



Western Integrated Pest Management Center

2022 Annual Grant Program Request for Applications

The 2022 Western IPM Center annual grant program and this RFA are similar to last years' announcement but there are some important changes.

First, available funds per project have increased to \$50,000 (from \$30,000) and the total available funding for 2022 is approximately \$400,000.

Also, while the electronic proposal management system requires that most information for the proposal body be filled into form fields directly or by cut-and-paste, applicants can upload certain forms as separate pdfs. The "Certifications," "Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA)," "Audit and Financial Certification," and "Conflict of Interest and Current and Pending Support" sections can be completed in Word and uploaded as PDF files. Also, the "Project Director and Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) contact information" section was changed to read "Project Director contact information," and the questions about the AOR were eliminated.

Grants available in this RFA include **Project Initiation, Work Groups, and Outreach and Implementation. The Planning Documents project type has been moved to a separate RFA that is open all year long. Please see westernipm.org or the newsletter for details.**

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time on Friday, December 3, 2021.

Applicants must register at <https://grants.ipmcenters.org>

If you encounter any problems or have questions please contact Western IPM Center Grant Panel Manager Jill Schroeder at jischroe1@gmail.com.

Key Dates

October 6:	RFA released
November 4:	RFA Webinar (2 p.m. Pacific) https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/8420058983
December 3:	Completed application due by 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time

Details about the webinar are in the Center's October newsletter. Visit www.westernipm.org and look under "Publications" to access newsletter issues.

I. SUMMARY

The Western Integrated Pest Management Center (“The Center”) engages a broad diversity of stakeholders in the West to identify strategic directions and set priorities for integrated pest management (IPM) research, education, and extension for pest management in all settings. Through these activities the Center promotes the USDA Research, Education, and Economics Action Plan goals of effective, affordable, and environmentally sound integrated pest management practices and improved response to emerging or reemerging pests of high consequence. The Center supports the *National Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management* (<http://bit.ly/IPMRoadMap>)

The Center works to reduce the risks that pests and pest-management practices pose to people, the environment and the economy of the American West by supporting the development and adoption of integrated pest management. Our vision is a healthier West with fewer pests.

Center grants provide funds to complement other federal, state and private funding sources by supporting project initiation, outreach and implementation, work groups, and IPM planning document development. We encourage projects that extend IPM practices to stakeholders who will use IPM strategies to decrease the risks associated with pests and pest management while addressing Center goals.

Available funds. Funding of approximately \$400,000 is available for this competitive grant program. Budget limits per project are \$50,000. Budgets may include indirect charges of no more than 30% of Total Federal Funds (TFF).

Who may apply? Eligible applicants include private individuals and institutions, faculty and qualified staff of two- and four-year universities, businesses, commodity organizations, and 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.

Proposal submission. All applications will be submitted through a secure online system at grants.ipmcenters.org. **Proposal submission must be completed by 5 p.m. PST, Friday, December 3, 2021.**

Proposal timeline. Projects must start March 1, 2022 and end by February 28, 2023.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Regional Importance and Center Priorities

Stakeholders from the 17 Western states and Pacific Island territories 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 (maximum of three):

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.

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

Biological Control of Pests – For insects, weeds, diseases and vertebrate pests

IPM and Ecosystem Services – Using IPM to protect and promote ecosystem services in managed and natural landscapes.

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

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

IPM for Indigenous, Insular and Isolated People – Promoting IPM for underserved communities and audiences.

IPM for Pest-Resistance Management – Developing IPM tools and techniques to reduce pest development of resistance.

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

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

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

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.

While not required, proposals that actively involve potential end-users – farmers and ranchers, land managers, school or housing administrators, etc. – are encouraged.

III. MULTI-STATE / ISLAND / TERRITORY / TRIBAL NATION INVOLVEMENT

A goal of the Center grants program is to support collaborations among states, islands, territories and tribal nations for purposes of efficiency, economy and synergy. (In this RFA, the term “states” is also meant to include individual islands within the state of Hawaii, as well as the Pacific Island territories and tribal nations.) Projects must have participants from multiple states or clearly demonstrate that the project will benefit more than one state. Exceptions are allowed when an applicant can document that the host/pest combination only occurs in one state.

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 available at nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions. Additional information about these terms and conditions can also be found at <https://www.cfo.gov/grants-training/>

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 and is available at nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide

IPM Toolkit. The toolkit for assessing IPM outcomes is available at ipmimpact.ucanr.edu The toolkit 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 Risk Communication Signature Program, the Crop Pest-Loss and Impact Assessment Signature Program or the Protocols for Responding to Invasive Species in the West Signature Program, where appropriate. For more information on Signature Programs, see the Center Projects section of the westernipm.org 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. Some examples include:

- W3008: Integrated Onion Pest and Disease Management
- W4185: Biological Control in Pest Management Systems of Plants
- W4186: Variability, Adaptation and Management of Nematodes Impacting Crop Production
- WERA 11 Western Regional Turfgrass Research
- WERA 77 Managing Invasive Weeds in Wheat
- WERA 1017 Coordination of IPM Research, Extension and Education in the West
- WERA 1021 Spotted Winged Drosophila Biology, Ecology and Management

Multistate project work group details are listed at <http://www.nimss.org/>.

VI. TYPES OF PROJECTS

The types of projects that may be funded through the Western IPM Center grants program are **Project Initiation, Working Groups, and Outreach and Implementation. The maximum awards for each of these project types is \$50,000.**

If you wish to submit applications for more than one project or project type, you must submit separate applications.

Project Initiation

Project Initiation proposals should test new IPM 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 identify the benefits that could be realized if their researched IPM solutions prove to be successful.

Work Groups

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

Previously funded IPM work groups must apply for renewal each year and funding will be based on merit of the proposal and accomplishments from prior funding periods. Applications for work group renewal must be received by the application due date. They will be evaluated in competition with the other applications and will be reviewed according to the same criteria as new applications.

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 IPM 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. Most reviewers are from outside the Western Region, so when writing the proposal narrative and your biosketch, do not assume that reviewers will be familiar with Western crops, pest 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 (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is clearly presented Meets all format requirements with all required forms and components included 		
Problem and justification (20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposal identifies project type, lists one or more regional priority areas addressed by the project (listed on Page 2), and describes how the project will address the Center priorities. Proposal cites specific stakeholder priorities and needs Proposal documents multi-state collaboration or that the crop/pest combination only occurs in a in a single state. (“States” includes islands of Hawaii and the Pacific Island territories, and tribal nations) 		
Potential for Success (25 points) -Objective -Approach -Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives logically target a solution to the problem Approach likely to result in novel, effective solutions to important IPM issues Procedures are linked to objectives and likely to result in clear evidence with respect to problem Timeline and scale of project reasonable Collaborators have agreed to participate through a letter of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives are either 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 linked to objectives Timeline and scale of project reasonable Collaborators have agreed to participate through a letter of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objectives logically focus on a solution to the problem Project clearly identifies the audience targeted by the outreach and implementation efforts Procedures are linked to objectives Target audience (stakeholders) have documented a desire for products and willingness to implement IPM solutions
Outputs and Outcomes (15 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outputs link to project objectives and are reasonable for the type and scale of the project Outcomes clearly relate to IPM Center priorities Methods and indicators for measuring outcomes are clearly described How the project addresses a need of historically underserved stakeholders should be addressed if the project is focused on historically underserved stakeholders 		
Expertise & Participation (15 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosketches demonstrate necessary expertise to successfully complete the project The project should actively involve end-users (farmers and ranchers, land managers, school and housing administrators, etc.) and students, as appropriate The proposal should describe how stakeholders will be involved in the project If the project is focused on historically underserved stakeholders, evidence of a specific relationship with an underserved group should be provided 		
Budget (5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget is well-defined and within the project funding limits described in this RFA Proposed project costs are reasonable, allocable and 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 		
Historically Underserved Stakeholders (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is led by or involves historically underserved stakeholders who have had limited participation in, or have received limited benefits from USDA programs. This includes limited resource and socially disadvantaged farmers/ranchers/landowners, and EPSCoR states. A socially disadvantaged group has been subjected to racial, ethnic, or other prejudice without regard to their individual qualities. Examples include: Pacific Islanders, Alaska Natives, American Indian tribes, Hispanics, and African Americans. The proposal must provide evidence of a specific relationship in the Key Personnel section or provide evidence that the underserved audience will be engaged in the Problem and Justification and/or Outputs and Outcomes sections 		

VIII. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications are due by 5 p.m. PST, Friday, December 3, 2021.

Applicants will have to register at grants.ipmcenters.org and applications will be submitted there.

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. The form should be signed by the Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR). Electronic signatures are acceptable.

Project Narrative (Limit 4000 words):

Project Summary (word limit 500)

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. How will this proposed work integrate into your overall IPM program and goals? How will the project address Western IPM Center priorities? What is the role of stakeholders in this project? 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. If your project focuses on underserved audiences, explain the group being served and the problem to be addressed.

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, but where feasible, indicate the likelihood of achieving the objectives in a specified length of time.

Procedures (word limit 1000)

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.

Outputs (Word limit 250)

What will the project produce? Outputs 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, and white papers. Identify the target audiences for the outputs

Outcomes (Word limit 500)

Proposals must address two key points in this section: (1) expected outcomes and how the outcomes relate to the Western IPM Center Priorities identified above, and (2) methods and indicators to measure progress towards the expected outcomes.

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.

Cooperation of 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. 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 each provide a biosketch that documents evidence of their expertise related to the project as proposed. 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.

Applications must clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each person and institutional unit of the project team, if applicable.

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. Evidence must be provided that the project co-directors and collaborators involved have agreed to render these services. Acceptable documentation for this purpose includes letters of intent or statements of work from the individual or organization. Copies of either letters or email messages from the project co-directors and collaborators will suffice for this purpose. Letters of intent or letters of support from stakeholders should be included in the Supporting Documents Section.

Literature Cited (1000 words)

Please provide citations for any literature cited in the proposal.

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 and follows the order of the budget form.

Conflict of interest (COI) and Current and Pending (C&P)

COI and C&P forms need to be filled out by the Project Director and each co-Project Director and uploaded as a single pdf file into the grant management system.

Supporting Documents

Letters of support: Please include letters of support from project partners. They should be collated into one PDF file and attached into Supporting Documents 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

Jill Schroeder, Grant Program Manager
Western Integrated Pest Management Center
Email: jischroe1@gmail.com
www.westernipm.org

The Regional IPM Centers are supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and comply with the USDA-NIFA nondiscrimination policy (www.csrees.usda.gov/about/nondiscrimination.html).