



Western Integrated Pest Management Center

2027 Annual Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

There are important changes in the 2027 Western IPM Center annual grant program proposal process. The project director and co-project directors biosketch, and Current & Pending forms should be completed in the [Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#) (SciENcv) system and uploaded to the grant management site. The Application Form and Conflict of Interest forms are available in the grant portal. **Proposals without correctly completed Application, Conflict of Interest and Current & Pending forms will not receive a review.** If you do not have access to the portal to submit your proposal electronically, please contact Matt Baur for assistance (530-750-1271).

Grant types available in this NOFO include **Project Initiation, Work Groups, and Outreach and Implementation.**

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Friday, December 4, 2026.

For electronic applications, applicants must register on the [IPM Center Grants website](#).

The total amount available this year is approximately \$240,000. The maximum award for each project is \$40,000.

If you encounter any problems or have questions please contact Western IPM Center Grant Panel Manager Jill Schroeder at jschroe1@gmail.com.

Key Dates

October 7:	NOFO released
October 29:	NOFO Webinar (2 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time)
December 4:	Completed application due by 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time

Details about the webinar are in the Center's October newsletter. Visit the Publications page of the [Western IPM Center website](#) to access newsletter issues.

I. SUMMARY

The Western Integrated Pest Management Center (“The Center”) is working towards a healthier West with fewer pests by promoting smart, safe and sustainable pest management. Center activities align with applicable Executive Orders, USDA NIFA goals and objectives, and the National Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management.

Center grant programs provide support to complement other federal, state and private funding sources by supporting project initiation research, outreach and implementation efforts, and working groups. We encourage projects that extend IPM practices to stakeholders who will use IPM strategies to decrease the risks associated with pests and pest management.

Available funds. Funding of approximately \$240,000 is available for this competitive grant program. Budget limits are \$40,000 per project, and indirect charges of no more than 30% of total federal funds.

Who may apply? Eligible applicants include private individuals and institutions, faculty, students and staff of two- and four-year universities, businesses and 501(c)3 corporations, commodity organizations, tribal governments and other 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. First Nations should be within this broad geographic area.

Proposal submission. All applications should be submitted through a secure online system at grants.ipmcenters.org. If you need to mail in a copy of the proposal, please contact the grant manager or other Center staff to make arrangements to send in your proposal. **Proposal submission must be completed by 5 p.m. PST, Friday, December 4, 2026.**

Proposal timeline. Projects start March 1, 2027 and end by February 29, 2028.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Regional Importance and Center Priorities

Stakeholders from the 17 Western states and Pacific Island territories and First Nations 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.

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.

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

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

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

Biological Control of Pests – For insects, weeds, diseases and vertebrate pests including regenerative ag.

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

IPM and Ecosystem Services – Supporting regenerative agriculture by using IPM to protect and promote ecosystem services in managed landscapes.

IPM for Pest-Resistance Management – Developing IPM tools and techniques to manage pest resistance.

IPM for Indigenous, Insular and Isolated People – Promoting IPM for these often isolated communities and audiences.

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

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.

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

III. REGIONAL INVOLVEMENT

The Center grant program seeks to support collaboration among states, islands, territories and First Nations so projects should have participants from multiple states, territories, islands, and/or First Nations or clearly demonstrate that the project will be of regional benefit. Exceptions are allowed when applicant can document that the host/pest combination is locally important only. If you have questions about the regional requirement, please contact the grant manager.

IV. MATCHING FUNDS

No matching funds are required.

V. RESOURCES

Recipients of Western IPM Center grants are held to the [NIFA Agency Specific 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.

The USDA General Terms and Conditions require everyone employed by the grant recipient to work on the award to complete Research Security Training and re-certify annually. Trainings that meet the Research Security Training requirement are offered either through campus learning management systems or through the [National Science Foundation \(long course\)](#) or [NSF's SECURE Center \(short course\)](#).

Tips for preparing proposals to the Center grant program. In the Center's video [New Grant Application Q&A](#), Doug Johnson (Cal IPC), Elise Gornish (Univ Arizona), and Doug Walsh (Washington State) discuss tips for getting and managing a Center grant. Several [Center blog posts](#) provide excellent guidance on proposal preparation.

IPM Assessment Toolkit. The [toolkit for assessing IPM outcomes](#) is a rich source of information and guidance about evaluation methodology. Please refer to this website or other similar sociological references and scientists as needed to assist you.

Western IPM Center Signature Programs

Western IPM Center Signature Programs provide support to foster collaborations. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with the Crop Pest-Loss and Impact Assessment Signature Program, the Protocols for Responding to Invasive Species in the West Signature Program, or the weather-based Decision Tools Signature Program where appropriate. For more information on Signature Programs, see the Center Projects section of the [Western IPM Center website](#).

Multistate Project Work Groups

Multistate project work groups supported by the Associations of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors are formed to collaborate on 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. Multistate project work group details are listed on the [National Information Management & Support System website](#).

Pest management strategic plans

These documents can serve as a pest management needs assessment produced by stakeholders. The documents can be found on the [National IPM Database website](#).

VI. TYPES OF PROJECTS

The types of projects that may be funded through the Western IPM Center grants program are **Project Initiation, Work Groups, and Outreach and Implementation. The maximum award on these projects is \$40,000.**

Project Initiation

Project Initiation proposals test new 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 clearly define project success.

Work Groups

Work group projects assemble a diverse group of stakeholders to collaboratively address a regional pest management priority. Multi-state work groups address information, resource and research needs in region-wide or broad-area categories and enhance communication and collaboration within the region. Work group 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 encouraged.

Previously funded IPM work groups must apply for renewal each year and funding will be based on the merit of the proposal and accomplishments from prior funding periods. The work group objectives must be new or significantly expand the previous effort. They will be evaluated in competition with the other applications and will be reviewed according to the same criteria as new applications. Work group renewal applications must include a brief (1-2 pages) progress report documenting accomplishments of the last funding cycle. Please upload this progress report to the supporting documents section of the grant submission and reference the document in the project narrative text.

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 resources.

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. Reviewers from outside the Western Region are recruited, so do not assume that reviewers will be familiar with western crops, pests 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	Work Group	Outreach & Implementation
Preparation (5 pts)	• Information clearly presented • Complete and all aspects of the NOFO are addressed • No typographical or other grammatical errors		
Problem and justification (20 pts)	• The proposal identifies the proposal type and, • lists a maximum of 3 Center priorities and describes how the project addresses them • identifies and documents the issue as regional or local • describes the pest issue and the importance of the problem • documents stakeholder need with letters of support, Pest Management Strategic Plan, etc. • documents how the project benefits/integrates into new or established IPM program		
Potential for Success (20 pts)	• Objectives logically target a solution to the problem • Approach results in novel, effective solution to important IPM issues • Procedures link to objectives, describe methods & plans, and result in clear evidence of efficacy • Timeline & project scale reasonable for a 1-yr project • Letters of collaboration demonstrate collaborator assent • Clear metrics to measure success	• Objectives are 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 link to objectives, describe work group plans and are likely to show clear progress towards addressing the problem • Timeline & project scale reasonable for 1-yr project • Letters of collaboration demonstrate collaborator assent • Project report shows impact from previous year • Clear metrics to measure success	• Objectives logically focus on a solution to the problem • Procedures are linked to objectives and outputs, clearly describe the outreach plans, are appropriate for the target audiences, and are likely to result in further adoption • Project clearly identifies the target audience • Target audience have documented a desire for products and willingness to implement IPM solutions • Letters of collaboration demonstrate collaborator assent • Timeline & project scale reasonable for 1-yr project • Clear metrics to measure success
Outputs and Outcomes (20 pts)	• Outputs link to project objectives and are reasonable for the type and scale of the project • Outcomes are clearly described and how they relate to IPM Center priorities • Methods and indicators for measuring outcomes are clearly described • Alignment of outcomes and regional goals clearly described		
Project Team Expertise (10 pts)	• Biosketches and other information about the project team indicate the necessary expertise • Letters of collaboration clearly define roles and responsibilities		
Stakeholder engagement (15 pts)	• Stakeholders are clearly identified • Describes how stakeholders will benefit from the project results • Documents stakeholder engagement and need through letters of support		
Budget (10 pts)	• Budget is well-defined and within the project funding limits described in this NOFO • Proposed project costs are reasonable, allocable & 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 • Budget narrative should explain how salaries/supplies/outputs will be covered if no money is requested for those things in the budget		

VIII. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications are due by 5 p.m. PST, Friday, December 4, 2026.

Application Form

Project information and certifications such as compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA), and Audit and Financial Certification are included in the Application Form that can be downloaded from the grant portal. The form should be signed by an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). Electronic signatures are acceptable. If the form is not completed and signed by an AOR, the proposal will not receive a review.

Project Narrative (Limit 5,250 words):

Project Summary (500 words)

Provide a concise summary of the project proposal.

Problem and Justification (word limit 1000)

Describe the problem and how this project is expected to contribute to addressing it. Include the project type, citations that document the stakeholder-identified needs addressed by the proposed project, and the regional priority area or areas the project addresses. If necessary, describe why the issue is local only. How will this proposed work integrate into your overall IPM program and goals? How will the project address Western IPM Center priorities? Any tables or figures presented as background information should be placed in a file, uploaded into the Supporting Documents Section, and referenced in the text.

Stakeholder Engagement (250 words)

The section should answer two specific questions. Who are your stakeholders and how do they benefit from the project? Stakeholders who are actively involved in the project should be listed in the "Key Personnel" section as collaborators.

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.

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. Timelines are effective in demonstrating when stages of the project are expected to be completed.

Outputs (Word limit 250)

What will the project produce? Outputs should be appropriate for the proposal type and 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, white papers, and others. Identify the target audiences for the outputs.

Outcomes & Potential for Success (Word limit 500)

Proposals must discuss how you will assess project success by addressing two key points: (1) what are the expected outcomes for this project and how will you measure whether these outcomes meet your definition of success? (i.e. What are your metrics for success), and (2) how will the outcomes of your project, if successful, relate to the Western IPM Center priorities that you have identified for your project?

Outcomes are the results or changes among individuals, groups, communities, systems or society that may be influenced by your outputs. Use of the terms "outcomes" and "impacts" can vary. But for the purposes of this program, outcomes are defined as follows.

- 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 are related to conditions changes: social, economic, or environmental conditions that change as a result of actions taken by end-users.

Project directors can collect data to evaluate changes in learning, action, or condition, OR collect baseline data that can be used later to measure future changes in learning, action or condition.

Additional information concerning evaluation methodology can be found at ipmimpacts.ucanr.edu.

Although not required, a logic model can be an effective tool to demonstrate how this specific project fits into an overall program or larger project and how this project accomplishes regional goals. If the application includes a logic model, please upload the PDF document into the supporting documents section and reference it in the text.

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. For each individual, briefly describe how they will contribute to the project.

The Project Director and Co-Project Directors are the project leaders who are directly responsible for completing the objectives of the project. The Project Director and Co-Project Directors must provide a biosketch from SciENcv (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/).

Collaborators are also considered key personnel; these individuals will be providing assistance needed to complete the objectives of the project. Collaborators do not need to provide a biosketch.

If the project includes consulting, collaborative, or sub-contract arrangements, such agreements must be fully explained and justified in the budget narrative. Please include an estimate of any significant time involvement by a collaborator that is not defined in the budget request.

Literature Cited (1,000 words)

Please provide citations for any literature cited in the proposal.

Please cite any large language models (including program and version) used in proposal preparation.

Budget

The budget needs to include the following sections that apply to the proposed project: Indirect costs; Materials and supplies; Other direct costs; Outreach; Personnel - Salaries/Wages and Fringe Benefits; Printing and Publication Costs; Subcontracts/Cooperating Institutions; Subcontracts/Mini-grants; Travel. The budget form must be followed by a narrative that fully justifies each of the budget items, fully explains contract costs in detail and follows the order of the budget form. If costs associated with project participant efforts, supplies or outputs are not included in the budget please explain how these costs will be covered.

Biosketch, Current and Pending Support, and Conflict of Interest

The Project Director and each co-Project Director must fill out Biographical Sketch (biosketch), Current and Pending Support, and Conflict of Interest forms according to the form directions. They must register in and generate their biosketch and Current and Pending Support forms using the [Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#) (SciENcv) system. The Conflict of Interest form is available as a Microsoft Word document. All forms should be uploaded as PDF files into the grant management system.

Supporting Documents

Stakeholders provide letters of support and are those who benefit from the project results. Collaborators are actively involved in the project and provide letters of collaboration.

Please provide specific details in the letters of support and letters of collaboration included with your proposal. Details in a letter of support may include the number of stakeholders the letter of support represents and how the project will benefit a specific stakeholder group. Details in a letter of collaboration should include specific tasks to be completed by the collaborator.

The letters of support (stakeholders) or letters of collaboration (collaborators) should be collated into separate PDF files (one for stakeholders and one for collaborators) and uploaded into the appropriate sub-sections.

Tables, figures, and illustrations should be collated into a PDF file and uploaded into the labelled sub-section.

All other supporting documents, such as a logic model, should be collated into a single PDF file and uploaded into the labelled sub-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.

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

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www.westernipm.org