

**Feynman Center for Innovation  
Regional Engagement Challenge  
Sponsorship Proposals**

**Key Dates**

Call Released	March 18, 2021
Proposals Due	April 19, 2021
Notification Decisions	May 1, 2021

**Overview**

The Feynman Center for Innovation (FCI) at Los Alamos National Laboratory sponsors organizations, activities, and events which lead to technology commercialization from the Laboratory and/or nurture and grow New Mexico's technology-based ecosystem.

Specifically:

*1) Transferring technologies between the Laboratory and private industry to enhance the Laboratory's ability to meet mission requirements and improve the economic environment in which the Laboratory operates.*

*2) Improving mechanisms for the utilization of Laboratory technologies to stimulate new business startups, attract entrepreneurs, create alternative job opportunities, and attract businesses and capital to the region.*

FCI identifies three opportunities to support the mission above.

- 1) Programs to create a strong mentor network, connections to expertise, and customers for New Mexico businesses in order to stimulate growth and attract capital.
- 2) Programs that improve mechanisms to use Laboratory technologies to stimulate economic growth in the science and technology priority sectors as identified by the State of New Mexico (Aerospace, Biosciences, Cybersecurity, Intelligent Manufacturing and Sustainable & Green Energy).
- 3) Programs and efforts that increase the technology ecosystem's and companies' resiliency.

**Purpose**

FCI launched The Regional Engagement Challenge (REC) in 2020. The Regional Engagement Challenge funded new innovative mechanisms and approaches that have the potential to enhance or increase the resiliency of the technology-based ecosystem in NM.

Examples include:

- Best practices that accelerate bringing technology based products to market;
- Techniques to raise awareness of Laboratory expertise, capabilities, and technologies;
- Efforts to grow NM small businesses', innovators', and entrepreneurs' access to national mentor networks, sources of funding, and customers;
- Efforts to help New Mexico's companies pivot to meet emerging needs.

For the first Regional Engagement Challenge call, 62% of applicants received a sponsorship and the average sponsorship size was \$5,000.

### **Key considerations**

#### **Requestors**

- All Requestors must be non-profit entities

#### **Funding**

- Requestors may request up to \$10,000 and can apply as individuals or teams (two or more organizations work together)
- Funding requests must be thoughtful, measured, and tailored to the level of effort

#### **Proposed Activities**

- All activities should be one-time events or sustainable without additional FCI support (e.g. new program designs)
- FCI may request re-scoped proposals according to programmatic needs and funding constraints.
- The scope of the proposed activities should be able to be completed within a 4-month period of time – all activities must be complete by September 30, 2021

FCI reserves the right to fund none, one, several or all of the submitted proposals.

### **Period of Performance**

The period of performance is aligned with the federal fiscal year. Proposals will be selected for funding in May 2021 and **work must be completed by September 30, 2021**. Sponsored organizations are required to report out on impact the following fiscal year.

### **Request for Funding Process**

**Proposal Requirements:** Proposals are due on COB of April 19, 2021 and should be submitted via email to [engagementchallenge@lanl.gov](mailto:engagementchallenge@lanl.gov). Each proposal must be submitted in PDF format as a single file. Do not bundle multiple proposals in a single file. Proposals *must not exceed 4 pages* and contain the following:

- General Information
  - Project Title
  - Primary applicant and contact information. Contact information of partnering organizations;
  - Funding requested;
  - Period of performance;
- Project Overview
  - The problem that the proposal addresses;
  - The approach to solving the problem;
  - How the project supports one or more of the call objectives, as stated above;

- How this approach is new to New Mexico's High Tech Ecosystem;
  - Clearly state the end goals of the proposed work.
- Project Approach and Management
  - List key tasks and provide brief descriptions for each task, including roles and responsibilities;
  - Define key milestones and provide progress measures;
  - Address main risks in achieving stated goals and the steps to minimize those risks.
- Sustainability
  - Describe how work or programs developed with REC funds be made sustainable beyond initial funding.
- Measures of Success
  - Define key metrics and measures of success as well as appropriate times to obtain these measurements
  - Metrics must be tailored and specific to the proposal. For example, a metric of: "number of private sector entities engaged" the nature of engagement must be specified.
  - Measures of success must be clearly linked to the ultimate impacts FCI is seeking.

Applicants will be contacted directly to discuss questions and next steps prior to being informed of sponsorship decision.