



U.S. National Science Foundation Convergence Accelerator Regional Anchor

IGNITE INNOVATION IN YOUR REGION BECOME AN NSF CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR REGIONAL ANCHOR

Elevate your region’s innovation landscape by partnering with the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Convergence Accelerator. The NSF Convergence Accelerator is seeking a dedicated organization to take on the role of the NSF Convergence Accelerator Regional Anchor as part of its regional expansion. As a Regional Anchor, your organization will be at the forefront of shaping the future of research and development.

Why Join Us?



Solve BIG Problems

As an NSF Convergence Accelerator Regional Anchor, your organization will play a pivotal role in addressing complex societal challenges through cross-disciplinary collaboration, driving tangible solutions that benefit both your region and the nation.



Nurture the Regional Network

Foster relationships among your region’s academic, industry, government, non-profit and other communities of practice to scale innovative capabilities.



Make a Meaningful Impact

Beyond professional interests, your organization’s dedication will make a real difference in your community and region, leaving a lasting legacy of progress and prosperity.



Shape the Future of Science and Technology

Fuel regional economic development and advance research, development and innovation, shaping the trajectory of technology and STEM sectors into the future.

**FOLLOW THE NSF CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR
TO APPLY FOR THE REGIONAL ANCHOR OPPORTUNITY.**



ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF A REGIONAL ANCHOR

Each NSF Convergence Accelerator Regional Anchor will be responsible for implementing the NSF Convergence Accelerator’s program model and ensuring the overall experience is consistent with the existing program. The roles and responsibilities include:

- **Oversee the day-to-day management and implementation of the NSF Convergence Accelerator program model** in accordance with NSF guidelines. Activities include:
 - Manage daily operations
 - Facilitate broad communication and outreach
 - Administer contract and financial transactions
 - Issue research awards
 - Lead ideation
 - Deliver Phase 1 and Phase 2 Curriculum
 - Run proposal and pitch review
 - Monitor milestones and deliverables
- **Serve as a strategic representative** and mission partner of the NSF Convergence Accelerator program at the regional level.
- **Identify challenges** of regional and national importance to incorporate convergence research into practical applications.
- **Accelerate use-inspired research** into sustainable, tangible solutions such as tools, techniques, approaches and products.
- **Facilitate regional stakeholder connections** by leveraging networks and promoting collaboration among researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and industry experts.
- **Manage conflicts of interest** and address concerns surrounding intellectual property.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS OF A REGIONAL ANCHOR

The role of an NSF Convergence Accelerator Regional Anchor requires a diverse set of expertise and capabilities. Organizations with current and pending NSF Convergence Accelerator research funding are ineligible for the NSF Convergence Accelerator Regional Anchor opportunity. Organizations awarded the Regional Anchor opportunity will be responsible for notifying NSF Convergence Accelerator National Program and mitigating conflicts of interest if seeking future NSF research funding. Desirable experience and capabilities of a Regional Anchor include:

- Familiarity with various R&D and STEM disciplines and approaches.
- Strong grasp of the transition to practice and innovation processes.
- Understanding of emerging technology trends.
- Integration with the regional R&D and innovation ecosystem to include a broad set of stakeholders.
- Engagement with the region's economic, social and regional interests.
- Aptitude in fostering research collaboration and advancing the regional innovation network.
- Readiness to adapt and grow organizational competencies to drive impactful regional change.



NSF CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Launched in 2019, the NSF Convergence Accelerator builds upon basic research and discovery to accelerate solutions addressing national-scale societal and economic challenges that cannot be solved by a single discipline. NSF Convergence Accelerator funded teams merge innovative ideas, approaches and technologies from a wide and diverse range of sectors and expertise to address these challenges. The program's unique structure offers an intense and hands-on journey through which researchers and innovators gain skills and experience that are applied during the program and throughout one's career. The program has several key components:

- Offers a comprehensive and phased innovation curriculum and mentorship to participants.
- Supports teams built on cross-cutting partnerships among academia, industry, nonprofits, governments and other communities of practice.
- Utilizes multidisciplinary approaches to drive use-inspired and application-oriented research toward societal impact.



NSF CONVERGENCE ACCELERATOR REGIONAL EXPANSION

To enhance national and regional competitiveness in research and innovation, the NSF Convergence Accelerator is expanding from a single NSF program to a national program, creating 10 regionally focused NSF Convergence Accelerators implemented by leads called Anchors. The NSF Convergence Accelerator network of Regional Anchors will expand the geography of innovation through the promotion of convergence research, increasing the concentration, proximity and diversity of NSF's researchers and scaling the delivery of use-inspired solutions to benefit the region and nation. The clustering of research and innovative activity enables the emergence of new ideas and technologies through a well-developed network of diverse perspectives and opportunities.

