



Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health

January 30, 2009

Request for Proposals – Feasibility/Pilot Project Grant Program

Mission

The Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health (GPCAH) is a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Center for Agricultural Disease and Injury Research, Education, and Prevention. The GPCAH is dedicated to protecting the health and safety of farmers, ranchers, farm workers, their families, and agricultural communities in our region and beyond. The goals of our Center are achieved through interdisciplinary research projects designed to investigate agricultural safety or health topics, issues, or concerns and to create effective interventions that help prevent injuries and illnesses.

Feasibility / Pilot Program Objectives

The primary objective of this feasibility/pilot project grant program is to encourage development of new and creative research and research-oriented prevention/intervention and translation projects with promise to lead to more comprehensive studies addressing real safety and health risks of farmers and ranchers, other producers, farm workers, their families, and their communities. Special consideration will be given to proposals promoting collaboration by researchers in the GPCAH 9-state region (ND, SD, NE, KS, MO, IA, MN, WI, and IL) as well as to proposals that involve researchers affiliated with the GPCAH and/or the University of Iowa. Individual project proposals can request no more than \$15,000. See **Funding Available** for additional information.

Eligibility

Any individual, faculty member, sponsored staff, or graduate or post-doctoral student with an interest in agricultural health or safety possessing the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out their proposed project is invited to work with their “eligible Midwest institution” to develop an application. “Eligible Midwest institutions” include for profit, non-profit, and public or private institutions; units of local or state government and eligible Federal agencies; and units of local and state tribal government and faith- or community-based organizations. The GPCAH especially welcomes project ideas from young investigators, such as associates or instructors, and they are encouraged to apply together with senior faculty members. Individuals from under-represented racial and ethnic groups as well as individuals with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.

Application Procedures

Applications should conform to the general NIH guidelines for research proposals and be organized as follows:

Proposal Sections	Page Limit
Cover page and short (150 word max.) executive summary	1
Research plan, including	(5 pages total for research plan)
Specific plan	
Background and significance	
Preliminary studies (if any)	
Experimental design and methods	
Utilization of GPCAH facilities and summary statement on collaboration (if any)	1
Potential for future grant and plans for dissemination of results	1-2
Budget and budget justification	1-2
Schedule and milestones	1-2
Biographical sketch (per PHS 398) for each investigator	(2 pages max. per investigator)
Plan for continuing reporting of related work (See Reporting Requirements)	1

Application and Award Dates

Proposals are due on or before the due date, which is:

March 31, 2009

Send a signed, original cover letter and one copy of all Proposal Sections to:

**Murray D. Madsen
The University of Iowa
100 Oakdale Campus, #203 IREH
Iowa City, IA 52242-5000**

Plus, email one copy of the signed cover letter and all Proposal Sections to:

murray-madsen@uiowa.edu

Evaluations will be completed and applicants notified of funding status within approximately 60 days following the due date for proposals. Investigators are highly encouraged to initiate any applicable human subjects or animal care review approval or certification processes as soon as possible. All investigators engaged in the conduct of human subjects research are required to complete an education program approved by NIH and become certified in human subjects protections. Awarded funds will not be released until after September 30, 2009 and no funds will be released prior to receiving proper notification of IRB and/or other governing approvals and certifications.

Peer Review Process

Project applications will be evaluated by a review panel selected from GPCAH Internal Advisory Committee and External Advisory Committee members and others with special expertise. The review process will follow procedures similar to those used by federal study sections with assigned primary and secondary reviewers providing written critiques. Evaluation and selection criteria will address originality, scientific relevance and importance to the region and to the GPCAH mission, objectives of this feasibility/pilot program, NIOSH agriculture research priorities (See "Priorities" section of announcement at <http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-06-057.html>), validity and reliability of methods, qualifications of investigators, interdisciplinary nature of the project, potential for future funding, plans for dissemination of results, and appropriateness of the budget. All review panel members will score each project proposal according to the NIH priority score method. No reviewer will participate in the evaluation of applications they submit or for which they are a collaborator in another investigator's application under consideration at the time.

Funding Available

Total funding up to \$50,000 is available for new feasibility/pilot projects. No additional funding has been allocated to cover indirect costs in feasibility/pilot project budgets. Individual project awards will range up to \$15,000. Funding is available for the usual categories of cost in an NIH grant, such as salary and fringe for research assistants and graduate students, laboratory supplies, equipment, data analysis, travel associated with research (but not to attend trade, technical or professional association meetings) and office expenses. It is anticipated that the GPCAH will fund 3 or 4 feasibility/pilot projects for FY2010. Each award will be for a maximum duration of 12 months and all project expenses must be incurred by September 30, 2010.

Reporting Requirements

Each funded feasibility/pilot project is required to submit a mid-year progress report (est. April 1, 2010) and a final report (est. November 1, 2010). These reports shall be submitted according to instructions provided by GPCAH and shall include reporting of work and activities relating to the current (and past) project(s) awarded by GPCAH to the investigator/eligible institution. Project proposals must include plans to track and report to GPCAH subsequent results stemming from each feasibility/pilot project, including but not limited to grants and contracts developed as progeny of the project, students mentored, MS and PhD dissertations generated, presentations and publications emanating from the project, and interdisciplinary collaborations established as a result of GPCAH-supported work. Publications, journal articles, presentations, and similar works relating to GPCAH-supported pilot/feasibility projects are to include the following statement: *"This (describe the work product kind) was supported in part by grant number 5 U50 OH007548-07 from CDC-NIOSH. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of CDC, NIOSH, or the Great Plains Center for Agricultural Health."*

Additional Information

Applicants are invited to contact Dr. Wayne Sanderson (wayne-sanderson@uiowa.edu; 319-335-4207) or Dr. Risto Rautiainen (risto-rautiainen@uiowa.edu; 319-335-4887) regarding scientific questions. Contact Murray Madsen (murray-madsen@uiowa.edu; 319-335-4481) or Pat Ramstad (patricia-ramstad@uiowa.edu; 319-335-4419) about administrative procedures relating to this feasibility/pilot project grant program.