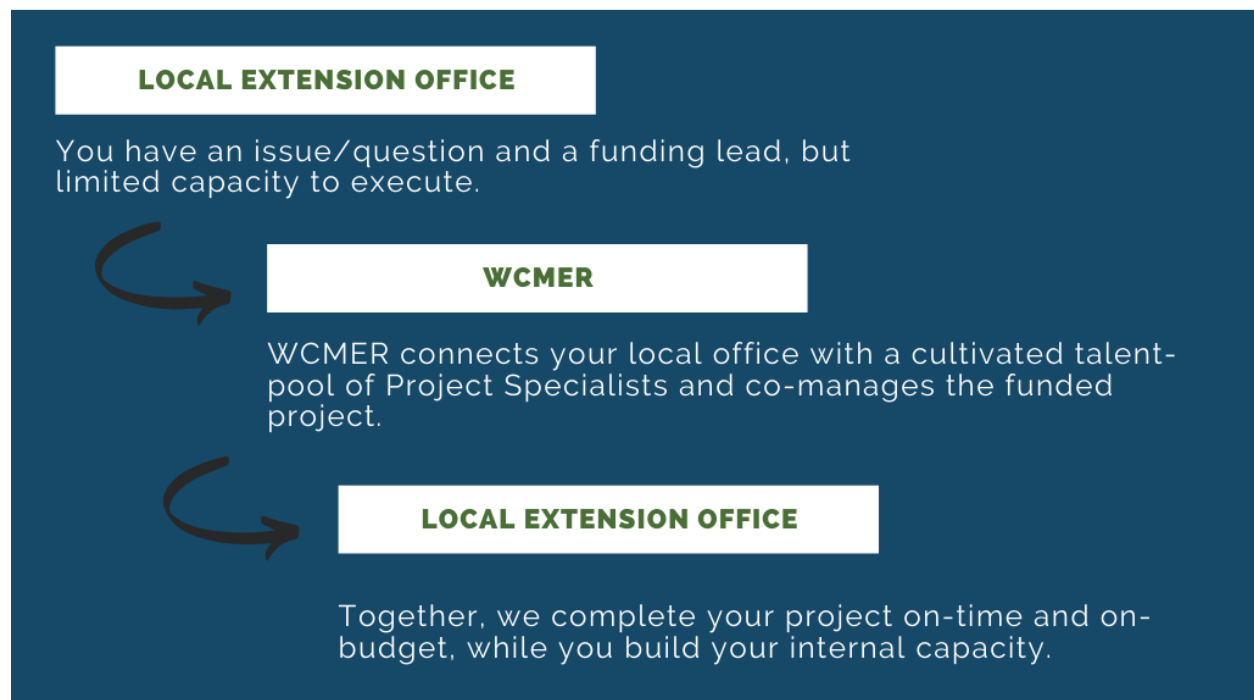




PROJECT SPECIALISTS APPLIED RESEARCH MODEL

Powered by the Western Center for Metropolitan Extension and Research (WCMER)

WCMER cultivates and maintains a talent pool to help grow the capacity of your local Extension office to take on short term, applied research projects that benefit your community.



Project Specialist Model

Project opportunities in metropolitan areas can arise when you least expect them, and the Project Specialist model is designed to help you respond quickly. When a project opportunity requires expertise beyond your local capacity, Western Center for Metropolitan Extension and Research (WCMER) Project Specialists are your answer- allowing your response and the work of the project, to be completed within the schedule of your local client.

Partnership

When additional expertise is required WCMER will select from the roster of Project Specialists based on the specific expertise needed for the project and their availability to meet the project timeline and deliverables. Ideally, each Project Team is comprised of Specialists as well as local Extension faculty and staff assembled to address an applied research project.

Project Based

The Project Specialist model makes an important distinction between projects and programs. Simply put, *projects* include the following criteria:

- Time bound – usually lasting 2 years or less, with a clear start and end date.
- Defined deliverables, usually including a project report.

- Defined budget that is full-cost recovery – we expect to collect full facilities and administrative costs (F&A) (aka indirect costs and overhead) on projects along with billing for wage and benefits for allocated staff time.
- Staffing is assembled for the duration of the project and disbanded after the project is completed.

By contrast, *programs* imply activities of long-term duration with dedicated staffing and consistent programming, such as Extension legacy programs 4-H and Master Gardeners.

What are the benefits?

The Project Specialist model helps local Extension offices and county-based faculty by:

- Increasing the capacity of your local Extension office(s) to serve your county in new areas or with additional expertise.
- Acting as a jumping off point for long-term programming: Projects can turn into long-term programs delivered out of your local Extension office.
- Helping you build multidisciplinary teams and engage in new funding opportunities: bringing new money to your office while demonstrating a positive ROI from local funders.
- Ensuring that your Extension program remains relevant to your state’s metropolitan elected officials, businesses, non-profits, tribes and community leaders, while contributing to the socio-economic well-being of your metropolitan region(s).

The Project Specialist model benefits your university by:

- Attracting funding from municipalities, federal and state agencies, businesses, and other sources conduit between the University and the community.
- Supporting, mentoring, or coaching campus based faculty and students in the community engagement process in working with communities to develop solutions and capitalize on opportunities.
- Providing campus-based faculty with a means to further their research and engagement interests in metropolitan issues, along with community based engagement opportunities for their students.
- Supporting transdisciplinary applied research, extension, and extramural fund development for faculty from different departments and colleges.

Contracts and Fiscal Items

The WCMER (via host institution Washington State University [WSU]) establishes contracts with Project Specialists, either as independent contractors or through contracts with their home institutions. On behalf of WCMER, WSU then sub-contracts with the local Extension program where the project is taking place. This allows the local Extension program to have a single sub-contract with WSU, even if multiple Specialists are used on the project. If amenable to both parties, WSU will develop Master Agreements with institutions so work orders (scopes of work and budgets) can be developed quickly. Contracting universities will receive their full federally-negotiated F&A rates (as allowed by sponsors) and all prime contract requirements will be passed through to sub-contracted institutions.