Emerging Research Issues for Washington Agriculture
2018 Internal Competitive Grant Program
Request for Proposals

A Unified Industry-Based Agriculture Initiative funded by the Washington Legislature provides an internal competitive grants program to address emerging issues facing Washington's agricultural industries. The grants program is structured to provide greater responsiveness to emerging research and outreach needs of state agricultural industries. As one measure of its success, projects related to the funded proposals were successful in attracting over $22 million of external support for related projects, over $11 million of which has been or will be spent in Washington. Over time the intent still remains to address emerging issues in Washington Agriculture, however, it has become increasingly important to attract federal support for these issues that complements support from commissions.

The program has evolved into a focused effort by the CAHNRS Office of Research to increase competitively funded research from federal agencies and industry that will address emerging issues facing Washington's agriculture and environment. It is intended to provide seed money to generate preliminary data that will ultimately be used to leverage new support from competitive funding programs and/or from corporations that will bring the best science to bear on Washington's problems. Thus, proposals that bring together a novel research team or work toward establishing a proof of concept are encouraged. It is also intended to provide funding for taking new directions to fill fundamental knowledge gaps and otherwise enhance our capacity to address significant issues facing Washington Agriculture. The ERI program is not designed for supplementing currently funded projects or as a substitute for other funding. If a proposal might appear to have some overlap with currently funded grants, the proposal must include an explanation of the novelty of the project and the need for funds in the context of current support so that reviewers can evaluate the overlap. Funded projects from calendar years 2016/17 can be found at the CAHNRS Office of Research website (here).

We will give priority to proposals that clearly articulate an alignment with the CAHNRS Office of Research strategic research goals. These are: (1) catalyze transformative discoveries to address agricultural, human, and natural resource challenges in alignment with WSU CAHNRS research aspirations [be strategic], (2) encourage collaborations [be collaborative], and (3) advance WSU CAHNRS reach both nationally and internationally in emerging areas of achievement [be visible].

TIME LINE FOR THE 2018 CALENDAR YEAR GRANT PROGRAM

Dec 12, 2017	RFP issued
Jan 11, 2018	12-1PM, 409 Hulbert Bag Lunch informational meeting for potential Applicants, RSVP to lavine@wsu.edu required.
Feb 1, 2018	Proposals due to CAHNRS Office of Research (electronic submission to ARCGrants@wsu.edu)
Mar 15, 2018	Anticipated announcement of awards

WHAT IS AN EMERGING ISSUE? In 2007, upon funding by the Washington Legislature, the CAHNRS stakeholder advisory board provided the following guidance when it was asked to identify emerging issues for Washington's agricultural industries:

- An emerging issue is a topic where research-based information is needed and where WSU research activity is currently under-invested.
- Priority should be given to issues that are not commodity specific, and hence, commodity commission or industry funds may not be targeted to address the issue.
- The research should position WSU to take a leading regional and national position as the topic is recognized as being of regional or national importance.

Research issues are not limited to traditional production agriculture, but may address social and economic issues related to agriculture. Collaborative projects that bring together a team of faculty with complementary skill sets that will comprehensively address an area are encouraged. Projects will be judged based on how well they meet the two criteria below.

- A description of the emerging issue in Washington and the knowledge gaps that will be filled by the subsequent competitively funded research.
- A description of how this seed money will be used to generate data that will enhance the competitiveness of efforts to obtain additional external support. Thus, a strategy for how this data is critical to enhance the competiveness of subsequent research proposals is essential.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY? The lead PI must be a faculty member in a CAHNRS department or hold an ARC faculty appointment if in another college. Research professor track faculty members are eligible to be lead PIs but associates in research, post-doctoral associates, adjunct faculty, and courtesy faculty members are not. Each faculty member may only submit a single proposal as the lead PI, however, they are welcome to participate on additional proposals in other roles (e.g. co-PI, collaborator, etc.).

WHAT WILL BE THE DURATION OF THE GRANTS? The maximum duration is 2 years, starting July 1, 2018. Proposals can be written for 1 year. Initially, funding will be provided only for the first year but to facilitate supporting graduate students, the first-year budget can run through June 30, 2019. For a second year of funding, a proposal, which can be identical to the initial proposal, must be submitted at the following year deadline and may be approved, if:

- Satisfactory progress toward the originally proposed objectives is documented;
- Applications for significant alternative sources of competitive non-university funds have been submitted through the CAHNRS Office of Research/ARC; and
- Adequate funds are available. A budget must be submitted for the second year of support.

WHAT FUNDING AMOUNTS WILL BE PERMITTED? Grants may be funded up to $80,000 over the possible two-years of a project, with funding for the first year limited to $50,000. *Efficiency in using resources will be an important element of the review*. That is, proposals will be evaluated based upon projected impact per dollar of funds invested; therefore, the minimum amount essential to accomplish the objectives of the project should be requested. Partial funding may occur, depending on the review and funds available. *PIs who have had previous ERI funding must include a brief summary of their accomplishments as a result of the previously funded project*.

WHAT CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE PROPOSALS?

Ability of the project to define and address an emerging issue (25 points). The proposal should clearly describe why the subject of the proposal should be considered to be an Emerging Issue. The rationale and significance of the problem must be clearly articulated, including how stakeholders might ultimately benefit from completion of the competitively funded research, the information gaps to be filled (the researchable questions) and how the research will contribute to an overall solution. The intended output of research conducted under the ERI is to enhance the competitiveness of subsequent proposals.

Ability of project to catalyze future extramural support (25 points). A primary objective of this grant program is to encourage faculty to develop preliminary data that will enhance the competitiveness of future competitive grant proposals. This anticipated outcome(s) must be clearly delineated. Potential funding sources and the project leaders' strategy for developing a competitive proposal are required elements of the proposal.

Anticipated competitive extramural grant applications that will be facilitated by the use of these funds must be explicitly described in the grant proposal (agency, program, application deadline). Requests for second-year funding must be accompanied by documentation that competitive extramural grant application(s) have been submitted.

Appropriate research methodologies and approaches (20 points). The proposals will be reviewed to evaluate whether the approach and methodology, as articulated, are sufficient to accomplish the stated objectives. This should also include extension activities as appropriate.

Interdisciplinary, team-based approach to address the issue(s) (10 points). Not all emerging issues are interdisciplinary in nature; but for the many that are, it is important to describe the multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary components of the project. The formation of teams to address the emerging issues is strongly recommended.

Faculty capacity to successfully complete the project (10 points). The researchers listed for the project should be actively involved in the project and have a documented history of research productivity that is appropriate for the research being proposed. The specific role of each faculty member listed on the proposal must be explicitly and clearly described and the component of the project that depends on each faculty member's effort must be stated. Is the budget appropriate?

Contributions to graduate education (10 points). In support of one of the most broadly identified benchmarks at WSU and in CAHNRS, faculty are encouraged to support Ph.D. graduate students through this program, recognizing that funding beyond one year (up to a maximum of two) is not guaranteed and the faculty member and/or department must be willing to continue the support of the student beyond the duration of ERI support. The student's role in the project must be clearly articulated in the proposal.

Separation from currently funded projects. If the project appears to be a routine continuation, component or supplementation of significant currently funded research, it is not eligible for ERI funding.

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

1. The text of the proposal should not exceed six (6) pages, must address each of the evaluation criteria, and must include:
   a. Title, lead PI name, department, and contact information; cooperating PI(s) name(s), department(s) and contact information
   b. Requested duration
   c. Amount requested for the first year and estimate of the funding to be requested in the second year, if applicable
   d. Project abstract, including brief description of Emerging Issue(s) being addressed and the research strategy that is proposed. (half page)
   e. Problem Statement including rationale and significance of the problem from the perspective of Washington stakeholders. It should be made clear how the research conducted in this project will close existing gaps in our ability to conduct research that addresses an Emerging Issue for Washington's stakeholders
   f. Objectives
   g. Research Methodology. Intended outputs must be clearly stated
   h. Describe how these results will be critical in positioning the group to successfully obtain extramural funding. A significant part of the evaluation will be to critically evaluate the project leader's strategy for using these funds as a foundation for obtaining additional competitive funds.
   i. Description of the Team and Each Person's Responsibility
   j. Anticipated Competitive Extramural Grant Application(s) that will emerge from this project (agency, program, application deadline)
   k. Graduate Student Participation in the project, including the name of the graduate degree program in which the student(s) will enroll.

2. Appended materials (these are not part of the six-page limit)
   a. Progress Report (≤4 pages) and summary of results from previous ERI project(s) (1 page), if applicable.
   b. Reference citations from the body of the proposal
   c. One- or two-page CV of each faculty member participating in the project as PI or co- PI. (Note: Only two pages of each CV will be sent to the reviewers.)
   d. One page detailed budget including a description of any matching or leveraged dollars. Do not include any F&A. All salaries and wages must be included but not benefits. Do not include graduate student tuition. Graduate Students should be paid at the Graduate Research Assistantship levels. *Salary and benefits for permanent faculty and staff cannot be paid from the requested funds*. Resource use efficiency should be clear in the Research Methodology and Approach, and in the Extension plan.
   e. Completed Current and Pending Support Form.
   f. Discussion of overlap of the proposal with currently funded research.

For a second year of funding, a proposal, which can be identical to the initial proposal, must be submitted at the following year deadline and may be approved, if:
- Satisfactory progress toward the originally proposed objectives is documented in a progress report of four pages or less;
- Applications for significant alternative sources of competitive non-university funds have been submitted through the CAHNRS Office of Research/ARC;
- It contains a budget for the second year of support that lists the amount received in the first year, first year funds remaining, the amount requested for the second year and a plan for how the second-year money would be spent and;
- Adequate funds are available.

PROPOSAL FORMAT
The proposal must be submitted in Microsoft Word or PDF formats, and written in Times New Roman at a font size of 12 pt. or greater with 1'' margins (top, bottom, left and right). The Narrative must be six (6) pages or less (Appended materials have no limit). Do NOT include any type of header/footer.

Submit the proposal electronically to the CAHNRS Office of Research by 5 PM, February 1, 2018. All proposals must be emailed to ARCGrants@wsu.edu and lavine@wsu.edu. The staff of the Office of Research will acknowledge receipt of a readable proposal within one working day after submission.

REVIEW PROCESS
All proposals will be reviewed by a panel that consists of the Associate Dean for Research & Director of the ARC, the Assistant Director of the ARC, and a panel of faculty from CAHNRS serving as members of the CAHNRS Associate Dean for Research's Faculty Advisory Council, and ad hoc reviewers as needed.

NOTES
Questions: If you have questions about this RFP, please contact the CAHNRS Office of Research/ARC by email at ARCGrants@wsu.edu or lavine@wsu.edu. If we need to post a FAQ, it will be accessible through the ARC web site [http://arc.wsu.edu/].

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
All publications, posters, websites, field day presentations, etc. resulting from this internal competitive grant program must include the following information:
"This activity was funded, in part, with an Emerging Research Issues Internal Competitive Grant from the Washington State University, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, Agricultural Research Center project WNP00xxx."

FINAL REPORT
A final report is required for each project at the end of the approved funding period. Appropriate metrics (outputs) should be included in the final report that will be indicative of science-based research that will help achieve longer-term objectives associated with the emerging issues. A list of anticipated publications, field days, website URLs, etc. should be included in the Final Report. Within six months of the completion of the proposal, project leader must provide a copy of a proposal submitted to a competitive funding source or to a corporate sponsor. Additional details concerning reporting will be provided to those receiving awards.

Agricultural Research Center programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported to the WSU Center for Human Rights at chr@wsu.edu and 509-335-8288.