

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Regional-ORD Community of Science Network (ROCS-Net) is an Office of Research and Development (ORD) orientation and networking program for regional and state scientists and engineers. It provides an opportunity for regional and state staff who have limited familiarity with ORD to visit an EPA research facility for discussions with ORD scientists about collaborative research opportunities, regional and state priorities and cross-cutting issues.

Program Goals

- Strengthen science across the agency by establishing new connections between ORD and regional and state scientists and engineers
- Promote a greater awareness within ORD of regional and state science issues
- Provide a path to future collaborations through activities such as the Regional Research Partnership Program (R2P2), Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE), and the Regional Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (RESES) Program

Program Details

1. What is the date of the event?

The ROCS-Net event will be held on May 1-4, 2018, with travel days on April 30 and May 4.

2. Which research facility will the participants visit in 2018?

The event will be held at EPA's Andrew W. Breidenbach Environmental Research Center in Cincinnati, OH. Researchers from the following ORD National Laboratories and Centers work at this facility:

- National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC)
- National Exposure Research Laboratory (NERL)
- National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL)
- National Center for Environmental Assessment (NCEA)

3. What is the focus of this year's visit?

The 2018 program will emphasize ORD's research related to water, homeland security, risk assessment, contaminated sites, and materials and waste management. These topics fall under the following ORD research programs:

- ORD's [Safe and Sustainable Water Resources \(SSWR\) Research Program](#) provides the science and innovative technologies that the Agency and the nation need to maintain drinking water resources and systems, as well as to protect the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters.
- ORD's [Homeland Security \(HS\) Research Program](#) provides science and technology needed to effectively respond to, and recover from, intentional or accidental environmental catastrophes.

- ORD's Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) Research Program focuses on advancing the understanding of the effects that exposure to pollutants have on key biological, chemical, and physical processes that affect human health.
- ORD's Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SHC) Research Program provides innovative and effective technologies, guidance, and tools for decision makers to help communities become more sustainable.
- ORD's Chemical Safety for Sustainability (CSS) Research Program provides the decision-support tools needed to improve the safe production, use, and disposal of chemicals while advancing innovative ways to evaluate chemicals, conduct risk management, and prioritize time-critical research.

4. *What is on the agenda for the visit?*

- Meetings with ORD management and staff
- Staff-led discussions about region and state specific science issues
- Lab tours
- Poster sessions

5. *How will travel and per diem expenses be covered?*

ORD's Office of Science Policy will cover the travel expenses for each participant.

6. *Who should apply?*

The program is designed for regional and state scientists who have had limited engagement with ORD and would benefit from a greater understanding of ORD capabilities and expertise. The 2018 program is of particular value to those who work on issues related to the designated focus areas (water, homeland security, risk assessment, contaminated sites, or materials and waste management). Candidates must have supervisor approval to apply.