

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)
CROP PROTECTION AND PEST MANAGEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM
FY 2021**

PLEASE NOTE: THESE FAQS ARE FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY. ALL CROP PROTECTION AND PEST MANAGEMENT (CPPM) APPLICANTS SHOULD READ THE REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA) FOR THE RESPECTIVE CPPM PROGRAM AREA FOR FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2021. IN FY 2021 NIFA WILL COMPETITIVELY SOLICIT ONLY THE APPLIED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AREA (ARDP) AND EXTENSION IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM AREA (EIP). APPLICATIONS UNDER THE CPPM REGIONAL COORDINATION PROGRAM AREA (RCP) WILL NOT BE COMPETED IN FY 2021. THESE FAQS CONTAIN INFORMATION ON THE CPPM ARDP, EIP, AND RCP PROGRAM AREAS. THE INFORMATION PRESENTED IN THE RFA HAS PRECEDENCE OVER THESE FAQS.

Introduction

Q1. What is the purpose of the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program?

A1. To ensure food security and effectively respond to other major societal pest management challenges. The CPPM program supports projects that address high priority integrated pest management (IPM) challenges with coordinated state, regional, and national research and extension efforts. The impact of these research and extension efforts will be increased by the establishment of communication networks and stakeholder participation in setting priorities.

Q2. What are the program areas in CPPM?

A2. There are three program areas in CPPM.

- The Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP);
- The Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP); and
- The Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP).

Q3. When are applications due for the FY 2021 Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) Competitive Grants Program?

A3. The FY 2021 Crop Protection and Pest Management Request for Applications (RFA), which includes only ARDP and EIP, deadline is March 15, 2021. The RCP will not be competed in FY 2021. RCP continuation RFAs will be emailed directly to the FY 2018 continuation awardees.

Q4. Who is eligible to apply to the CPPM program?

A4. Applications may only be submitted by colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3103) to the CPPM program. Section 1404 of NARETPA was amended by section 7101 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) to define Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs), and to include research foundations maintained by eligible colleges or universities. Section 406(b) of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7626), was amended by section 7206 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to add the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions as eligible to apply for grants under this authority.

For the purposes of this program, the terms “college” and “university” mean an educational institution in any state which (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate; (2) is legally authorized within such state to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; (3) provides an educational program for which a bachelor’s degree or any other higher degree is awarded; (4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and (5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association.

Q5. How much funding is available for CPPM awards in FY 2021?

A5. NIFA anticipates the amount available for CPPM awards in FY 2021 will be approximately \$18.1 million (\$4.0 million for competitive ARDP awards, \$10 million for EIP awards, and \$4.1 million for RCP awards.)

Q6. How will these projects support the CPPM program?

A6. These three program areas will make investments in a wide spectrum of activities – from discovery of IPM knowledge through research and development, to extension activities and implementation – all linked together through regional and national coordination, team-building and stakeholder engagement. Together the three program areas represent a comprehensive approach for developing IPM practices and strategies and implementing this new knowledge across many environments through a coordinated national network, producing positive outcomes for society by applying evidence-based science.

Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP)

Q7. What is the purpose of the ARDP?

A7. The ARDP funds projects that are of a scope and scale needed to develop new IPM tactics, technologies, practices, and strategies; implement those approaches; and move to actual IPM adoption by growers and users through applied research (single-function) projects, IPM adoption through research-led projects, and IPM implementation through extension-led projects.

Q8. How do ARDP projects support the CPPM program?

A8. ARDP projects enhance the development and implementation of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM tactics and strategies that address regional and/or national IPM priorities. Applied research (single-function) projects develop innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems, research-led projects enhance the adoption of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems, and extension-led projects increase levels of implementation of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems by IPM practitioners and growers.

Q9. What are the maximum total project budgets for the ARDP?

A9. Budgets may not exceed \$325,000 and can range in size depending on the scope of the proposed project. Budgets for applications with project directors (PDs) from one state or territory may not exceed \$200,000 and budgets for applications with PDs from more than one state or territory or PDs from one state/territory addressing a significant crop/commodity predominately produced in one state/territory may not exceed \$325,000. **For applications with PDs from one state/territory who are studying a significant crop/commodity that is produced predominately in one state/territory, please note the application requirements in Part I. § C. of the CPPM RFA under the Multi-State/U.S. Territory and/or Regional/National Involvement bullet. Please contact the National Program Leader Programmatic Contact to determine if your project is eligible for this exemption.**

Q10. What is the project length for ARDP projects?

A10. ARDP projects may be from two to four years.

Q11. Budgets for ARDP applications for two to four year projects may not exceed either \$200,000 or \$325,000 depending on the scope of the proposed project. What is the rationale for the size of these budgets?

A11. NIFA selected this budget maximum for ARDP project applications to allow for projects of an appropriate scope to significantly contribute to desired outcomes for IPM needs of regional or national concern. Applicants may submit proposals with budgets less than these maximum budgets for projects of a smaller scope.

Q12. What are the general requirements for ARDP applied research (single-function) projects?

A12. Applied Research (single-function) projects develop innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems that address regional and/or national IPM priorities. Applied Research projects (single-function) must address the applied research priorities listed in the RFA. Please refer to Part I § C. of the CPPM RFA for descriptions of these applied research (single-function) priorities and examples of possible topic areas.

Q13. What are the general requirements for ARDP research-led projects?

A13. Research-led projects enhance the adoption of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems and address the priorities identified for Applied Research (single-function) projects. At least 20 percent of project effort should be focused on the priorities and topic areas identified for Extension-led projects and the remainder of the project on the priorities and topic areas for Applied Research (single-function) projects. Please refer to Part I § C. of the CPPM RFA for descriptions of these priorities and examples of topic areas.

Q14. What are the general requirements for ARDP extension-led projects?

A14. Extension-led projects increase levels of implementation of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems by IPM practitioners and growers. At least 20 percent of project effort should be focused on the priorities and topic areas identified for Applied Research (single-functions) projects and the remainder of the project on the priorities and topic areas for Extension-led projects. Please refer to Part I § C. of the CPPM RFA for descriptions of these priorities and example of topic areas.

Q15. What other requirements are there for ARDP project applications?

A15. Please refer to Part I § C. of the CPPM RFA for other requirements that must be included in ARDP applications including submission of explicit citation of stakeholder-identified needs; benefits to more than one state/territory; applications with a multi-disciplinary and systems orientation; an implementation plan; a logic model chart; willingness to participate in coordination activities; a plan to develop partnerships; applications with inclusion of National IPM Roadmap guidance; and willingness to participate at a project director (PD) workshop. **For applications with PD(s) from one state/territory who are studying a significant crop/commodity that is produced predominately in one state/territory, please note the application requirements in Part I. § C. of the CPPM RFA under the Multi-State/U.S. Territory and/or Regional/National Involvement bullet. Please contact the National Program Leader Programmatic Contact to determine if your project is eligible for this exemption.**

Q16. What project coordination is required of successful applicants to the ARDP program?

A16. Successful applicants must participate in the appropriate Hatch Multistate IPM Education/Extension and Research Activity (currently labeled NCERA222, NEERA1604, SERA3, and WERA1017), other relevant research multi-state committees, and other regional programmatic efforts coordinated through relevant regional IPM centers. The purpose of this coordination is to facilitate collaboration and cooperation, move research results to actual application and adoption, and achieve CPPM program outcomes.

Q17. Who is the point of contact at NIFA for more information on the ARDP?

A17. Vijay Nandula
Title: National Program Leader
Unit: Institute of Food Production and Sustainability
Location: Kansas City, MO
Email: vijay.nandula@usda.gov

Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP)

Q18. What is the purpose of the EIP?

A18. The EIP funds projects based on combinations of primary and secondary priorities intended to increase IPM implementation among the clientele served by an eligible institution. EIP applications do not need to represent the entire scope of IPM at an institution, but should represent a reasonable proportion of the institution's IPM programming. Outcomes for EIP applications should include the implementation of new IPM strategies and improved implementation of known IPM strategies.

Q19. How do EIP projects support the CPPM program?

A19. EIP projects should implement new IPM practices and strategies and improve implementation of known IPM strategies across many environments through a coordinated national network.

Q. 20. When will EIP be competed again?

A. 20. In FY 2021. NIFA anticipates that the FY 2021 awardees will be either awarded as new continuation awards or fully funded.

Q21. What project coordination is required of successful applicants to the EIP program?

A21. EIP awardees are required to build collaborative teams among other CPPM programs in the region and nation to leverage resources, expertise, and coordination with their regional IPM center. Projects must also address the desired outcome of multiple regional and national team building efforts, active communication networks, and enhanced stakeholder participation. Successful applicants will be expected to participate in the current and future iterations of the Hatch Multistate IPM Education/Extension and Research Activity (currently labeled NCERA222, NEERA1604, SERA3, and WERA1017), for the purpose of facilitating and obtaining regional IPM outcomes consistent with the CPPM program and other regional programmatic efforts coordinated through the appropriate regional IPM center.

Q. 22. Will indirect costs be allowed in EIP applications in FY 2021?

A. 22. The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2016 provided NIFA with the following directive for EIP awards: *“Provided further, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program Area grant awarded under the Crop Protection/Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).”* For this reason, no indirect costs may be reimbursed from EIP awards in FY 2021.

Q23. Who are the points of contact at NIFA for more information on the EIP?

A23. Vijay Nandula

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Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP)

Q24. What is the purpose of the RCP?

A24. The RCP funds projects to increase coordination and improve efficiency of IPM research and extension efforts; facilitate collaboration across states, disciplines, and purposes; and promote further development and adoption of IPM through regional pest management information networks, collaborative team building, and broad-based stakeholder participation. The desired result of these efforts is broader implementation of research findings and adoption of IPM by end users.

Q25. What project coordination is required of successful applicants to the RCP regional IPM Centers program?

A25. RCP regional IPM centers will enhance inter-regional collaboration and cooperation to ensure efficient use of resources, to take advantage of the unique strengths and priorities of each region and regional IPM center, and facilitate and obtain regional and national priority IPM outcomes. The regional IPM centers will also enhance intra-regional IPM collaboration and cooperation to achieve outcomes identified by the CPPM program. Regional IPM centers will coordinate actively with and provide assistance to the Project Directors within their region who receive awards from the ARDP and EIP programs.

Q. 26. When will RCP be competed again?

A. 26. NIFA anticipates that the current RCP awardees will be funded as continuation awards in FY 2021. It is anticipated that RCP will be competed again in FY 2022.

Q27. Who is the point of contact at NIFA for more information on the RCP?

A27. Vijay Nandula

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Other Information

Q. 28. What are Centers of Excellence?

A. 28. The concept of centers of excellence was introduced in the FY 2015 CPPM RFA. Language concerning centers of excellence was included in Section 7214 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. For applicable competitive research and extension programs, NIFA will be recognizing and providing priority in the receipt of funding to applications from centers of excellence that have been established for purposes of carrying out research, extension, and education activities relating to the food and agricultural sciences. Eligible applicants who wish to be considered as centers of excellence must provide a brief justification statement, as part of their project narrative and within the page limit provided. Refer to Part III § C.; Part IV § B.2); and Part V § C. of the CPPM RFA for additional information.

Q29. What are other requirements for a CPPM application?

A29. Please read the entire CPPM RFA for important information and details including the requirements for the application, budget and submission.

Q30. Does the CPPM program have a programmatic logic model?

A30. Yes. The logic model for the CPPM program is shown in Figure 2. of the CPPM RFA. It includes stakeholder input and anticipated outcomes/impacts including appropriate elements from IPM logic models from previously funded NIFA IPM programs.

Q31. Do CPPM program applications require the submission of logic model chart(s)?

A31. Yes. CPPM applicants are required to: (1) submit a project-specific logic model chart(s) as part of each application and (2) explain how the logic model(s) supports the CPPM programmatic logic model provided in Figure 2 of the CPPM RFA. Please refer to Part I § B and C in the CPPM RFA for further details.

Q32. What are the funding restrictions on recovery of indirect costs for the CPPM program?

A32. For the ARDP program area of CPPM, the recovery of indirect costs on awards made by NIFA may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 30 percent of total Federal funds awarded. However, institutions are not required to recover indirect costs. For the EIP program area, in FY 2021 recovery of indirect costs are not allowed. See A. 22.

Q33. What is the cost sharing requirement for the CPPM program?

A33. For FY 2021, when a grant provides a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, the grant recipient must match awarded USDA funds with cash and in-kind contributions on dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources (see Part III § B and Part IV § B of the CPPM RFA for details).

NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if we determine that:

- (a) the results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or
- (b) the project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

Q34. Where can I find the criteria that the peer review panels will use to evaluate CPPM applications?

A34. The CPPM evaluation criteria are described in Part V § B of the CPPM RFA.

Q35. The Request for Applications states that the CPPM program intends to require successful applicants or a designee to participate in at least one project director workshop during the term of their project. Where will the workshop be held and how much money should be set aside for it in the budget?

A35. It is anticipated that successful applicants will attend a project director workshop hosted by their regional IPM Center located in their region and that the workshop will run approximately 1½ days. Use a budget figure that would be reasonable for your region.

Q36. Is NIFA soliciting stakeholder input on the FY 2021 CPPM Competitive Grants Program RFA?

A36. Yes. We will consider stakeholder comments when we develop the next RFA for the program. Submit written stakeholder comments by the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of the RFA to: policy@usda.gov. Please see the RFA for details on submitting stakeholder input.

Q37. Who are the points of contact at NIFA for more information?

A37. The primary point of contact for the CPPM program:

Vijay Nandula

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