

2016 Integrated Research and Extension Planning Grants Program

The Northeast Cooperative Extension Directors (NEED) and Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) announce a regional competitive planning grants program. These grants are to be used to organize Northeast Extension educators and Agricultural Experiment Station researchers around teams to develop new cross-disciplinary, integrated, and multistate research and Extension programs that address important needs in the region.

The intent of the program is to stimulate and develop regional efforts that provide synergy across institutions and strengthen research and Extension efforts in specific areas. Funding for this program is designed to allow each state institution to capitalize on their strengths and to build multistate teams of faculty to enhance research and outreach capacity. It is expected that each state will support the planning processes (travel, etc.) to assist groups in developing the proposals through appropriate discussion/requests at the onset. These efforts will allow us to be more competitive for external agency funding and to provide important educational and outreach programs to stakeholders in the region and beyond.

Proposals are to be innovative and needs-driven and focus on new and promising integrated research and Extension programs that bring together specialists in diverse fields to apply complementary approaches to work on an important problem. Proposals in support of programs that are forward-looking/anticipatory are especially encouraged. Such programs must include both specific research and Extension components and should lead to the development of one or more of the following:

- Development of new research/Extension programs that provide innovative solutions to issues to Northeast states
- Development of one or more new technologies that lead to job creation/economic development in Northeast states
- Development of new multi-State programming methods to deliver research information through Extension to communities within Northeast states

The planning teams must include Extension and research members from three or more Northeast states. The leadership and majority of the membership of the teams should be from Northeast states. However, researchers and Extension educators from other regions may participate. Their participation is expected to strengthen the proposed programs and make them potentially more competitive for future funding.

A required outcome of a planning grant will be a proposal submitted to the National Institute for Food and Agriculture or other appropriate funding sources. Grant recipients must provide a written report at the end of the grant period and subsequent periodic updates on the status of resulting proposals.

Proposals will be due on **February 19, 2016**. The proposals are not to exceed **three** single-spaced pages (Times Roman 12 point and one inch margins) not including the cover page and appendices.

The proposal will be reviewed by a committee composed of both NEED and NERA directors. Final decisions will be made by March 17, 2016. Funding up to \$4,000 will be available for a maximum of one year from the date of award notification. The funds will be administered by the Offices of the NEED and NERA Executive Directors and will only be used to reimburse actual expenses. Unused

funds will be retained by NEED and NERA. Funds may only be used to support transportation and meeting expenses to bring teams together for planning and organizational purposes. Funds cannot be used to pay indirect costs and will not be awarded for salaries or wages. Planning grant funds cannot be used to support initial research or Extension activities of the proposed program.

Proposals for planning grants should include:

- Cover page (see attached for suggested format)
- Mission and goals of the proposed program
- Justification for the program relative to stakeholder needs and potential for sustained external funding
- Activities to be engaged in by team members towards a more complete definition of the program
- Explanation of roles of team members
- Timetable for completion of the planning activities and preparation of a competitive proposal
- Budget for planning activities (travel, meeting expenses, etc.) not to exceed \$4,000
- Leveraging resources
- CV of Team Leader – As an appendix (two page maximum) demonstrating track record of successful external funding and leading cross-disciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations

The specific criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals are:

- Addresses an important need in the region
- Justification demonstrates stakeholder support for the project
- Consistent with goals of competitive funding programs
- Potential for sustained funding
- Clearly defined planning activities
- In support of programs that are integrated research and Extension (including youth development) activities; and where appropriate, teaching activities
- Realistic timetable
- Team members appropriate to proposed activities
- Substantial participation by research and Extension personnel from three or more Land-grant institutions in the Northeast
- Team leaders with demonstrated track record of successful external funding and leading cross-disciplinary and/or multi-institutional collaborations
- Potential support (funding or other) from other entities
- Well written and organized proposal that addresses all the required criteria satisfactorily

Please submit planning grant proposals electronically by c.o.b. on **February 19, 2016** to Rubie Mize at rgmize@aesop.rutgers.edu.

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Project Title: _____

Team Members:

Name	Discipline	Appointment (AES, CE, Both)	Institution/Agency/Other

(Attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.)

Team Leader Contact Information:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	