

CELS CARES¹ FY2013
College of the Environment and Life Sciences
Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station
Rhode Island Cooperative Extension

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR CELS CARES INITIATIVE:
BROADENING PARTICIPATION OF DIVERSE
GRADUATE STUDENTS ENGAGED IN
RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROJECTS

CELS CARES: dedicated to supporting relevant, outcome-oriented, impact-driven research and outreach.

Focus: The Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station (RIAES) and Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (RICE) requests research/extension proposals for fiscal year 2013². The focus of this request is made in the context of the goals of the Rhode Island State Plan of Work (<http://www.reeis.usda.gov/web/areera/plans/2012-2016/2012-University-of-Rhode-Island-Combined-Research-and-Extension-Plan-of-Work.pdf> or <http://riaes.cels.uri.edu/Plan.aspx>) and the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) (<http://www.ocfo.usda.gov/usdasp/sp2010/sp2010.pdf>). This request encourages investigators from around the University to respond.

This specific solicitation is to support a diverse group of graduate students engaged in integrated projects. Integrated projects are defined as research projects that have clearly defined Extension efforts (or outreach efforts) or Extension projects that have clearly defined research elements. Further, this initiative is committed to broadening the participation of underrepresented groups in the activities of RIAES and RICE. Hence, proposals that have a clear plan for recruitment and/or retention of underrepresented graduate students will receive preference for funding. Further, preference for funding of students will go to interdisciplinary and multi-investigator efforts that clearly back the Rhode Island State Plan of Work.

Proposals are due December 30, 2011 at 4:30 PM. Proposals are to be submitted electronically as a single PDF file. Please submit to the Associate Director of RIAES and RICE, Rick Rhodes at rcr3@uri.edu. Questions about this RFP can be forwarded to Rick Rhodes (874-2468 or by email).

Proposal review: All proposals will be peer-reviewed by an external panel of experts, an internal panel of peers, and the Director of RIAES/RICE. The external panel and the internal panel will

¹ College of the Environment and Life Sciences *Community Access to Research and Extension Services*

² Begins October 1, 2012.

rank the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the Director. The Director will make the final decision on funding. Decisions on funding will be completed by March 2012.

Proposal details: Projects can run for up to 3 years and must support a graduate student stipend. We expect that the annual allocation for a single student will be \$22,000 (plus a graduate student tuition waiver.) As noted previously, interdisciplinary, multi-investigator projects supporting more than one student are preferred.

The project must clearly complement ongoing funded, research and/or outreach. The projects must also have a clear plan for recruiting and retaining students from underrepresented groups. Multi-investigator proposals should request larger budgets (i.e., greater than \$22,000/student) to accommodate more than one student. Multistate projects are preferred. As the funds that support this initiative are from a federal formula grant, successful investigators must provide a 1:1 match for the project budget. No overhead is charged to these projects.

Eligibility for funding: All URI tenure-track faculty, Appendix F faculty, research faculty, research associates, and educators may apply.

Proposal requirements: All proposals must support at least one of 15 programs in the Rhode Island State Plan of Work. The following fifteen programs constitute the current 2012-2016 Rhode Island State Plan of Work:

1) Food Safety; 2) Nutrition, Health and Obesity Prevention; 3) Global Food Security and Hunger; 4) Children, 4-H and Families; 5) Sustainable Communities; 6) Vector Borne Diseases and Human Health; 7) Aquaculture and Fisheries; 8) Climate Change (includes programming in Water Quality); 9) The Environment and Adaptive Agro-ecosystems (includes programming in Forestry and Wildlife); 10) Community Gardening and Outreach; 11) Health and Well-being of Livestock; 12) Horticulture and the Reduction of Pests and Disease Outbreaks in Plants; 13) Natural and Environmental Economics, Markets and Policy; 14) Sustainable Energy; and 15) College of the Environment and Life Sciences (CELS) Community Access to Research and Extension Services (CARES).

The proposal must also support the strategic goals and objectives of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA; formerly known as the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service [CSREES]), the cognizant federal agency for the Land Grant program. The strategic goals include:

Strategic Goal 1: Enhance International Competitiveness of American Agriculture; *Strategic Goal 2:* Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies; *Strategic Goal 3:* Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America; *Strategic Goal 4:* Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply; *Strategic Goal 5:* Improve the Nation's Nutrition and Health; *Strategic Goal 6:* Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment.

Questions about the RFP: Questions about the RFP can be directed to Rick Rhodes. Financial questions can also be directed to Meredith Silvia (meredithc@mail.uri.edu).

REQUIRED PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

INTERNAL PROPOSAL APPROVAL FORM (attached; requires signature from Departmental Chair)

TITLE PAGE

Title (*maximum 100 characters*)

PI Name(s) and Departmental Affiliation(s)

TEXT

I. NARRATIVE: Limited to 5 single-spaced pages. (12 point font, 1” margins)

A. ISSUE(S) TO BE ADDRESSED AND JUSTIFICATION:

Include a clear statement of what the project will address and the long-range importance of the project. What are overarching scientific, biological, economic, environmental or societal problems that your work will address? As appropriate, consider the likely scientific, economic, environmental, or social benefits from this research. What are the expected outputs and impacts of this work? Who are the key stakeholders for this work and how was stakeholder input sought? What are the roles of research and outreach (or extension) specialists? How will the work be extended to the greater public? How will you assess impact? How does the work proposed fit into the current Rhode Island State Plan of Work? What NIFA strategic goal does this project support?

B. BROADENING PARTICIPATION PLAN:

What is the plan to recruit and/or retain individuals from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions? What steps will be taken to ensure student success? How will the participation plan be evaluated?

C. STATE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES:

All projects must explicitly state the hypotheses or questions being asked and the research and outreach objectives.

D. PREVIOUS AND PRESENT WORK: Describe the current status of research in this field. Summarize previous and current research on the problem. All work cited should be referenced. (The list of references is note included in the 5-page maximum for the narrative.)

E. EXPERIMENTAL PLAN: Explain the methodology to be used, and how tasks will be divided amongst PIs. As this initiative supports graduate students, what work will be completed by the graduate research assistant(s)? Include a tentative schedule for conducting major steps involved in these investigations, experiments and/or projects.

F. INTEGRATION OF RESEARCH WITH EXTENSION/OUTREACH EFFORTS (and vice versa): Research proposals can link to ongoing extension efforts at URI or other institutions. Likewise, outreach projects can link to ongoing research efforts at URI or other institutions. Describe the integration? Who are the important participants in this project and what are their roles?

F. LEVERAGING: This project must complement ongoing, funded research and/or outreach. What funded projects does this proposal support? Further, proposals are expected to serve as magnets and/or magnifiers for additional outside funding. Please include a description of existing external funding sources and the relevance of this proposal to priorities of future external funding sources. How will this project strengthen and complement existing research and outreach? How will this project lead to further studies supported by external grants? If you have received RIAES/Land Grant funding in the past, briefly describe what external funds (...from what agency? ...how much?) you leveraged.

II. BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (Over and above the 5-page limit)

Provide a budget (*please use the Excel budget template available from Meredith Silvia or on <http://riaes.cels.uri.edu/CELSCares.aspx>*) and a budget justification. We expect that the allocation per funded student will be \$22,000 plus a graduate student tuition waiver. A larger budget may be available for multi-investigator, interdisciplinary projects (but should not exceed \$22,000/student). Multistate projects are preferred. No overhead is charged to these projects.

Budgets will be reviewed and renegotiated annually, and funds will be contingent upon productivity, effort and success in attracting related external funds, availability of Land Grant funds, and on Land Grant priorities. *We reserve the right to terminate a project and discontinue funding for lack of activity or productivity, or to deal with issues of fiscal exigency.*

Budget Justification:

Graduate students: This RFP supports graduate student participation. Are you proposing a M.S. or Ph.D. student? Assistantships are typically for the academic year. Summer support for graduate students can be requested (see Personnel below). Typically, Land Grant funds support a M.S. student for two years and a Ph.D. student for three years.

Personnel: PIs may not request summer salary. PI's may request summer salary supplementation for the graduate student(s). What will the student do in the summer? How do these activities relate to the goals and objectives of the proposal?

Travel, supplies, and other costs: Travel, supplies, and other costs are allowed.

Matching Funds: The proposal must match federal formula funds with non-Federal funds (1:1 match is required). **Third-party match** is defined as non-Federal, including funding from other state agencies, non-governmental organizations, private business, or individuals. Should you use state salary and fringe for match, please clearly separate salary fringe. Specific questions about match should be directed to Meredith Silvia.

III. Appendices: (Over and above the 5-page limit)

A. LOGIC MODEL: According to the USDA, all projects must fit the Logic Model. What are the inputs, expected outputs, expected outcomes and expected impacts of this work? A template for the Logic Model and an example of a generic Logic Model is available on the CELS/RIAES website <http://riaes.cels.uri.edu/CELSCares.aspx>.

B. REPORTING, CREATING THE INPUT FOR THE AD 416/417: The AD 416 and 417 are the initial reports that must be filed with the USDA's Current Research information System (CRIS) to establish this proposal as a recognized project. As an appendix please provide the following:

Project Objectives: Concise statement of the objectives attainable during the lifespan of the project. This should not exceed 3200 characters (including spaces).

Approach: Describe the ways in which the research will be conducted with emphasis on the scientific methods. This should not exceed 3200 characters (including spaces).

Non-technical summary: Provide a short 3-4 sentence non-technical description of the project. One sentence should describe the problem or situation and another sentence should describe the purpose of the project.

Knowledge area, subject of investigation, and field of science: Each project in CRIS must be assigned a code from three series of classifications. What is the knowledge area, subject of investigation, and field of science for this project? Descriptions of the classifications can be secured at <http://daisy.uvm.edu/cris/kacs.htm>.

C. CURRENT AND PENDING SUPPORT: List all current and pending support for each PI. Include project title, source of support, total award amount, period of award, and % effort on award. (NSF Form 1239 or USDA Current and Pending forms are suitable for submission.)

D. ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITA: Include a 1-page CV for each PI on the proposed project

**RFP APPENDIX
PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION REVIEW, INITIAL APPROVAL, ANNUAL
REVIEW, AND FUNDING**

STEP 1: PRELIMINARY INTERNAL REVIEW

Proposals will be first reviewed by Land Grant Administrative staff for required elements outlined in the Required Proposal Components. Only complete proposals will enter into the review process.

STEP 2: PANEL REVIEW

Background for Panel Reviewers: The CELS CARES Initiative funds approximately 40% of submitted proposals. In addition to the budget submitted in each proposal (~\$20,000 per year), the award includes a graduate student tuition waiver and match. Last, all proposals will be evaluated by an expert, external panel. Review, evaluation and ranking of the proposals will be based on the following criteria:

20%: Science and Technology.

- Does this proposal use top quality science and/or technology?
- Is the PI familiar with relevant previous and contemporary investigations?
- Are the objectives and hypotheses explicit and clear?
- Is the experimental plan clear and is the methodology described in the plan appropriate to meet the objectives?
- Is (are) the principal investigator(s) and specified members of the research team qualified to conduct the research?
- Are the goals and expectations of the graduate student clearly described?
- Will this work advance our understanding of the science?
- What are the expected outcomes and impacts?
- Will the work have likely scientific, economic, environmental, or social benefits?
- Does this project foster multi-disciplinary and multi-investigator collaborations?

20%: Integration with Extension:

- Does this work identify the key stakeholders?
- Are extension professionals fully engaged in the project and is the role of extension well-described?
- Is the research clearly integrated with extension?
- How will the results of this work address the needs of key stakeholders? Will this project extend our knowledge to key stakeholders?
- Are the expected extension outputs, outcomes and impacts clearly described?

20%: Capacity and Continuity:

- Does the project have a clear plan for recruiting and retaining graduate students from underrepresented groups and diverse institutions?
- Does this project complement an ongoing, funded project?

- Will this project increase our capacity to compete for external funds to support research and outreach?
- Will this project create an opportunity for research and outreach that will self-sustain?
- Will this funding complement and provide stability to an on-going successful line of research that is otherwise sustained by external funding?

20%: Funded Research Record:

- Does the investigator and her/his team have a track record of internal (e.g., RIAES) funding and external (e.g., NIFA, NIH, NSF) funding?
- Is there evidence that the investigator(s) has(have) an established record indicating a high probability of success on the proposed work?

20%: Rhode Island State Plan of Work and NIFA Strategic Plan:

- Does this proposal complement the current Rhode Island State Plan of Work?
- Does the proposal create new opportunities for the Rhode Island State Plan of Work?
- Does the proposed work address a NIFA strategic goal, objective and actionable strategy?

Proposals will be ranked, using the above criteria. Proposals that meet all the criteria above and deemed meritorious will then be funded. Peer reviews and comments by the panels and/or the Director will be returned to the PI along with the funding decisions.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR CONTINUATION.

Each year, the PI will be expected to provide written narrative for the Rhode Island AES/CE Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results, complete a CRIS program report (form AD-421, due in February of each year), and respond to any specific requests from the Director or Associate Director regarding progress. All reports will be reviewed by Department Chairs, the Director and Associate Director. If insufficiencies are identified, the PI will develop a schedule for their remedy, which will be submitted to the Director and Associate Director. Failure to bring the work of the project to a satisfactory level of progress will result in immediate termination.



CELS CARES Research and Extension RFP FY2013

Internal Proposal Approval Form

***For Internal Use Only ***

Principal Investigator(s) and Department:

Title:

Total Amount Requested:

Proposed Start Date:

Duration:

Matching Requirements: 1:1

Matching Sources: CELS \$ _____ URI Other \$ _____ External \$ _____

Required Signatures:

Principal Investigator: _____ Principal Investigator: _____

Principal Investigator: _____ Principal Investigator: _____

Department Chair: _____

Department Chair: _____

Department Chair: _____ Business Office: _____

Date Received _____