FY 2022 NERA Funding Support for Grant Applications: Request for Proposals

The Northeastern Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors (NERA) announces an opportunity to assist faculty and scientists in submitting and securing extramural grant proposals. This is a rolling opportunity. As funding agency opportunities arise, we encourage investigators to apply for support.

Area of focus:
NERA seeks proposals to support scientists from NERA institutions with developing and submitting multi-institutional grant proposals to prospective funding agencies. We are especially interested in supporting developmental efforts that lead to submission of multi-year, multi-investigator and multi-institutional proposals (e.g., AFRI's *Specialty Crop Research Initiative*; NSF's *National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Institutes Accelerating Research, Transforming Society, and Growing the American Workforce*; NIH's *Dual Purpose with Dual Benefit: Research in Biomedicine and Agriculture Using Agriculturally Important Domestic Animal Species [R01]* program.)

What NERA supports and funds:
NERA supports costs associated with development, writing, and submission of grant proposals. Examples of allowable expenses include: travel costs and meeting expenses of groups of scientists from state agricultural experiment stations, faculty from Land-grant universities, Extension scientists and specialists to come together to organize and plan; technical staff salaries and related expenses; and short-term grant writing assistance. Expenses that this opportunity supports must be reasonable and consistent with policies of the institution of the proposal Team Leader.

How much support is offered?
Applicants may apply for a maximum of $10,000 to be spent within one year of approval of the proposal.

Expected products of this funding support opportunity:
Submission of a proposal to a competitive, merit-review process administered by agencies like USDA-NIFA, Department of Energy, Department of Defense, NSF, or NIH.

Proposal requirements:
A team for this opportunity must include scientists from a minimum of two experiment stations or Land-Grant universities in the Northeast. The proposal should include:

- *2022 NERA Funding Support for Grant Applications cover page* (template attached to this RFP.)
- *Narrative* sections (2-page limit, 11 pt font (Times New Roman or Palatino Linotype, 1" margins) that includes:

- o *Grant opportunity* (What agency are you applying to, what is the title of the funding opportunity announcement, and how much do you intend to request from the agency [direct cost only]?)
  - o *Prospective grant project abstract* (What's the problem and what research questions will be answered? Why is this work important? What do you plan to do? What's the anticipated impact?)
  - o *Team members* (Who is the team leader and who are the team members of the grant writing project? What are their roles and what expertise do they bring to the effort?)
  - o *Budget narrative* (What will you do with the funds and what's the timetable for spenddown?)
  - o *Budget* (Table that describes expected expenses not to exceed $10,000.)
- *Statement of Team Qualifications* – Include as an appendix (two-page maximum), a statement of the team qualifications. This statement should clearly demonstrate the capacity of the team to craft and submit a multi-institutional, multi-investigator grant proposal.

Proposal submission: The planning grant proposal should be submitted to the Team Leader's agricultural experiment station director as *a single pdf file*. This is a rolling application, there is no "submit by" date.

Proposal evaluation: The proposal will be evaluated by the Team Leader's agricultural experiment station director in consultation with NERA's Multistate Activities Committee based on the following attributes:
- Investigators have clearly identified the grant opportunity.
- Proposed grant project identifies researchable questions that address an important problem in the region or nation.
- The broader impact of the work is described.
- Proposal has participation by researchers from a minimum of 2 Northeast institutions.
- Team leader and team members have appropriate expertise needed to undertake proposed grant project.
- Budget is reasonable and timetable for expending the funds is achievable.
- Effort has the potential to lead to competitive, external funding.

Questions: For questions on the RFP, prospective applicants should contact the NERA Executive Director [Rick Rhodes](#).

Reporting requirements: NERA expects that the outcome of this opportunity will be submission of proposal to a major funding agency. Recipients of this support will be asked to provide a short written report on how the funds were spent and on the success of the grant proposal submitted.

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Project Title:

Team Leader Contact Information:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	

Team Members

Name	Institution/Agency/Organization