Vermont EPSCoR Seed-Grant Opportunities

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EPSCoR

- Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR)
- Mission: Enhance research competitiveness of targeted jurisdictions by strengthening STEM capacity through a diverse portfolio of investments from talent development to local infrastructure
- The program seeks to:
  - Catalyze the development of research capabilities and the creation of new knowledge that expands jurisdictions' contributions to scientific discovery, innovation, learning and knowledge-based prosperity
  - Establish sustainable STEM education, training and professional development pathways that advance jurisdiction-identified research areas and workforce development
  - Broaden direct participation of diverse individuals, institutions and organizations in the project's science and engineering research and education initiatives
  - Effect sustainable engagement of project participants and partners, the jurisdiction, the national research community and the general public through data-sharing, communication, outreach and dissemination
  - Impact research, education and economic development beyond the project at academic, government and private sector levels

Vermont EPSCoR Funding Sources

- National Science Foundation (NSF) EPSCoR
  - Research Infrastructure Improvement (RII) Track-1 award
  - “Harnessing the Data Revolution for Vermont: The Science of Online Corpora, Knowledge and Stories (SOCKS)”
  - $20 million, 5-year grant, 2023–2028
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
  - Space Grant award
  - “Space Grant Opportunities in NASA STEM FY 2025-2028: The Vermont Space Grant Consortium”
  - $3.41 million, 4-year grant, 2025–2029
- NASA EPSCoR
  - Research Infrastructure Development (RID) award
  - “The Vermont NASA EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Development Program”
  - $1 million, 5-year grant, 2022–2027

SOCKS Overview

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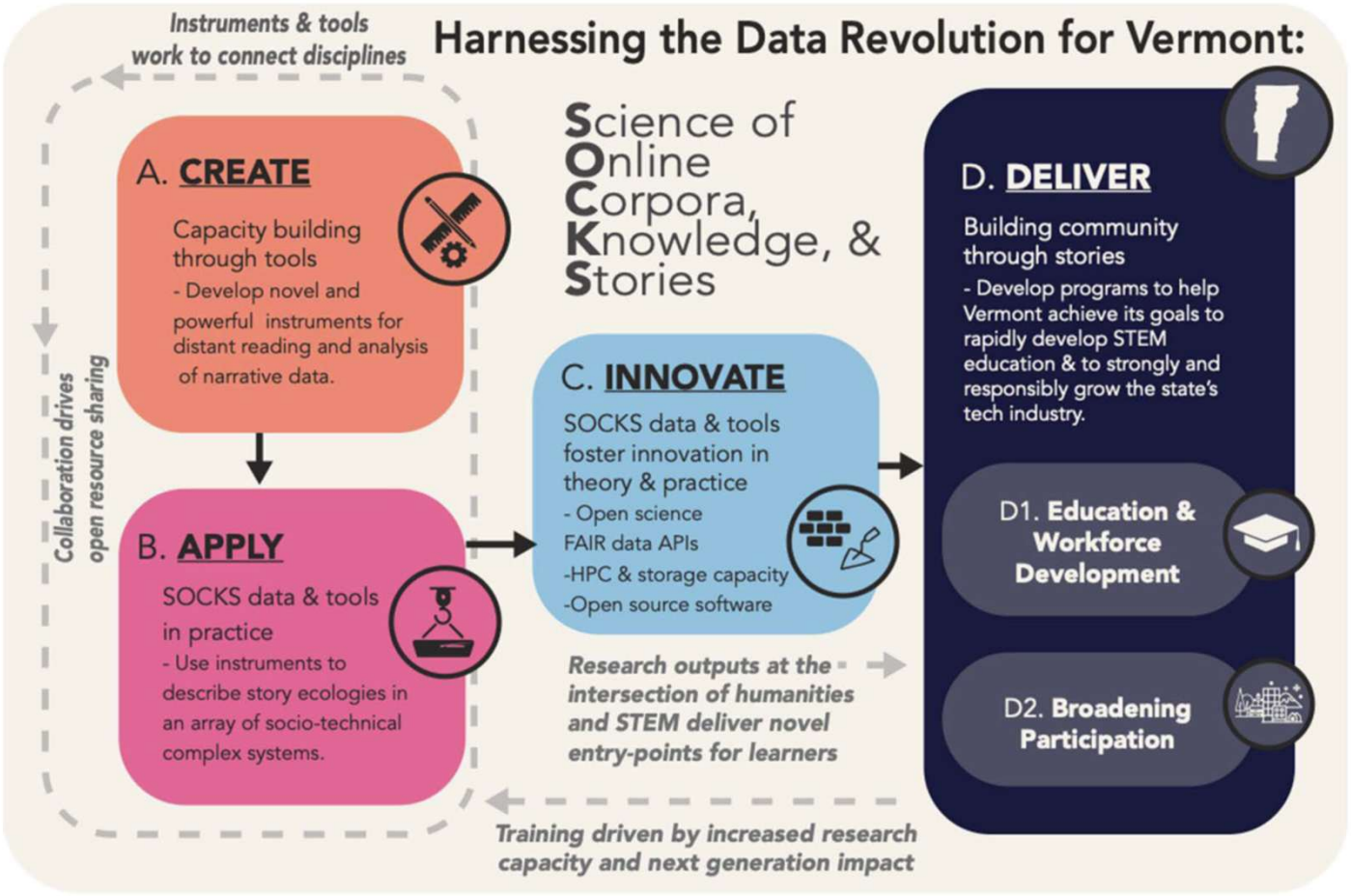
- SOCKS RII award sets out to
  - Establish Vermont as the world's online story observatory
  - Develop telescope-like story-measuring tools for large-scale texts
  - Apply applications: politics, public health, justice, environment, national defense, science
- SOCKS will enhance Vermont's
  - Data science education
  - Workforce development
  - High-performance computing

SOCKS Elements/Strategic Plan



E. Emerging Areas/Seed Grants
F. Broadening Participation
G. Partnerships/Collaborations
H. Communication
I. Sustain and Grow
J. Manage, Evaluate, Assess

SOCKS Research Projects

- A1: Storywrangler 2.0—analysis tool track daily popularity and spread of words
- A2: 'Ousiometrics'—measuring essential meaning arcs of real and fictional stories
- A3: Plot-plotter—measuring how narratives unfold over time through temporal networks
- B1: Clinical conversations in serious Illness
- B2: Cognitive-communication impairment
- B3: Mental health recovery after trauma
- B4: Dynamics of narrative Information on networks
- B5: Sonic experiences of place in Vermont: Narratives of changing land/soundscapes over time
- B6: Measuring social capital through media: COVID-19 in Vermont
- B7: Driving change with stories: Personal narratives and personal experience
- B8: Social media sentiment, population dynamics and regional settlement patterns
- B9: Narrative explanation
- B10: Data governance, privacy, and translation benchmarks

EPSCoR Seed Grant Opportunities

Overarching objective: support early-stage research that enhances ability to secure external research funding from federal agencies or other major funding agencies

Vermont EPSCoR

- Pilot Research Grant Program
- Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Phase (0) Grant Program

Vermont Space Grant Consortium

- Pilot Research Grant Program
- Small-Scale Research Grant Program

Landmark College E-CORE

- Science and Technology Research Seed Grant (STaRS)

VT EPSCoR Pilot Research Grants

- Vermont EPSCoR Pilot Research Grant Program (https://socks.w3.uvm.edu/socks/funding)
- $15,000 1-year period of performance
- Projects that build on or complement research related to current RII Track-1 funding (narrative analytics, computational sociology, and related data science)
- Eligibility: full-time faculty at a Vermont higher-education institution (excludes faculty already supported by RII Track-1 funding)
- No cost share requirement
- Applications due February 20, 2026

VT EPSCoR Phase (0) Grants

- Vermont EPSCoR Phase (0) Grant Program (https://socks.w3.uvm.edu/socks/funding)
- $15,000 1-year period of performance
- Jointly funded by NSF EPSCoR and NASA EPSCoR
- Projects that develop innovative, business-related research likely to lead to a federal SBIR/STTR application. Specific areas of interest to Vermont EPSCoR include data science, computer science, and aerospace technology
- Eligibility: Businesses registered and operating in Vermont
- No cost share requirement
- Applications due February 20, 2026

NASA Pilot Research Grants

- Vermont Space Grant Consortium Pilot Research Grant Program (https://www.uvm.edu/spacegrant/vtsgc-pilot-and-small-scale-research-awards)
- $13,000 1-year period of performance
- New research projects in areas aligned with new or continuing NASA research priorities
- Eligibility: full-time faculty at a Vermont higher-education institution. U.S. Citizenship required for Space Grant funds. This restriction does not apply to NASA EPSCoR funds
- 1-to-1 cost share required
- Applications due February 12, 2026

Vermont Space Grant Consortium

NASA Small-Scale Research Grants

- Vermont Space Grant Consortium Small-Scale Research Grant Program (https://www.uvm.edu/spacegrant/vtsgc-pilot-and-small-scale-research-awards)
- $30,000 1-year period of performance
- More-established research projects in areaa aligned with new or continuing NASA research priorities. Requires NASA contact/collaboration
- Eligibility: full-time faculty at a Vermont higher-education institution. U.S. Citizenship required for Space Grant funds. This restriction does not apply to NASA EPSCoR funds
- 1-to-1 cost share required on first $25,000 of award
- Applications due February 12, 2026

Vermont Space Grant Consortium

Seed Grant Application Components

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- Cover page
- Research project description
- SOCKS relevance (if required)
- NASA relevance (if required)
- Resources available
- References cited
- Budget and justification
- Resumes/biosketches
- Letters of support
- Completed subrecipient form (non-UVM applicants)

Research Project Description

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- Describe the problem the proposal is addressing
  - "Elevator-speech" description of the project
- Include motivation/justification
  - Why do this research?
- Include specific aims/goals
  - What, specifically, will the research seek to accomplish?
  - 1-3 aims/goals are enough for a seed project—don't overdo it!
  - Articulate each aim/goal with just a few sentences
  - If applicable, state your hypotheses

Research Project Description

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- Summarize any preliminary studies or data
  - What experience do you have to carry out the proposed research?
  - What preliminary results support the proposed research?
- Describe the approach in sufficient detail
  - How will the specific aims/goals be accomplished?
  - Avoid highly technical detail—an overview is fine for a seed grant
  - You might organize the approach into a series of tasks
- Describe the expected outcomes
  - What will success look like?
  - Include measurable outcomes if possible
- Describe innovations
- Consider potential pitfalls and possible responses

SOCKS Relevance

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- Provide a narrative summary of the SOCKS relevance of the proposed research, including evidence that the proposed research is aligned with a SOCKS focus area or complements an existing SOCKS research activity
- Letters/emails of support from a SOCKS investigator may be included
- Information sources:
  - SOCKS research projects (Vermont EPSCoR website)
  - SOCKS publications
  - SOCKS researchers' portal (includes links to SOCKS analytical tools)

NASA Relevance

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- Provide a narrative summary of the NASA relevance of the proposed research, including evidence that the proposed research is aligned with a new or continuing NASA research priority or technical need
- Letters/emails of support from a NASA researcher may be included to demonstrate NASA interest (required for VTSGC Small-Scale program)
- Information sources re NASA priorities:
  - NASA Strategic Plan
  - NASA Technology Taxonomy
  - Current NASA grant solicitations (NSPIRES)
  - Current research activities within NASA Mission Directorates

Resources Available

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- Describe the research environment, labs, equipment
- List any specialized resources that will be utilized and describe their availability
- Include any relevant equipment specifications
- You might include a photo or two of the space or equipment

References Cited

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- List only references cited in the project description
- Include references that justify the proposed research
- Include references relevant to the research methods
- Cite other studies that are similar to the proposed research

Budget and Justification

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- Investigator time and effort (FTE % / person)
- Supplies
- Travel costs
- Publication costs
- Other allowable costs
- Include justification
- Detail how cost share will be met (if required)
- Check for any restrictions

Letters of Support

- Include any letters of support as requested
- Do not include letters of endorsement
- Letters of support pledge to make a meaningful contribution to the project—either in resources or effort. They may commit to research collaboration

Review Criteria

- Pay attention to review criteria
- Used to assess the strength of the proposed research
- Your application should include information that will help reviewers assess your application in light of the review criteria
- Typical domains of review
  - Significance and innovation
  - Appropriateness of the methodological approach
  - SOCKS or NASA alignment (if required)
  - Qualifications and experience of the investigative team
  - Suitability of facilities
  - Overall impact

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Questions?