

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Crop Protection and Pest Management

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year (FY) 2026

APPLICATION DEADLINE: July 6, 2026

ANTICIPATED PROGRAM FUNDING: \$8,250,000

AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL AWARD RANGE: \$300,000 - \$1,150,000

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-CPPM-011908

ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.329

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): The Crop Protection and Pest Management (CPPM) program is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.329.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, July 6, 2026 [Ref to Part I, C of this NOFO]
Applicants Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice (NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to the extent permitted by law, will no longer make grants or otherwise fund programs or activities that improperly discriminate on the basis of race or sex, including discrimination in the name of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies. Instead, USDA will prioritize merit and efficiency. USDA recognizes programs and initiatives will have the greatest impact when these programs and initiatives put American farmers, ranchers, and foresters first by:

- solving the most pressing challenges they face;
- protecting America’s food, fuel, and fiber supply to enhance national security;
- supporting production of healthy and safe food for consumers;
- expanding and developing domestic markets;
- training the next generation of agriculturalists; and
- fueling innovation to keep American farmers at the forefront of productivity.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is committed to advancing these principles and encourages applicants to actively engage farmers, ranchers, and foresters when applying for funding opportunities to ensure relevancy and adherence to them. NIFA also encourages agricultural leaders to engage in the peer review panel process to ensure American producers are better served through research, education, and extension activities.

Projects submitted under this NOFO should align with [USDA Secretary’s Memorandum 1078-020](#) Directive on Departmental Research and Development Priorities:

1. Increasing Profitability of Farmers and Ranchers
2. Expanding Markets and Creating New Uses of U.S. Agricultural Products
3. Protecting the Integrity of American Agriculture from Invasive Species
4. Promoting Soil Health to Regenerate Long-Term Productivity of Land
5. Improving Human Health through Precision Nutrition and Food Quality

Stakeholder Input. NIFA seeks comments on all Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments to the extent possible when developing NOFOs and uses

comments to help meet the requirements of Section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 ([7 U.S.C. 7613\(c\)\(2\)](#)). Applicants may submit written comments to Policy@usda.gov. Please use the following subject line: Response to the Crop Protection and Pest Management NOFO.

Centers of Excellence. Applicants are encouraged to visit the NIFA's [Centers of Excellence \(COE\)](#) for information on COE designation process, including COE criteria, and a list of programs offering COE opportunities

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This notice identifies the objectives for CPPM projects, deadlines, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions. The purpose of CPPM awards is to enhance the development, adoption, and implementation of innovative and practical IPM technologies, tactics and strategies that address state, regional, and/or national IPM priorities.

The amount available for the CPPM program in FY 2026 for the Applied Research and Development Program (ARDP) and the Regional Coordination Program (RCP) program areas is approximately \$4,100,000, and \$4,150,000, respectively.

NIFA requests applications to address critical state, regional and national integrated pest management (IPM) needs to ensure food security and respond effectively to other major pest management challenges to US agriculture. The CPPM program supports projects that address these challenges with IPM approaches developed by coordinated state, regional, and national research, and Extension efforts. The impacts of this research and Extension efforts will be increased by the establishment of communication networks and stakeholder participation in setting priorities. In FY 2026, NIFA will only accept competitive applications for funding in the ARDP and RCP program areas of CPPM.

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PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) ([7 U.S.C. 7626](#)) as amended authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a competitive grants program that provides funding for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education activities.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The purpose of the CPPM program (Assistance Listing 10.329) is to provide funding for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, Extension, and education activities. The goals and objectives of CPPM are to address high-priority issues related to pests, including insects, nematodes, pathogens, weeds, and other pests, and their management using IPM approaches at the state, regional, and national levels. The CPPM program supports projects that will ensure sufficient food production increase producer profitability, and respond effectively to other pest management challenges with comprehensive IPM approaches. Priority is given to proposals that address management of invasive species. The CPPM program also addresses IPM challenges for existing pest concerns that can be addressed more effectively with new and emerging technologies. The outcomes of the CPPM program are IPM practices and strategies needed to maintain agricultural profitability.

The CPPM program provides support for research to develop and discover new IPM approaches; extension to disseminate IPM knowledge and improve adoption of IPM practices; and coordination for collaboration of IPM activities at the regional and national levels. CPPM program areas represent a comprehensive approach for developing IPM practices and strategies and extending this new knowledge across many agro-environments through a coordinated national network. It is anticipated that the application of this evidence-based science will have positive outcomes for the agricultural sector and the nation.

In FY 2026, applications to the ARDP program area must address:

ARDP Research Projects – either of the following priorities:

1. Development of individual tools and tactics essential for pest management systems (e.g., biocontrol, cultural/physical/mechanical control, host plant resistance, particularly novel uses of chemicals, monitoring methods, or decision support, etc.).
2. Advanced understanding of how interactions among tactics alter the effectiveness of pest management within agricultural ecosystems.

ARDP Integrated Projects – one or more of the following Extension priorities in addition to one of the above Research priorities:

1. Development of extension materials and information delivery systems for outreach efforts.
2. Implementation of field-scale or on-farm demonstrations.
3. Delivery of IPM extension outreach and training.

RCP Projects

CPPM's RCP program area expects making one award for each of NIFA's four administrative regions: North Central, Northeastern, Southern, and Western. The RCP award in each region is to fund one regional IPM center. NIFA also anticipates providing additional funding to one

regional IPM center for an optional project supplement to support the IPM information system; budgets may not exceed \$150,000 per year.

RCP Project priorities:

1. Development and Adoption of IPM
 - Enhance development and adoption of regional tailored IPM solutions and strategically promote national outcomes for priority pest management issues.
 - Promote the overarching National IPM Roadmap goals.
2. Intra- and Inter-Regional IPM Collaboration and Cooperation
 - Enhance intra- and inter-regional IPM collaboration and cooperation to ensure efficient use of resources to achieve IPM outcomes identified by the CPPM program.
 - Support the development and implementation of IPM on regional and national priorities by facilitating collaboration across states, disciplines, research and Extension communities, commodities, and settings.
 - Increase coordination of IPM research, education and Extension efforts and respond to critical, high-priority IPM needs by serving as regional focal points for core regional IPM support services, regional pest management information networks, collaborative team building, and broad-based stakeholder participation.
 - Maintain coordination with the respective Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Director and the Regional Extension Association Director.
 - Engage fully with the appropriate regional Hatch Multistate IPM Education/Extension and Research Activities (currently labeled NCERA-222, NEERA-1604, SERA-03, and WERA-1017) and other appropriate IPM-related Hatch Multistate Research Committees to facilitate and obtain regional priority IPM outcomes.
 - Coordinate actively with and provide assistance to the Project Directors (PDs) within the region who receive awards from the other two CPPM program areas (ARDP and EIP).
 - Engage with and support the respective regional IR-4 program, the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), government agencies to further mutual IPM goals.
 - Support IPM projects that may require inter- or inter-regional collaborations.
3. IPM Information Networks
 - Establish and maintain multi-state information networks.
 - Engage with Extension IPM programs and other IPM-related programs and experts operating at the national, regional, state, and local levels.
 - Develop the capacity through the IPM information network to review science and regulatory documents related to IPM and to share current pest management information with pest managers and other stakeholders.
4. IPM Partnerships
 - Build partnerships to address IPM challenges and opportunities.
 - Establish broad-based stakeholder advisory and steering committees to provide an opportunity for research and Extension experts, IPM practitioners, and other stakeholders to identify and prioritize pest management needs, challenges, and opportunities in the respective region.

- Maintain a website listing of current, regional IPM priorities obtained from IPM stakeholders and, as appropriate, engage stakeholders in a regional process to identify and prioritize IPM needs, focus center resources and programs on the identified priorities, and share regional IPM priorities with NIFA annually.
 - Use input from a wide variety of sources in the IPM needs prioritization process such as research and Extension faculty including the state Extension IPM coordinators; multistate research and Extension committees that address pest management issues; members of IPM-related Extension's Networks, commodity associations and other groups representing end-users; and public interest groups.
 - Work in partnership with appropriate government agencies, private sector organizations, and academic institutions on opportunities for interagency cooperation and shared funding of priority projects.
5. Evaluation of IPM Implementation
- Incorporate assessment and evaluation into IPM center programs to document the outcomes and impacts of IPM research and extension efforts throughout its region, including the aggregation and synthesis of existing information and the generation of new information.
 - Review and evaluate impacts of IPM implementation.
 - Collaborate with the other regional IPM centers to standardize evaluation metrics.
 - Communicate outcomes, impacts, and success stories to key stakeholders, funding organizations, and policy makers.

C. Program Area Description

NIFA is soliciting applications for the ARDP and RCP program areas:

1. Applied Research and Development Program

Table 2: Applied Research and Development Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	ARDP
Program Code Name:	Applied Research and Development Area
ALN:	10.329
Project Type:	Applied Research or Integrated (Research and Extension)
Grant Type:	Standard
Application Deadline	July 6, 2026
Grant Duration:	24-36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	14-16
Minimum Award Amount:	\$300,000
Maximum Award Amount:	\$300,000

a. Program Area Requirements

- i. All ARDP applications must include: **Stakeholder-Identified IPM Needs.** Include at least one citation that clearly documents the specific stakeholder-identified need(s) addressed by the proposed project. Sources of stakeholder-identified needs include, but are not limited to:
 1. Needs identified by the regional IPM centers:
<https://www.ipmcenters.org/>.
 2. Needs identified in Crop Profiles.
 3. Needs identified in Pest Management Strategic Plans.
 4. Recommendations or reports from state IPM programs.
 5. Recommendations from relevant IPM research and/or Extension multi-state committees.
 6. Recommendations from other IPM stakeholder groups.
 7. Other documented IPM needs assessment evaluations.
- ii. **Multi-State/U.S. Territory and/or Regional/National Involvement.** All applications, including those with PDs from one state or U.S. territory, must clearly describe how the project will provide benefits to more than one state or U.S. territory.
- iii. **Multi-Disciplinary and Systems-Oriented.** Describe how the project will promote cooperative efforts across appropriate disciplines, linkages between research and Extension, and the improvement of existing or emerging integrated pest management systems.

- iv. **Systems Approach.** Describe how the proposal will enhance the development, adoption, and implementation of innovative IPM strategies and systems. ARDP seeks applications for developing IPM strategies that integrate multiple pest management tactics, with the primary emphasis on enhancing productivity and profitability.
- v. **Implementation Plan.** Describe, as appropriate, in the project narrative for each project type: 1) how the project will implement results generated by the project with stakeholders, and 2) how the project will measure and assess adoption, implementation, and potential impacts by stakeholders using cost-effective approaches and criteria.
- vi. **Coordination.** Describe the project team’s plans to participate in the appropriate regional Hatch Multistate IPM Education/Extension and Research Activities (e.g., NCERA-222, NEERA-1604, SERA-03, and WERA-1017), other relevant research multi-state projects, and the respective regional IPM center
- vii. **Partnerships.** Describe plans to develop and enhance partnerships that are essential for the success of the project.
- viii. **Logic Model. Three-Page Limit.** This attachment does not count against the 18-page limit for project narratives.
- ix. **National IPM Roadmap.** Address in the project narrative and the project-specific logic model chart applicable goals identified by the National IPM Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management (see National IPM Roadmap).
- x. **Project Director Workshop.** Successful ARDP awardees are required to attend and give a presentation at a Project Director (PD) workshop during the term of their project. The regional IPM centers will organize and conduct these project director workshops in each region.

2. Regional Coordination Program

Table 3: Regional Coordination Program Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	RCP
Program Code Name:	Regional Coordination Program
ALN:	10.329
Project Type:	Regional IPM Center, Optional Supplement for IPM Information System
Grant Type:	Standard
Application Deadline	July 6, 2026
Grant Duration:	44 Months

Anticipated # of Awards:	4
Minimum Award Amount:	\$1,000,000 per year
Maximum Award Amount:	\$1,150,000 per year

- a. **Program Area Requirements: RCP applications must address the following requirements:**
- i. Describe plans to serve as an intra-regional and inter-regional IPM focal point and facilitator.
 - ii. Describe plans to manage funding resources effectively by establishing processes for: a) managing sub-awards supported by NIFA funding through the regional IPM center award; b) identifying regional priorities; and ensuring that: c) eligible applicants are notified of funding opportunities; and d) funding is distributed in a fair and equitable fashion.
 - iii. All applicants are required to submit a project-specific logic model (see Other Project Information Form under [Part IV § B3](#)).
 - iv. Develop and enhance collaboration with small- or mid-sized accredited colleges and universities, 1890 Land-grant Institutions, 1994 Land-grant Institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities, and appropriate other institutions that contribute to or support U.S. pest management issues.
 - v. Address the needs of selected audiences; and include support for at least one center team member to attend bi-annual leadership meetings and the International IPM Symposium to report on regional IPM center activities, outputs, outcomes, and impacts.
 - vi. Build on the capacity of universities in the region to support IPM and the expanded responsiveness resulting from past regional IPM center programs.
- b. **RCP Optional Project Supplement for an IPM Information System:** As part of an RCP proposal, applicants may include a request for funding to develop and maintain a national IPM information system to serve as a resource for IPM researchers, extension staff, educators, and practitioners. The following are requirements for an Optional Project Supplement:
- i. Describe plans to deliver IPM information regionally and nationally to a wide variety of stakeholders and customers through an improved web presence. Include and highlight IPM information produced by NIFA-supported IPM programs in addition to information currently posted at [The USDA Regional IPM Centers](#).
 - ii. Provide a logic model-based report software for use in reporting outputs, outcomes, and impacts of NIFA-supported IPM research, education and Extension projects. See [Integrated Programs' Logic Model Planning Process](#) for definitions of evaluation terms including outputs, outcomes, and changes in knowledge, behavior, and condition.
 - iii. Provide web-based networking tools for IPM research and Extension personnel.
 - iv. Collect and synthesize impact information from NIFA-supported projects for incorporation in the interagency IPM Project Database.

- v. Serve as a key reference and information support tool for cataloging and setting IPM program priorities.
- vi. Demonstrate the ability to develop and maintain a cooperative working relationship with the wide range of IPM research and Extension programs supported by NIFA listed in [Part I § C](#) and listed in the CPPM programmatic logic model of this NOFO.
- vii. Describe how the proposed objectives and approach for the proposed IPM information system will achieve IPM information objectives and goals as described in [Part I § C](#), of this NOFO.
- viii. Describe a plan to analyze web information at least quarterly, determine required actions, and delegate responsibilities to update information.
- ix. Describe a plan to provide for the continuity of current databases and preparation of a transition plan that documents the resources and steps needed to transfer key databases to alternate host sites if funding resources become unavailable for future maintenance of the IPM information system.
- x. Submit a separate project-specific logic model chart (this one is in addition to the logic model for the regional IPM center) (see R&R Other Project Information Form in Part IV § B).

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The amount available for ARDP in FY 2026 is approximately \$4,100,000 to fund new competitive projects. The amount available for RCP in FY 2026 is approximately \$4,150,000 to fund the first year of new competitive projects. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

The [Automated Standard Application for Payments](#), operated by the Department of Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this NOFO.

B. Application Restrictions

NIFA will evaluate applications using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO. Application for FY 2026 is limited to the following application types:

1. *New application*: New applications will be evaluated using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this NOFO and are subject to the due dates herein (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).
2. *Resubmitted application*: Resubmitted applications must include the response to the previous review panel summary and are subject to the same criteria and due dates herein. Resubmitted applicants must enter the NIFA-assigned proposal number of the previously submitted application in the *Federal Field (Field 4)* on the application form (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).

C. Project and Grant Types

All grants are of standard type.

ARDP projects that are eligible for funding include:

1. *Applied Research* projects develop innovative IPM technologies, tactics, strategies, and systems that address regional and/or national IPM priorities.
2. *Integrated* projects enhance the adoption of innovative IPM strategies and systems and must include research and Extension components/objectives.

RCP projects that are eligible for funding are coordinated/extension-based. Applicants must propose a Regional IPM Center with the option of a supplement for an IPM Information System.

D. Ethical Conduct of Funded Projects.

In accordance with sections [2, 3, and 8 of 2 CFR Part 422](#), institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award, that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients must, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and documentation to support the conduct of the training. See [Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research](#) for further information.

PART III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the CPPM program must meet all the requirements discussed in this NOFO. Failure to meet the eligibility criteria by the application deadline may result in exclusion from consideration or preclude NIFA from making an award. For those new to Federal financial assistance, NIFA's [About Grants](#) provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

Applications may only be submitted by colleges and universities (as defined by Section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 ([7 U.S.C. 3103\(4\)](#)), as amended, Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities, ([7 U.S.C. 3103\(10\)](#)), and 1994 Institutions ([7 U.S.C 301](#) note).

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project, subject to NIFA approval.

USDA **will not accept** competitive applications for grants and cooperative agreements for dangerous gain-of-function research, as defined in [Section 8 of E.O. 14292](#).

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions – duplicate or multiple submissions are not allowed. NIFA will disqualify both applications if an applicant submits duplicate or multiple submissions.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Match Required – Applicants **MUST** provide matching contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all Federal funds awarded under the CPPM program. NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if one of the following applies:

1. The results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or
2. The project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

C. Centers of Excellence

Pursuant to Section 7214 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 ([7 U.S.C. 5926](#)), NIFA will recognize and prioritize COE applicants that carry out research, extension, and education activities that relate to the food and agricultural sciences. A COE is composed of one or more of the following entities that provide financial or in-kind support to the COE. (This list is not all-inclusive and is subject to change based on legislative authority. You may edit this section as applicable. See COEs for the 1890s in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 for additional COEs).

1. State agricultural experiment stations.
2. Colleges and universities.
3. University research foundations.
4. Other research institutions and organizations.
5. Federal agencies.
6. National laboratories.
7. Private organizations, foundations, or corporations.
8. Individuals; or

9. Any group consisting of two or more of the entities described in (1) through (8).

PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

A. Method of Application

Applicants must apply to this NOFO electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this NOFO and additional resources are available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [Grants 101](#). **Table 5** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part III** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) contains detailed information regarding the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration process. [The NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is contained in the specific funding opportunity package or a sample of the guide can be found [here](#). When applying for a NIFA award, it is important to reference the version of the guide that is included in the specific funding opportunity application package.

Table 4. Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	<i>New Users</i> to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application).
Step Two: Download Adobe	Download and Install Adobe Reader (see Adobe Software Compatibility for basic system requirements).
Step Three: Find Application	Using this funding opportunity number USDA-NIFA-CPPM-011908 search for application here: Opportunity Package .
Step Four: Assess Readiness	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization’s readiness to submit an electronic application.

Table 5: Help and Resources

Grants.gov Support	NIFA Support
Grants.gov Online Support Telephone support: 800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035 Email support: support@grants.gov Self-service customer-based support: Grants.gov iPortal Customer service business Hours 24/7, except Federal holidays .	Email: grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov Business hours: Monday thru Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, except Federal holidays .

B. Content and Form of the Application

The [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is part of the corresponding application package for this NOFO. The NOFO overrides the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. Applicants that do not meet the application requirements, to include partial applications, risk being excluded from NIFA’s review. NIFA will assign a proposal number to all applications that meet the requirements of this NOFO. Applicants must refer to the proposal number when corresponding with NIFA. **Table 7** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 6: Key Application Instructions

Instruction	References (All references are to the NIFA Grants Application Guide)
Attachments must be in a portable document format (PDF) format.	Part IV
Check the manifest of submitted files to verify attachments are in the correct format.	Part IV
Conduct an administrative review of the application before submission.	Part IV
Follow the submission instructions.	Part IV
Provide an accurate email address, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R.	Part V
Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for technical support and keep a record of the correspondence.	N/A
Contact NIFA if applicant does not receive correspondence from NIFA regarding an application within 30/45/60/90 (modify this number as necessary) days of the application deadline.	N/A

SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for the required certifications and assurances.

SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s). See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract.** The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals of the CPPM program. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for instructions and suggested templates. The project summary must indicate which specific FY 2026 program area and/or project type the proposed project addresses. RCP application must indicate whether the application includes the optional program supplement for the IMP information system.

2. **Field 8. Project Narrative (PN).** The PN must not exceed **18 1.5-spaced** pages of written text, figures, and tables; the font size for written text should be 12-point type and for tables and figures should be no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman. RCP proposals that also include the optional project supplement for the IPM information system are permitted to have an additional seven pages for the supplement to have a total of 25 pages (18 pages main narrative + 7 pages for supplement). The page limits outlined here ensure fair competition. The PN must include all the following:
 - a. **Response to Previous Review** (1 page): This requirement only applies to Resubmitted Applications. The response to previous review must not exceed one

1.5-spaced page. This does not count towards the page limit for the PN. Include the application number of the previous submission in the response.

For proposals submitted to the ARDP program area:

- b. **Problem, Background, and Justification:**
 - i. Project type. Include in the initial sentence the project type (Applied Research, or Integrated (Research and Extension)).
 - ii. Problem. Describe, in simple terms, how the pest problem being addressed is important (economic losses caused).
 - iii. Review and reference of relevant completed or ongoing work (local/ regional/ national).
 - iv. Justification. Identify who will benefit from your project in multistate/U.S. territory, regional, and/or national terms.
- c. **Objectives and Anticipated Impacts:** Provide clear, concise, and logical objectives of the proposed effort. State clearly the likely impact of the proposed effort and how farmers, ranchers or foresters will benefit from the proposed work Integrated proposals should identify each objective as either research- or Extension-related.
- d. **Approach and Procedures:** Fully describe the procedures for each objective and how the project team will achieve the stated objectives.
- e. **Multi-State/U.S. Territory and/or Regional/National Involvement and Partnerships:** (see [Part I § B](#) of this NOFO).
- f. **Implementation Plan and Timeline:** (see [Part I § B](#) of this NOFO).

For proposals Submitted to the RCP program area:

- a. Provide a full description of the mission and goals of the proposed regional IPM center. Include the justification for the center and the likely impacts of the center and benefits to farmers, ranchers or foresters.
- b. Include a description of the management process and structure the regional IPM center proposes to use with regards to establishing advisory/steering committees, involving stakeholders, identifying program needs and priorities, and developing a strategic plan.
- c. Describe methods for establishing and maintaining interactive broad information networks. Include details on how the proposed regional IPM center will fully engage with the groups listed below:
 - i. Respective multistate IPM groups labeled [NCERA-222](#), [NEERA-1604](#), [SERA-03](#), and [WERA-1017](#) (See the National Information Management and Support System ([NIMSS](#))).
 - ii. Applicable regional pest management activities.
 - iii. The respective Regional Association of State Agricultural Experiment Station Directors and Extension Directors.
 - iv. The Project Directors (PDs) within their respective region who receive grants from NIFA for the CPPM program areas of ARDP and EIP.
- d. Describe the center's proposed signature food security programs and their potential impact(s).
- e. Describe the center's proposed plan for evaluation of outputs and outcomes of applicable IPM research and Extension activities.

- f. Include a description of the process that will be used to ensure effective management of IPM center resources, including a fair grant review process.
- g. Describe the plan, including milestones, to assess progress and accomplishments throughout the project.

Proposals Submitted Optional RCP Project Supplement for the IPM Information System:

After the necessary information is provided for the regional IPM center narrative, include the following additional information within the same project narrative:

- a. **Introduction:** Include information on the following in the order identified:
 - i. Summarize the work to be performed in non-technical terms.
 - ii. Concisely state the goal(s) of the proposed IPM Information System.
 - iii. Describe how the IPM Information System will build upon or expand related work or programs.
 - iv. Describe how the work on the IPM Information System relates to the experience of key project personnel.
 - v. Describe the involvement of stakeholders in developing project objectives and implementing results.
 - vi. Define the target audience and end users of the IPM Information System.
 - b. **Objectives:**
 - i. Provide a brief review of the goal(s) stated in the Introduction.
 - ii. Present a clear, concise set of project objectives.
 - c. **Methods:** Describe the procedures by objective for the proposed effort, including:
 - i. Techniques and methods to be employed, including their feasibility and rationale for their use in the IPM Information System.
 - ii. Timeline for proposed project objectives with milestones and verifiable indicators for demonstrating progress.
 - d. **Networking plan:**
 - i. Provide a credible, detailed plan for successful national and regional networking with IPM programs.
 - ii. Include how the implementation of the networking plan for the IPM information system facilitates and supports regional and national IPM outcomes consistent with the CPPM program.
3. **Field 12.** Add Other Attachments. See **Part V** of the [Application Guide](#).
- a. Centers of Excellence Justification (optional): Applicants requesting consideration of COE status must include their justification within one page.
 - b. Logic Model. A Logic Model is required of all applications and is limited to 3 pages. The project-specific logic model must provide details for the: inputs, outputs (activities and participants), and outcomes, situation, assumptions, and external factors of the proposed project. Refer to the logic model chart in your project description, evaluation plans, and elsewhere, as applicable. Additional information is available at these web sites: [Integrated Programs' Logic Model Planning Process](#), [Logic Model Planning Process](#), and [Program Development and Evaluation](#).
 - c. Data Management Plan (DMP): A DMP is required for this program, not to exceed two pages. Applicants should clearly articulate how the project director (PD) and co-

- PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project (see NIFA's Data Management Plan). The DMP will be considered during the merit review process. The Data Management Plan should detail how project data will be curated and made available once the project is completed (included as Other Attachment).
- d. Mentoring Plan (MP): Two-page limit. A MP is required for all grant types that involve student or participant training or mentoring. MPs should be included as a separate attachment and uploaded to Field 12 of the grant application. All student/trainee types can be included in the same MP. The guidelines below apply to all grant types. The MP should describe each of the following:
 - a. Past or proposed training of individuals who will serve as mentors including equipping, mentoring, or monitoring activities they have received or will receive to help them effectively mentor students and trainees during the project;
 - b. Groups of students or individual trainees to be mentored on the project, including students grades 9-12, undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, professionals and any other individuals to be trained or mentored on the project;
 - c. Detailed mentoring activities to be delivered throughout the project to each distinct category or group of students and/or trainee participants, including those activities provided through research, education, Extension or outreach efforts;
 - d. Expected outcomes derived from the mentoring activities and prospective impact(s) on the food and agricultural sciences.

R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded). See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for profile requirements, details about the biographical sketch, and suggested support templates.

R&R Personal Data. This information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award (see **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#)).

R&R Budget. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. Match - If an ARDP or RCP applicant concludes that the matching requirements described under [Part III, B](#) of this NOFO are not applicable to them; the applicant must include an explanation of their conclusion in the *budget justification*. NIFA will consider this justification when determining final matching requirements or if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

Grants that require matching funds as specified under [Part III, B](#) of this NOFO must list in their *budget justification* the matching sources, the identification of the entity(ies) providing the match, and the total pledged amount. A written verification of commitments of matching support (a pledge agreement) is not required. However, applicants are subject to the documentation, valuing and reporting requirements, as specified in [2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards \(the Uniform Guidance\),"](#) and [7 CFR 3430,](#)

[“Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions.”](#)

2. Indirect Costs (IDC) – See [Part IV, C](#) of this NOFO for funding restrictions regarding IDC, and Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for additional information. <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/nifa-22-001-nifa-grants-application-guide>

Supplemental Information Form. See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

1. **Field 2. Program to which the applicant is applying.** Enter the program name “Applied Research and Development Program” or “Regional Coordination Program” and the program code “ARDP” or “RCP.” Accurate entry is critical.
2. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See **Part V** of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

C. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Cost (IDC) is not to exceed 30 percent of the recipient’s Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA). [7 U.S.C. 3310](#) limits the recovery of IDC for the overall award to 30 percent of the TFFA under a research, education, or Extension grant. The maximum allowable IDC amount recoverable under the award, including the IDC charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, is the lesser of the following and is determined by calculating the amount of IDC using:

1. The sum of an institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate and the indirect cost rate charged by sub-awardees, if any.
2. 30 percent of TFFA.

If the result of number one is the lesser of the two amounts, the grant recipient is allowed to charge the negotiated IDC rate on the prime award and the sub-award(s), if any. Any sub-awards would be subject to the sub-awardee’s negotiated IDC rate. The sub-awardee may charge its negotiated IDC rate on its portion of the award, provided the sum of the IDC amount charged under the award by the prime awardee and the sub-awardee(s) does not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

If the result of number two is the lesser of the two amounts, then the maximum IDC allowed for the overall award, including any sub-award(s), is limited to 30 percent of the TFFA. That is, the IDC of the prime awardee plus the sum of the IDC charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, may not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

In the event of an award, the prime awardee is responsible for ensuring the maximum indirect cost allowed for the award is not exceeded when combining IDC for the Federal portion (i.e., prime and sub-awardee(s)) and any applicable cost-sharing. Amounts exceeding the maximum allowable IDC are considered unallowable. See sections [408](#) and [410](#) of [2 CFR 200](#).

If the applicant does not have a negotiated rate and NIFA is the cognizant agency, the applicant may request an IDC rate. Applicants are not required to complete the IDC package during the application process and need only to calculate a rate to serve as a basis for requesting IDC. If awarded, the applicant will be required to submit a complete IDC proposal package to obtain a negotiated rate.

Organizations that do not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate, may elect the de minimis rate ([2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). The Uniform Guidance offers the option of electing to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC) which may be used indefinitely. As described above and in [2 CFR 200.403](#), costs must be charged consistently as either indirect or direct costs but may not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. If elected, this methodology must be used consistently for all Federal awards until such time as a non-Federal entity chooses to negotiate for a rate, which it may do at any time.

See [NIFA Indirect Costs](#) for information including [additional resources](#) and [NIFA Indirect Cost Guidance Chart](#).

PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. NIFA's Evaluation Process

NIFA evaluates each application in a two-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements set forth in this NOFO. All administrative requirements must be met in order for the application to proceed to the next level of review. Second, a scientific peer-review process will be used to technically evaluate applications that have met the administrative requirements using a review panel (see [NIFA Peer Review Process](#)).

Scientific Peer Review Process:

NIFA selects reviewers for the review panel based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

1. The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities.
2. The need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields.
3. The need to include other experts (e.g., agricultural producers, range or forest managers/operators, researchers, educators, evaluators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs.
4. The need to include experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, and private profit and nonprofit organizations) and geographic locations.
5. The need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to the reviewer's area of expertise, geographic area, and entity type, as appropriate.
6. The need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

After each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible program staff of NIFA will recommend that your project is either approved for support from currently available funds or declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review.

NIFA reserves the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., reductions in the scope of work, funding level, period, or method of support) prior to recommending any project for funding.

After the review process has been completed, NIFA sends copies of reviews, *not* including the identity of reviewers, and a summary (if applicable) of the review panel comments to the PD.

Conflicts of interest. NIFA takes extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may influence the review or evaluation (see [NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications](#)).

B. Evaluation Criteria

NIFA will use the following weighted criteria to evaluate ARDP applications responding to this NOFO:

ARDP Applications

1. Technical Merit of Applied Research (45 points)

- a. The description and documentation of project IPM objectives and proposed outcomes to be addressed.
- b. When model systems are used, the transferability of knowledge gained from these systems to organisms of importance to U.S. agriculture.
- c. The conceptual soundness of the proposal approach including appropriate research hypotheses.
- d. The description of the suitability, feasibility, originality, and innovation of the proposed approach, procedures, and methodologies.
- e. Preliminary data submitted in the proposal which demonstrate feasibility of the proposed research.
- f. The level of scientific originality and risk-reward balance that indicate a high probability of project success.
- g. Description of how proposed Extension participants and activities (where applicable) will lead to measurable, documented changes in knowledge/learning, actions/behaviors, or conditions in an identified audience or stakeholder group.
- h. Description of the suitability and feasibility of the data management plan.

2. Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management (20 points)

- a. Qualifications of applicants (individual or team), performance record, and potential to conduct the proposed project and achieve research objectives.
- b. Project Team awareness of previous and alternative approaches to the identified problem.
- c. The institutional capacity and competence to complete the proposed area of work.
- d. The capacity of support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation to complete the proposed area of work.
- e. Appropriate timelines and key milestones to complete objectives on schedule, administer and manage the project partnerships/collaborations, translate outcomes, and coordinate project participants and institutions.
- f. The budget allocation with sufficient resources to carry out a set of research and Extension (where applicable) activities that will lead to desired outcomes, as well as low administrative costs to maximize cost-effectiveness and return on investment.

3. Project Relevance (35 points)

- a. Adequate documentation that the proposal is directed toward specific research program area priorities identified in this NOFO.
- b. The description and documentation of identified stakeholder needs for the proposed work.
- c. The suitability and feasibility of the proposal plan and methods for evaluating success of project activities and documenting potential impacts against measurable short and mid-term outcomes.
- d. Integration of project research and Extension components (where applicable) to fully address the problem or issue addressed in the proposal

- e. The description of the proposal’s plan for adoption and implementation of results generated by the project, and description of cost-effective approaches and criteria to measure and assess adoption, implementation, and potential impact(s) of the project. The description of each of the required elements of the Logic Model chart is appropriate.

NIFA will use the following criteria to evaluate RCP applications (including applications with the optional project supplement) responding to this NOFO:

1. Relevance of activities (55 points)

- a. The project proposal is directed to IPM RCP priorities identified in this NOFO and to current or future IPM problems and challenges facing the respective region.
- b. Description of stakeholder involvement in the project including how stakeholders will be involved in defining the program, how their input will be solicited and incorporated, how stakeholder input was used to determine program goals, and how the IPM center will engage with stakeholders throughout the project.
- c. Description and documentation that the proposed IPM center project incorporates RCP IPM priorities, effective team building involving appropriate cooperators and disciplines, and networking with other appropriate inter and intra-regional programs stated in this NOFO.

2. Proposed Technical Merit and Quality (45 points)

- a. Conceptual adequacy of project objectives to obtain RCP program area priorities that are attainable within project time, scope, and budget. The outcomes and impacts of the center are clearly stated and achievable.
- b. Description of the proposed IPM center project including methodology and analytical approach; planned activities for expected outcomes; configuration of the regional IPM center; potential to engage with IPM stakeholders and other IPM-related programs; and capacity of the host institution(s) to provide support, and commitment to regional IPM programs and leadership.
- c. Qualifications and expertise of proposed IPM center staff including senior and key project and program members, and collaborators. Description of respective roles of center staff for planned activities, analysis, and evaluation.
- d. Description of audiences and serviced populations where appropriate.
- e. Appropriateness of the budget for the proposed project outputs, including limited administrative costs to maximize cost-effectiveness and return on investment.

C. Centers of Excellence

In addition to evaluating applicants using the criterion listed in [Part V, B](#) of this NOFO, NIFA will use the COE standards described in this NOFO to evaluate applicants that rank highly meritorious and requested to be considered as a COE. In instances where applicants are found to be equally meritorious with the application of a non-COE applicant, NIFA will prioritize the COE applicant meeting the COE criteria. NIFA will effectively use the COE prioritization as a “tie breaker.” Applicants that rank highly meritorious but who did not request consideration as a COE or who are not deemed to have met the COE standards may still receive funding.

Applicants that meet the COE requirements will have the COE designation in their notice of award. Entities recognized as COE will maintain that distinction for the duration of their period of performance or as identified in the terms and conditions of that award.

D. Organizational Management Information

Applicants must submit specific management information prior to an award and update the information as needed. Applicants may only need to provide an update if there was a change in previously provided information under this or another NIFA program. NIFA provides the requisite forms during the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible for award under this program, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual, or a determination that an applicant is not responsible).

E. Application Disposition

Applicants may withdraw at any time before NIFA makes a final funding decision. NIFA will retain all applications, including withdrawn applications and unfunded applications.

PART VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds authorized, the NIFA awarding official will make grants to responsible and eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this NOFO. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant must be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. The project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period.

All funds granted by NIFA under this NOFO may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the program-specific laws and regulations, NIFA General Awards Administrative Provisions ([7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E](#)), USDA Regulations for Grants and Agreements ([2 CFR Chapter IV](#)), Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance ([2 CFR part 200](#)), [NIFA-specific terms and conditions](#), [USDA General Terms and Conditions for Federal Awards](#), and approved budget and project plans.

The Notice of Award document will provide pertinent instructions and information as described in [2 CFR 200.211](#) (see [NIFA's Terms and Conditions](#)).

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications and the projects outlined in this NOFO (some are listed here: [Federal Regulations](#)). Unless specifically noted by statute or award-specific requirements, [NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#) applies to all NIFA awards.

C. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Output and reporting requirements are included in the [award terms and conditions](#). If there are any program or award-specific award terms, they will be identified in the Award Notice.

PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget

Delegation of fiscal responsibility. Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

Changes in Budget or Project Plans. In accordance with [2 CFR 200.308](#), awardees must request prior approval from NIFA for the following program or budget-related reasons (the awardee is subject to the terms and conditions identified in the award):

1. Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program without prior written approval (even if there is no associated budget revision required);
2. Change in a key person specified in the application or the Federal award;
3. Disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project;
4. Inclusion of costs that require prior approval in accordance with [2 CFR 200 Subpart E \(Cost Principles\)](#), or [2 CFR Part 300 Appendix IX](#), (Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Awards and Contracts with Hospitals), or [48 CFR](#), unless waived by the Federal awarding agency, [48 CFR Part 31, Contract Cost Principles and Procedures](#);
5. Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense ([2 CFR 200.456 Participant support costs](#));
6. Sub-awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a Federal award, including fixed amount sub-awards (see [2 CFR 200.333, Fixed Amount Sub-awards](#)), unless described in the application and funded in the approved Federal awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services;
7. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-Federal entity.
8. The need for additional Federal funds to complete the project;
9. Salary rates of pay exceeding an Executive Level IV salary range (see “Rates of Pay for the Executive Schedule” under the “Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables” header at <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/>) require prior NIFA approval. This rate does not include any fringe benefits, general and administrative (G&A), overhead, or other expenses. Requests for approval must include the salary rate of pay and a justification for the rate and be sent to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) to awards@usda.gov;
10. No more than 50 percent of the total dollars of this award may be subcontracted to another party(ies) without prior written approval of the ADO, except subcontracts to Federal agencies;
11. Transferring funds between the construction and non-construction work under a Federal award; and
12. A no-cost extension (meaning, an extension of time that does not require the obligation of additional Federal funds) of the period of performance, other than any one-time extension authorized by the Federal agency in accordance with paragraph 2 CFR 200.308(g)(2). All requests for no-cost extensions should be submitted at least 10 calendar days before the conclusion of the period of performance. The Federal agency may approve multiple no-cost extensions under a Federal award if not prohibited by Federal statute or regulation.

B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of NIFA transaction records, which are available to the public. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, applicants should clearly mark any information within the application they wish to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary. NIFA will retain a copy of an application that does not result in an award for three years. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An applicant may withdraw at any time prior to the final action thereon.

C. Regulatory Information

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ([44 U.S.C. Chapter 35](#)), the collection of information requirements contained in this notice have been approved under [OMB Document No. 0524-0039](#).

D. Language Access Services

NIFA offers language access services, such as interpretation and translation of vital information, free of charge. If you need interpretation or translation services, please visit [NIFA Language Access Services](#).

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT

For Programmatic questions please email:

CPPM.NIFA@USDA.gov

For administrative questions related to;

1. Grants.gov, see [Part IV](#) of this NOFO
2. Other NOFO or application questions, please email grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov
3. Awards under this NOFO, please email awards@usda.gov

U.S. Postal Mailing Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 419205, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

Courier/Package Delivery Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-3061

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

Applied Research and Development Program Area (ARDP)

Assistance Listing Number – ALN

Authorized Departmental Officer – ADO

Authorized Representative – AR

Crop Protection and Pest Management-CPPM

Data Management Plan – DMP

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA

Notice of Funding Opportunity – NOFO

Project Director-PD

Project Narrative-PN

Project Summary-PS Regional Coordination Program Area-RCP

Total Federal Funds Awarded-TFFA

United States Department of Agriculture – USDA

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

Refer to [7 CFR 3430 Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions](#) for additional definitions.

Definitions

Research Project:

A single-function project involving fundamental or applied (this NOFO) research conducted by individual investigators, co-investigators within the same discipline, or multidisciplinary teams.

Integrated Project:

A project incorporating two or three functions of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension) around a problem or activity. For the CPPM program, research and extension must be included in integrated projects.

Matching:

The process through which a grant recipient match awarded USDA funds with cash and in-kind contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The matching funds must derive from non-Federal sources.

New Application:

An application not previously submitted to a program.

Resubmitted Application:

A project application that was previously submitted to a program, but the application was not funded.