



Western Integrated Pest Management Center

2021 Annual Grant Program Request for Applications

While the 2021 Western IPM Center annual grant program and this RFA are similar to last years' announcement, there are some important changes. The electronic proposal management system use has been changed so all information for the proposal will be filled into form fields becoming a cut-and-paste exercise.

Grants available in this RFA include **Project Initiation, Work Groups, and Outreach and Implementation. The Planning Documents project type has been moved to a separate RFA that is open all year long. Please see westernipm.org or the newsletter for details.**

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Friday, December 4, 2020.

Applicants must register at grants.ipmcenters.org. Tutorials that cover the application process are available at:
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbGDFwpS4sk7LMIQjLNIcFCajhsj9WVwR

The amount available this year is approximately \$250,000.

If you encounter any problems or have questions please contact Western IPM Center Grant Panel Manager Jill Schroeder at jischroe1@gmail.com.

Key Dates

October 7:	RFA released
November 5:	RFA Webinar (2 p.m. PST)
December 4:	Completed application due by 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time

Details about the webinar are in the Center's October newsletter. Visit www.westernipm.org and look under "Publications" to access newsletter issues.

I. SUMMARY

The Western Integrated Pest Management Center (“The Center”) engages a broad diversity of stakeholders in the West to identify strategic directions and set priorities for integrated pest management (IPM) research, education, and extension for pest management in all settings. Through these activities the Center promotes the USDA Research, Education, and Economics Action Plan goals of effective, affordable, and environmentally sound integrated pest management practices and improved response to emerging or reemerging pests of high consequence. The Center supports the *National Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management* (<http://bit.ly/IPMRoadMap>)

The Center works to reduce the risks that pests and pest-management practices pose to people, the environment and the economy of the American West by supporting the development and adoption of integrated pest management. Our vision is a healthier West with fewer pests.

Center grants provide funds to complement other federal, state and private funding sources by supporting project initiation, outreach and implementation, work groups, and IPM planning document development. We encourage projects that extend IPM practices to stakeholders who will use IPM strategies to decrease the risks associated with pests and pest management while addressing Center goals.

Available funds. \$250,000 is available for this competitive grant program. Budget limit per project is \$30,000. Budgets may include indirect charges of no more than 30% of Total Federal Funds (TFF).

Who may apply? Eligible applicants include private individuals and institutions, faculty and qualified staff of two- and four-year universities, businesses, commodity organizations, and governmental and non-governmental organizations. The project director (PD) must be in the Western Region, but co-project directors may be from outside the region. The Western Region includes the following states and territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal submission. All applications will be submitted through a secure online system at grants.ipmcenters.org. **Proposal submission must be completed by 5 p.m. PST, Friday, December 4, 2020.**

Proposal timeline. Projects must start March 1, 2021 and end by February 28, 2022.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Regional Importance and Center Priorities

Stakeholders from the 17 Western states and Pacific Island territories identify priorities for the Western IPM Center, and the Center is committed to addressing those pest management needs. The following are regional priorities established by the Western IPM Center Advisory Committee and stakeholders, and proposals should specifically address one or more of these priorities (maximum of three):

The list below is not ranked and explanations are to illustrate concepts and for clarity and are not designed to be all-encompassing or exclusionary.

Invasive Species – Creating IPM responses to invasive pests and resurgent native pests disrupting IPM programs.

Biological Control of Pests – For insects, weeds, diseases and vertebrate pests

IPM and Ecosystem Services – Using IPM to protect and promote ecosystem services in managed and natural landscapes.

Soil-Borne Pest Management – Developing IPM tactics to manage soil-borne pests.

Urban Pest Management – Promoting IPM for homes, schools and communities, including the safe use of pesticides in homes and gardens.

IPM for Indigenous, Insular and Isolated People – Promoting IPM for underserved communities and audiences.

IPM for Pest-Resistance Management – Developing IPM tools and techniques to reduce pest development of resistance.

New Technologies to Manage Pests – Developing novel and non-traditional approaches to managing insects, weeds, diseases and vertebrate pests.

IPM in New Places – Promoting IPM to new, challenging and changing industries, such as animal agriculture, aquaculture, chemically intensive cropping systems, urban farming, indoor production, etc.

IPM in Changing Landscapes – Creating IPM tools and tactics for landscapes changed by natural forces, including climate and fire.

IPM Culture and Capacity – Enhancing the acceptance of IPM, strengthening the networks, structures and institutions that promote it, and developing new scientists to lead it.

While not required, proposals that actively involve potential end-users – farmers and ranchers, land managers, school or housing administrators, etc. – are encouraged.

III. MULTI-STATE / ISLAND / TERRITORY / TRIBAL NATION INVOLVEMENT

A goal of the Center grants program is to support collaborations among states, islands, territories and tribal nations for purposes of efficiency, economy and synergy. (In this RFA, the term “states” is also meant to include individual islands within the state of Hawaii, as well as the Pacific Island territories and tribal nations.) Projects must have participants from multiple states or clearly demonstrate that the project will benefit more than one state. Exceptions are allowed when an applicant can document that the host/pest combination only occurs in one state.

IV. MATCHING FUNDS

No matching funds are required.

V. RESOURCES

Recipients of Western IPM Center grant recipients are held to the same Research Terms and Conditions and NIFA Agency Specific Terms and Conditions available at nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions.

Complimentary to the Code of Federal Regulations and the Agency Specific Terms and Conditions, the NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide also provides direction for recipients of NIFA-funded grants and is available at nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide

IPM Toolkit. The toolkit for assessing IPM outcomes and impacts is available at ipmimpact.ucanr.edu. The toolkit is a rich source of information and guidance for establishing a project evaluation plan. Please refer to this website or other similar sociological references and scientists as needed to assist you with this section.

Western IPM Center Signature Programs

Western IPM Center Signature Programs provide support to foster collaborations. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with the Risk Communication Signature Program, the Crop Pest-Loss and Impact Assessment Signature Program or the Protocols for Responding to Invasive Species in the West Signature Program, where appropriate. For more information on Signature Programs, see the Center Projects section of the westernipm.org website.

Multistate Project Work Groups

Multistate project work groups supported by the Associations of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors are formed to collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority. Western IPM Center-funded projects are encouraged to leverage resources from multistate project work groups. Some examples include:

- W3008: Integrated Onion Pest and Disease Management
- W4185: Biological Control in Pest Management Systems of Plants
- W4186: Variability, Adaptation and Management of Nematodes Impacting Crop Production
- WERA 11 Western Regional Turfgrass Research
- WERA20: Virus and Virus-Like Diseases of Berries, Fruit and Nut Trees, and Grapevines
- WERA 77 Managing Invasive Weeds in Wheat
- WERA 89 Potato Virus and Virus-like Disease Management
- WERA 97 Diseases of Cereals
- WERA 1007 Curly Top Virus Biology, Transmission, Ecology, and Management
- WERA 1017 Coordination of IPM Research, Extension and Education in the West
- WERA 1021 Spotted Winged Drosophila Biology, Ecology and Management

Multistate project work group details are listed at <http://www.nimss.org/>.

VI. TYPES OF PROJECTS

The types of projects that may be funded through the Western IPM Center grants program are **Project Initiation, Working Groups, and Outreach and Implementation. The maximum awards on these projects is \$30,000.**

If you wish to submit applications for more than one project or project type, you must submit separate applications.

Project Initiation

Project Initiation proposals should test new IPM research ideas. Project Initiation activities are proof-of-concept, preliminary experiments focused on developing, facilitating or catalyzing novel IPM solutions to priority issues. Applicants should identify the benefits that could be realized if their researched IPM solutions prove to be successful.

Working Groups

Work Groups support bringing together diverse groups to collaboratively address a regional IPM priority. Multi-state work groups address information, resource and research needs in region-wide or broad-area categories and enhance communication and collaborations within the region. Work groups outputs often include proposals for future funding. Student participation, and participation by potential end-users (farmers and ranchers, land managers, school and housing administrators, etc.) is strongly encouraged.

Previously funded IPM work groups must apply for renewal each year and funding will be based on merit of the proposal and accomplishments from prior funding periods. Applications for work group renewal must be received by the application due date. They will be evaluated in competition with the other applications and will be reviewed according to the same criteria as new applications.

Outreach and Implementation

Outreach and Implementation projects build on previous IPM research by providing outreach to stakeholders to encourage the adoption and implementation of IPM practices. Outreach and implementation grants may be initiated by someone involved in earlier research, or may be proposed by applicants based on the research done by another scientist or group. Examples include, but are not limited to workshops, demonstration projects, printed documents and online IPM resources. Projects that provide eXtension Communities of Practice with outreach and implementation tools are encouraged.

A goal of outreach and implementation projects should be the increased adoption of IPM practices in agricultural, community or natural settings. The target audience, distribution plan for project products, and evaluation plan to assess knowledge or behavior change among the target audience must be clearly articulated.

VII. EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

A panel of reviewers will evaluate all applications. Most reviewers are from outside the Western Region, so when writing the proposal narrative and your biosketch, do not assume that reviewers will be familiar with Western crops, pest or conditions, or your program, abilities or past accomplishments.

The review panel will score applications using the Proposal Score Sheet below. Projects are evaluated and scored against all applications received, not just against proposals within a specific project type.

PROPOSAL SCORE SHEET

Criterion	Project Initiation	Working Group	Outreach & Implementation
Preparation (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is clearly presented Meets all format requirements with all required forms and components included 		
Problem and justification (20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal addresses one or more regional priority areas (listed on Page 2) Proposal cites specific stakeholder priorities and needs Proposal documents multi-state collaboration or that the crop/pest combination only occurs in a in a single state. ("States" includes islands of Hawaii and the Pacific Island territories, and tribal nations) 		
Potential for Success (25 points) -Objective -Approach -Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives logically target a solution to the problem Approach likely to result in novel, effective solutions to important IPM issues Procedures are linked to objectives and likely to result in clear evidence with respect to problem Timeline and scale of project reasonable Collaborators have agreed to participate through a letter of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives are either new or significantly expand a previous effort Composition of the work group has the potential to coordinate regionally and catalyze solutions to complex IPM issues Procedures linked to objectives Timeline and scale of project reasonable Collaborators have agreed to participate through a letter of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives logically focus on a solution to the problem Project clearly identifies the audience targeted by the outreach and implementation efforts Procedures are linked to objectives Target audience (stakeholders) have documented a desire for products and willingness to implement IPM solutions
Anticipated Impacts and Evaluation Plan (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated impacts link directly to project objectives and are reasonable for the type and scale of the project The evaluation plan details objectives, measurement indicators and methods Evaluation plan either: (1) collects data to evaluate change in learning, action, or condition <u>OR</u> (2) collects baseline learning, action or condition data related to the same crop or pest system as the proposed project 		
Expertise & Participation (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum Vitae indicate project directors and team have the expertise needed to successfully complete the project Project actively involves end-users (farmers and ranchers, land managers, school and housing administrators, etc.) and students, as appropriate 		
Budget (5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget is well-defined, reasonable for the proposed project, and within the project funding limits described in this RFA Proposed project costs to make certain they are reasonable, allocable and allowable per Title 2: 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards Budget narrative follows the order of the budget form and fully justifies budget items 		
Underserved population (5 points)	<p>Project specifically involves stakeholders or stakeholder groups who have not participated in or who have received limited benefits from USDA programs (for example, Limited Resource Producers, Small Farmers/Ranchers, Minority Groups, Pacific Islands, Alaska, Tribal Nations, and Women)</p>		

VIII. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications are due by 5 p.m. PST, Friday, December 4, 2020.

Applicants will have to register at grants.ipmcenters.org and applications will be submitted there.

Project Narrative (Limit 4,000 words):

Project Summary (word limit 500)

Provide a concise summary of the project proposal

Problem and Justification (word limit 1,000)

Describe the problem and how this project is expected to contribute to addressing it. Include citations that document the stakeholder-identified needs addressed by the proposed project, and the regional priority area or areas the project addresses.

Objectives (word limit 500)

Include a concise, complete, logically arranged and numbered series of statements defining the objectives of the project. The nature of the project and its objectives will determine the ease of predicting success, but where feasible, indicate the likelihood of achieving the objectives in a specified length of time.

Procedures (word limit 1,000)

Include a numbered procedure statement corresponding with each numbered objective that outlines the working plans and methods designed to achieve each objective. The procedure statement must show that the proposed work has the potential to accomplish the objectives.

Outputs (Word limit 250)

What will the project produce? Outputs may include publications in peer reviewed or other professional or non-professional journals, grant proposals, workshops, conferences, demonstrations, presentations at professional science society, extension or other meetings or field days, training materials, signage, websites, technical reports, and white papers.

Outcomes (Word limit 250)

Identify the project's expected outcomes and how they relate to the goals of the Western IPM Center. **Outcomes** are the *results or changes among individuals, groups, communities, systems or society* that may be influenced by your outputs. Outcomes are often divided into short-, medium- and long-term outcomes.

- **Short-term outcomes** are related to **learning**: Changes in awareness, knowledge, attitude, skills, opinions, aspirations, and motivations of the target audience.
- **Medium-term outcomes** are related to **actions**: Behaviors, practices, decisions made, policies affected or social actions taken by members of the target audience.
- **Long-term outcomes**, also called **impacts**, are related to **conditions**: Social, economic, or environmental conditions that change as a result of actions taken by end-users.

(Use of some of these terms can vary. For example, the IPM.gov website refers to all levels of outcomes as “Impacts.” But a true impact in the logic model-sense is something that happens beyond the scale of an individual.)

Evaluation (Word limit 500) Every funded project needs to determine what sort of impact it has had, such as assessing knowledge gained by those who attended outreach event(s) and what they intend to do with that new knowledge. All proposals should identify the **evaluation objectives** and associated **indicators** to be collected. All proposals should describe the **specific methods** that will be used to evaluate the project outcomes.

Ideally, every funded project would include a plan to measure its own outcomes. That can be problematic with short-term, small-budget projects. Therefore, evaluation plans may be either:

- (1) A collection of data to evaluate change in learning, action, or condition,
OR
- (2) A collection of baseline data that can be used later to measure future changes in learning, action or condition. The baseline data will be submitted to the Western IPM Center and will be available for later projects to use for comparison.

Cooperation of Key Personnel and Institutional Units Involved (250 words)

Identify key personnel and each institutional unit contributing to the project. In multiple-institution applications, each institution must be identified, and the lead institution designated.

Applications must clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each person and institutional unit of the project team, if applicable.

If the project includes consulting, collaborative, or sub-contract arrangements, such agreements must be fully explained and justified in the budget narrative. Evidence must be provided that the project co-directors and collaborators involved have agreed to render these services. Acceptable documentation for this purpose includes letters of intent or statements of work from the individual or organization. Copies of either letters or email messages from the project co-directors and collaborators will suffice for this purpose. Letters of intent or letters of support from stakeholders should be included in the Appendix.

Please include letters of support from project partners. They should be placed in the Supporting Documents section.

IX. FINAL REPORT

A final report must be submitted into the portal at grants.ipmcenters.org no later than 60 days after the expiration of the project.

X. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applicants will have to register at grants.ipmcenters.org and applications are submitted there. Tutorials about the grant system are available at:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbGDFwpS4sk7LMIQjLNicFCajhsj9WVwR

If you have questions or problems with the submission system, contact

Jill Schroeder, Grant Program Manager
Western Integrated Pest Management Center
Email: jischroe1@gmail.com
www.westernipm.org

The Regional IPM Centers are supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and comply with the USDA-NIFA nondiscrimination policy (www.csrees.usda.gov/about/nondiscrimination.html).