Applicant entity name: [redacted]
Duration of project in months: [redacted] months
Amount of Federal funding requested: $[redacted]
Amount of non-Federal funding secured: $[redacted]
Project title: Financing Regenerative Agriculture: Innovative Mechanisms to Mobilize Private Capital and Accelerate Deal Flow
Category of the project: 5 - Impact Investing
Geographic location: Applicable throughout the United States, with a focus on [redacted]

Issue/problem: Regenerative agriculture, a system of holistic practices that promote soil health and restore ecosystem services/functions while maintaining yield, is poised to provide durable solutions to a wide range of challenges facing our rural and urban communities. Yet investment is hampered by high transaction costs, limited data about economic and environmental returns, poorly understood risk profiles, and limited coordination between sources of capital. Demand for food, feed, and fiber that meet specific positive social, environmental, and economic qualities is currently outstripping supply, and investments are needed to grow these value chains.

Objectives: This project will enable investments in, and increase the scale of, regenerative agriculture. It will engage partners across sources of capital to address barriers to investing, strengthen the business case for investment, develop tools that will improve investor literacy and accelerate deal flow, and demonstrate its innovative approaches in a place-based example in [redacted]. The [redacted] example will focus on building the investment case for the expansion of regenerative diversified small grains production and processing within the NRCS Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative.

Innovative approaches: This project will create innovative mechanisms to help investors and other sources of capital operationalize and scale investments in regenerative agriculture. The project will build a more collaborative investment landscape and equip investors with the knowledge and tools needed to generate positive social, environmental, and economic returns.

Impact quantification: Throughout the grant period, the project team will track the number and size of investments in regenerative agriculture, monitor the uptake of tools shared through partner networks, and will estimate the environmental benefits from changes in agricultural practices made as a result of new investments or other financing.

Predicted benefits and deliverables: The project seeks to provide benefits to investors, producers, value chain partners, and consumers, and enhance environmental outcomes. The package of project deliverables for the agricultural community includes, summarized survey data, whitepapers, roundtable meetings, and a Regenerative Agriculture Investment Toolkit. In the Driftless Area case study, financial models, market analyses, business pro formas, and investor casebooks will also be produced for those in the region and will be generally applicable to other geographies.

Project partners: [redacted].