**Objectives**

- Increase R&D funding in Alabama
- Function as a congressional liaison to enhance the knowledge of Congress about the EPSCoR program in Alabama
- Increase the involvement of historically underrepresented institutions in R&D
- Use merit-based selection and encourage the highest quality proposals
- Encourage research and strategic planning at the state level
- Increase the number of proposals submitted by members of underrepresented groups
- Increase participation in conferences for members of underrepresented groups
- Increase industry participation in the EPSCoR program
- Increase industry awareness and marketability of research through the EPSCoR program
- Establish relationships between universities and government agencies related to Industry
- To coordinate the five EPSCoR agencies

**Strategies**

- Reduce barriers by increasing access to the research communities through encouraging development of infrastructure at the R&D institutions including high-speed internet connectivity and up-to-date libraries with current journals.
- Help identify and disseminate information obtained in meetings and affinity with NSF and other organizations through email and printed materials on opportunities and emerging areas to develop research infrastructure and to increase the number of proposals submitted.
- Assist in stimulating research investigations and organizational needs to work on center and similar research infrastructure competitions.
- Continue to implement “build on strength” philosophy. Assist in directing competitions to build on strengths.
- Project directions for the state EPSCoR agencies will support their agency infrastructure development projects in their efforts to win major awards.
- Support the development of additional research clusters in the focus areas of the state.
- Sponsor and coordinate outreach activities and programs in the state with funding agencies.
- Promote awareness of new opportunities.
- Hold annual state meeting to encourage networking to establish and improve interagency linkages. Promote attendance at annual national conference through world-wide information and email reminders.
- Encourage networking through meeting with student and promoting participation in workshops, national and other conferences and workshops for networking of faculty, administrators, and students with each other, government, and industry.
- Assist in forming advisory boards. Create Advisory Board of experts of research center to assist in the development of proposals for major awards. Utilize services of EPSCoR Foundation to assist researchers.
- Help strengthen multidisciplinary research groups by encouraging crossdisciplinary strategies in EPSCoR solicitations.
- Encourage state research institutions to participate in strategic planning that includes methods to ensure adequate numbers of competitive researchers and highly-skilled students possessing ability in math and science to substantially improve the 21st Century knowledge community.
- Encourage mentoring by successful researchers. Encourage mentoring and advising by EPSCoR Foundation members and NSF Program Officers. Plans should include the promotions of activities to obtain public-private partnerships, that will support endowed chairs, scholarships, and research grants.
- Promote a climate that facilitate to ability of scientists in Alabama to compete for federally funded research grants.
- Participate in the EPSCoR Foundation and Coalition activities.
- Preparation of educational literature.
- Enhanced knowledge of congressional legislations of the impact of EPSCoR programs in Alabama through briefings and prepared literature.
- Prepare educational literature.
- Cycle state conference location to Montgomery every third year to correspond with Higher Education efforts and in turn can enhance legislative contacts (note that the conference cycle consists of 1. Industrial Partnerships, 2. Research and 3. Legislative Partnerships with Higher Education). Enhance knowledge of state legislatures of the state EPSCoR programs and the role of research and its impact on the state’s economy through legislative briefings.
- Prepare Annual Report and give presentation to ACHIE each year.
- Develop plans for the mission and objectives of the “EPSCoR within EPSCoR” program.
- Subcommittee to provide direction for work-taking State and Federal funding for “EPSCoR within EPSCoR” program. Focus on grants and contracts, as well as appropriations. Work to convince Administrations to place this as a goal on Federal agendas and State Appropriations list.
- Review for adoption the grading strategy used in industry for proposed competition in order to meet this Objective (i.e. examine the B&D grading method for including HBCUs as an example).
- Develop policies that encourage multi-campus involvement in major proposals.
- Subcommittee developed to obtain and to present the following:
  - [Definition of merit for steering Committee’s use]
  - [Methods of merit review and selection and merit-based encouragement programs and methods for merit review and selection used by other institutions.]
- Provide a generic plan to help EPSCoR institutions establish and publish the EPSCoR mission related strategic plans as well as their future commitments to this plan. Encourage institutions to analyze their campuses; Identify strengths/weakness, desired areas of strengths and potential funding agencies (e.g. Identify potential research clusters, identify leadership for clusters, identify proposals, identify weakness in proposal/program and work on goals for success). Establish of a Subcommitte in to help EPSCoR’s in developing EPSCoR’s strategic plans within EPSCoR. The EPSCoR Foundation will work with state EPSCoR agencies to help the EPSCoR’s determine their strategic plan.
- Develop methods for identifying potential mentors and their partners. Note on regular basis to discuss additional ideas such as identifying and targeting agencies for white papers, soliciting HBCU and non-HBCU partnerships to target jointly issued grants for communication with Reps/Senate Committee.
- Develop policies that encourage collaborations between institutions and major competitors.
- Hold workshops at HBCU campuses to train faculty and administrators about the EPSCoR program.
- Arrange for matching funds for proposals from members of underrepresented groups.
- [In making the pre-proposals give more weight to those with minority participation.]
- Develop the methods that may be used to enhance the ranking after merit review.
- Create summer research positions for minority faculty and students.
- Set aside a portion of funds for recruitment and retention activities. These funds may be provided to HBCUs as subcontract, if necessary.
- Create opportunities for breakout sessions between university faculty and industry management.
- Contact industry management across the state to introduce EPSCoR and university research capabilities. Ask for information regarding their particular R&D needs and work to “match” with research expertise of the state Centers of Excellence.
- Make personal contact with numerous targeted industry management to present research capabilities, university student internships, and graduate student employment.
- Invite industry representatives to the annual Alabama EPSCoR meetings to provide a forum for collaborative agreements to occur. Ask these industry representatives to give presentations at these annual conferences to relate R&D needs of their particular company. Create opportunities for breakout sessions between university faculty and industry management.
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- Contact PI’s at Centers of Excellence for information on research expertise, and work to “match” to research needs of Alabama industries.
- Inform faculty about research personnel needs of industry, including internships.
- Provide an opportunity for selected industry managers who are currently involved in the program to the annual Alabama EPSCoR meetings to provide a forum for collaborative agreements to occur. Ask these industry representatives to give presentations at these annual conferences to relate R&D needs of their particular company. Invite industry representatives to the annual Alabama EPSCoR meetings to provide a forum for collaborative agreements to occur. Ask these industry representatives to give presentations at these annual conferences to relate R&D needs of their particular company. Create opportunities for breakout sessions between university faculty and industry management.
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- Contact PI’s at Centers of Excellence for information on research expertise, and work to “match” to research needs of Alabama industries.
- Inform faculty about research personnel needs of industry, including internships.
- Provide awareness of new potential R&D opportunities for breakout sessions.
- Function as liaisons with Alabama Commission on Higher Education.
- Participate in EPSCoR Foundation and Coalition activities.