their department leadership prior to submission.

What if you could partner with a student workforce that helps train, retain, and sustain scholarly activity – increasing productivity without expanding your personnel budget? What if you could further reduce barriers for underrepresented groups to engage in your scholarship – broadening student participation and changing life trajectories? If these kinds of questions interest you, please consider applying.

Award and Budget

Up to two, \$10,000 direct-cost awards will be granted under this request for applications. Funding may be used as supplies and/or salary for the faculty member or their graduate student assistant to create a VIP course related to I-CREWS research areas. Please provide the name(s) of the one(s) receiving salary support and estimated amounts of salary/fringe to each, if split and/or the breakdown of supplies.

Each successful VIP course award will receive up to \$10,000 direct cost. F&A will also be provided to recipient institutions in the awards by the Idaho EPSCoR Office.

Expectations

VIP. There is an expectation that the VIP course will be offered for the first time no later than Fall 2025. In addition, there is the expectation that the course will continue to be offered into the future. Students can join research teams through the VIP class and earn 1-2 credits each semester. The very nature of VIP courses is that they are tied to a faculty member's authentic scholarship and that they are long-term, with students taking the course for multiple semesters in order to truly gain the skills and benefits of a research project.

Management. The proposing Principal Investigator (PI) will be responsible for managing the activities of the award including logistics, gathering participant information, overseeing finances, providing information for evaluation and assessment, and submitting the final report. Awarded funds must be expended during the specific performance period of the VIP Funding project.

Reporting. PIs of VIP Funding awards must be willing to provide a brief report of the VIP Funding efforts and outcomes for quarterly internal I-CREWS meetings and for each annual report to NSF (normally prepared ~April).

Funding Source Acknowledgement. Acknowledgement of the funding source is required and should be formatted such as: "This product was made possible by the NSF Idaho EPSCoR Program and by the National Science Foundation under award number OIA-2242769."

Application Process

To apply for VIP course development and delivery funds described in this announcement, please complete the online application [HERE](#).

- ✓ The completed application should not exceed 4 pages
- ✓ PI's at Idaho State University are expected to route applications through their Office of Sponsored Programs and obtain approval to submit prior to submission to the Idaho EPSCoR Office.

The priority deadline to apply is December 5, 2024 at 12pm Pacific Time.

*** with additional Spring semester rolling deadlines*

Application Review Process

VIP application funding will be selected by the I-CREWS Research and Education Convergence team representing the statewide RII Track-1 award based on external reviews and with input as needed from I-CREWS leadership teams. External reviewer comments will be shared with each lead of the VIP application.

Review may include content experts at any of Idaho's research universities who are not significantly involved in the I-CREWS project. External experts will include but are not limited to I-CREWS Project Advisory Board (PAB) members.

Selection Criteria

VIP course applications will be considered by the I-CREWS leadership team based on the following criteria:

- Clearly related to relevant I-CREWS research topics;
- Likelihood of meeting basic standards of VIP courses: vertical, accessible, tied to a faculty member's scholarship;
- The extent to which the course can provide multi-disciplinary/interdisciplinary training and experiences;
- The quality of a brief plan to recruit diverse students to the course;
- Degree to which the course holds promise of being sustainable over the long-term (5+ years);
- Instructor(s) qualifications and past record of success in mentoring and teaching;
- Geographic distribution of VIP courses at multiple institutions across the state.

Questions?

Please contact the VIP coordinator on your campus:

Boise State University: Jim Fredricksen (jimfredricksen@boisestate.edu)

Idaho State University: Kitty Griswold (kittygriswold@isu.edu)

University of Idaho: Karla Eitel (keitel@uidaho.edu) & Brian Smentkowski (bmentkowski@uidaho.edu)

Idaho 2-4 year Colleges: Miranda Striluk (mirandastriluk@cw.edu) & Bill Ebener (bebener@csi.edu)

