

NCR-SARE 2019 Call for Proposals

Professional Development Program



We use an online submission system.
To submit, go to projects.sare.org

**Proposals must be submitted on line by 4:00 p.m. CDT,
Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019**

Professional Development Program grant program proposals must be submitted on line at projects.sare.org. The online application interface has strict word limits, and we strongly suggest you prepare your proposal using a word processing program, edit each response to comply with the word limits, and then copy and paste your proposal section by section into the online template, saving as you go.

You must upload a copy of the cover page with required institutional signatures (authorized organization representative) with your submitted application. Allow sufficient time to print the draft of your application with the application signoff sheet, and submit it to your grants office for review and signatures; then upload the signed page as the final attachment and submit online prior to the deadline.

NCR-SARE 2019 Professional Development Program Proposal Requirements

The USDA's North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE) program invites proposals for the Professional Development Program (PDP). Proposals must be targeted to educators within the Cooperative Extension Service (CES), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), other governmental agencies, and/or educators and other relevant personnel in the non-profit and for-profit sectors serving farmers and ranchers. Projects can be for up to 36 months in duration. Involvement of educators from more than one state is appropriate but not required.

The overall desired outcome of NCR-SARE PDP is to have educators (extension, NRCS, NGO, agency staff and other agricultural educators) who are knowledgeable in the general concepts of sustainable agriculture, and who work in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and others on developing programs and activities that enhance the sustainability of communities and the food and agricultural system.

Projects are **capped at \$90,000 in total funding** (an increase from the previous cap of \$75,000 per project), although applications of lesser amount are welcomed. We expect to fund approximately 10 projects in this cycle of PDP competitive grants.

The North Central PDP utilizes an outcome-based approach for funding its educational programs. Each project funded by SARE PDP is asked to identify short, intermediate, and long-term expected outcomes directly associated with their professional development project. In the short-term, PDP projects should result in an increase in the awareness, knowledge and motivation of educators in the area of sustainable agriculture. In the intermediate term, these changes in knowledge and skills should result in changes in the behavior of educators, which includes educators developing and implementing formal and informal educational programs to assist farmers, ranchers, and others in shifting to sustainable agriculture systems. In the long-term, these changes should result in programs and activities that enhance the sustainability of agriculture and food systems (including rural community sustainability).

The NCR-SARE Program is committed to funding PDP projects that utilize participatory and experiential approaches to professional development. As stated above, projects are meant to provide professional development to agricultural educators, but preferably involve diverse groups and organizations (including non-profits, agribusiness, and 1890 and 1994 Land Grant institutions) in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project. NCR-SARE particularly encourages the use, where appropriate, of farmers and ranchers in developing and delivering training.

NCR-SARE PDP grants are open to all educators working on topics related to farming and ranching. While our primary mission with the PDP programs is train-the-trainer

projects that lead to improved sustainability for existing farmers and ranchers, we recognize that reaching young people who will become farmers and ranchers is also important. Therefore, proposals addressing train-the-trainer activities for vo-tech agriculture teachers or other educators who impact youth, specifically youth with an interest in farming or ranching, will be considered for funding. As with other proposals, youth-connected projects need to meet the relevancy test for sustainability and other guidelines for the PDP program.

Applicants are also **strongly** encouraged to contact the State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator(s) in the state(s) where activities are being proposed. State coordinators are listed at: <http://www.northcentralsare.org/About-Us/Contact-SARE-Staff> State Sustainable Agriculture Coordinators can provide detailed information on training needs, current and past professional development activities, and can help to facilitate participation in the proposed professional development activity. Applicants are also encouraged to review previously funded SARE PDP projects on the national SARE database at <http://www.sare.org>

I. General Submission Requirements

A) You will need to provide the following items as part of the online proposal application:

- Application signoff page (see online information)
- Project title and brief project description (max of 160 characters)
- Project summary (maximum of 250 words)
- Proposal narrative
- Proposed budget and budget narrative
- Project personnel listing along with curriculum vitas of PI and co-PI's, limited to 2 pages per cv (note that cvs are not needed for farmer participants or other cooperators unless acting as co-PI); upload the 2 page cvs as PDF files.
- Program logic model (one page - upload as separate pdf file)
- Letter(s) of collaboration should be uploaded as PDF files from the lead cooperator at each organization receiving a subcontract on the grant. Note that we do NOT ask for or want general letters of support on these applications.

B) The proposal narrative has several sections, each with word limits (see information below and online for word limits to each section). Proposals including any additional materials not requested in these guidelines will be disqualified. Do not include website links in the proposal (this is to make sure that each applicant is providing the same amount of information and not gaining an advantage through additional website information). For any acronyms please provide a definition.

C) What to Submit – Proposal application submission is online at the following website <http://www.ciids.org/ncsare/pdp>

D) **When to Submit** – Proposals submitted online after 4:00 PM CDT on Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019, will not be considered.

II. Detailed Proposal Guidelines

The proposal must include the following sections in the order listed below. Any additional materials submitted as part of the proposal narrative will not be reviewed and may result in proposal disqualification. ***Do not include weblinks in your proposal.***

A. Application signoff page – Instructions for providing a signature page are within the online grant submission website. Signatures will need to be provided by the lead PI and the authorized organizational representative (AOR) for the lead organization. If the project has subcontracting organizations, there are instructions on the grant submission website on how to provide a signature from the subcontracting organization. Provide an address for the principal location where the work proposed will take place. (Please enter one location, even if work will take place at multiple locations). Typically, the signature page is printed, signed, scanned, and uploaded as a PDF.

B. Project summary – The project summary should include the following information: 1) the specific intended target audience for the project; 2) brief listing of outcomes for the project; and 3) brief description of the activities that will be conducted to achieve outcomes. The summary should be written as a clear and concise description of the project and not simply copied from other sections of the proposal. *The summary must not exceed 250 words.*

C. Program logic model – A detailed logic model must be provided on a single page. Although we recommend use of the USDA-NIFA logic model template at: <http://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/Generic%20Logic%20Model%20for%20NIFA%20Reporting.pdf> a similar template may be used provided it includes all the information outlined in the USDA-NIFA example logic model template. Text size in the logic model may be as small as 9 point if necessary, but a larger font size is preferred if space allows. Save your logic model as a pdf file before uploading to the online grant submission website.

D. Proposal narrative – The narrative should include the 8 sections described below. You may wish to type up your proposal in a word processor and then cut and paste the relevant sections into the matching online text boxes for the proposal narrative. The online system will not allow you to enter more than the maximum number of words for each section, but you should run a word count ahead of time to avoid receiving an error message for having too many words in a given section. Text presented in the logic model graphic doesn't need to be duplicated in the narrative.

1. *Background and situation (limited to maximum of 1000 words)* – Provide information on the background and need that led to the development of this project, including previous professional development activities related to the proposed project.

This section should include a justification for project, detailed description of target audience, and a specific plan for ensuring the participation of target audience in project activities.

2. *Inputs (limited to maximum of 400 words)* – This section should describe the resources that will be used in the project. For PDP projects, personnel and partnerships are often the key inputs, but inputs can also be financial (in-kind or matching), physical (technology, equipment, etc.), or include curriculum or other educational resources.

3. *Activities (limited to maximum of 1000 words)* – This section should specifically describe project activities and deliverables designed to achieve outcomes. Activities can include both formal professional development sessions (workshops, meetings, webinars, etc.) and informal approaches (networking, field days, facilitation, coaching, etc.). This section should explicitly address the logical linkage between outcomes and activities, and explain why proposed activities are expected to achieve outcomes. If appropriate, literature supporting the link between activities, educational approaches, and outcomes should be cited.

4. *Timeline (limited to maximum of 300 words)* – Include an estimated timeline of key project activities. Key project activities might include estimated dates for program planning activities, workshops, field tours, and evaluation surveys. This section is intended to provide reviewers information on when you will perform key activities. An outline format is appropriate for the timeline section.

5. *Outputs (limited to maximum of 500 words)* – Describe products of activities, which may include educational materials, curriculum, and partnerships. This section should also include specific information on the numbers and types of individuals anticipated to participate in each activity associated with your project. Specific target outputs, in terms of numbers of participants, should be included in this section.

6. *Outcomes (limited to maximum of 750 words)* – This section should list all the expected outcomes for your project and should include some specific outcome targets. All outcomes should be measurable (through either quantitative or qualitative methods). The SARE Program is particularly interested in behavioral change (intermediate and long term outcomes) evidenced by educators as a result of participating in the proposed project.

7. *Program evaluation (limited to maximum of 300 words)* – Evaluation is a critical part of all SARE PDP projects. The evaluation plan for your project should address both project activities and outcomes. Activity indicators provide information on how a project was implemented, and might include plans to measure level of participation and institutional affiliation of participants in project activities. Outcome indicators should represent changes in awareness, attitudes, knowledge and skills (short-term outcomes) and behavior and practice (intermediate outcomes.) You should

identify how (e.g., surveys, case studies, focus groups) short- and intermediate terms outcome will be evaluated for your project. At least some evaluation indicators should be specific, measurable, and achievable.

8. *Key personnel (limited to maximum of 250 words)* — All personnel that have a major role in the project should be listed, along with a brief description of their role within the project. Only list individuals who have agreed to participate in the project. A two-page (maximum) resume/curriculum vitae should be included for the PI and co-PI's. Resumes are NOT requested for support staff, students, or farmers/ranchers. Each resume/cv should be limited to a maximum of 2-pages or the proposal may be disqualified. Save the resumes as pdf files and attach to the online proposal.

Please review the following two documents in the appendix to strengthen your proposal and to understand what will be expected of you and your project team if you are awarded a grant:

* The *PDP Grantee Reporting Expectations Matrix* shows what results you report on during the project and what SARE may assess two to four years after the project's completion.

* The *SARE PDP Logic Model* outlines what SARE hopes its project investments will achieve in terms of who is participating, what are the outputs, what outreach is done and what participants learn, do, or improve -- at least in part -- due to the project.

E. Budget — The online grant submission system includes space for you to type in your budget. A budget should be provided for each year of your project. Additional information for completing the budget justification is found below.

- Total budget request cannot exceed \$90,000 for project duration. Projects can be up to 36 months in duration, which includes planning, implementation and evaluation.
- When multiple institutions are involved, the NCR-SARE Host Institution (University of MN) will write a single contract with the lead institution or organization. The lead institution is then responsible for any subcontracts associated with the project. When preparing a budget with multiple institutions, budget details and narrative for each organization should be provided, and the subcontract amounts should be reflected under "other direct costs." Any subcontracting organizations should also provide a page signed by the subcontracting organization's authorized organizational representative.
- Funds for PDP grants cannot be used to support research, entertainment, construction or remodeling, or tuition reimbursement.
- Appropriate compensation for project participants who are self-employed farmers or ranchers should be included and specified under "Other Direct Costs".
- Projects can have a start date of October 1, 2019, or later.

F. Budget narrative (justification) should include the following information. You will fill out a separate field for the budget narrative for each budget line item in the online system. There is no specified word limit for the budget narrative sections.

1) *Salaries* – Provide percent time or number of hours/days for each primary participant and corresponding dollar amount for the time stated. Only persons employed by the organization applying for the grant should be included in this category. Those employed elsewhere would be listed as consultants or within a subcontract in the “All Other Direct Cost” category. Please note that salaries for accounting personnel are not allowed as a direct charge to the grant. In order to charge salaries to the project, an explanation outlining the employee’s responsibilities in the project must be included in the budget justification. Funds requested for an office assistant or administrative assistant must be justified in terms of supporting the proposed project activities. Tuition for students is not an allowable cost for this program. However, pay for graduate or undergraduate students is allowed if relevant to delivery of the proposed professional development programs.

2) *Fringe benefits* – Provide the rate of fringe benefits for each salary category.

3) *Non-expendable equipment* – Includes items of equipment in excess of \$5,000 (or lower depending on your institutional policy on capital equipment) and having a useful life of more than one year. Computer software is not considered equipment and should be listed under “Materials and Supplies”. Equipment costing less than \$5000 can be listed under supplies or “all other direct costs.”

4) *Materials and supplies* – Includes office supplies, software, educational or field supplies. The level of detail required would be an itemized list by category and estimated dollar amount (i.e., office supplies such as pens, paper, toner, etc. - \$500). Items such as telephone, postage, fax and express mail directly attributable to project should be listed in “Other Direct Costs” category.

5) *Travel* – Provide description of expected travel, purpose of trips, expected number of travelers, and approximate or typical costs for such trips (e.g., airfare, registration, meals, mileage, parking, and/or lodging). If mileage reimbursement will be requested include anticipated mileage reimbursement rate. Foreign travel is generally not allowed in this grant program.

6) *All Other Direct Costs* – Anticipated direct project charges not included in other categories should be included here. Description and breakdown of “other direct costs” should be detailed in the budget narrative. Examples of “other direct costs” include: a) mailings, postage, telephone, internet access; b) sub-contracts to other organizations participating in the project (provide details on subcontractor budgets in the budget narrative); c) consultants – provide name of consultant and a letter indicating consulting rate and agreement to be a consultant; d) service or maintenance contracts; e) conferences or meetings – direct costs of holding a conference or meeting including

rental of facilities, travel for speakers/trainers, travel for participants, etc.; f) speaker-trainer fees; g) compensation of farmers or ranchers participating in the project – list service being provided, name of individual(s), and amount; and h) others/miscellaneous. *Note on meal costs associated with meetings* – Meals may not be charged as project costs when individuals decide to go to breakfast, lunch, or dinner together when no need exists for continuity of a meeting. Such activity is considered to be an entertainment cost. In contrast, it is NIFA policy that a formal group meeting being conducted in a business atmosphere may charge meals or refreshments to the project if such activity maintains the continuity of the meeting and to do otherwise will impose arduous conditions on the meeting participants. Breakfast meals are generally not allowable because no continuity of the meeting exists. When paying for the travel of a person to attend a conference or meeting, meals and lodging may be included in the cost without additional justification.

7) *Indirect Costs* of up to 10% of Total Federal funds provided (11.11% of total direct costs) are allowed. If your organization does not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you will need to limit your indirect costs to 10 percent of the modified total direct costs (2 CFR 200.414(f)).

8) *Expenses that are NOT allowed* include general purpose equipment (furniture, copy machines, etc.), entertainment, awards and certificates of achievement, capital improvements (construction or remodeling), promotional materials, and tuition remission.

G. Letter(s) of collaboration — Letters of collaboration from the primary cooperator with each partner organization receiving funding SHOULD be included with the proposal (upload as pdf files to the appropriate section of the online application). Letter(s) of “support” from relevant organizations or individuals are **NOT** requested and should not be attached.

Contact for more information

To clarify questions on items related to the proposal or the overall scope of a proposed project, contact Dr. Rob Myers, NCR-SARE Regional Director of Extension Programs. Email is myersrob@missouri.edu, and phone is 573-882-1547.

For Information Only - SARE PDP Grantee Reporting and Evaluation Expectations

The table below explains the SARE reporting and evaluation process and expectations, but you do not need to fill out this table or take any action on reporting until one year after the grant is awarded, assuming your project is funded. However, please note the types of information we like to see in your annual report as outlined below, so you can be gathering that information.

Logic Model Category	Indicators	Who Collects Data	
		Project Report by PI	Post Project by SARE
Participants	Number and type of individuals who received <u>training</u> – Extension, NRCS, Farmer/Rancher, Other (e.g. consultants, non-profits, state agencies)	✓	
	Number and types of individuals who participate in <u>advisory groups</u> (state programs only)	✓	
Activities/Products	Number and type of <u>educational events</u> conducted by PI, (e.g. workshops, tours, webinars, classes, training support)	✓	
	Number of <u>educational products</u> (e.g. fact sheets, hand books, manuals, bulletins, video, web content) and <u>tools</u> (e.g. decision tools, curricula) produced by PI	✓	
Learning Outcomes	Number of participants who gain or increase <u>knowledge, awareness and skills</u> about sustainable ag topics, practices, strategies, approaches	✓	
	Number of participants who <u>intend to use knowledge</u> in existing or new programming	✓	
Primary Action Outcomes (2-3 year projects)	Number of project participants who incorporate information from project into <u>existing programs</u>	✓	✓
	Number of project participants who incorporate information from project into <u>new education programs</u>	✓	✓
	Number of project participants who incorporate information learned into products and educational tools	✓	✓
	Number of project participants who share project materials and other sustainable ag resources with farmers and others	✓	✓
	Number of farmers reached through project programs	✓ or optional	✓
	New <u>professional collaborations</u> by project participants as a result of project	✓ or optional	✓
Secondary Action Outcomes	Number of <u>producers</u> who adopt sustainable systems, approaches, and practices (including what is adopted)		optional
	Number of acres, animals, or other production units affected by adoption (as an <u>indicator of scale of adoption</u>)		optional
Conditions	Increased <u>capacity (resources, staff)</u> of organizations for programs in sustainable agriculture		optional

