Purpose: The Alaska NSF Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Fire and Ice project is soliciting proposals for seed grants of up to $4,000 from University of Alaska graduate or undergraduate students to carry out new and innovative research projects that support project goals. Students who have not previously received EPSCoR funding are especially encouraged to apply. Funds can be used for typical research expenditures such as supplies, travel, salary and services.

Projects should address themes relevant to the “Fire and Ice” project, which consists of a Boreal Fires team studying climate-driven changes to fire regimes in the boreal forest, and a Coastal Margins team studying the impacts of climate-driven changes to nearshore ecosystems and organisms in the Gulf of Alaska.

Eligibility: Applicant must be a full-time student at the University of Alaska.

Amount and duration of awards: We will distribute up to 5 awards in amounts of up to $4,000 per award. The award period is January 1 – September 30, 2021. Awards will be announced by October 30, 2020.

Proposal requirements:
1. Online application form with the name, campus and ID number of each team member.
2. Two-page (maximum) Project Description to include:
   a) Detailed overview of project and science question;
   b) Description of how the project aligns with and contributes to one of the identified components of the Fire and Ice program; and
   c) Details of how project outcomes will be shared.
3. Two-page (maximum) C.V. of applicant, preferably following NSF formatting guidelines.
4. A statement of support for the project from the applicant’s faculty advisor.
5. Budget Justification Form and Budget Spreadsheet (available on the EPSCoR awards page). Total direct cost should not exceed $4,000. Budgets must include appropriate campus F&A rate as defined in the FY19 negotiated agreement. Period of performance is non-transferable and unused funds are non-transferable.
6. Signature Form (available on the EPSCoR awards page) signed by applicant as well as by the appropriate dean/director and fiscal officer.

Proposal submission: Applicants are encouraged to follow their internal departmental procedures for proposal submissions. Any proposals reviewed by your grants or proposal departments should not be entered into Banner; these funds are already in the UA system and entering them in Banner skews Statewide PAIR data. Applicant will upload a single PDF document that includes each of the required items in the above order through the online application form by 5 PM AKDT October 12, 2020. Please contact Tara Borland at (907) 474-6288 or taborland@alaska.edu with any questions.

Review criteria: Proposals will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary team and ranked on their overall merit, their feasibility, and how well they integrate with Fire and Ice goals. Preference will be given to proposals that demonstrate a strong fit or collaboration with a Fire and Ice component. Projects that strive to increase diversity in STEM engagement will be given priority over other, equally ranked proposals. Visit the EPSCoR awards page for full criteria.

Post-award conditions: Complete Responsible Conduct of Research training within a year of commencing award activities. Participate in the Alaska EPSCoR All Hands Meeting in Fall 2021. Submit a final written report following Alaska NSF EPSCoR guidelines by December 1, 2021.