

# **An Overview of the National Research Initiative (NRI)**



# NRI Overview

- Purpose
- Broad characteristics of submitted proposals
- NRI Integrated Proposals
- NRI Research Proposal Types

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# National Research Initiative

## Purpose:

- High priority research and integrated activities in agriculture, the environment, human health and well-being, and rural communities
- Biological, physical, social, and economic sciences



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# National Research Initiative Program Clusters

- Agricultural genomics and biosecurity
- Agricultural production and value-added processing
- Nutrition, food safety and quality
- Agroecosystems and rural prosperity



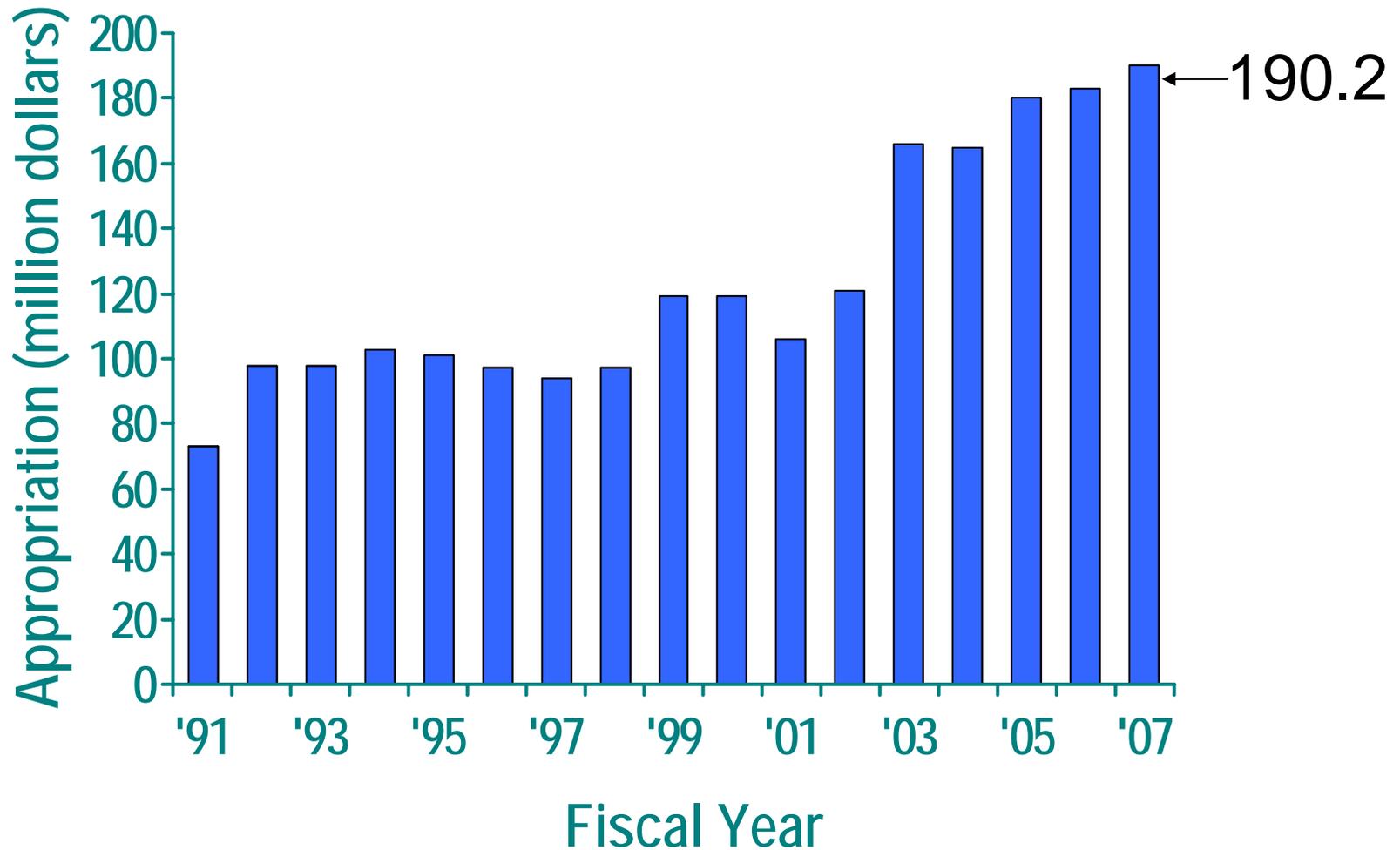
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# National Research Initiative

- Fundamental and Mission-linked Research  
(Basic and Applied)
- Integrated Activities – since FY 2003  
(Research, Education, and/or Extension)
- Single discipline or Multi-disciplinary
- Individual Investigator or Teams of Investigators



# Congressional Appropriations for the NRI 1991 to 2007



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# NRI Research Programs

Eligibility: State AES, all colleges and universities, other research institutions, Federal agencies, private organizations, corporations, and individuals

Indirect costs: capped at 20%

Matching: required only for equipment grants



# Types of NRI Research Proposals

- Standard Research Grants  
(open to all in U.S.)
- Conferences  
(open to all in U.S.)
- Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards (AREA)  
(certain restrictions apply, some set aside \$)
  - *Postdoctoral Fellowships*
  - *“Strengthening” Awards*
  - *New Investigator Awards (no set aside \$)*



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# Coordinated Agricultural Project

- Designed to target specific gaps or make rapid progress in high priority areas
- Large Awards - \$3 million plus
- May be research or integrated depending on need
- Can include % of flexible funding



# NRI Standard Research Grants

- ▶ Fundamental or mission linked
- ▶ Individual or multiple investigators
- ▶ One or more disciplines
- ▶ Award upper limits range from \$300K to \$2.0M for 2-4 years



# NRI Conference Grants

- ▶ Scientific meetings that bring together scientists to identify research needs, update information, or advance an area of research.
- ▶ Submit to the most appropriate program area
- ▶ Awards up to \$10,000; joint funding with other agencies/organizations encouraged



# NRI AREA Awards

(Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards)

Proposal is submitted to NRI program that is best scientific fit

Proposal is reviewed with all other proposals submitted to that program



# NRI AREA Awards

(Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards)

## ***New Investigator:***

- <5 years career-track experience

## ***Postdoctoral Fellowships:***

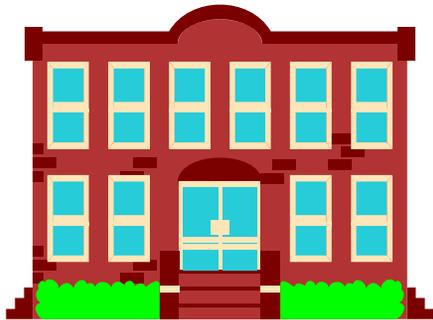
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Ph.D. received after January 1, 2005, but no later than 9 months after program's proposal submission deadline (\$125,000 / 2 yr)



# Strengthening Awards

## Who may qualify ? \*

**(1) Small & mid-sized institutions  
w/ limited institutional success:**



**15,000 or fewer students**

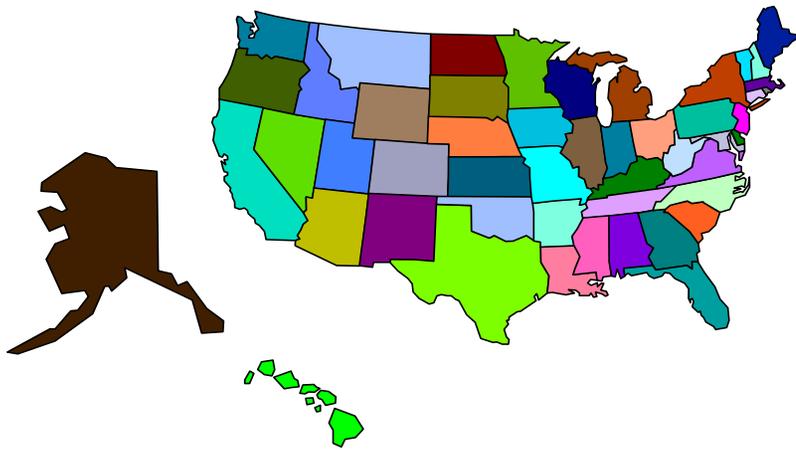
**AND**

**Not among most successful**

**\* Different rules apply for equipment grants**

# Strengthening Awards

## (2) EPSCoR States: Experimental Program for Stimulating Competitive Research



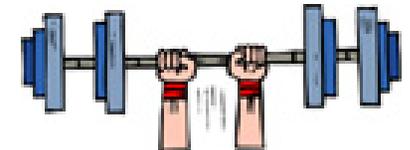
AL	LA	SC
AK	ME	SD
AR	NJ	VT
DE	NV	WV
HI	NM	WY
ID	ND	*
KY	OK	

\* Plus the District of Columbia and all U.S. territories, commonwealths, possessions, and their successors.



# Strengthening Awards

- **Standard Strengthening Research Award**  
Full-fledged research proposal eligible for funding from 10% of NRI funds set-aside for postdoctoral fellowships and strengthening awards
- **Research Career Enhancement Awards (sabbaticals and mini-sabbaticals)**
- **Seed Grants** (\$100,000 / 2 yr)
- **Equipment Grants** (\$50,000)



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# Strengthening Awards

## (3) Equipment Grants:

- must be degree granting institution  
and
- not among “Top 100” most successful universities and colleges receiving federal funds for science and engineering research and development

