

## Emerging Research Issues for Washington Agriculture 2023 Internal Competitive Grant Program Request for Proposals

The 2007 Unified Industry-Based Agriculture Initiative funded by the Washington Legislature provides an internal competitive grants program to address and provide greater responsiveness to emerging issues facing Washington's agricultural industries. As one measure of its success, projects related to the funded proposals have been successful in attracting over \$22 million of external support for related projects, over \$11 million of which has been or will be spent in Washington. Over time the intent still remains to address emerging issues in Washington Agriculture, however, it has become increasingly important to attract federal support for these issues that complements support from commissions.

The program has evolved into a focused effort by the CAHNRS Office of Research to increase competitively funded research from federal agencies and industry that will address emerging issues facing Washington's agriculture and environment. **It is intended to provide seed money to generate preliminary data that will ultimately be used to leverage new support from competitive funding programs and/or from corporations that will bring the best science to bear on Washington's problems.** Thus, proposals that bring together a novel research team or work toward establishing a proof of concept are encouraged. It is also intended to provide funding for new research directions to fill fundamental knowledge gaps and enhance our capacity to address significant issues facing Washington agriculture. The ERI program is not designed for supplementing currently funded projects or as a substitute for other funding (or to provide gap funding). A proposal should not overlap with currently funded grants. Instead, proposals focusing on emerging research areas of relevance to Washington State are highly encouraged. Funded projects from calendar years 2018 - 2022 can be found at the CAHNRS Office of Research website. WSU researchers may submit proposals if they have received funding from this program before (either as PI or as Co-PI, either in the past or currently). However, a final report outlining research outcomes from all prior ERI grants will be required in order to be considered for funding again. Second year funding will not be released until an annual report for the first year time period is submitted and approved. Details of these reporting requirements are outlined below.

We will give priority to proposals that clearly articulate an alignment with the CAHNRS Office of Research strategic research goals. These are: **(1)** catalyze transformative discoveries to address agricultural, human, and natural resource challenges in alignment with CAHNRS research aspirations [**be strategic**], **(2)** encourage collaborations [**be collaborative**], and **(3)** advance CAHNRS' reach both nationally and internationally in emerging areas of achievement [**be visible**]. As always, CAHNRS strives to provide the highest quality training opportunities, and the use of these funds to support graduate and undergraduate students is encouraged, but not required.

### **TIMELINE FOR THE 2023 CALENDAR YEAR GRANT PROGRAM**

Nov. 1, 2022	Request for Proposals issued
Dec. 2 & 13, 2022	Q&A Sessions, 12 PM–1 PM, send request for Zoom link to <a href="mailto:gangd@wsu.edu">gangd@wsu.edu</a>
Dec. 31, 2022	Deadline for submission of annual and final project reports, respectively, for current and previous ERI grants (send to <a href="mailto:gangd@wsu.edu">gangd@wsu.edu</a> (cc. <a href="mailto:ARCGrants@wsu.edu">ARCGrants@wsu.edu</a> ))
Jan. 13, 2023	New proposals due to CAHNRS Office of Research (electronic submission, see page 5)
Mar. 15, 2023	Anticipated announcement of awards

## **WHAT IS AN EMERGING ISSUE?**

Upon funding by the Washington Legislature in 2007, the CAHNRS stakeholder advisory board provided guidance when asked to identify emerging issues for Washington's agricultural industries. This has evolved since then to the following description:

- An emerging issue is a topic where research-based information is needed and where WSU research activity is currently under-invested.
- Priority will be given to issues that either are not commodity-specific or for ag industry segments for which no commodity commission exists within the State of Washington, and hence, commodity commission or industry funds could not be targeted to address the issue.
- The research should position WSU to take a leading regional and national position as the topic is recognized as being of regional or national importance. Research issues are not limited to traditional production agriculture, but may address social and economic issues, and industries related to agriculture. Projects will be judged based on how well they meet the two criteria below.
  1. A description of the emerging issue in Washington and the knowledge gaps that will be filled by the subsequent competitively funded research.
  2. A description of how this seed money will be used to generate data that will enhance the competitiveness of efforts to obtain additional external support. Thus, a strategy for how this data is critical to enhance the competitiveness of subsequent research proposals is essential.

## **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?**

The lead PI must be a faculty member in a CAHNRS department or hold a COR faculty appointment if in another college. Research professor track faculty members are eligible to be lead PIs but associates in research, post-doctoral associates, adjunct faculty, and courtesy faculty members are not. Each faculty member may only submit a single proposal as the lead PI. However, they are welcome to participate on additional proposals in other roles (e.g., co-PI, collaborator, etc.).

## **WHAT IS THE DURATION OF THE GRANT?**

The maximum project duration is 2 years, starting **July 1, 2023**. Proposals can, however, be written for 1-year if appropriate for the scope of work. For 2-year grants, the first-year budget may run through **June 30, 2024** to facilitate supporting graduate students.

## **WHAT FUNDING AMOUNTS WILL BE PERMITTED?**

Grants may be funded up to \$80,000 over the possible two-years of a project, with funding for the first year limited to \$50,000. *Efficiency in using resources will be an important element of the review* – the minimum amount essential to accomplish the objectives of the project should be requested. Partial funding may occur, depending on review and funds available. Matching funds are not required. *PIs who have had previous ERI funding must include a brief summary of their accomplishments as a result of the previously funded project(s), in addition to having submitted progress/final reports on those projects.*

## **WHAT ARE THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS?**

All recipients of ERI grant funds are expected to submit a **final project report** at the conclusion of the funded project (by October 31 of the project termination year, or 90 days after termination of the project if the project end date is not on June 30<sup>th</sup>). This report should outline:

- The impact of the work completed, such as stakeholder needs met, preliminary data/results required for large-scale proposal generated and how those are/will support larger proposal submission, any societal impact, etc. A list of specific project activities carried out (what you did when, a list of specific experimental treatments applied, etc., items typically listed in the methods section of a scientific paper) is not requested nor desired—actual or potential impact is what is being asked for here;
- List of publications, field days, website URLs, etc., resulting or anticipated to result from the ERI grant;
- List of follow-on proposal(s) submitted or being drafted, including listing of the funding source(s) and program(s), overall goal(s) of the proposed follow-on project(s), timeframe for proposal submission, and any results/news about proposal status with the funding. Within 6 months of the completion of the proposal, the project leader must provide a copy of a proposal submitted to a competitive funding source or to a corporate sponsor;
- Involvement of students (grad, undergrad, high school) in the project and impact on their degree progression/career plans;
- Involvement of post-doctoral scholars in the project and impact on their career plans; and
- Involvement of underrepresented groups in the project.

In addition, to receive the second year of funding for a two-year proposal, an **annual progress report** must be submitted prior to the following year's review panel meeting (by December 31). This report (of up to 4 pages in length) will be approved, if:

- Satisfactory progress toward the originally proposed objectives is documented (use format outlined above for final project report as a guide);
- A detailed plan for application(s) for significant sources of competitive non-university funds to be submitted through the CAHNRS Office of Research/ARC is included. This funding application plan should list targeted funding source, amount anticipated to be requested, overall goal of the proposed research, and how the results from the ERI grant will support the anticipated proposal; and
- A (revised) budget for the remainder of the project period is included, along with a budget justification (updated as needed), including identification of the first-year funds that remain and how they would be spent in addition to the second year's funding request.

Release of second year funds (if adequate funds are available) will be granted upon approval of the report or will be held back until the annual project report is submitted and approved.

## **WHAT CRITERIA WILL BE USED TO EVALUATE PROPOSALS?**

**Have the researchers (PI or any Co-PI included in the proposal) submitted final reports for any previous ERI grants that have expired or have they submitted annual reports for any currently active ERI grants and have those reports been approved by CAHNRS Office of Research? (yes/no)** This is a simple check-off. A "Yes" answer means that the proposal can be considered by the review panel. A "No" means that it will be held until such a time that any outstanding reports have been received and approved. Details regarding

these annual/final reports are outlined above. Failure to submit by December 31 will likely lead to lack of approval in time for new proposal review.

**Ability of the project to define and address an emerging issue (25 points).** The proposal should clearly describe why the subject of the proposal should be considered to be an Emerging Issue. The rationale and significance of the problem must be clearly articulated, including how stakeholders might ultimately benefit from completion of the competitively funded research, the information gaps to be filled (the researchable questions) and how the research will contribute to an overall solution. The intended output of research conducted under the ERI is to enhance the competitiveness of subsequent proposals.

**Ability of Project to catalyze future extramural support (25 points).** A primary objective of this grant program is to encourage faculty to develop preliminary data that will enhance the competitiveness of future competitive grant proposals. This anticipated outcome(s) must be clearly delineated. Potential funding sources and the project leaders' strategy for developing a competitive proposal for those sources are required elements of the proposal.

Anticipated competitive extramural grant applications that will be facilitated by the use of these funds must be explicitly described in the grant proposal (agency, program, application deadline). Requests for second-year funding must be accompanied by documentation that competitive extramural grant application(s) have been submitted or are being developed.

**Appropriate research methodologies and approaches (20 points).** The proposals will be reviewed to evaluate whether the approach and methodology, as articulated, are sufficient to accomplish the stated objectives. This should also include extension activities as appropriate.

**Interdisciplinary, team-based approach to address the issue(s) (10 points).** Not all emerging issues are interdisciplinary in nature; but for the many that are, it is important to describe the multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary components of the project. The formation of teams to address the emerging issues is strongly recommended.

**Faculty capacity to successfully complete the project (10 points).** The researchers listed for the project should be actively involved in the project and have a documented history of research productivity that is appropriate for the research being proposed. The specific role of each faculty member listed on the proposal must be explicitly and clearly described and the component of the project that depends on each faculty member's effort must be stated. Is the budget appropriate?

**Extension/Outreach/Stakeholder Involvement plan (10 points).** Addressing emerging issues that face Washington agriculture is not only limited to research but must be accompanied by appropriate action to extend the findings to stakeholders, the public, and legislators. This activity may take several forms and be tailored to research programs that span from basic to applied sciences: a few examples include presentations at traditional field days/commodity meetings, authoring Extension publications, involvement in and submitting Impact Statements to USDA-NIFA, inclusion of stakeholders in project execution, etc.

**Separation from currently funded projects.** If the project appears to be a component, routine continuation, expansion, or supplementation of significant currently funded (or recently funded) research, it is not eligible for ERI funding. The purpose of the ERI program is to support new research directions that have not been pursued at WSU before.

## **PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

The proposal must be submitted in Microsoft Word and PDF formats, Arial or Helvetica 12-point font, with 1" margins.

1. The text of the Proposal Narrative should not exceed six (6) pages, must address each of the evaluation criteria, and must include:
  - i. Title, lead PI name, department, and contact information; cooperating PI(s) name(s), department(s) and contact information
  - ii. Requested duration
  - iii. Amount requested for the first year and estimate of the funding to be requested in the second year, if applicable
  - iv. Project Abstract, including brief description of Emerging Issue(s) being addressed and the research strategy that is proposed (250 words)
  - v. Rationale & Significance of the problem from the perspective of Washington stakeholders. It should be made clear how the research conducted in this project will close existing gaps in our ability to conduct research that addresses an Emerging Issue for Washington's stakeholders
  - vi. Description of ability of work/findings to apply across commodities and/or industries
  - vii. Objectives
  - viii. Research Methodology. Intended Outputs must be clearly stated as well as Outreach/Extension/Stakeholder involvement activities
  - ix. A description of how these results will position the group to successfully obtain competitive extramural funding, including information about the intended source of those funds (agency, program, deadlines, etc.)
  - x. Description of the Team, along with individual roles and responsibilities
  - xi. If applicable, graduate, undergraduate and high school student participation in the project, including identification of the degree program in which the student(s) are or will enroll.
  - xii. Timeline/Gantt chart
2. Appended materials (not part of the 6-page limit)
  - i. If applicable, an Annual Progress Report (for Year-2 applicants – up to 4 pages) and Summary of Results from previous ERI-funded project(s) (1 page)
  - ii. Reference citations from the Proposal Narrative
  - iii. List of proposals submitted to external funding sources as a result of current/prior ERI funding
  - iv. Up to a two-page CV for each PI or co- PI
  - v. One-page detailed budget and one-page budget justification, including a description of any matching or leveraged dollars (if applicable, although not required). Do not include any F&A. All salaries and wages must be included but not benefits. Do not include graduate student tuition. Graduate Students should be paid at the Graduate Research Assistantship levels. *Salary and benefits for permanent faculty and staff cannot be paid from the requested funds.* Resource use efficiency should be clear in the Research Methodology and Approach, and in the Extension Plan.
  - vi. Completed Current & Pending Support Form
  - vii. Discussion of overlap of the proposal with currently funded research (250 words)
  - viii. WSU Assurance Statement

**Submit the proposal electronically to the CAHNRS Office of Research by 5 PM, January 13, 2023.** All proposals must be emailed to [gangd@wsu.edu](mailto:gangd@wsu.edu) (cc. [ARCGrants@wsu.edu](mailto:ARCGrants@wsu.edu)). COR staff will acknowledge receipt of a readable proposal within two working days after submission.

**REVIEW PROCESS**

All proposals will be peer reviewed by a panel designated by the Associate Dean for Research & Director of the COR, including faculty from CAHNRS serving as members of the CAHNRS Associate Dean for Research's Faculty Advisory Council, and *ad hoc* reviewers as needed.

**QUESTIONS**

If you have questions about this RFP, please contact the CAHNRS Office of Research by email at [gand@wsu.edu](mailto:gand@wsu.edu) or [ARCGrants@wsu.edu](mailto:ARCGrants@wsu.edu).

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

All publications, posters, websites, field day presentations, etc. resulting from this internal competitive grant program must include the following information: "This activity was funded, in part, with an Emerging Research Issues Internal Competitive Grant from the Washington State University, College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences, Agricultural Research Center project 13Z-xxxxxxx."

CAHNRS COR programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported to the WSU Office of Compliance and Civil Rights (CCR) at [ccr@wsu.edu](mailto:ccr@wsu.edu) and 509-335-8288.

## WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY: Assurance Statement(s)

PI:	Dept:	WSU ID:	Credit:	100
Co-PI:	Dept:	WSU ID:	Credit:	
Co-PI:	Dept:	WSU ID:	Credit:	
<i>Must total 100%</i>			<b>Total:</b>	100
OGRD#:	PI Phone:	PI email:		
<b>Project Title:</b>				
<b>Sponsor:</b>		<b>WSU Account #:</b>		

### Biosafety and Chemical Safety

Ψ includes transgenic plants; \* includes livestock pathogens and toxins

- Project does NOT involve recombinant DNA/Vectors/Plasmids, Infectious/Select Agents, Carcinogens, Mutagens, or Teratogens; EUP's  
Project involves:
- Recombinant DNA/Vectors/Plasmids Ψ                       Carcinogens, Mutagens, or Teratogens
- Infectious/Select Agents\*                                       EUP (Experimental Use Pesticides)
- BAF #:                      (if known)

### Protection of Human Subjects

- Project does NOT involve human subjects     Project does involve human subjects  
IRB #:                      (if known)

### Care and Use of Animals

(includes the use of human tissue or bodily fluids)

- Project does NOT involve vertebrate animals     Project does involve vertebrate animals  
ASAF #:                      (if known)

### Use of Radioactive Materials or Radiation Equipment

- Project does NOT involve the use of radioactive materials or radiation equipment
- Project does involve the use of radioactive materials or radiation equipment

### Conflict of Interest

Conflict of interest definitions and questions ([www.ogrd.wsu.edu/coi\\_dq/](http://www.ogrd.wsu.edu/coi_dq/))

- Project does NOT involve a Conflict of Interest     Project does involve a Conflict of Interest