



New Mexico
EPSCoR

Advancing Collaborative Research Excellence in New Mexico

Growing New Mexico's Research Ecosystem in a Changing Federal Funding Landscape

Ganesh Balakrishnan and Selena Connealy

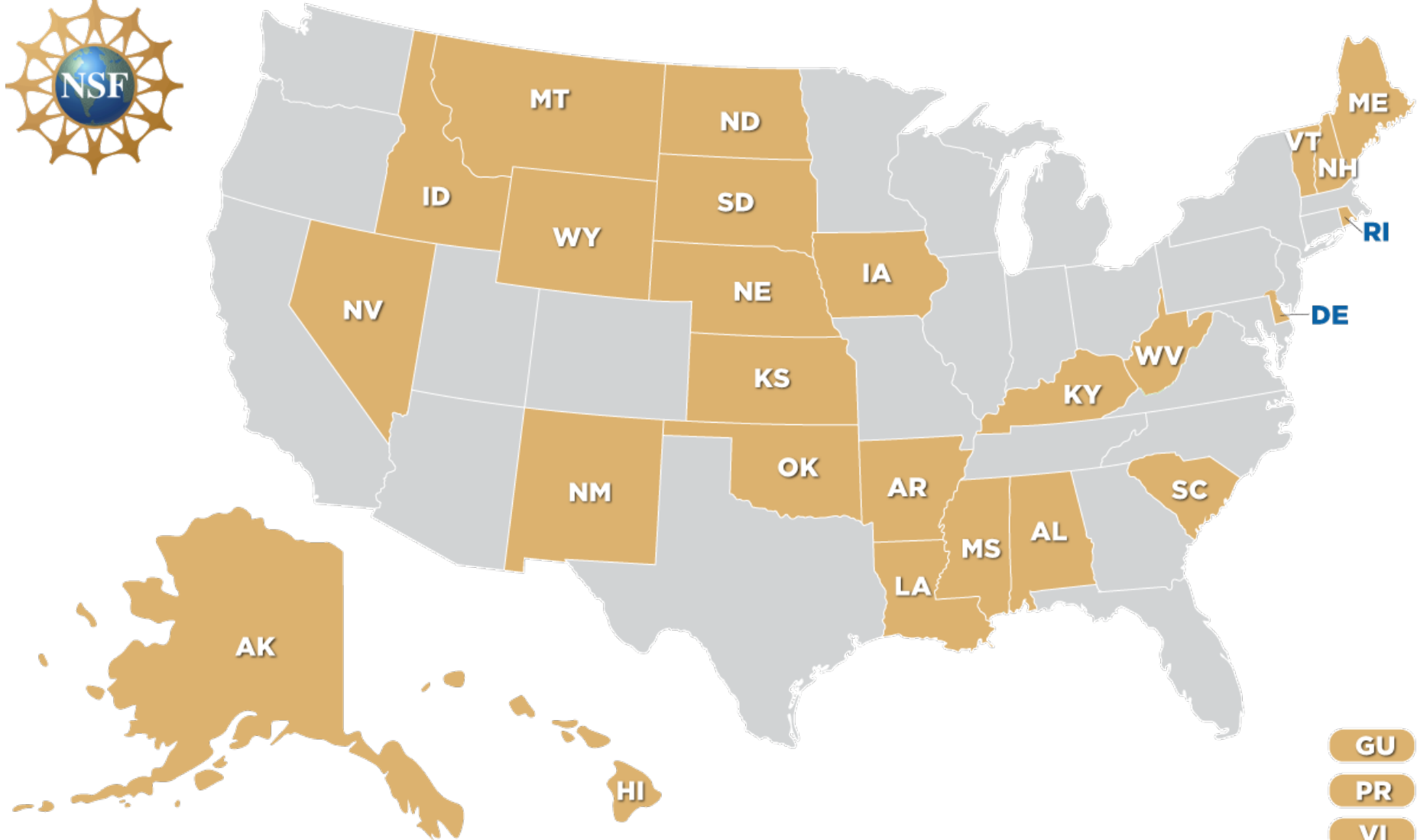
Federal Funding Stabilization Subcommittee

**October 20, 2025
Las Cruces**

EPSCoR—A National Bipartisan Coalition of States



**Established
Program to
Stimulate
Competitive
Research**



NM EPSCoR—What We Do

Connect and strengthen New Mexico's research ecosystem.

We bring together universities, community and tribal colleges, national laboratories, and industry partners to build a unified foundation for research and innovation statewide.

Create pathways for New Mexicans - students, faculty, and researchers, from urban and rural communities, into the research enterprise.

Through education, collaboration, and workforce development, we expand opportunity and participation across every region of the state.

Nurture innovation and entrepreneurship to build a modern, resilient workforce and improve the quality of life for New Mexicans.

Federal



State



Industry



Research
intense
institutions



Emerging
research
institutions



Workforce
development



K-12
engagement

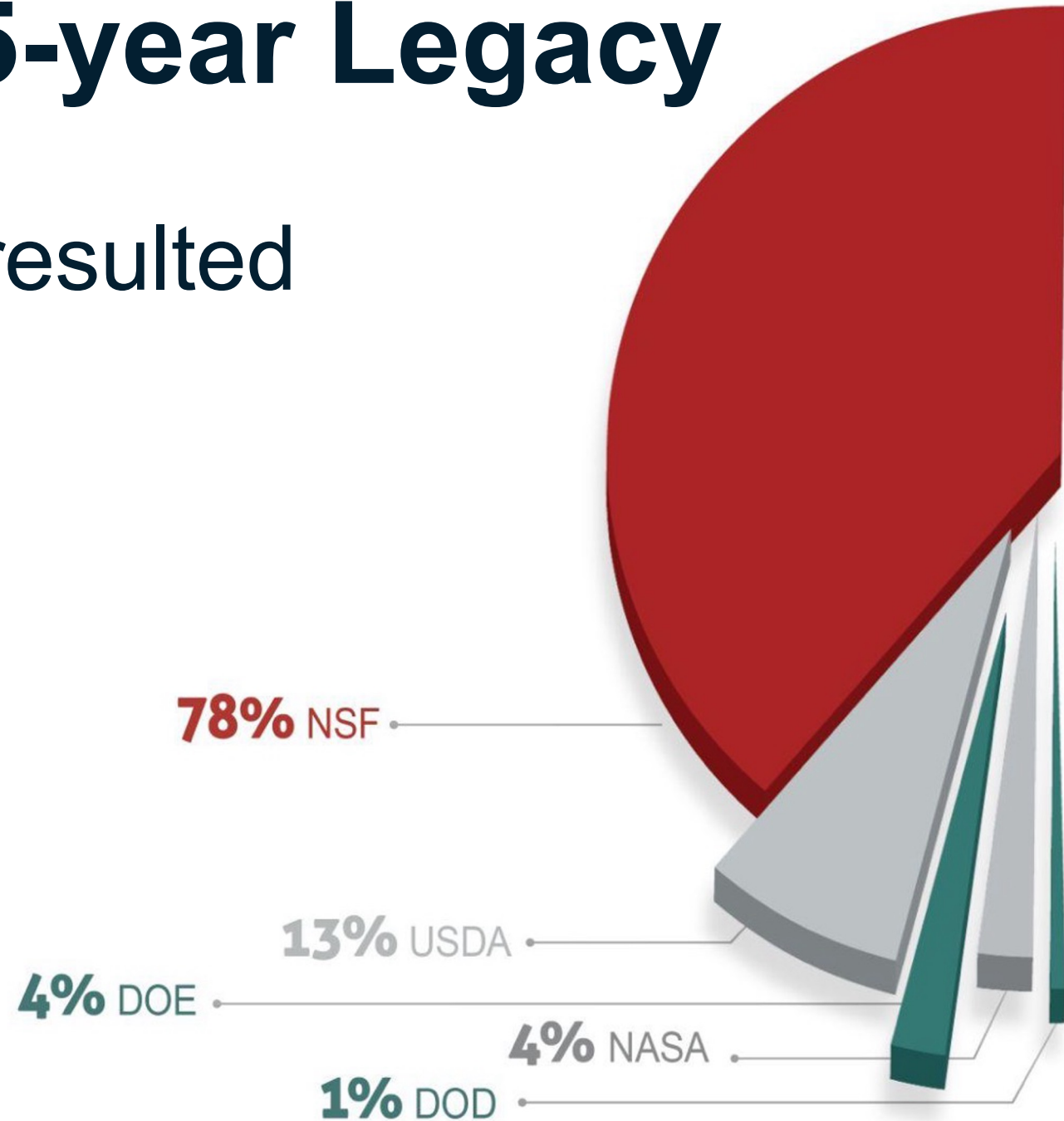


NM EPSCoR

A catalyst for NM research

NM EPSCoR—a 25-year Legacy

EPSCoR eligibility has resulted in over **\$276 million** in federal investment in New Mexico since 2000



Research Project ROI: NM SMART Grid Center (2018-2024)

2018 **\$4M** state investment + **\$20M** federal investment

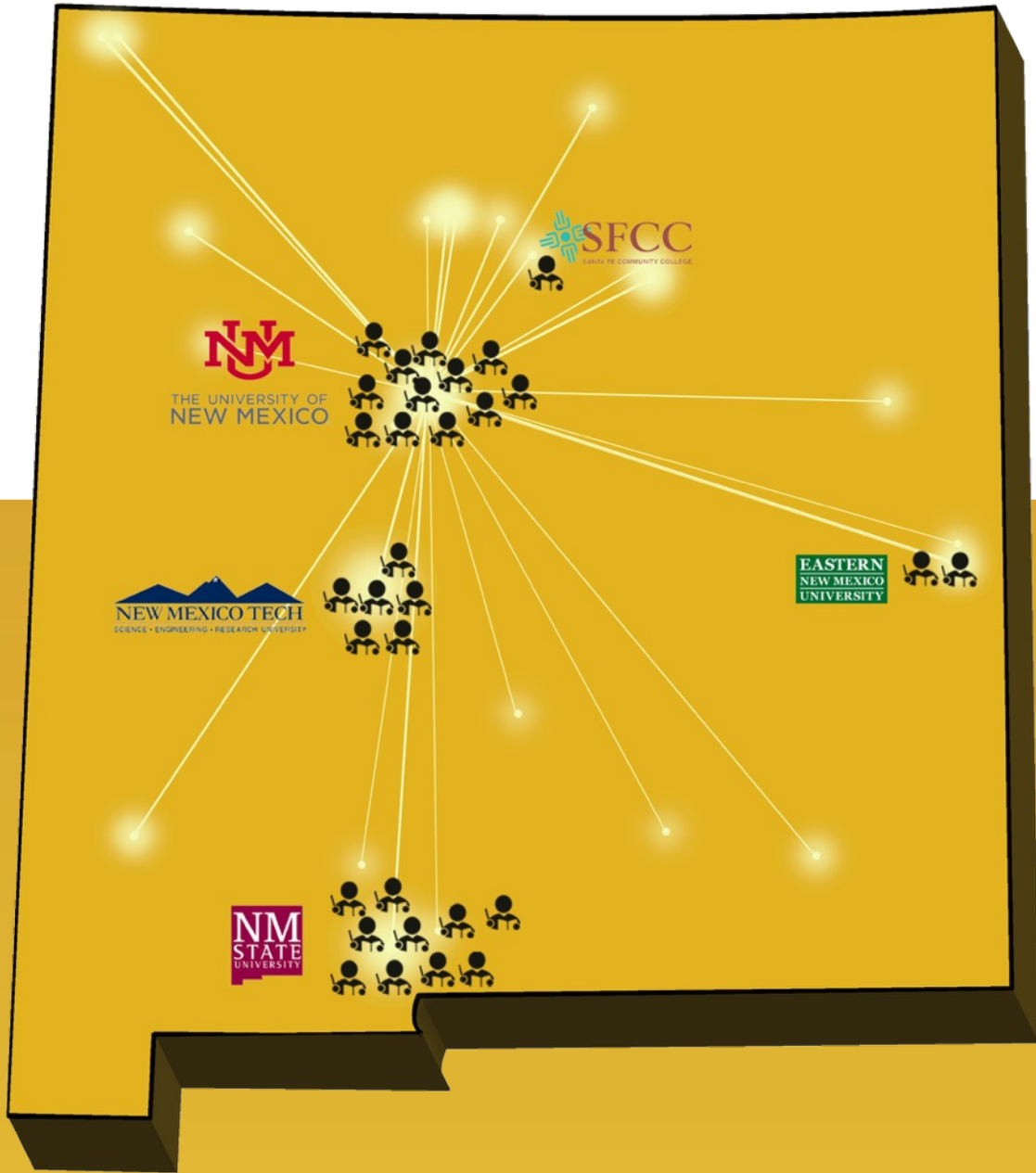
2024 **\$103M** additional federal dollars for NM research

4:1

ROI for the
project as a
whole

30:1

ROI for the initial state investment



Faculty hires

32

72% Remain in state

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Ganesh Balakrishnan

NM EPSCoR State Director

Adapting to a Fast-evolving Federal Funding Landscape

NM EPSCoR's role:

- Buffer Federal funding volatility through a coordinated statewide research network.
- Leverage existing NSF investments to attract and retain talent.
- Using small, quick investments to engage all NM institutions to bridge short-term gaps and sustain local innovation ecosystems with modest state backing.
- Ensure that two- and four-year institutions remain connected to the state's innovation pipeline, maintaining equitable participation and preventing regional disparities in opportunity.

Current Federal Research Priorities

Aligned Priorities Across Agencies
(NSF, DOE, DOD, NIH, USDA, NASA)

- Semiconductor & Microelectronics
- Quantum Technologies
- Artificial Intelligence & Advanced Computing
- Resilient Infrastructure & Supply Chains
- STEM Workforce Development

Connecting NM to Federal Priorities

Opportunities

- EPSCoR states are key partners in advancing federal R&D.
- EPSCoR provides a pathway for equitable participation in national initiatives such as CHIPS+Science, AI institutes, and Quantum Collaboratives.
- By aligning research with federal funding thrusts, New Mexico can strengthen its position as a national innovation hub.

Concerns

- Topics with with high priority in NM, such as environmental and energy resilience, fall outside federal priorities and face uncertain future.

Looking Beyond Federal Support



Sustain seed grants

that expand access for all institutions



Invest in workforce pathways

connecting two- and four-year colleges with high-tech industries



Support infrastructure

that enables equitable access to labs, data, and training statewide

Unmet Demand for Research Support

In 2025, NM EPSCoR launched seed grants to expand access to the research enterprise.

	Number of Applications	Awards made	Percentage awarded	Average award size	Average award duration
CONNECT - Workshop Awards	8	7	88%	\$7,500	1 year
SURE Awards	14	3	21%	\$15,000	1 year
SPARK - Seed Awards	54	2	<4%	\$50,000	1-2 years

The response was overwhelming: **76 proposals received, 12 funded across the state and interest continues to grow!**

Thank you for your time and support!

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