

Crop Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program

FY 2014 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 19, 2014



U.S. Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CROP PROTECTION AND PEST MANAGEMENT COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under **10.303**, Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program.

DATES: Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 19, 2014**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding (see Part IV, C. of this RFA). Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within 6 months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks your comments about this RFA. We will consider the comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we'll use them to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). Submit written stakeholder comments by the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice to: Policy and Oversight Division; Office of Grants and Financial Management; National Institute of Food and Agriculture; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: Policy@nifa.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Crop Protection and Pest Management RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) Competitive Grants Program for fiscal year (FY) 2014 to address critical state, regional and national integrated pest management (IPM) needs to ensure food security and effectively respond to other major societal challenges. The CPPM program supports projects that address high priority 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. In FY 2014, the CPPM program will provide support for projects to conduct applied research and development, extension implementation, and regional coordination.

Pursuant to H.R. 3547, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, the amount available to support this program in FY 2014 is approximately **\$16.3 million**.

This notice identifies priorities for CPPM projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a CPPM grant.

H.R. 3547, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, provided funding for the CPPM program by consolidating five previous NIFA programs with related purposes. Functionally, those programs provided support for research to develop new IPM approaches, extension to disseminate IPM knowledge and improve implementation of IPM practices, and coordination of IPM activities at the regional and national levels to increase the adoption of IPM practices on a broad scale. The new CPPM program provides support for these functions with three linked programs that emphasize research (discovery), extension (translation) of that knowledge, and enhanced coordination, collaboration and communications among related CPPM programs and grantees. The three program areas are:

1. Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP)

- a. Project Period – Two to four years.
- b. Budget – Awards must not exceed \$250,000 per project.
- c. Depending upon project budget requests, NIFA anticipates making in the range of 15 to 30 awards.
- d. Purpose – To enhance the development and implementation of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM tactics and strategies that address regional and/or national IPM priorities.

2. Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP)

- a. Project Period – Three years.
- b. Budget – Awards must not exceed \$900,000 per project.
- c. Depending upon project budget requests, NIFA anticipates making in the range of 30 to 60 awards.
- d. Purpose – To assure the implementation of IPM through extension activities and coordination with other EIP grantees and other CPPM program areas based on defined state, multi-state, regional, national, or international needs.

3. Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP)

- a. Project Period – Four years.
- b. Budget – Awards must not exceed \$4,000,000 per project.
- c. NIFA anticipates making one RCP award for each of the agency's four administrative regions: North Central, Northeastern, Southern, and Western (see the state and territory listing by region at the end of Part I on page 25).
- d. Purpose – To increase coordination and improve efficiency of IPM research and extension efforts; facilitate collaboration across states and disciplines; and promote further development and adoption of IPM through regional pest management information networks, collaborative team building and broad-based stakeholder participation.

ARDP awards will be administered as fully-funded projects (i.e., all funds provided in year one, without continuations). EIP and RCP awards will be administered as continuation projects (i.e., funding will be provided in one-year increments). Funding after year one will be dependent on legislative authority, availability of annual appropriations, and satisfactory progress.

PLEASE READ

NIFA will conduct a briefing of the FY 2014 CPPM Competitive Grants Program RFA by phone and web conference via Adobe Connect on Thursday, May 22, 12:30-2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The briefing will be available as an archived stand-alone webinar after that date. For details please see: http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/cppm/cppm_info.html.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (H.R. 3547) provided NIFA with funding for competitive grants programs authorized under section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7626), including the Crop Protection and Pest Management Program. These funds are available to support integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education activities. Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this program, the Secretary may award grants to colleges and universities (as defined by section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3103)), as amended, on a competitive basis for projects that address priorities in United States agriculture and involve integrated research, education, and extension activities, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

Section 7206 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 amended section 406(b) of AREERA to add the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions as eligible to apply for grants under this authority.

Background – Stakeholder Input on Crop Protection and Pest Management

Listening Sessions

NIFA solicited formal stakeholder comments from the public on the proposed CPPM program in the spring of 2012 through four stakeholder listening sessions (two in-person and two webinars) and through subsequent meetings and conference calls. Comments were received from over 90 groups and individuals representing universities, commodity groups, grower associations, industry, and private interests.

This stakeholder input is summarized at:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/cppm/cppm_info.html

In addition, individual comments can be found at

www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=NIFA-2012-0005-0001. Stakeholder input from a significant number of individuals on the proposed CPPM program included:

- The general sentiment that the current NIFA IPM program areas that are effective should be continued in the CPPM program.
- Support for the scope of the proposed CPPM program.
- Endorsement of the regional deployment model for IPM as a proven concept, but with the added concern that a portion of CPPM program funding should be reserved to address issues of local and national need.
- Favorable recognition of CPPM program priorities that addressed growing IPM needs, such as the development of the next generation of IPM scientists and professionals and the need to apply IPM principles in urban and other non-traditional settings.
- Recommendations that the new CPPM program enhances coordination and improves efficiency of the national IPM portfolio of programs.

- Concern that the use of the Section 406 authority of AREERA for the CPPM program would allow the recovery of indirect costs on project awards that previously did not allow recovery of indirect costs, resulting in the loss of up to 30 percent of funds available for project activities.

REE Action Plan

The CPPM program directly aligns with the USDA, Research, Education, and Economics Action Plan (www.ree.usda.gov/ree/news/USDA_REE_Action_Plan_02-2012_2.pdf) and specifically addresses the following goals:

- Goal 1 – Local and Global Food Supply and Security, Subgoals 1A, 1B, 1C, and 1D (which focus on Crop and Animal Production and Health, Genetics, Genomics, Genetic Resources, and Biotechnology);
- Goal 2 – Responding to Climate and Energy Needs, Subgoals 2A and 2B (which focus on Climate Variability, Bioenergy/Biofuels and Biobased Products);
- Goal 3 – Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Subgoals 3A and 3B (which focus on Water Availability-Quality and Quantity, and Landscape-Scale Conservation and Management);
- Goal 5 – Food Safety;
- Goal 6 – Education and Science Literacy; and
- Goal 7 – Rural Prosperity/Rural-Urban Interdependence.

The CPPM program aligns well with major goals in the REE Action Plan, which calls for efforts to:

- Develop and extend effective, affordable, and environmentally-sound integrated control strategies to reduce losses caused by diseases, pests, and weeds, including early detection, identification, monitoring, and implementing biologically-based and area-wide strategies to manage key native and invasive species and postharvest pests.
- Optimize integrated pest management practices for production crops by developing knowledge and tools that incorporate cultural methods, biological control, and host plant resistance into management systems.
- Improve the ability to provide surveillance, early detection, rapid response, and appropriate recovery for emerging or reemerging plant and animal diseases of high consequence through the enhancement of national plant and animal disease diagnostic networks.

The CPPM program envisions recruiting, cultivating, and developing the next generation of scientists, leaders, and a highly-skilled workforce for food, agriculture, natural resources, forestry, environmental systems, and life sciences to assure an educated work-force to address IPM concerns in the global marketplace. This CPPM program focus area will support goal 6 of the REE Action Plan.

National IPM Roadmap

The three program areas of the CPPM program (ARDP, EIP, and RCP) are aligned with the goals identified in the National IPM Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management (National IPM Roadmap). The National IPM Roadmap identifies strategic directions for IPM research, implementation, and measurement for all pests, in all settings, throughout the nation (see

www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/pest/pdfs/ipm_roadmap.pdf). Successful CPPM program applicants will develop knowledge and information needed for the adoption of IPM methods that include the following:

- Result in an improved cost benefit analyses when IPM practices are adopted;
- Reduce potential human health risks from pests and related management strategies; and
- Minimize adverse environmental impacts from pests and related management strategies.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of the CPPM program is to address high priority issues related to pests and their management using IPM approaches at the state, regional and national levels. The CPPM program supports projects that will increase food security and respond effectively to other major societal challenges with comprehensive IPM approaches that are economically viable, environmentally sound and will help protect human health. The CPPM program addresses IPM challenges for emerging issues and existing priority pest concerns that can be addressed more effectively with new and emerging technologies. The outcomes of the CPPM program are effective, affordable, and environmentally sound IPM practices and strategies supporting more vital communities.

NIFA is soliciting applications for the CPPM program in the following three program areas:

- 1) Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP). The ARDP funds projects for the development of new IPM tactics, technologies, practices, and strategies through research (single-function) projects. ARDP also funds IPM implementation through research-led projects and IPM adoption through extension-led projects.
- 2) Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP). The EIP funds projects based on combinations of primary and secondary priorities intended to increase IPM implementation among the clientele served. 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. Activities in EIP should implement new IPM strategies and improve implementation of known IPM strategies.
- 3) Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP). 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.

These three program areas, which are described in detail in a later section (Part I, Section C – Program Area Descriptions), will make investments in a wide spectrum of activities – from the 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.

Please read the entire RFA to determine where your proposed project may fit among the three program areas described in this RFA. If you have questions, please contact the appropriate program area contact listed in Part VII of this RFA for guidance.

Schematic Representation of the CPPM Program’s Desired Outcomes and Goals

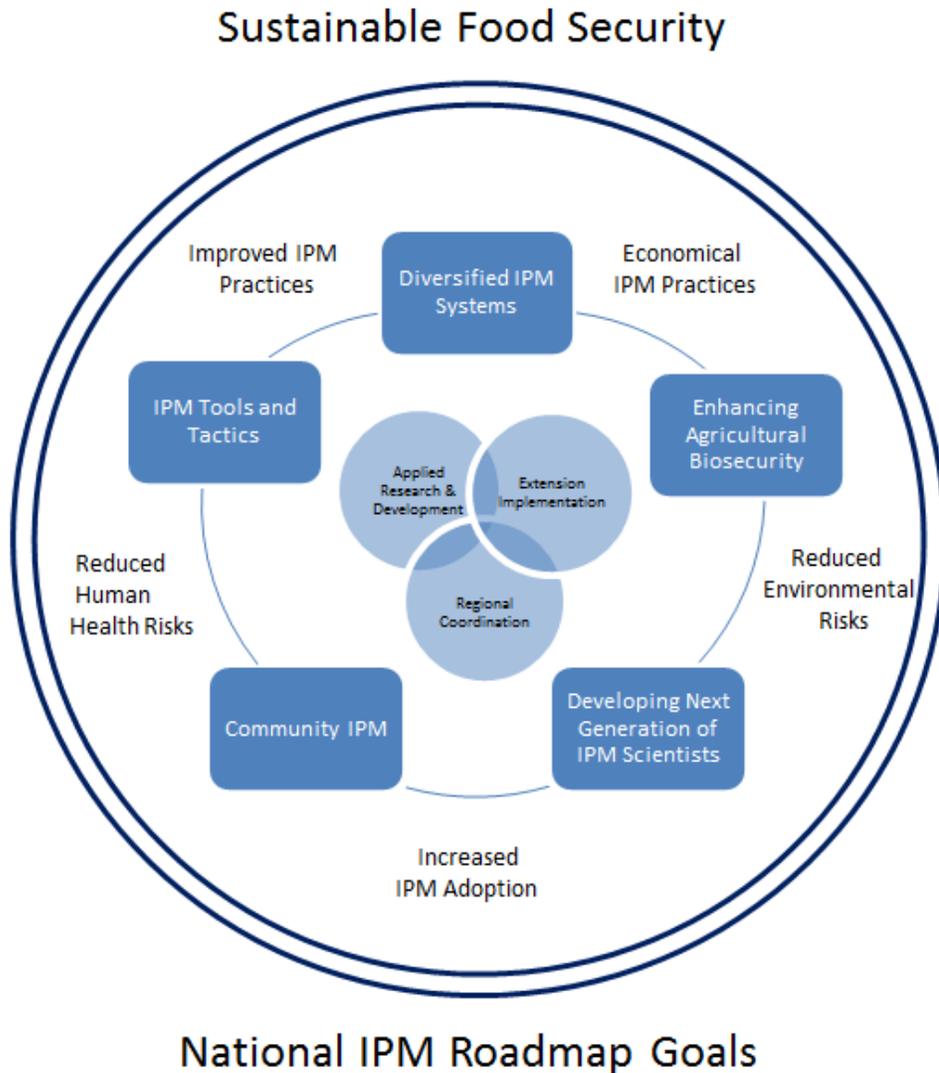


Figure 1. The three program areas at the center of the figure address IPM needs in the five focus areas, thereby contributing to the achievement of the goals of the National IPM Roadmap and resulting in sustainable food security.

In FY 2014, the priorities of the ARDP, EIP, and RCP will address IPM needs for several of these five CPPM focus areas:

- 1) **Plant Protection Tactics and Tools.** This focus area represents the need for discovery, development, and introduction of new pest management tactics for use in IPM systems.
- 2) **Diversified IPM Systems.** This focus area represents the need for long-term sustainable solutions to pest management problems.
- 3) **Enhancing Agricultural Biosecurity.** This focus area represents the need to develop and maintain key information systems, networks, and decision support tools that provide the knowledge infrastructure needed for early detection and the application of science-based IPM systems for invasive, emerging and high-consequence pests that threaten U.S. agriculture. For example, early warning and decision support systems such as the Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (ipmPIPE) have a direct effect on biosecurity.
- 4) **IPM for Sustainable Communities.** This focus area represents the need for direct application of IPM knowledge and expertise to address pest management challenges in non-traditional settings such as urban structures, landscapes and gardens, homes and schools.
- 5) **Development of the Next Generation of IPM Scientists.** This focus area represents the need to develop pre-doctoral and post-doctoral education programs to prepare the next generation of IPM scientists.

For more detailed descriptions of the focus areas, see:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/cppm/cppm_info.html

In FY 2014, the NIFA CPPM program will not provide funding for Diversified IPM Systems (focus area two) and formal education projects (focus area five). Support for the other three focus areas will be provided within the three program areas described later in this RFA (see Part I, Section C). NIFA intends to support these focus areas in coming fiscal years should funding be available for these purposes.

CPPM Logic Model: The logic model for the CPPM program (Figure 2) incorporates stakeholder input, anticipated outcomes, appropriate elements from IPM logic models from previously funded NIFA IPM programs, and goals for the REE Action Plan and strategic plans for USDA and NIFA. NIFA will use the logic model to guide the development of future funding priorities and to document the impact of investments made by the CPPM program.

Please Note: All 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. See Program Area Descriptions (Part I, Section C, items 1-3) and Application and Submission Information (Part IV, Section B, item 3b, field 8) for specific requirements of location of inclusion of the logic model within the application for each program. Each project-specific logic model chart must provide details for the inputs, outputs (activities and participants), and outcomes of the proposed project. For more information on logic model charts with specific examples, see www.ipm.gov/LogicModels/index.cfm.

Figure 2. Crop Protection and Pest Management Program Logic Model

Situation: Emerging diseases, insects, weeds and other pests continue to negatively impact U.S. agricultural production, natural areas, and urban setting including places where people live, work, and attend school. Obtaining new science-based IPM knowledge and implementing that knowledge with effective, affordable, and environmentally-sound IPM strategies at the local, state, regional and national levels are needed to address these priority IPM challenges.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes/Impacts		
	Participants	Activities / Products	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term
Legislative authority	Stakeholders	Respond to Congressional authorization and appropriation	Increase knowledge and implementation of new IPM tools and tactics in integrated strategies for IPM	Innovative and diversified IPM systems are adopted on an area-wide or landscape scale	Crop protection systems are more profitable with IPM
Annual appropriation	Commodity associations	Publish RFA	Adapt existing science-based IPM knowledge to new pest scenarios and foster sound IPM solutions	Key information systems, networks, and decision-support tools are adopted for emerging and high-consequence pests and diseases. Enhanced coordination and responsiveness of IPM research, education, and extension effort for critical, priority pest management and food security challenges	Agricultural production increased through reduced pest and disease losses
USDA involvement	Public interest groups	Recruit panel managers and peer review panelists	Engage broadest possible IPM scientific, extension, and education communities in challenges faced by IPM	New stakeholders are using IPM; Stakeholders are using more advanced IPM best management practices	Cost benefit ratios of adopting IPM practices are improved
NIFA intra-agency coordination	Farmers	Conduct peer review panel meetings	Engage new stakeholder communities challenged by pest issues who could benefit from IPM	Producers and processors adopt newly developed IPM technologies and innovations	Sustainable IPM practices are adopted
Multi-state projects	Ranchers	Award funds to meritorious applications	Facilitate production of audience-appropriate information/training materials including mobile, web-based, and other digital, as well as traditional formats.	Regional and national trans-disciplinary systems approaches are being used to solve IPM problems	Human health and environmental risks from managing pests are reduced
Program directors	General public	Support IPM research to address priority IPM needs	Facilitate communication among the scientific IPM community and among the research, teaching and extension communities, practitioners, stakeholders, and consumers in a proactive communication strategy	A new generation of research and extension scientists capable of and adept at working in effective, trans-disciplinary regional and national teams are in place	U.S. food producers are more competitive globally
Support staff	NGOs	Promote collaborative team-building through national and regional coordination meetings and activities and broad-based stakeholder participation	Facilitate production of original materials and collaboration with existing or new eXtension CoPs	Networks improve information flow among IPM components, among stakeholders, and among IPM research, education, and extension communities	Global capacity to meet growing food demand improved
Panel Managers	End Users or Consumers	Promote the development and implementation of IPM by facilitating coordination and collaboration across states, disciplines and programs		Stakeholders can document why IPM was beneficial for them and the environment	Safe, affordable and high-quality crops are widely available to consumers
Peer Review Panels	Land-grant university partners	Establish and maintain pest management information networks			Hunger is reduced through improved food security in vulnerable populations
Stakeholder and partner comments	Cooperative Extension	Build partnerships and address challenges and opportunities			Effective, affordable, and environmentally-sound IPM strategies are in place to reduce economic, environmental, and societal losses from pests and diseases that affect crops and livestock, human well-being and community vitality
	Research, teaching and extension faculty	Develop notable IPM training programs and foster their sustainability			Coordinated state-based, region-wide and national research, education, and extension programs function as catalysts for promoting further development and use of new IPM approaches
	State agencies	Review and evaluate impacts of IPM implementation and communicate successes			
	Federal agencies	Communicate positive outcomes to key stakeholders			
	USDA-NIFA	Manage funding resources effectively			
	Other allied state and federal agencies	Collect program impact data			
	Regional IPM stakeholders				
	eXtension CoPs				
	NGOs				
	Public interest groups				

Assumptions:

Sustainability is a foundation of integrated pest management (IPM). IPM plays a significant role in U.S. agricultural production. Complimentary and coordinated state, regional and national approaches are needed in obtaining increased adoption of IPM in agricultural, natural and urban settings.

External Factors:

Congressional appropriations/funding
Stakeholder input
Emerging and critical issues requiring IPM practices and technologies
New pests and pathogens

C. Program Area Descriptions

1. Applied Research and Development Program Area

Program Code – ARDP

Proposed Budget Requests – Budgets may not exceed \$250,000 total per project for applications with Project Directors (PDs) from more than one state/territory. Budgets must be \$125,000 or less for applications with PDs from one state/territory. Budgets must be \$250,000 or less for applications with PDs from more than one state/territory. (See table below).

Project Period – Two to four years

Requested Project Type – The ARDP supports three project types:

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

Please Note – Project proposals must indicate in the **Project Summary** whether the project is applied research (single-function), research-led, or extension-led.

Program Area Contact – Dr. Robert Nowierski, (202) 401-4900 or rnowierski@nifa.usda.gov

Maximum Award for Each Project

	PDs* from one state/territory	PDs from more than one state/territory
ARDP Awards	\$125,000	\$250,000

*PDs: Project Directors

Program Area Priorities

Applied Research Projects (single-function)

Applied Research projects develop the foundation needed for on-going IPM implementation efforts. Research may be proposed to develop individual tools and tactics needed for pest management systems (e.g., biocontrol, cultural/physical/mechanical control, host plant resistance, particularly novel uses of chemicals, monitoring methods or decision support) or to increase the understanding of how interactions among tactics alter the effectiveness of pest management within agricultural, recreational, suburban, and urban ecosystems. The experimental approach should emphasize field-scale experiments over multiple seasons and/or locations, where appropriate. Practices should be designed to reduce initial pest populations, lower the carrying capacity of the ecosystem for pests, increase tolerance of hosts to pest injury, and/or provide tools for making management decisions, such as monitoring methods and action thresholds.

Long-term fundamental research is not appropriate for funding in this category. We encourage research on novel, cutting-edge methods, for which data exist to support the likelihood of successful integrated pest management research and adoption. Research involving chemical pesticides should be designed to reduce the amount applied, frequency of applications, increase the selectivity, reduce the risks associated with their use, and/or develop novel resistance management strategies. The project should be designed to minimize adverse impacts on beneficial organisms and to limit buildup of resistant pest populations. Applications should clearly describe how the tactic or IPM system, once developed, can be incorporated into an existing production or management system. Projects funded in this category should demonstrate economic, social, and environmental benefits of IPM strategies, and identify ways to overcome constraints to greater adoption of IPM methods by users.

Applied Research projects (single-function) must address two or more of the following priorities:

- 1) Document (measure) the impacts of IPM adoption;
- 2) Develop an effective strategy or tactic for a pest problem that currently limits production efficiency in a plant or animal production system, and is recognized by the user community as a key priority;
- 3) Address multiple cycles of pests (arthropods, nematodes, vertebrates, pathogens, or weeds) over seasons, and/or multiple species and complexes at the landscape or ecosystem level (agricultural production, urban, or natural systems) with consideration of the interactions of the entire system;
- 4) Promote biological diversity in pest management systems and integration of multiple pest management tactics;
- 5) Identify constraints to greater adoption of IPM strategies and develop approaches to overcome these constraints;
- 6) Promote an interdisciplinary, IPM systems approach;
- 7) Develop effective pest management tactics for invasive pests (arthropods, nematodes, vertebrates, pathogens, or weeds) in cropping systems and natural and urban areas; and
- 8) Develop projects that enhance the development of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems for current and/or emerging pests of national importance.

Research-led Projects

Research-led projects primarily address the priorities identified for Applied Research projects (single-function) (above), but at least 20 percent of project effort is focused on the priorities identified for Extension-led projects (below). Extension personnel should be involved at the beginning of project planning and their work should be conducted concurrently with research activities throughout the life of the project. Research-led projects must address two or more of the Applied Research priorities listed above, and at least one Extension-led priority listed below.

Extension-led Projects

Extension-led projects enhance outreach efforts that support IPM methods and maximize opportunities to build strategic alliances with stakeholders to expand their active participation in

increasing the adoption of IPM methods. Projects may be proposed to develop extension materials and information delivery systems for outreach efforts, conduct field-scale or on-farm demonstrations, or deliver IPM extension outreach and training. The existence of a research base relevant to the extension effort should be documented. Funding is not intended to support ongoing extension programmatic efforts. At least 20 percent of project effort should be focused on the priorities identified for Applied Research projects (above).

Extension-led projects must address at least one of the Applied Research (single-function) priorities listed above and two or more of the following priorities:

- 1) Provide IPM outreach and training to individuals involved with the production, processing, storage, transporting, and marketing of food and agricultural commodities;
- 2) Develop educational materials and information delivery systems that provide IPM personnel in the public and private sectors with timely, state-of-the-art information about effective IPM strategies;
- 3) Provide outreach on endangered species protection related to IPM;
- 4) Develop IPM programs for urban and natural systems, and address human and environmental health issues when appropriate; and
- 5) Enhance the development and implementation of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems for current and/or emerging pests of national importance.

Successful ARDP applications will fully address each of the following topics:

- **Stakeholder-identified IPM Needs.** The ARDP is committed to addressing the IPM needs expressed by diverse stakeholders. Applications must include at least one explicit citation that documents the specific stakeholder-identified needs addressed by the proposed project. Clearly reference identified needs to corresponding citations. The citation of stakeholder IPM needs is important because it demonstrates that a project is both important to stakeholders and that PDs are engaged with the stakeholder community. Sources of stakeholder-identified needs include, but are not limited to:
 - Needs identified by the Regional IPM Centers. See:
 - www.ncipmc.org/priorities/index.cfm
 - www.northeastipm.org/grant-programs/stakeholder-priorities
 - www.sripmc.org/Policy/Priorities
 - www.wripmc.org/Research/index.html
 - Needs identified in crop profiles. See www.ipmcenters.org/CropProfiles;
 - Needs identified in Pest Management Strategic Plans. See www.ipmcenters.org/pmsp;
 - Recommendations or reports from state IPM programs;
 - Recommendations from relevant IPM research and/or extension multi-state committees;
 - IPM needs from Sustainable Agriculture Research and Extension (SARE) sub-regional conferences;
 - Recommendations from other IPM stakeholder groups; and
 - Other documented IPM needs assessment evaluations.
- **Multi-State/Territory and/or National Involvement.** ARDP projects encourage collaborations among states/territories, regions, and national participants for purposes of

efficiency, economy, and synergy. All applications, including projects with PDs from one state/territory, must clearly describe how the project will provide benefits to more than one state/territory. Projects involving multi-state/territory, regional, and national collaborations are preferred, but those projects undertaken by PDs in a single state/territory that clearly describe benefits for other states/territories are also encouraged (see Part III, Section A, Eligible Applicants). In all cases, applicants must address how their proposal benefits a geographic area that is greater than one state/territory. Multi-state/territory, regional, and national proposals must describe the role of each collaborating partner in enough detail to convince the peer reviewers of the application that the multi-state collaboration is meaningful.

- **Multi-Disciplinary and Systems-Oriented.** The ARDP supports projects that promote cooperative efforts across appropriate disciplines, with linkages between research and extension efforts, and components of existing or emerging pest management systems. The proposal must describe the role of each member of the multi-disciplinary team and their responsibilities to the project.
- **Systems Approach.** A desired outcome of an ARDP project is to enhance the development and implementation of innovative, ecologically-based, sustainable IPM strategies and systems. The intent of the ARDP is to fund medium-term projects that emphasize systems approaches. The ARDP supports projects that significantly enhance and protect environmental quality, reduce the risk of health problems and other problems associated with pest control practices, promote biological diversity in pest management systems, and integrate multiple pest management tactics. ARDP applications may address major acreage agricultural production systems, high value crops such as key fruit and vegetable systems, urban systems, or other agro-ecosystems including natural areas. The primary emphasis of the application should be on productivity and profitability while addressing critical environmental quality and human health issues.
- **Implementation Plan.** Each application must describe a plan for implementation of results generated by the project. The application must provide cost-effective approaches and criteria to measure and assess implementation, adoption and potential impact.
- **Logic Model.** Submit a project-specific logic model chart and explain how the ARDP project logic model supports the CPPM programmatic logic model (see Application and Submission Information, Part IV, B, item 3b, field 8). The project-specific logic model chart must provide details on the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project.
- **Coordination.** Successful applicants must participate in appropriate Hatch Multistate IPM Education/Extension and Research Activity (currently labeled NEERA1004, NCERA222, SERA003, and WERA1017. See the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) – http://nimss.umd.edu/lgu_v2/), 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 (see Part I, Section B, item 3, below for information on regional IPM centers).

- **Partnerships.** The ARDP strongly encourages applicants to develop partnerships that include collaboration with small- or mid-sized, accredited colleges and universities; 1890 land-grant institutions; 1994 land-grant institutions; Hispanic-serving institutions; Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs); and/or other institutions that serve high-risk, under-served, or hard-to-reach audiences.
- **National IPM Roadmap.** ARDP applications should apply appropriate guidance in the National IPM Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management to projects (see www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/pest/pdfs/ipm_roadmap.pdf).
- **Project Director (PD) Workshop:** The CPPM program requires successful applicants, or a designee, to attend at a PD workshop during the term of their project. This workshop may be held in conjunction with another conference or may be held separate from any other meeting. For the purpose of budget development, applicants are required to request funds for attending this workshop. The request for these funds should be clearly indicated in the budget narrative section of the application.

Other ARDP Program Area Information

The ARDP extension-led projects are separate from extension projects funded in the Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP) and are generally not as mature, are more narrowly focused, and/or are outside the scope of EIP.

2. Extension Implementation Program Area

Program Code – EIP

Proposed Budget Requests – Budgets must not exceed \$300,000 per year. Budgets must not exceed \$900,000 per project. This program area is limited to one application per institution.

Project Period – Three years

Requested Project Type – Extension implementation. This program will support an extension IPM coordination project at eligible institutions. Applications submitted to EIP should describe institution-based programs that are extension-led, but may include research–demonstration components. Any research activities must be directly related to the extension program. No more than 20 percent of a project’s activities may be research-led.

Program Area Contact – Dr. Martin Draper, (202) 401-1990 or mdraper@nifa.usda.gov

Program Area Priorities – EIP applications must address the following:

<u>Primary Priorities</u> <i>Must include at least one – no funding cap, but may not exceed the total \$300,000 per year application cap*</i>	<u>Secondary Priorities</u> <i>May be included if appropriate – no single secondary priority may exceed \$50,000 per year*</i>
IPM Implementation in Agronomic Crops	IPM Conservation Partnerships
IPM Implementation in Animal Agriculture	IPM Support for Pest Diagnostic Facilities
IPM Implementation in Communities	IPM Training and Implementation in Housing
IPM Implementation in Specialty Crops	IPM Education for Pesticide Applicators
	IPM in Public Health
	IPM on Recreational Lands
	IPM Training and Implementation in Schools
	IPM Partnerships in Wide-Area Pest Monitoring and Reporting Systems

*The total \$300,000 per year application cap applies to any combination of up to a total of six primary and secondary emphasis areas. The list of priorities above is alphabetic by priority keywords and does not represent any prioritization. Each priority will carry equal weight in the ranking of an application during the peer review process.

Program Priorities Descriptions

This section provides descriptions of the EIP primary and secondary priorities. Applications may include a maximum of six priorities, but applications may have fewer than six priorities. Applications must describe active IPM programming for at least one primary priority. In addition

to the mandatory inclusion of at least one primary priority, the additional priorities may be any combination of primary or secondary priorities.

Primary Priorities:

- (a) IPM Implementation in Agronomic Crops.** Agronomic crops include grain and oilseed crops such as wheat, corn, cotton, soybean, rice, cultivated forages, mixed rangeland forages, and other crops traditionally viewed as agronomic. You must provide justification for the size of the funding request based on the economic significance of the crop and the need for IPM in the crop as defined by statewide agricultural receipts, planted acres, the potential for addressing environmental or health risks, stakeholder input, and/or the importance of the pest in a local cropping system.
- (b) IPM Implementation in Animal Agriculture.** Extension training, outreach programs, and materials development to increase adoption of IPM practices in livestock production and other areas of animal agriculture is included in this priority. You must provide justification for the size of the request based on the scope and significance of the industry and opportunities for adoption of IPM.
- (c) IPM in Communities.** This priority includes extension training programs and materials development and delivery to increase adoption of IPM practices by private citizens in the home landscape, lawn care companies, garden centers, urban foresters, and similar practitioners. [**Note:** Programming for commercial nursery and greenhouse production should be included in the priority listed below, “IPM Implementation for Specialty Crops”. Home horticulture is included in the IPM in Communities priority.] NIFA strongly encourages significant linkages with state and/or county Extension Master Gardener programs for this priority. You must provide justification for the size of the funding request based on the local risk from the pests described in the proposal, the level of service provided to the public, and the economic significance of the pest to consumer horticulture.
- (d) IPM Implementation in Specialty Crops.** Specialty crops are defined as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, and horticulture, floriculture and nursery crops (see www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/pdfs/definition_of_specialty_crops.pdf). Input costs, intensiveness of labor or production, or return on investment are typically greater for specialty crops than for agronomic crops. You must provide justification for the size of the funding request based on the economic significance of the crop and the need for IPM in the crop as defined by statewide receipts, planted acres, the potential for addressing environmental or health risks, stakeholder input, and/or the importance of the pest in a local cropping system.

Secondary Priorities:

Secondary priorities may compliment primary priorities, but are more focused priorities and typically have a narrower scope. Secondary priorities are not required in EIP applications.

- (a) **IPM Conservation Partnerships.** This priority includes coordination with local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) districts or state conservationists to implement the NRCS 595 standard for IPM. The 595 standard for IPM practice is applied as part of a conservation system to mitigate the negative impacts on soil, water, air, plant, and animal and/or human resources and to protect and enhance quantity and quality of agricultural outputs. Applicants must show evidence of collaboration with their NRCS state conservationist or local conservation districts. The project budget must reflect the level of collaboration. You must provide justification for the size of the request based on the significance of the issue and the potential of successful coordination with NRCS and local conservation districts. You can find further explanation in Agronomy Technical Note No. 5 (www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1044467.pdf) as summarized in the following documents: (efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/WI/595.pdf) and (www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1044470.pdf).
- (b) **IPM Support for Pest Diagnostic Facilities.** Accurate identification of the pest or problem is fundamental to IPM strategies. You must provide justification for the size of the request based on the defined need and existing support for diagnostic facilities.
- (c) **IPM Training and Implementation in Housing.** This priority includes extension training programs, and materials development and delivery, to increase adoption of IPM practices in housing and to address resident exposure to pest-related allergens and pesticide residues. You must provide justification for the size of the request based on the number of housing units to be served and the need for IPM in the facilities. Applications may target public housing, housing on tribal lands, or other types of housing, particularly when addressing underserved audiences in collaboration with county social services or other entities that make housing affordable and accessible (e.g., Habitat for Humanity).
- (d) **IPM Education for Pesticide Applicators.** IPM principles are an integral part of many pesticide applicator-training activities. This training often takes place as part of topic-specific training for certification/recertification category credits. However, general IPM principles are also incorporated into core credit education delivered to all types of applicators. You must provide a justification for the size of the funding request based on the training outputs to be achieved and their corresponding outcomes. NIFA will give priority to educational activities with the highest likelihood of achieving positive and measurable impacts toward the goals articulated in the National IPM Roadmap (www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/pest/in_focus/ipm_if_roadmap.html). NIFA expects proposals submitted for this priority to include information necessary to demonstrate strong linkages with the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) or other existing applicator education programs. However, only activities specifically providing IPM education for pesticide applicators are eligible for funding; proposals that provide general support for related extension programs will not be considered for funding.
- (e) **IPM in Public Health.** This priority includes extension training programs and materials development and delivery to increase adoption of IPM practices for management of ticks and lice, mosquitoes, and similar pests of humans, particularly those that may vector disease. You must provide justification for the size of the request based on the local risk

from the described pests. Because risks from pests of humans may be highly regional, evidence of incidence of disease or frequency of pest incidence in a locale are valid justifications for importance of a local pest problem. Partnerships may involve entities outside the university community such as city or county public health services, federal service agencies, and non-governmental entities. However, these IPM partners may not originate a proposal. Indoor pests, such as bedbugs, may also be addressed under two other secondary priorities: “IPM Training and Implementation in Housing” and/or “IPM Training and Implementation in Schools.”

- (f) **IPM on Recreational Lands.** This priority includes extension training programs and materials development and delivery to increase adoption of IPM practices in parks, athletic facilities, golf courses, natural areas, parklands, and other recreational areas. For this priority, partnerships should be fostered with federal and state agencies that manage public lands.
- (g) **IPM Training and Implementation in Schools.** This priority includes extension training, outreach programs, and materials development to increase adoption of IPM practices in schools to address childhood exposure to pest related allergens and pesticide residues in the PreK-12 school environment. Additional activities may include development and/or delivery of Extension IPM education programs. You must provide justification for the size of the request based on the number of school districts to be served, the need for IPM in the educational environment, or a demonstrated need for IPM in the district served.
- (h) **IPM Partnerships in Wide-Area Pest Monitoring and Reporting Systems.** This priority includes participation in pest monitoring when it is associated with wide-area tracking, such as through the ipm Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (ipmPIPE). Tracking and monitoring efforts require implementation of standardized national protocols for area-wide efforts involving ipmPIPE. Preparation of training and Extension education materials within those systems may be a component of this emphasis area. The ipmPIPE provides a delivery model for the development of tools to increase usefulness, improve data retrieval and interpretation, and maintain databases and other information resources needed for pest management decision-making. Detailed information about ipmPIPE can be found at www.ipmpipe.org. Similar systems are also eligible as long as data is shared with producers and decision-makers to improve their pest management decisions based on IPM principles and enhanced knowledge of pest distributions. The applicant must provide justification for the size of the request based on costs to conduct the proposed activities associated with the monitoring of the program and how the funds will complement funding from other sources.

Successful EIP applications will:

- Include an administrative coordination plan for project activities and a description of project activities with expected outcomes for the primary and secondary priorities included in your application. Most applicants will describe this section separately and budget for the associated costs.

- Explain why the priority(ies) included in the application are appropriate based on identified need and stakeholder input.
- Specifically describe plans/design to implement the project by delivering and coordinating extension/outreach programs within the audiences and geography served by the institution. Include short, medium and long-range outcomes that show measureable advances in knowledge of IPM, understanding/attitudes about IPM, and adoption of increasingly higher level IPM strategies in any of the primary or secondary priorities.
- Specify project activities that may include informal and non-formal educational approaches (see definitions in Part VIII, Section E). In these cases, describe how the project will:
 - (a) Provide technical assistance and troubleshooting to build understanding when clients are most receptive to instruction;
 - (b) Develop materials to assist in program delivery that could include printed manuals and fact sheets, media productions, internet resources, decision support guidance and other teaching aids;
 - (c) Maintain programs addressing the management of endemic, established pests of economic and social concern that aid in the implementation across appropriate geographic areas;
 - (d) Respond to emerging pests of economic and social concern and aid in IPM implementation across appropriate geographic areas;
 - (e) Use participatory and demonstration research techniques to engage practitioners and stakeholders in IPM systems that employ novel tactics;
 - (f) Coordinate with current researchers in appropriate disciplines, incorporate new IPM tactics into educational programs, and measure the improvements resulting from the application or implementation of those enhanced IPM strategies. Any application that includes research activities must clearly describe how the research is directly connected to the extension effort and how it will contribute to applied outcomes. No more than 20 percent of the described project and budget should be devoted to research;
 - (g) Train key clientele (agents/educators, consultants, scouts, growers, and others) to enhance understanding of pest management tactics and strategies.
- Build collaborative teams among other CPPM programs in the region and nation to leverage resources, expertise, and coordination with your regional IPM center. Proposals 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 NEERA1004, NCERA222, SERA003, and WERA1017. See the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) – http://nimss.umd.edu/lgu_v2/), for the purpose of facilitating and obtaining regional IPM outcomes consistent with the CPPM program and other regional programmatic efforts coordinated through their appropriate regional IPM center.
- Partner, engage, and involve diverse audiences in building collaborative teams. NIFA encourages collaboration with small- or mid-sized accredited colleges and universities; 1994 land-grant institutions; insular areas; Hispanic-serving institutions; Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs); and/or other institutions that serve high-risk, under-served, or hard-to-reach audiences.

To provide an extensive collaborative national extension network, NIFA expects to have EIP projects funded at as many eligible institutions as possible, providing the peer review panel ranks individual proposals in a fundable category and activities are complementary rather than duplicative.

3. Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP)

Program Code – RCP

Proposed Budget Requests –

- Budgets may not exceed \$1,000,000 per year. Budgets must not exceed \$4,000,000 per project. NIFA anticipates making one RCP award for each of the agency's four administrative regions: North Central, Northeastern, Southern, and Western (see the state and territory listing by region at the end of Part I on page 25). The RCP award in each region is to fund one regional IPM center.
- NIFA anticipates providing additional funding to one regional IPM center for an optional project supplement to support the IPM information system; budgets may not exceed \$150,000 per year. Budgets for the optional project supplement to support the IPM information system must not exceed \$600,000 per project.

Please Note – Project proposals must indicate in the **Project Summary** that this RCP submission is for a regional IPM center and whether the proposal includes the optional project supplement to the RCP.

Project Length – Four years

Requested Project Type – Regional IPM Center

Program Area Contact – Dr. Herbert Bolton, (202) 401- 4201 or hbolton@nifa.usda.gov

Program Area Priorities – RCP applicants must address the following:

1) Development and Adoption of IPM

- (a) Enhance development and adoption of regional IPM solutions and strategically promote national outcomes for priority pest management issues.
- (b) Promote the overarching National IPM Roadmap goals: (1) improve cost benefit analyses when IPM practices are adopted, (2) reduce potential human health risks from pests and related management strategies, and (3) minimize adverse environmental impacts from pests and related management strategies as described in the National IPM Roadmap (2013) (www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/pest/in_focus/ipm_if_roadmap.html).

2) Intra-Regional IPM Collaboration and Cooperation

- (a) Enhance intra-regional IPM collaboration and cooperation to achieve outcomes identified by the CPPM program.
- (b) Support the development and implementation of IPM on regional and national priorities by facilitating collaboration across states, disciplines, research and extension communities, commodities, and settings.
- (c) Increase coordination of IPM research, education and extension efforts and respond to critical, high-priority IPM needs by serving as regional focal points for core regional IPM support services, regional pest management information networks, collaborative team building, and broad-based stakeholder participation.

- (d) Coordinate with the Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and the Regional Extension Directors Association.
- (e) Engage fully with the regional Hatch Multistate IPM Education/Extension and Research Activity committees (currently labeled NEERA1004, NCERA222, SERA003, and WERA1017. See the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) – http://nimss.umd.edu/lgu_v2/) to facilitate and obtain regional priority IPM outcomes.
- (f) Engage fully with appropriate regional Hatch Multistate Research Committees to facilitate and obtain regional priority IPM outcomes.
- (g) Coordinate actively with and provide assistance to the Project Directors (PDs) within the region who receive awards from the other two CPPM program areas (ARDP and EIP). NIFA intends to inform each funded regional IPM center of the awards made to PDs in their region under the CPPM program. NIFA expects these PDs to collaborate and coordinate with their respective regional IPM center, and with the other regional IPM centers when appropriate, to more efficiently and effectively leverage regional resources needed to facilitate and reach significant regional and national IPM outcomes.

3) Inter-Regional IPM Collaboration and Cooperation

- (a) 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.
- (b) Participate in national coordination meetings with representatives from regional IPM research and extension committees, IPM-related programs and government agencies to harmonize regional needs and activities into a comprehensive, nationally-coordinated program.
- (c) Support IPM projects that may require inter-regional collaboration. Examples are the development of national pest management strategic plans, crop profiles, national pest alerts, contributions to internet and database resources, evaluations of the impacts of IPM implementation on a regional and national scale, support of the Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education (ipmPIPE), IPM signature food security programs of national scope (see 6a-c below), or IPM priorities that span regional boundaries.

4) IPM Information Networks

- (a) Establish and maintain multi-state information networks designed to provide pest managers, regulatory agencies, and policy makers with the information they need to make science-based decisions and to provide interactive communication and exchange of information among IPM practitioners, researchers and extension specialists, government agencies, and other program stakeholders.
- (b) Engage with Extension IPM programs and other IPM-related programs and experts operating at the national, regional, state and local levels.

5) IPM Partnerships

- (a) Build partnerships to address IPM challenges and opportunities;
- (b) Establish broad-based stakeholder advisory and steering committees to provide an opportunity for research and extension experts, IPM practitioners and other stakeholders to identify and prioritize pest management needs, challenges and opportunities in the region.

- (c) Engage stakeholders in regional processes to identify and prioritize IPM needs, focus resources on the identified priorities, and share regional IPM priorities with NIFA annually.
- (d) Use input from a wide variety of other sources in the IPM needs prioritization process such as research and extension faculty including state Extension IPM coordinators; multistate research and extension committees that address pest management issues; members of IPM-related eXtension Communities of Practice; commodity associations and other groups representing end-users; and public interest groups.
- (e) Work in partnership with appropriate government agencies, private sector organizations and academic institutions on opportunities for interagency cooperation and shared funding of priority projects.

6) IPM Signature Food Security Programs

- (a) Develop IPM signature food security programs and foster their sustainability through regional IPM center leadership. IPM signature food security programs promote collaboration across state and organizational boundaries to respond to high priority IPM challenges such as invasive species, endangered species, pest resistance, impacts resulting from regulatory actions affecting pest management practices, emerging pests or IPM issues; or other CPPM program priorities.
- (b) Provide support for key management tools that help foster food security including the Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education ([ipmPIPE](http://ipmPIPE.org/), see www.ipmpipe.org/) and other high priorities for IPM programs relevant to food security by bringing together needed expertise and organizations, identifying resources, and communicating plans and priorities to appropriate audiences.
- (c) Directly respond, when appropriate, to a high priority IPM challenge by methods such as organizing workshops and training programs, developing Pest Alerts, or facilitating further development of IPM tools.

7) Evaluation of IPM Implementation

- (a) Incorporate assessment and evaluation into IPM center programs to document the impacts and outcomes of IPM research and extension efforts throughout its region, including the aggregation and synthesis of existing information and the generation of new information.
- (b) Review and evaluate impacts of IPM implementation.
- (c) Collaborate with the other regional IPM centers to standardize evaluation metrics.
- (d) Communicate outcomes and success stories to key stakeholders, funding organizations and policy makers.

Successful RCP applications will:

- Describe plans to serve as an intra-regional and inter-regional IPM focal point and facilitator including the ability to foster new collaborations among individuals and institutions and to provide coordination and direct support to the PDs who receive funding from the CPPM program. NIFA expects the regional IPM centers to assist NIFA in planning and holding regional or national PD meetings as forums to enhance regional and national IPM coordination and efficiency and to achieve desired state, regional, and national outcomes.

- Describe plans to manage funding resources effectively by establishing processes for managing sub-awards made from NIFA funding provided through the regional IPM center award and for identifying regional priorities; ensure that the center IPM needs identification and prioritization process is kept separate from the regional IPM centers funding process, that eligible applicants are notified of funding opportunities, and that funding is distributed in a fair and equitable fashion.
- Submit a project-specific logic model chart and explain how the regional IPM center logic model supports the CPPM programmatic logic model (see Application and Submission Information Part IV, Part B, item 3b, field 8). The project-specific logic model chart must provide details for the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project.
- Include collaboration with small- or mid-sized accredited colleges and universities, 1890 land-grant institutions, 1994 land-grant institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities, and/or other institutions that serve high-risk, underserved, or hard-to-reach audiences, or international partnerships that contribute to or support U.S. pest management issues; and
- Address the needs of underserved or hard-to-reach audiences.
- Include support for at least one center team member to attend tri-annual leadership meetings to report on regional IPM center activities.

Other RCP Program Area Information

Successful applicants are expected to build on the capacity of universities in the region to support IPM and the expanded responsiveness resulting from past regional IPM center programs. An assessment of the first two years of an earlier funding cycle is available at: www.ipmcenters.org/IPMCenterReview2-06.pdf.

Over the course of this grant, NIFA will review the regional IPM centers and their ability to coordinate activities in their regions, facilitate collaboration and achieve outcomes identified by the CPPM program. Successful applicants are expected to participate in this review and prepare documentation and materials for the review. For the purpose of budget development, applicants are required to request funds for attending this review and preparing documentation and materials for the review.

Optional Project Supplement of the RCP for the IPM Information System

RCP proposals can include a request for funding to develop and maintain a national IPM information system to serve as a resource for IPM researchers, extension staff, educators, and practitioners. The RCP project supplement that you develop will:

- (a) Deliver state of the art IPM information regionally and nationally to a wide variety of stakeholders and customers through an improved web presence. IPM information produced by NIFA-supported IPM programs should be included and highlighted, including information currently located at www.ipm.gov and www.ipmcenters.org;
- (b) Provide logic model based reporting software for use in reporting outputs, outcomes and impacts of NIFA-supported IPM research, education, and extension projects. See

- nifa.usda.gov/about/strat_plan_logic_models.html for definitions of evaluation terms including outputs, outcomes, and changes in knowledge, behavior and condition;
- (c) Provide web-based networking tools for IPM research and extension personnel;
 - (d) Collect and synthesize impact information from NIFA-supported projects for incorporation into the interagency IPM Project Database; and
 - (e) Serve as a key reference and information support tool for setting IPM program priorities.

Successful Applications for the Optional Project Supplement of the RCP for the IPM Information Supplement will:

- Demonstrate an ability to develop and maintain a cooperative working relationship with the wide range of IPM research and extension programs supported by NIFA listed in Part I, Section C and listed in the CPPM programmatic logic model;
- Describe how the proposed objectives and approach for the proposed IPM information system will achieve IPM information objectives and goals as described in Part I, Section C of this RFA;
- Describe a plan to analyze web information at least quarterly, determine required actions, and delegate responsibilities to update information;
- Describe a plan to provide for the continuity of current databases and preparation of a transition plan that documents the resources and steps needed to transfer key databases to alternate host sites if funding resources become unavailable for future maintenance of the IPM information system; and
- Submit a project-specific logic model chart and explain how the logic model supports the CPPM programmatic logic model (see Application and Submission Information Part IV, Part B, item 3b, field 8). The project-specific logic model chart must provide details for the activities, outputs, and outcomes of the proposed project. The logic model is in addition to the logic model for the regional IPM center portion of the application.

List of States and Territories by Region

North Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Northeastern: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia.

Southern: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Virgin Islands.

Western: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Marianas, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Please Note: The CPPM program encourages all ARDP, EIP and RCP project applications to develop content and programs suitable for delivery through the Cooperative Extension System's eXtension Initiative. You may use funds to contribute to existing Communities of Practice (CoP) or to form a new CoP focused on appropriate IPM topic areas. Projects must align with the eXtension vision, mission, and values. You must have a letter of acknowledgement from eXtension; you may also need a letter of support from one or more of the Communities of Practice. For detailed guidance on how to partner with eXtension, go to <http://create.extension.org/node/2057>.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

Pursuant to H.R. 3547, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014, the amount available to support the Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) Program in FY 2014 is approximately \$16.3 million.

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

In FY 2014, NIFA anticipates that approximately \$4 million will be available to fund projects in the Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP); approximately \$9 million will be available to fund projects in the Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP); and approximately \$4 million will be available to fund projects for the Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP).

The statutory limit of program funding for awards from the CPPM program is five years; however, see Part II, Section C, below for specific project periods.

Awards issued as a result of this RFA will have designated the Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury's Financial Management Service, as the payment system for funds. For more information, see http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/method_of_payment.html.

B. Types of Applications

In FY 2014, all applications to the CPPM program will be submitted as a **new application**. This is a project application that has not previously been submitted to the CPPM program. We will review all new applications competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V – Application Review Requirements.

In FY 2014, NIFA intends to make EIP and RCP awards as continuation grants. NIFA is under no obligation to award a continuation grant and should NIFA decide to make such an award, the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) must make an affirmative decision to do so. A continuation grant is an instrument by which NIFA agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined project period with a statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date, provided that performance has been satisfactory, funds are available for this purpose, and continued support would be in the best interest of the Federal government and the public.

In FY 2014, NIFA intends to make ARDP awards as standard grants, which are instruments by which NIFA agrees to support a specified level of effort for a predetermined project period without any statement of intention to provide additional support at a future date.

C. Project Types

Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP)

Three types of ARDP proposals can be submitted: applied research (single-function) projects, research-led projects, or extension-led projects. **Applicants must indicate the type of project they are proposing in the Project Summary.**

In FY 2014, NIFA anticipates that approximately \$2,000,000 will be available for applied research (single-function) projects, \$1,000,000 for research-led projects, and \$1,000,000 for extension-led projects. Project duration and size of award depend on the project type and the degree of collaboration among states/territories or nationally.

Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP)

All EIP projects will be 3-year projects, awarded as initial grants with yearly continuations. Only one application will be accepted from each eligible institution and must be accompanied by a letter from the administrator responsible for extension, certifying the application is endorsed by the institution. Applicants must state in the Project Summary that the EIP submission is for an Extension Implementation project. All applications to EIP are Extension-led.

Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP)

One type of RCP proposal can be submitted: regional IPM centers. **Applicants must indicate on the Project Summary that this RCP submission is for a regional IPM center.** In FY 2014, regional IPM center projects will be 4-year projects, awarded as one-year grants with the potential for yearly continuations. NIFA anticipates awarding a total of four (4) equally-funded grants for regional IPM centers; one in each of the following geographic regions: North Central, Northeastern, Southern, and Western. NIFA anticipates awarding a project supplement to one regional IPM center to provide additional funds to develop and maintain an IPM information system.

Awards made in FY 2014 will provide funds for the first eighteen months of the project to allow regional IPM centers time to make sub-awards.

D. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

The responsible and ethical conduct of research (RCR) is critical for excellence, as well as public trust, in science and engineering. Consequently, we consider education in RCR essential to the preparation of future scientists. In accordance with sections 2, 3, and 8 of 7 CFR Part 3022, institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Per award terms and conditions, grant recipients shall, upon

request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and to support the conduct of the training.

Note that the training referred to herein shall be either on-campus or off-campus training. The general content of the ethics training will, at a minimum, emphasize three key areas of research ethics: authorship and plagiarism, data and research integration, and reporting misconduct. Each institution will be responsible for developing its own training system, as schools will need flexibility to develop training tailored to their specific student needs. Grantees should consider the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) program for RCR (<https://www.citiprogram.org/rcrpage.asp>). Typically this RCR education addresses the topics of: Data Acquisition and Management - collection, accuracy, security, access; Authorship and Publication; Peer Review; Mentor/Trainee Responsibilities; Collaboration; Conflict of Interest; Research Misconduct; Human Subject Research; and Use of Animals in Research.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3103) are eligible to submit applications for 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) (see Part III, B and Part VIII, E for more information), and to include research foundations maintained by eligible colleges or universities.

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. Applications also may be submitted by 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (see Part VIII, E), HSACUs, and research foundations maintained by eligible colleges or universities.

B. Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities

Section 7101 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246) amended section 1404 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3103) to create a definition for a new group of cooperating institutions: Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACUs). HSACUs are colleges and universities that qualify as Hispanic-serving Institutions (HSIs) and offer associate, bachelors, or other accredited degree programs in agriculture-related fields. HSACUs do not include 1862 land-grant institutions.

Pursuant to section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7626), which authorized the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grant Program, all four-year HSIs are eligible to apply for integrated projects as identified in the FY 2014 AFRI RFA. Two-year HSIs may also be eligible to apply but only if the institution has been certified as a HSACU for the fiscal year in which funding is being provided.

A list of the institutions certified and therefore eligible to apply as HSACUs for grants under FY 2014 RFAs, including this RFA, is available at www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/education/in_focus/hispanic_if_hispanic_HSACU.html. Institutions appearing on this list are granted HSACU certification by the Secretary for the period starting October 1, 2013, and ending September 30, 2014. Certifications are valid for FY 2014 only. Additional questions on HSACU eligibility can be addressed to Mr. Matthew Lockhart, Senior Policy Specialist, by email at mlockhart@nifa.usda.gov or phone at (202) 559-5088.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion

by the time of application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

C. Cost Sharing or Matching

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 IV, B, item 6 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.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For an overview of the Grants.gov application process see <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/grant-application-process.html>.

New Users of Grants.gov

Prior to preparing an application, we recommend that the PD/PI first contact an Authorized Representative (AR, also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If not (e.g., the institution/organization is new to the electronic grant application process through Grants.gov), then the one-time registration process must be completed **PRIOR** to submitting an application. It can take as long as 2 weeks to complete the registration process so it is critical to begin as soon as possible. In such situations, the AR should go to **“Register” in the top right corner of the Grants.gov web page (or go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>) for information on registering the institution/organization with Grants.gov.** Item 2. below mentions the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.” Part II.1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide contains additional explanatory language regarding the registration process.

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials

To receive application materials:

1. You must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov to access, complete, and submit applications. For basic system requirements and download instructions, see <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/software/adobe-reader-compatibility.html>. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your current version of Adobe Reader is compatible.
2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>. Under Step 1 click on “Download a Grant Application Package,” and enter the funding opportunity number **USDA-NIFA-CPPM-004531** in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.” This guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

If you require assistance to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating Adobe forms) **or submitting the application**, refer to resources available on the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-resources.html>). Grants.gov assistance is also available at:

Grants.gov customer support
800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035
Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on [federal holidays](#).
Email: support@grants.gov

Grants.gov iPortal: Top 10 requested help topics (FAQs), Searchable knowledge base, self-service ticketing and ticket status, and live web chat (available 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. ET). Get help now!

Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Name of agency you are applying to
- Specific area of concern

See <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html> for additional resources for applying electronically.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

You should prepare electronic applications following Parts V and VI of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed to prepare an application in response to this RFA. **If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.**

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., PDF) in Part III section 3. of the guide. ANY PROPOSALS THAT ARE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS (e.g., content format, PDF file format, file name restrictions, and no password protected files) WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW. Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. We will accept subsequent submissions of an application until close of business on the closing date in the RFA (see Part V, 2.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further information).

Grants.gov provides online tools to assist if you do not own PDF-generating software. You will find PDF conversion software at <http://test.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/software/pdf-conversion-software.html>.

For any questions related to the preparation of an application, review the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide and the applicable RFA. If assistance is still needed for preparing application forms content, contact:

- Email: electronic@nifa.usda.gov
- Phone: 202-401-5048
- Business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays.

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

2. SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 3. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

3. R&R Other Project Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 4. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 7. Project Summary/Abstract See Part V. 4.7 of NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template. The Project Summary is limited to 250 words. Title the attachment as ‘Project Summary’ in the document header and save file as ‘Project Summary’.

The Project Summary must list the names and institutions of the PD and co-PDs and indicate which specific FY 2014 Program Area and project type the proposed project addresses. Project types are stated within each Program Area Description (see Part I, Section C, 1-3). The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of the CPPM program. It is important that the Project Summary be concise and informative.

Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP) Applications: The first line of your summary should state the type of project you are submitting, for example, “This is an ARDP research (single-function) project” or “This is an ARDP Research-led project” or “This is an ARDP Extension-led project.”

Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP) Applications: The first line of your summary should state the type of project you are submitting, “This is an EIP Extension Implementation project.” Please indicate in the summary, the overall goals and supporting objectives, a list of the primary and secondary priorities included in the application, and the names of the program coordinator and administrative contact. A breakdown of research-extension investments is not required in this program area because all research conducted should be directly related to the extension function.

Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP) Applications: The first line of your summary should state the type of project you are submitting, “This is an RCP regional IPM center project.” Indicate overall project goals and supporting objectives for regional IPM center applications and indicate whether the application includes the optional program supplement for the IPM information system.

b. Field 8 - Project Narrative. PLEASE NOTE: the Project Narrative section for all CPPM program applications may not exceed a total of 18 single-spaced pages, including figures and tables with font size no smaller than 12 point.

An additional seven pages is permitted for the optional project supplement for the IPM information system under the regional IPM centers project. Proposals for regional IPM centers that also include the optional project supplement for the IPM information system have a total of 25 pages (18 pages + 7 pages) for their application; however, the additional 7 pages may be used only to describe the narrative for the optional project supplement for IPM information system and includes any related figures or tables. The required separate logic model for the IPM information system should be attached as an appendix and does not count in the seven-page limit.

These page limitations apply regardless of whether figures or tables are included. All pages, including those with figures and tables, should be numbered sequentially. Logic model chart(s) should be attached as appendices and do not count toward the 18 page limit. Font sizes in logic model chart(s) can be smaller than 12 point. Applications exceeding the applicable page limitation will be at risk of being excluded from review. We have established these maximums to ensure fair and equitable competition.

The Project Narrative for CPPM program applications must include all of the following:

All CPPM program applications require submission of a logic model chart(s). See the specific requirements for logic models for each CPPM program area in Part I, Section C. Each project-specific logic model chart must provide details for the inputs, outputs (activities and participants), and outcomes of the proposed project. For samples and templates, see www.ipm.gov/LogicModels/ and more information at the NIFA and University of Wisconsin web sites: www.nifa.usda.gov/about/strat_plan_logic_models.html; www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/integrated/integrated_logic_model.html and www.uwex.edu/ces/pdande/index.html. Refer to the logic model in your project description, evaluation plans, and elsewhere, as applicable.

Proposals Submitted to the Applied Research and Development Program Area (ADRP)

(1) Problem, Background, and Justification

Project type: The initial sentence must state the project type (Applied Research (single-function), Research-led, or Extension-led) and the amount of the request.

Problem: Describe, in simple terms, the problem. Consider including the economic importance of the crop or problem, the importance of the pests, and the reason for your study (e.g., conventional pest-control strategies no longer work; beneficial insects are being harmed by available pest-control options; there is a lack of training or implementation of new IPM tactics).

Background: Provide the explicit citation that documents the specific stakeholder-identified need(s) addressed by the proposed project and describe how the project addresses those needs. Demonstrate that you are engaged with stakeholders and that your project addresses their needs. See Part I, Section C, item 1, for more information about stakeholder identified needs.

Review and reference relevant completed or ongoing work (local/regional/national). Describe how previous research contributes to the proposed project.

Justification: Identify who will benefit from your project in multistate/territory, regional, and/or national terms. Consider environmental, human health, and/or economic benefits. Describe why current technologies and practices are inadequate, and explain how the proposed approach will: (1) help to improve or implement existing pest management systems; and (2) address the specific needs identified in this application. Discuss the potential applicability of the proposed approach to other regions and the relevance of the project to the ARDP priorities (see Part I, Section C).

(2) Objectives and Anticipated Impacts

Provide clear, concise, and logically numbered statements of the specific aims of the proposed effort. **If you are writing an ARDP Research-led proposal or an ARDP Extension-led proposal, please identify the research and extension objectives.**

Describe the anticipated impacts that could be associated with the fulfillment of your objectives (you may do this in list or table format). Both your objectives and your impacts should connect to the goals of the National IPM Roadmap, which are to advance the implementation of IPM to safeguard human health, safeguard the environment, and promote economic benefits.

The stated project impacts/outcomes in your application refer to *measurable* changes that can be substantiated by *data analyses*. Your evaluation plan to verify that you have achieved these impacts will significantly strengthen your application.

(3) Approach and Procedures

Describe the procedures for each objective. Describe how each of the stated objectives will be reached. Include approximate experimental design and experimental units, reference methods to be used, and appropriate statistical analysis. Include a timetable for the start and completion of each phase of the project. For an ARDP Research-led project or an ARDP Extension-led project, describe how the project will be managed, particularly how coordination between research and extension components will be achieved and maintained.

(4) Cooperation and Institutional Units Involved

When appropriate, the project must be coordinated with the efforts of other states/territories and/or national programs. Identify each institutional unit contributing to the project. Identify each state/territory in a multiple-state/territory application and designate the lead state. The degree of collaboration must be specifically addressed where the project involves multi-state/territory collaboration, and/or is submitted as multi-

disciplinary or multi-organizational. Clearly describe the roles of all collaborating participants in the project.

Proposals Submitted to the Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP)

The following information must be included for the overall application and each emphasis area:

- (1) Program Scope. Describe the program content (priorities) and expected outcomes for each with details addressing the items cited in Part I, Section C, item 2;
- (2) Program Leadership. List the IPM Coordinator, IPM Administrative Contact and other key personnel required for the delivery of the program;
- (3) Stakeholder Engagement. Describe stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the project activities and in defining the need for the activities proposed in this application;
- (4) Coordination/Management Plan. Describe how the projects included in the plan will be managed and linked to the overall expected outcomes in response to stakeholder needs. Describe how project activities will be coordinated at the institution, ensuring that current research is disseminated and applied for the priorities selected for the program;
- (5) Collaborative Teams and Information Dissemination. Provide a plan for establishment and maintenance of collaborations and communications networks within the PD's institution and across the region and nation, if appropriate. These networks will provide a mechanism to develop and review science and regulatory issues, to collaborate on regionally pertinent projects; and share new results and outcomes with pest managers and other stakeholders;
- (6) Program Evaluation. Include a plan to measure program successes. Include milestones and indicators of success that are critical to clientele and lead to high level outcomes (see CPPM programmatic logic model, Figure 2), and to assess progress and accomplishments throughout the project; and
- (7) Endorsement Letter. Only one application will be allowed per institution. That application must be endorsed by the Director of Cooperative Extension, Extension Administrator or Director of Outreach at the institution. Multiple applications from an institution may lead to the disqualification of all of those applications. The endorsement letter should be included in the application as an appendix.

Proposals Submitted to the Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP)

- (1) Provide a description of the mission and goals of the proposed regional IPM center;
- (2) Provide a listing of the director and other key personnel (or positions) of the regional IPM center;

- (3) Include a description of the management process and structure the regional IPM center will use to: a) establish broad-based advisory and steering committees that represent the diversity of capabilities, institutions and pest management issues found in the region, b) involve other stakeholders and partner institutions in its operations through working groups and other mechanisms, c) identify program needs and establish priorities, and d) develop a strategic plan that will be followed to address regional priorities (once they are established) and achieve the goals and core priorities identified in this RFA;
- (4) Describe the plan for establishing and maintaining interactive information networks that cross traditional institutional, disciplinary, programmatic and geographic boundaries to address regional IPM priorities. This plan must include details on how the proposed regional IPM center would fully engage with the groups listed below for the purpose of facilitating and obtaining regional IPM outcomes consistent with the CPPM program:
 - (a) Their respective multistate IPM extension and research activity, currently labeled NEERA1004, NCERA222, SERA003, and WERA1017 (See: See the National Information Management and Support System (NIMSS) – http://nimss.umd.edu/lgu_v2/),
 - (b) Their pest management regional multistate activities, and
 - (c) The Project Directors (PDs) within their respective region who receive grants from NIFA for the CPPM program ARDP and EIP.

The information network should also provide a mechanism to develop and review science and regulatory documents and to share current pest management information with pest managers and other stakeholders. The need for links to other regional or national information systems should be included;

- (5) Describe the plan for developing signature food security programs and fostering their sustainability;
- (6) Describe the plan for reviewing and evaluating impacts of IPM research, extension and implementation throughout the region and for communicating outcomes, impacts and success stories to key stakeholders, funding organizations and policy makers;
- (7) Include a description of the process that will be used to ensure effective management of IPM Center resources, including the approach that will be used to ensure that a fair and open decision-making process will be used to solicit and select potential applicants for funding opportunities; and
- (8) Describe the plan, including milestones, to assess progress and accomplishments throughout the project.

Optional Project Supplement of the RCP for the IPM Information System

After the necessary information is provided in field 8 for the regional IPM center narrative, please include the additional information within the same project narrative:

- (1) **Introduction:** Include information on the following in the order identified:
 - (a) Summarize the work to be performed in non-technical terms;
 - (b) Concisely state the goal(s) of the proposed IPM Information System;
 - (c) Describe how the IPM Information System will build upon or expand related work or programs;
 - (d) Describe how the work on the IPM Information System relates to the experience of key project personnel;
 - (e) Describe the involvement of stakeholders in developing project objectives and implementing results; and
 - (f) Define the target audience and end users of the IPM Information System.

- (2) **Objectives:**
 - (a) Provide a brief review of the goal(s) stated in the Introduction; and
 - (b) Present a clear, concise set of project objectives.

- (3) **Methods:** Describe the procedures by objective for the proposed effort, including:
 - (a) Techniques and methods to be employed, including their feasibility and rationale for their use in the IPM Information System; and
 - (b) Timeline for proposed research with milestones and verifiable indicators, which demonstrate progress.

- (4) **Networking plan:**
 - (a) Provide a credible, detailed plan for the successful national and regional networking with IPM programs; and
 - (b) Include how the implementation of the networking plan for IPM information system facilitates and supports regional and national IPM outcomes consistent with the CPPM program.

c. Field 12. Other Attachments.

Logic Models. All CPPM program applications require submission of a logic model chart(s). See the specific requirements for logic models for each CPPM program area in Part I, Section C. Each project-specific logic model chart must provide details for the inputs, outputs (activities and participants), and outcomes of the proposed project. The logic model chart(s) should be attached as an appendix or appendices and do not count in the 18 page limit.

4. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 5. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This section of the Guide includes information about the people who require a Senior/Key Person Profile, and details about the Biographical Sketch and the Current and Pending Support, including a link to a suggested template for the Current and Pending Support.

5. R&R Personal Data – As noted in Part V, 6. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award.

6. R&R Budget

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 7. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applicants must complete one SF 424 (R&R) Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed form) for each 12-month period, plus a cumulative budget form for the entire project.

Matching Funds

If an applicant concludes that matching funds are not required as specified under Part III, B. Cost-Sharing or Matching, they must include a justification in the Budget Narrative. We will consider this justification when ascertaining final matching requirements or in determining if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

For grants that require matching funds as specified under Part III, B., the Budget Narrative should include written verification of commitments of matching support (including both cash and in-kind contributions) from third parties. Written verification means:

(a) For any third party cash contributions, a separate pledge agreement for each donation, signed by the authorized representatives of the donor organization (and the applicant organization ONLY if provided after submission of the application), must include: (1) The donor's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the name of the applicant organization; (3) the title of the project; (4) the dollar amount of the cash donation (the budget narrative must describe how the cash donation will be used); (5) a statement that the donor will pay the cash contribution during the grant period; and (6) whether the applicant can designate cash as the applicant deems necessary or the cash contribution has been designated to a particular budget item.

(b) For any third party in-kind contributions, a separate pledge agreement for each contribution, signed by the authorized representatives of the donor organization (and the applicant organization ONLY if provided after submission of the application), must include: (1) The donor's name, address, and telephone number; (2) the name of the applicant organization; (3) the title of the project; (4) a good faith estimate of the current fair market value of the third party in-kind contribution and a description of how the fair market value was determined; and (5) a statement that the donor will make the contribution during the grant period.

Summarize on a separate page the sources and amount of all matching support from outside the applicant institution and place that information in the proposal as part of the Budget Narrative. You must place all pledge agreements in the proposal immediately following the summary of matching support.

Establish the value of applicant contributions in accordance with applicable cost principles. Refer to OMB Circular A-21 (2 CFR Part 220), Cost Principles for Educational Institutions, for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs. **All contributions, including cash and third party in-kind, must meet the criteria included in section 23 of 7 CFR 3019, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and**

Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations.”

Additional Budget Information

ARDP Budget

All ARDP applications must include a budget and budget narrative for each year of the proposed project in the application. ARDP budgets may be from two to four years. **Applications may request up to a total budget of \$125,000 for projects with PDs from one state/territory or a total budget of \$250,000 for projects with PDs from more than one state/territory.**

Project Director Workshop: It is the intent of the CPPM program to require successful applicants or a designee to attend at least one project director workshop during the term of their project. For the purposes of budget development, applicants are required to request funds for travel for attending at least one such workshop. The request for these funds should be clearly indicated in the budget narrative section of the application.

EIP Budget

All EIP applications must include a budget and budget narrative for each year of the proposed project in the application. **Applications may request up to a total of \$900,000 for project periods up to three years in duration (\$300,000 per year for three years).** EIP applications must also include a breakdown that indicates costs by category for each program priority. EIP applications must designate each project activity as either an extension or a research-led activity.

Project Director Workshop: It is the intent of the CPPM program to require successful applicants or a designee to attend at least one project director workshop during the term of their project. For the purposes of budget development, applicants are required to request funds for travel for attending at least one such workshop. The request for these funds should be clearly indicated in the budget narrative section of the application.

RCP Budget

A four-year budget must be submitted with each RCP proposal. **Applications may request up to a total of \$4,000,000 for project periods of four years in duration (\$1,000,000 per year for four years).** The funding profile will be as follows: The initial funding period of each new center award will be for 18 months, the second funding period will be for 12 months, the third funding period will be for 12 months, and the last funding period will be for 6 months. Although the initial project period will be 18 months, the proposed budget should be submitted for 12 months of expenses. This funding cycle is intended to accommodate the delays that often occur in the sub-award process. The funding profile should be considered as proposals are being developed.

In an effort to alleviate the administrative burden and expedite the awards process, NIFA may agree to modify the requirements for the administration of the regional IPM centers awards. NIFA must approve the process that will be used to solicit and evaluate proposals prior to the release of requests for applications or funds for sub-awards. When the sub-award process has

been approved by NIFA, the grantee will no longer be required to submit proposals and budgets for sub-awards to NIFA for approval.

At least one member of each successful IPM center team must attend tri-annual leadership meetings to report on regional IPM center activities. Reasonable travel expenses should be requested in the project budget.

Project Director Workshops: NIFA expects the regional IPM centers to assist NIFA in planning and holding regional or national PD meetings as forums to enhance regional and national IPM coordination and efficiency and to achieve state, regional, and national IPM outcomes. Reasonable expenses to host an annual PD meeting should be requested in the project budget.

7. Supplemental Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

- a. Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name and the program code.

Program Code Name	Program Code
Applied Research and Development Program Area	ARDP
Extension Implementation Program Area	EIP
Regional Coordination Program Area	RCP

- b. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See Part VI, 1.8 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on June 19, 2014.** Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

If you have trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, you should FIRST contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any problems. Keep a record of any such correspondence. See Part IV. A. for Grants.gov contact information.

We send email correspondence to the AR regarding the status of submitted applications. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received correspondence **from NIFA** regarding a submitted application within 30 days of the established deadline, contact the Agency Contact identified in Part VII of the

applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

D. Funding Restrictions

Section 716 of the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2014, limits indirect costs to 30 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, you should limit your request for the recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of your institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 30 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

If your institution does not have, or cannot obtain, a negotiated rate, you must calculate an indirect cost rate in order to request indirect costs. You should calculate an indirect cost rate based on actual costs for the entire organization from the most recently completed accounting year. If no prior cost history exists, you should use budgeted costs for the entire organization. You should follow the example(s) found at: http://nifa.usda.gov/business/indirect_cost_process.html for information regarding this process. You may elect not to charge indirect costs and, instead, use all grant funds for direct costs. If indirect costs are not charged, the phrase "None requested" should be written in this space."

You may not use grant funds awarded under this authority to renovate or refurbish research, education, or extension space; purchase or install fixed equipment in such space; or the plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construction of buildings or facilities.

E. Other Submission Requirements

You should follow the submission requirements noted in Part IV, section 1.9 in the document entitled "NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide."

For information about the **status of a submitted application**, see Part III., section 6. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

We will evaluate each application in a 2-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, a technical review panel will evaluate applications that meet the RFA requirements for technical merit.

We select reviewers based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

A technical review panel will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA and the specific program area priorities described in Part I, Section C and Part IV.

Criteria for the Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP) include the following:

Applied Research (single-function) Project Applications

1. Merit of Research (single-function) Applications
 - a. Project objectives and outcomes are clearly described, adequate, and appropriate. Research (single-function) projects must address two or more of the research priorities;
 - b. When model systems are used, there is the ability to transfer knowledge gained from these systems to organisms of importance to U.S. agriculture;
 - c. Proposed research is conceptual sound and research hypotheses are applicable and appropriate;
 - d. Proposed approach, procedures, or methodologies are innovative, original, clearly described, suitable, and feasible;
 - e. Preliminary data demonstrate feasibility of proposed research;
 - f. Probability of project success is high given the level of scientific originality and risk-reward balance.

2. Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management
 - a. Applicant(s) (individual or team) are qualified to conduct the proposed project and have performance record(s) and potential to achieve research;
 - b. Application demonstrates awareness of previous and alternative approaches to the identified problem;
 - c. Evidence of institutional capacity and competence in the proposed area of work is provided;
 - d. Support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation are sufficient; and
 - e. Project timelines allow sufficient time to complete objectives on schedule, administer and manage the project partnerships/collaborations, translate outcomes, and coordinate project participants and institutions.

3. Relevance
 - a. Documentation is adequate that the project is directed toward specific research program area priorities identified in this RFA;
 - b. The proposed work addresses identified stakeholder needs;
 - c. The plan and methods for evaluating success of project activities and documenting potential impact against measurable short and mid-term outcomes are suitable and feasible; and
 - d. The application adequately describes a plan for implementation of results generated by the project. The application must provide cost effective approaches and criteria to measure and assess implementation, adoption and potential impact.

Research-led and Extension-led Project Applications

1. Merit of Research-led and Extension-led Applications
 - a. Project objectives and outcomes are clearly described, adequate, and appropriate. Research-led projects must address two or more of the research priorities and at least one extension-led priority; Extension-led projects must address two or more of the extension priorities, and at least one research priority;
 - b. Proposed approach, procedures, or methodologies are innovative, original, clearly described, suitable, and feasible;
 - c. Expected results or outcomes are clearly stated, measurable, and achievable within the allotted time frame;
 - d. Proposed research fills knowledge gaps that are critical to the development of practices and programs to address the stated problem or issue; and
 - e. Proposed extension leads to measurable, documented changes in learning, actions, or conditions in an identified audience or stakeholder group.

2. Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management
 - a. Roles of key personnel are clearly defined;
 - b. Key personnel have sufficient expertise to complete the proposed project, and where appropriate, partnerships with other disciplines (e.g., social science or economics) and institutions are established;

- c. Evidence of institutional capacity and competence in the proposed area of work is provided;
- d. Support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation are sufficient;
- e. A clear plan is articulated for project management, including time allocated for attainment of objectives and delivery of products, maintenance of partnerships and collaborations, and a strategy to enhance communication, data sharing, and reporting among members of the project team; and
- f. The budget clearly allocates sufficient resources to carry out a set of research and extension activities that will lead to desired outcomes, with no more than two-thirds of the budget focused on a single project component. If funds are budgeted in support of eXtension Communities of Practice core functions and project-specific activities, they are adequately justified with respect to adding value to the eXtension vision, mission, and values.

3. Project Relevance

- a. Documentation is adequate that the project is directed toward specific program area priorities identified in this RFA;
- b. Project components (research and extension) are fully integrated and necessary to address the problem or issue;
- c. The proposed work addresses identified stakeholder needs;
- d. Stakeholder involvement in project development, implementation, and evaluation is demonstrated, where appropriate;
- e. Plan and methods for evaluating success of project activities and documenting potential impact against measurable short and mid-term outcomes are suitable and feasible;
- f. For extension activities, resulting products will sustain extension functions beyond the life of the project; and
- g. For extension activities, the resulting outputs or materials include information and recommendations from a broad range of research initiatives.

Criteria for the Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP) include the following:

1. Relevance of activities

- a. Documented need. Application includes documentation substantiating that the program is directed to current or to likely future problems/challenges in IPM;
- b. Clear stakeholder involvement. Application includes information on how stakeholders will be involved in defining the program and how their input will be solicited and incorporated or how stakeholder input was used to determine program goals;
- c. Quality of extension outreach plan. Criteria include: program is extension-led with limited and applied research activities to inform the extension effort; outreach plan is detailed and includes analysis of the situation, inputs, outputs, and outcomes as well as methods for measurements to deal with proactive and reactive scenarios; description of outcomes includes stakeholder and end user benefits from the investment including measurable impacts and indicators or milestones;

- d. Application demonstrates understanding of IPM in the primary and secondary priorities addressed, effective team building involving appropriate cooperators and disciplines, and networking with other regional programs; and
- e. Application documents a transdisciplinary approach addressing economic, environmental, and human health aspects of IPM and application to relevant pests and disciplines.

2. Quality of application and activities

- a. Conceptual adequacy. Application clearly states objectives which are potentially attainable within project time, scope and budget;
- b. Design. The application's methodology and analytical approach are appropriate to project objectives. The planned activities will result in the expected outcomes. Activities for each priority in the project are connected to stakeholder needs and expected outcomes;
- c. Appropriate expertise. Personnel involved represent a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience. Senior/key project/program personnel, including collaborators, respective roles described in planned activities, analysis and evaluation;
- d. Audiences are well defined and identify underserved populations, when appropriate;
- e. Appropriateness of budget. Funds are reasonable and appropriate to complete tasks proposed; and
- f. Application adheres to RFA guidelines.

Criteria for the Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP) include the following:

(These evaluation criteria will also be used to evaluate any RCP applications and those applications that include the optional project supplement of the RCP for the IPM Information System).

1. Relevance of activities

- a. Documented need. Application includes documentation substantiating that the project is directed to current or likely future problems/challenges in IPM for the RCP program area priorities;
- b. Clear stakeholder involvement. Application includes information on how stakeholders will be involved in defining the program and how their input will be solicited and incorporated or how stakeholder input was used to determine program goals; and
- c. Demonstrated understanding of RCP IPM priorities, effective team building involving appropriate cooperators and disciplines, and networking with other inter- and intra-regional programs.

2. Quality of application and activities

- a. Conceptual adequacy. Application clearly states objectives to obtain RCP program area priorities which are potentially attainable within project time, scope and budget;
- b. Design. The application's methodology and analytical approach are appropriate to project objectives. The planned activities will result in the expected outcomes. The proposed configuration of the regional IPM center is appropriate and has the potential to engage with IPM stakeholders and IPM-related programs. The capacity of the host

- institution(s) is appropriate to provide support, including commitment to IPM programs and leadership in IPM;
- c. Appropriate expertise. Personnel involved represent a breadth and depth of knowledge and experience. Senior/key project/program personnel, including collaborators, respective roles described for planned activities, analysis and evaluation;
 - d. Audiences are well defined and underserved populations are identified, when appropriate;
 - e. Appropriateness of budget. Funds are reasonable and appropriate to complete tasks proposed; and
 - f. Application adheres to RFA guidelines.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, we take extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, we determine the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 1801 Robert Fulton Drive, Suite 555, Reston, VA, 20191. Phone: (888) 349-7715. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, are kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process, to the extent permitted by law; therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis. This requirement is part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. We will provide you copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA awarding official shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. The project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, regulations, terms and conditions of the award, applicable federal cost principles, USDA assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR), and NIFA General Awards Administration Provisions at 7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E.

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to which the director has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by NIFA;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time NIFA intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of financial assistance approved for the award;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view NIFA award terms and conditions);
- (10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by NIFA to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to:

2 CFR Part 220—Cost Principles for Educational Institutions (OMB Circular A-21).

2 CFR Part 225—Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments (OMB Circular A-87).

2 CFR Part 230—Cost Principles for Non-profit Organizations (OMB Circular A-122).

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21, A-87, and A-122, now codified at 2 CFR Parts 220, 225 and 230), and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3016—USDA Implementation of Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3019—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations (2 CFR Part 215).

7 CFR Part 3021—USDA Implementation of Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Grants).

7 CFR Part 3022—Research Institutions Conducting USDA-Funded Extramural Research; Research Misconduct.

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA Implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—USDA procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

7 CFR 3430—Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs-- General Award Administrative Provisions.

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in federally-assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in federally-assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Grantees are to submit initial project information and annual and summary reports to NIFA's electronic, Web-based inventory system that facilitates both grantee submissions of project outcomes and public access to information on Federally-funded projects. The details of these reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions. Details of annual and final technical reporting requirements also are included in the award terms and conditions.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Programmatic Contacts –

Regional Coordination Program Area (RCP)

Herbert Bolton

Title: National Program Leader

Unit: Division of Plant Systems-Protection

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Phone: (202) 401-4201

Fax: (202) 401-1782

Email: hbolton@nifa.usda.gov

Extension Implementation Program Area (EIP)

Martin A. Draper

Title: National Program Leader

Unit: Division of Plant Systems-Protection

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Fax: (202) 401-1782

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Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP)

Robert Nowierski

Title: National Program Leader

Unit: Division of Plant Systems-Protection

Location: 3322 Waterfront Centre

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Administrative/Business Contacts –

Bruce Mertz

Unit: Office of Grants and Financial Management

Location: 2174 Waterfront Centre

Phone: (202) 401- 5062

Fax: 202-401-2880

Email: bmertz@nifa.usda.gov

Sondra Watkins

Unit: Office of Grants and Financial Management

Location: 2170 Waterfront Centre

Phone: (202) 401-4249

Fax: (202) 401-6271

Email: rmccrea@nifa.usda.gov

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

We will send copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all changes in approved goals or objectives prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests be approved for changes that are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel, prior to effecting such changes.

d. The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not federal funds are involved, prior to instituting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed any applicable statutory limit or expiring appropriation limitation. The terms and conditions of award include information about no-cost extensions of the award and when ADO's prior approval is necessary.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes, if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of

amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of NIFA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

Please refer to [7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs--General Award Administrative Provisions](#), for applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program.

For the purpose of this program, the following additional definitions are applicable:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is “a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health and environmental risks.” (Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008). The National IPM Roadmap (2013) provides further description of IPM (see www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/pest/pdfs/ipm_roadmap.pdf)

IPM Collaboration(s) refer to a section of a program proposal that contains a component of collaboration with another institution: (1) in which an applicant institution includes a cooperative element with at least one other entity that is not legally affiliated with the applicant institution; and (2) where the applicant institution and each cooperating entity will assume a significant role in the implementation of the proposed collaborative program component. Funds need not be subcontracted in all cases, and may be administered by the applicant institution. Only the applicant institution must meet the definition of an eligible institution as specified in this RFA.

Informal education is an education approach that occurs outside of a classroom setting, in loosely structured settings, with non-traditional learners. It may link closely to life skills. Contact time may be erratic and learners are not in classes or cohorts. Education can be led by trained educators or peers.

Integrated project means a project incorporating two or three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension) around a problem or activity.

Interdisciplinary approaches gather multiple academic fields together into a single discipline, crossing traditional boundaries between schools of thought and blending the disciplines into one. Interdisciplinary projects are composed of representatives from multiple disciplines who engage together to create and apply new knowledge as equal stakeholders to address a shared goal.

IPM Coordinator(s) refers to the individual(s) with programmatic lead responsibilities at institutions with IPM programs. Programs may exist with or without funding from this program, but in reference to the CPPM program, the term is used to identify the individual responsible for executing the institutional extension IPM program funded through the EIP.

Multidisciplinary teams may be composed of representatives from two or more diverse disciplines working together to addressing a common problem, but they divide the project into separate projects that do not implement a systems approach. Therefore, it is more like multiple disciplines examining a specific problem separately or a compilation of problems examined by one discipline each.

Non-formal education includes assorted structured learning situations. These learning scenarios are sometimes described as “training”. Usually, participation in non-formal education does not earn the learner credits, but certificates may be issued. The objectives may be limited to increasing skills and knowledge.

Program Administrative Contact is the institutional staff member responsible for direct supervision of personnel conducting the EIP program. At various institutions, this individual may be a dean, associate dean, department head, or section head. The contact information is needed for redundancy in communications.

Transdisciplinary is term for a unique collaborative approach that is often mistakenly used as a synonym for interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary. But these terms are distinct and differ in scale and scope. Transdisciplinary projects address strategic approaches that span the boundaries of many disciplines in a holistic or systems approach. Transdisciplinary projects consider the human element of social and economic issues in decision-making as key considerations. Projects with a transdisciplinary approach consider the effects of one action on another dynamic, for example, the effect of reduced tillage on both weed growth and diversity; on pest and disease risks; and on the economics of control.