

## **FY 2023 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:

- *2023 NERA Funding Support for Grant Applications cover page* (template attached to this RFP.)
- *Narrative* sections (2-page limit, 11 pt font, 1" margins) that includes:
  - *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]?)

- *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?)
- *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?)
- *Budget narrative* (What will you do with the funds and what's the timetable for spenddown?)
- *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.

