

### **BAA process for advancing new budget initiatives**

Over the last several years, considerable effort has been put into two budget initiatives, Pest Management and Water Security. The concept of addressing issues of great importance as described in the Water Security Initiative has gained broad support of the BAA, and at least some traction at NIFA. Several valuable lessons have been learned through these processes including: the need to have a unified voice, the use of topical experts in developing white papers, and vetting whitepapers at various levels including ECOP, ESCOP, the BAC, and the Policy Board of Directors. A critically important point is to identify the outcomes and impacts enumerated in any proposal. There also is need for logistical support from the Executive Directors and at least two years of lead time to get an initiative “in the cue” for consideration, with every effort must be made to have federal partners engaged in the process. The complete process from idea to white paper completion and approval must be completed at least two years in advance of efforts to include in a budget request.

#### **Steps:**

Identification of the big problem

Vetting idea with Sections

Vetting idea with Cornerstone for feasibility

BAC charges workgroup

Directors identify workgroup members who agree to participate

Workgroup is created with the Section Chars serving as WG co-chairs

With the assistance of the EDs, and Section Chairs, WG develops a white paper through an iterative process

White paper containing necessary budget information endorsed by Sections Budget and Legislative Committees and the Sections

White paper is sent to the BAC for consideration/approval

With BAC endorsement, the white paper is sent to the Policy Board of Directors for approval.

Policy Board Chair communicates the white paper to all members of the BAA, the Director of NIFA and other appropriate agencies

Deans/Directors distribute white paper to their faculty

EDs and others work with kglobal and Cornerstone to develop messages that will resonate with targeted individuals/groups. EDs work with communications staff to develop aesthetically pleasing one-pagers

kglobal uses various means to communicate importance of the initiative to targeted individuals

**White paper Development and Content:**

WG uses logic model to develop white paper

Clearly identifies the issue or situation and importance to a broad base of stakeholders

Identifies the needs, goals and objectives

Specifies time frames for milestones

Identifies who will benefit

Identifies expected outcomes and impacts, and how will conditions will change

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