Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2020 Cooperative Agreements

Fiscal Year 2020 Request for Applications

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-20-0124

Publication Date: July 9, 2020

Application Due Date: August 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Funding Opportunity: Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2020 Cooperative Agreements

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing the availability of up to $3,500,000 in cooperative agreement funding to further develop and implement chronic wasting disease (CWD) management and response activities, including surveillance and testing as part of an overall management plan. Funds may also be provided to develop and evaluate techniques and strategies for controlling CWD. This is an APHIS program, jointly administered by Wildlife Services (WS) and Veterinary Services (VS); VS focuses on regulatory aspects of captive cervids and WS focuses on wildlife damage management involving wild deer. Project selection and funding decisions will be collaboratively made to balance interests of the wild and captive cervid sectors. APHIS is striving for roughly equal funding for the two sectors.

SYNOPSIS

Funding Opportunity Title: FY20 CWD Management and Response Activities

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-20-0124

Funding Type: Cooperative Agreement

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 10.025, Plant and Animal Disease, Pest Control, and Animal Care

Application Due Date: Application packages must be received by August 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time through ezFedGrants. Application packages received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Submissions through grants.gov will not be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Description: In this 2020 announcement, APHIS will make available up to $3,500,000 in funds to further develop and implement CWD management and response activities, including surveillance and testing as part of an overall management plan, and the development, evaluation, or implementation of knowledge, tools, or strategies to control and/or prevent CWD. This competitive cooperative agreement opportunity is open to State departments of agriculture, State animal health agencies, State departments of wildlife or natural resources, and Indian Tribes.

Cost Sharing: Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS may take into consideration an eligible entity's ability to contribute non-Federal funds to carry out such a cooperative agreement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Synopsis **2**
A. Program Description **4**
A.1 Funding Opportunity Description 4
A.2 Other Funding Considerations 5
A.3 Alignment with USDA APHIS Goals 5
A.4 Legislative Authority 5
B. Federal Award Information **6**
B.1 Cost Guidance 6
C. Eligibility Information **8**
C.1 Eligible Applicants 8
C.2 Cost Sharing or Matching 8
C.3 Other Criteria for Eligibility 8
D. Application and Submission Information **9**
D.1 Obtaining an Application Package 9
D.2 Content and Form of the Application Package 9
D.3 Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM) 10
D.4 Submission Dates and Times 10
D.5 Intergovernmental Review 11
D.6 Funding Restrictions 11
D.7 Other Submission Requirements 11
E. Application Review Information **12**
E.1 Criteria 12
E.2 Selection and Review Process 12
E.3 Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates 13
F. Federal Award Administration Information **13**
F.1 Award Notices 13
F.2 Administrative and National Policy Requirements 13
F.3 Reporting 14
F.4 Project Evaluation 14
G. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts **14**
H. Other Information **14**
Appendix 1: CWD Project Proposal Priorities and Examples of Activities **15**
Appendix 2: CWD Project Proposal Work Plan Template **19**
Appendix 3: CWD Project Proposal Financial Plan Template **24**
Appendix 4: CWD Project Proposal Review Criteria Definitions **27**

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Awarding Agency Name: USDA APHIS VS

Funding Opportunity Title: FY20 CWD Management and Response Activities

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-20-0124

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 10.025

Key Dates: Application packages must be received by August 14, 2020 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time through ezFedGrants. Application packages received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Submissions through grants.gov will not be accepted.

The cooperative agreement performance period is estimated to begin prior to October 1, 2020, and should end no later than 12 months after the start date. There is an allowance of a one-time extension request of the performance period up to 12 months to complete the project assuming there is no increase in funding requested. This request must be submitted in accordance with the cooperative agreement terms and conditions in order to be considered.

Applicants can find the funding opportunity information on the ezFedGrants web site or the Grants.gov web site by searching CFDA number **10.025** or Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-20-0124**.

A.1 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

This funding opportunity is provided to collaboratively prevent and control CWD, including the development, evaluation, or implementation of knowledge, tools, or strategies.

APHIS will make available up to $3,500,000 in funds for State departments of agriculture, State animal health agencies, State departments of wildlife or natural resources, and Indian Tribes. **The overall objective of the funding opportunity is to prevent and control CWD.** Through this funding opportunity, APHIS is soliciting collaborators who will develop and implement CWD management and response activities, including surveillance and testing as part of an overall management plan, or providing the information or tools needed to control and prevent CWD. Five priorities are described below, and it is noted that APHIS is not necessarily seeking to provide equal funding to each of the 5 priorities, but rather, to provide roughly equivalent funding amounts for proposals pertaining to wild and captive cervids. Proposals should focus on the following priorities:

1. **Improve the management of CWD affected herds and endemic populations.** For the purpose of this priority, management means effectively controlling CWD in affected farmed cervid herds and/or free ranging cervid populations by implementing or improving upon current guidance, such as the USDA APHIS VS CWD Program Standards and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Best Management Practices.
2. **Improve the management of CWD affected areas or premises.** For the purpose of this priority, management means managing the environment to effectively control CWD in an affected area (CWD affected premises or endemic areas) to control or prevent the spread of CWD by implementing or improving upon current guidance, such as the USDA APHIS VS CWD Program Standards and the AFWA Best Management Practices.

3. **Conduct additional research on amplification assays.** Amplification assays are test methods that identify CWD by amplifying small amounts of prion protein to levels that are detectable [i.e. Protein Misfolding Cyclic Amplification (PMCA), real-time quaking induced conversion (RT-QuIC), etc.]. Specifically, this funding opportunity is interested in proposals which will further the use of amplification assays as diagnostic or environmental tests, and/or efforts to make these tests commercially available for use.
4. **Conduct additional research on predictive genetics.** Current and ongoing research supports the use of predictive genetics to determine the susceptibility of cervids to CWD, which may provide the foundation for a genomics based CWD eradication program in the future.
5. **Develop and/or deliver educational outreach materials or programs.** For purposes of this priority, educational outreach means the methods, process, or action that provides education and facilitates learning of critical knowledge necessary to control and/or prevent CWD and its spread.

These priorities and examples of potential project activities for this cooperative agreement are included in Appendix 1.

A.2 OTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Each proposal should describe how the project will leverage existing resources through partnerships with local, State, and/or Federal government agencies, industry organizations, professional associations, producer groups, and/or non-profit organizations. Successful projects will meet the criteria described in Section E.1.

Applicants should describe the anticipated involvement by APHIS personnel that is needed to complete the proposed activity in the Work Plan and Financial Plan (excluding personnel to administer or oversee the cooperative agreement). APHIS intends to collaborate with recipients to successfully complete activities that are funded via this opportunity. However, due to limited availability of personnel, APHIS encourages proposals, where possible, that are not contingent on APHIS participation unless that participation was agreed to during the development of the proposal.

A.3 ALIGNMENT WITH USDA APHIS GOALS

The mission of APHIS is to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources. Further, APHIS works in a variety of ways to protect and improve the health and quality of our nation's animals by taking steps to prevent, control, and eliminate those diseases and conditions facing animals today. This funding opportunity supports the overall mission of USDA, which is to protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues.

A.4 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Under the Animal Health Protection Act (AHPA), as amended, (7 USC §§ 8301 et. seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue regulations and orders and to carry out operations and measures to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of livestock and to cooperate with other Federal agencies, States or political subdivisions of States, national governments of foreign countries, local governments of foreign countries, domestic or international organizations, domestic or international associations, Indian Tribes, and other persons to carry out the purposes of the AHPA.

Pursuant to 7 USC § 2279g, notwithstanding Chapter 63 of Title 31, APHIS is authorized to use cooperative agreements to reflect a relationship with a state or other recipient to carry out programs to protect the nation's animal and plant resources or to carry out educational programs or special studies to improve the safety of the nation's food supply.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Total Amount to be Awarded: APHIS will make available up to $3,500,000 in funds to support projects that address the funding priorities described in Section A.1.

Type of Assistance Instrument: Awards will be funded via cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements include substantial involvement by APHIS to assist in the completion of the goals and objectives of the work.

Anticipated Awards: APHIS anticipates awarding around 30 cooperative agreements and the amount awarded will range from $50,000 up to $250,000 per eligible entity. Priority may be given to State agencies working collaboratively to implement methods to control or prevent CWD in farmed and free ranging cervids. Based on reviewer recommendations, APHIS may award less than the requested amount of funds to a project. In these cases, applicants may accept or decline the award that is offered. If they accept, applicants must submit a revised application package that addresses reviewer concerns and aligns with the amount awarded. APHIS will provide additional guidance to applicants in these situations.

Anticipated Award Start Date: The cooperative agreement performance period will begin prior to October 1, 2020.

Period of Performance: Projects must be completed within 1 year. Funding will not be allowed, nor activities approved to occur, outside of the period of performance. There is an allowance of a one-time extension request of the performance period up to 12 months to complete the project assuming there is no increase in funding requested. This request must be submitted in accordance with the cooperative agreement terms and conditions in order to be considered.

Competitive Process: This is a competitive funding opportunity where proposal selection is based on the evaluation of a reviewer or team of reviewers as outlined in Section E. Funding is based on the merits of the application package, and recipients are not pre-determined. Funding of any submitted proposal is at the discretion of USDA.

Cost Sharing: Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS may take into consideration an eligible entity's ability to contribute non-Federal funds to carry out such a cooperative agreement. Additional information on cost sharing is outlined in Section C.2.

B.1 COST GUIDANCE

All APHIS awards are subject to 2 CFR Subpart E, Cost Principles – General Provisions for Selected Items of Cost.

Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cost principles must be used to determine whether a cost can be charged to the project and, if so, the extent to which it can be charged. Funds are intended to complement and build-upon

activities associated with other APHIS cooperative programs geared toward controlling or preventing CWD.

Allowable uses of cooperative agreement funds, include but are not limited to, activities, equipment, supplies, and services needed to complete approved program activities that support the priorities and considerations described in Section A.1. This may include:

- *Equipment.* Equipment is any tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit value of $5,000 or more.
- *Information technology systems.* The term "information technology" includes, but is not limited to, computers, network and ancillary equipment, software, firmware, and similar procedures, services (including support services), and related resources. This also includes any equipment, interconnected system(s), or subsystem(s) of equipment that is used in the automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information.
- *Outreach materials.* Whenever possible, existing publications or audiovisuals, referred to as outreach materials, should be used. A draft of any publications or audiovisuals produced with cooperative agreement funds for public use must be reviewed and approved by APHIS, the Office of the Deputy Administrator, and the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs. Approval must be obtained prior to printing. A determination will be made if the USDA logo may be used and APHIS' participation in the project may be acknowledged.
- *Personnel.* Use of funds for personnel (salaries, wages, and fringe benefits) is limited to employees hired to assist in completing proposed activities; funds may not be used to support positions funded on another federal grant or cooperative agreement.
- *Travel.* Funds may be requested for field work, training, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Recipients should follow their written travel policies when calculating travel costs. If there is no travel policy, Federal per diem rates should be used in the calculation of travel costs.

Project funds must be obligated by the recipient during the performance period as identified in the Notice of Award. Reimbursement of costs prior to the performance period identified in the Notice of Award will not be reimbursed.

Funds **may NOT be used** for the following:

- Land acquisition
- Compensation for Federal Employees
- Travel of Federal Employees
- Construction and/or major rehabilitation of buildings
- Bonuses or commissions
- Fundraising
- Meeting, conference, symposia or workshop honoraria, which is payment to individuals or guests other than for documented professional services
- Costs for renting/procuring meeting spaces
- Vehicle purchases
- Positions funded with other federal grants or cooperative agreements
- International travel

- Projects or activities associated with APHIS-State-Industry cooperative programs that are typically supported through appropriated funds, including activities funded via USDA APHIS annual cooperative agreements
- Promotional, outreach or giveaway items such as calendars, rulers, pens, pencils, squishy balls, cups, refreshments, etc.

Nothing in this section prevents an eligible entity from using funds received to enter into sub-agreements with another eligible entity that has legal responsibilities relating to CWD management or response or to reimburse a federal agency for services rendered such as for animal depopulation or testing.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants are:

1. State departments of agriculture
2. State animal health agencies
3. State departments of wildlife or natural resources
4. Indian Tribes

This list does not preclude award recipients from collaborating with other entities, such as: land grant or other universities; or, State or national livestock, wildlife, hunting or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD.

APHIS shall give priority to application packages submitted by an eligible entity (1) in a State that has experienced recent incidents of CWD in free ranging or farmed cervids or borders CWD endemic areas; and (2) has a CWD Federal herd certification program or a State CWD control program that includes, but is not limited to, monitoring and surveillance or that proposes to create a control program.

C.2 COST SHARING OR MATCHING

Cost sharing and matching is defined in 2 CFR Part 200.29 as a "portion of the project costs not paid by Federal funds (unless otherwise authorized by Federal statute)." Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS may take into consideration an eligible entity's ability to contribute non-Federal funds to carry out such a cooperative agreement, but shall not require an eligible entity to make a contribution as a condition to enter into a cooperative agreement. If applicable, applicants should describe cost-share or in-kind funding for the project.

Once the cooperative agreement is accepted and finalized, the cost share becomes legally binding and the recipient will be required to meet the cost share ratio.

C.3 OTHER CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

Applicants may submit more than one project proposal. Applicants who wish to submit multiple proposals must submit each proposal as a separate application package.

All applicant organizations must be registered in ezFedGrants. This system will be used for all stages of the cooperative agreement process including submitting the application package, signing the cooperative agreement, and submitting reports.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

All required documents and forms listed in Section D.2 must be included in the application package. Any application package with missing documents or forms will not be considered for review and will result in a rejected application package.

D.1 OBTAINING AN APPLICATION PACKAGE

All application materials are available through this announcement and ezFedGrants. If assistance is needed with locating application materials, please reach out to VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline.

D.2 CONTENT AND FORM OF THE APPLICATION PACKAGE

The application package must include the following:

- ☐ SF-424, "Application for Federal Assistance" – completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ SF-424A, "Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs" that matches the submitted Financial Plan – completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- ☐ Certification Regarding Lobbying (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000)
- ☐ SF-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities" (for Federal Assistance greater than $100,000 when there are activities to disclose)
- ☐ Waiver or approval response letter from the State's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if the applicant is in a state that is required to comply with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs. See Section D.5 for additional information
- ☐ Copy of the current, signed Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if indirect costs are being claimed
- ☐ Project proposal WORK PLAN. See below
- ☐ Project proposal FINANCIAL PLAN. See below

Project Proposal Work Plan

Applicants must submit a project proposal Work Plan that includes all of the information shown in the CWD Project Proposal Work Plan Template that is available in Appendix 2. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to use the CWD Project Proposal Work Plan Template. Project proposal Work Plans that do not use the template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the ten-page limitation.

Project Proposal Financial Plan

Applicants must submit a project proposal Financial Plan that includes all of the information shown in the CWD Project Proposal Financial Plan Template that is available in Appendix 3. Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to use the CWD Project Proposal Financial Plan Template. Project proposal Financial Plan must match and provide additional details on the information provided in the required SF-424A submitted through ezFedGrants.

In preparing their project proposal Financial Plan, applicants must comply with the cost guidance and funding restrictions described in Section B.1.

D.3 UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

All applicants are required to register in SAM prior to submitting an application package for this funding opportunity and to maintain current information throughout the award period of performance. To register, go to the SAM Website. Please allow a minimum of 5 days to complete the SAM registration. Registration is free. Frequently Asked Questions, User Guides, Demonstration Videos, etc., can be found at the SAM website, under the "Help" tab.

In order to register in SAM, your organization will need a valid Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company, Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). To see if your organization already has a DUNS number or to obtain a DUNS number, contact D&B at 1-866-705-5711 or visit the Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) website. Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete. Registration is free.

Be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when submitting grant applications.

During the application package review process, APHIS will conduct a risk assessment. All applicants will be verified in SAM to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. APHIS may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements, APHIS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

When the anticipated total Federal share exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, APHIS is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. An applicant, if desired, may review and comment on any information about their organization that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM. APHIS will consider any comments provided by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the risk assessment.

D.4 SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

All application packages must be completed and received electronically through ezFedGrants no later than August 14, 2020, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time. Submissions through grants.gov will not

be accepted. The electronic date and time stamp from ezFedGrants will be used to determine application packages were received before the deadline. An overview of the ezFedGrants application process can be obtained at ezFedGrants Applications Quick Reference. We understand unanticipated issues can arise, therefore we urge applicants to submit their application package early to allow time to address any complications. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please reach out to VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the deadline for assistance. Incomplete application packages and application packages received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

All applicants should refer to the list at the beginning of Section D.2 to ensure that all documents are included prior to submission of the application package.

D.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

The Intergovernmental Review Process (CFDA 10.025) is subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs" in the States or Territories of: American Samoa, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Guam, Iowa (State Agencies only), Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, Nevada (send SF-424 to NV for their records only), New Hampshire, North Dakota, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Utah (State Agencies only), Virgin Islands, and West Virginia.

Names and addresses of States' Single Point of Contact (SPOC) are listed in the Office of Management and Budget's State SPOC List. Please reach out to your State's SPOC for additional information on your specific state requirements.

Please upload a waiver or approval response letter from the SPOC to your application package in ezFedGrants to fulfill this requirement. Awards will not be made until this process has been completed in the applicable states.

D.6 FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Project funds must be obligated by the recipient within 12 months from the date the funds are made available by APHIS (the date of approval on the Notice of Award) unless otherwise stated in the Notice of Award.

Applicants must submit a copy of their fully executed current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, negotiated with their recognized Federal Agency (2 CFR Part 200.19), when indirect costs are assessed in the budget. Indirect costs for any sub-award must be disclosed.

Non-profit Institution's assessment of indirect costs are limited to not more than 10% of total direct costs or the application of their approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, whichever is less.

Please refer to the cost guidance in Section B.1 for additional information on funding restrictions.

D.7 OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Only electronic submissions of application packages through ezFedGrants will be accepted. Hard copy application packages and submissions through grants.gov will not be accepted. APHIS follows compliance with the Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties should reach out to VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline of August 14, 2020, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time for assistance. Application packages received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E.1 CRITERIA

APHIS will use the following criteria to evaluate application packages during the review process. Applicants should consider the criteria when preparing the application package. A full list of criteria and the scope of activities that may be considered can be found in Appendix 4. Priority may be given to State agencies working collaboratively to implement methods to control or prevent CWD in farmed and free ranging cervids.

Screening Criteria

Proposals must meet these initial screening criteria to be considered for further review. Proposals that do not meet these initial screening criteria will not be considered.

1. Application package is received by the deadline. Proposals received after the established deadline will not be reviewed or considered.
2. Application package is complete. Proposals that do not include all of the required materials will not be considered.
3. Application package is consistent with allowed use of funds guidance. Proposals that do not align with the cost guidance described in this announcement will not be considered.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Addresses the Priorities and Requirements in the Announcement**. Proposed activities should strongly support and clearly address one or more of the priorities identified in Section A.1.
2. **Feasibility (Likelihood of Success**). Proposals will be assessed on the likelihood the activity will successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables based on key factors, such as a well-organized and sound approach, a reasonable schedule, effective partnerships and collaborations, and the applicant's skills, knowledge, and experiences.
3. **Impact and Outcomes**. Proposals will be assessed on the extent to which the results will have a positive impact on controlling or preventing CWD, the scope of their impact across geographic levels or stakeholder groups, and the likelihood the outcomes and deliverables will be used by other groups or stakeholders to support policies and decisions.
4. **Cost effectiveness**. Proposals should include a clear and logical Financial Plan that includes only reasonable and necessary costs to produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. Cost-saving measures by leveraging existing resources or partnerships may be included where possible.

E.2 SELECTION AND REVIEW PROCESS

USDA has final funding obligating authority in determining which projects are funded for this initiative. APHIS is responsible for reviewing application packages against the evaluation criteria, and will seek

assistance and counsel from internal and external subject-matter experts as appropriate. Reviewers will have no association with any project that is being reviewed in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest. In the event of a real or perceived conflict of interest, a reviewer shall recuse themselves as appropriate.

A risk assessment will be conducted as part of the selection and review process. See Section D.3 for additional information on the components of this risk assessment.

E.3 ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT AND FEDERAL AWARD DATES

There is a single application deadline followed by the simultaneous review of all applications. APHIS will review proposals within 45 days of the application deadline and applicants will be notified by email of award status.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

APHIS will administer the cooperative agreements and collaborate with project recipients to provide advice, receive and review project documents, offer comments and suggestions, track project performance, and communicate with recipients as necessary to ensure progress in accomplishing the project, identifying obstacles, and resolving concerns.

Recipients will track performance and expenditures, provide progress reports and project deliverables in accordance with the project Work Plan, and communicate with APHIS staff to assess and evaluate progress.

F.1 AWARD NOTICES

Applicants selected for funding will receive a Notice of Award (NOA) via ezFedGrants routed to the applicant's signatory official(s) in the system. Either the APHIS Grants Specialist or the Program Manager may informally contact the applicant with application/Federal Award status details. The applicant must provide an E-Signature in ezFedGrants for the Federal Award document, which is included as part of the NOA, unless an alternate Federal Award signature process is provided to the applicant by APHIS.

F.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants must comply with the requirements contained in the "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards", 2 CFR Part 200; "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension", 2 CFR Part 417; "Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace", 2 CFR Part 421; "New Restrictions on Lobbying", 2 CFR Part 418; and Office of Management and Budget regulations governing "Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public", 5 CFR Part 1320.

In addition to the above mentioned, all recipients are subject to the general terms and conditions for APHIS awards, project narrative, and budget narrative, as well as the applicable authorization used to issue the Federal Award.

F.3 REPORTING

The Recipient's Project Coordinator will provide quarterly performance reports on program activities outlined in the application package to the Program Manager through the ezFedGrants system. The reports will be used by APHIS to verify compliance with provisions of the cooperative agreement.

The Recipient's Project Coordinator will provide a properly certified quarterly Federal Financial Report, SF-425, as outlined in the application package to the Program Manager through the ezFedGrants system.

The performance and financial reports will be due as specified in the cooperative agreement. Any requests for an extension of time to submit reports must be made in writing to the Program Manager. Extensions of time for submission of the reports will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the discretion of the Program Manager and if allowed approval will be provided in writing.

F.4 PROJECT EVALUATION

The Recipient's performance will be evaluated, through the review of quarterly progress and financial reports, based on the following criteria to determine if the Recipient met the project standards and if the results and benefits were achieved:

1. Adherence to project schedule.
2. Adherence to project budget.
3. Delivery of results that meet the cooperative agreement performance standards and achieve the stated outcomes.
4. Periodic discussion of project progress with Program Manager.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions pertaining to this funding opportunity, required documents, or the ezFedGrants application process, please contact VS.FiOps.ASC.Agreements@usda.gov.

For questions regarding the CWD program, you may contact the following APHIS Program staff:

Area Veterinarian in Charge (AVIC)
Mark Lyons, Veterinary Medical Officer, Mark.A.Lyons@usda.gov, 614-592-7954

H. OTHER INFORMATION

USDA is not obligated to make any award as a result of this announcement nor to make any changes to future announcements. Only the APHIS Authorized Departmental Officer can bind the Government to an expenditure of funds and this obligation of funds shall only occur in writing by authorized officials and under the approved USDA APHIS Cooperative Agreement format.

APPENDIX 1: CWD PROJECT PROPOSAL PRIORITIES AND EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES

This appendix contains ***examples*** of project activities for the CWD Management and Response Activities 2020 funding opportunity. These examples provide "food for thought" on relevant and innovative approaches that applicants might consider in their funding application packages.

Priority #1. Improve the management of CWD affected herds and endemic populations.

For the purpose of this priority, management means effectively controlling CWD in affected farmed cervid herds and/or free ranging cervid populations by implementing or improving upon current guidance, such as the USDA APHIS VS CWD Program Standards or the AFWA Best Management Practices. The following are examples of activities that align with Priority 1:

- A State Department of Agriculture/Indian Tribe assesses the applicability of predictive genetics as a tool to manage herds affected with CWD. Specifically, the State/Indian Tribe could support the use of scientifically valid genetic screening strategies to identify highly susceptible animals for removal (selective culling) and less susceptible cervids for restocking to breed for reduced susceptibility. This could allow the State/Indian Tribe to prioritize indemnity for the genetically susceptible exposed cervids.
- A State Department of Agriculture/Indian Tribe makes the Herd Certification Program mandatory for all cervid producers within the State/Indian Tribe and provides a cost share for the testing of farmed cervid mortalities and/or increases oversight to improve submission compliance.
- A State Department of Agriculture/Indian Tribe requires all farmed cervids to be identified with an electronic radio-frequency identification tag that is to be scanned when an animal enters or exits a premises, including through death. This movement is then recorded in an electronic State/Indian Tribe repository, which allows for a more timely and thorough epidemiological investigation when CWD is identified.
- A State Department of Wildlife/Indian Tribe where CWD is endemic conducts a field study to expand upon current knowledge on transmission and/or mitigation of transmission of CWD in free ranging cervid populations. This could include an assessment of different recreational hunting regulations and/or culling strategies for reducing prevalence of CWD in the free ranging populations and field testing the best options identified.
- A State Department of Wildlife develops a scientifically sound surveillance plan to determine where infection is present in order to implement or monitor the efficacy of a control strategy, which could include testing of roadkill, removal and testing of clinical cervids, or providing hunter killed testing.
- The State/Indian Tribe provides secure dumpsters in various locations in States/Indian Tribal lands where CWD exists for hunters, taxidermists, producers, and Departments of Transportation to properly dispose of carcasses and materials after sampling.

Priority #2. Improve the management of CWD affected areas or premises.

For the purpose of this priority, management means effectively controlling a CWD affected area (CWD affected premises or endemic areas) in order to control or prevent the spread of CWD by implementing or improving upon current guidance, such as the USDA APHIS VS CWD Program Standards or the AFWA Best Management Practices. The following are examples of activities that align with Priority 2:

- A State Department of Wildlife and State Department of Agriculture and Indian Tribe work collaboratively to determine the most effective biosecurity measures to prevent the transmission of CWD between free ranging and farmed cervids. This could include establishing additional barriers to inhibit wildlife incursions into farmed cervid pens by environmentally treating the areas around these pens, including fence and non-fence options.
- A State Department of Wildlife/Indian Tribe evaluates the potential role of scavengers and/or predators in CWD transmission to cervids and, if indicated, the organization implements and evaluates mitigation strategies to prevent interactions and the potential for CWD spread.
- A State/Indian Tribe develops and/or implements more effective and/or cost efficient disposal techniques for carcasses and/or organic material removed from farmed cervid pens.
- A State Department of Wildlife/Indian Tribe examines risks associated with the artificial congregation of free ranging cervids, such as feeding, baiting, and mineral licks and/or takes actions to minimize cervid congregation in endemic or high-risk areas to reduce CWD transmission.

Priority #3. Conduct additional research on amplification assays.

Amplification assays are test methods that identify CWD by amplifying small amounts of prion protein to levels that are detectable (PMCA, RT-QuIC, etc.). Specifically, this funding opportunity is interested in proposals which will further the use of amplification assays as diagnostic or environmental tests, and/or efforts to make these tests commercially available for use. The following are examples of activities that align with Priority 3:

- A State/Indian Tribe works cooperatively with currently ongoing projects to investigate the use of RT-QuIC as an official test for CWD (blood, saliva, feces, urine, rectal biopsies, etc.) and/or environmental testing of farmed facilities or feeds. The State/Indian Tribe could also support the work of experienced RT-QuIC laboratories to develop National source(s) of RT-QuIC substrate that is used to further work on RT-QuIC and possibly eventual commercial use.
- A State Department of Wildlife/Indian Tribe works with ongoing research projects to optimize amplification assays to detect CWD in the environment. Specifically, the research focuses on detecting CWD in endemic areas through the testing of carcasses, feces, water sources, plants, and soils to determine the presence and persistence of CWD over time.
- A State Department of Agriculture/Indian Tribe works with an appropriate laboratory to study the efficacy of decontamination methods used on farms that were treated after all positive cervids were removed. A study is designed in which environmental samples from buildings and pens are collected over time and evaluated for the presence of prion proteins using amplification assays.

Priority #4. Conduct additional research on predictive genetics.

Current and ongoing research supports the use of predictive genetics to determine the susceptibility of cervids to CWD, which may provide the foundation for a genomics based CWD eradication program in the future. The following are examples of activities that align with Priority 4:

- A State Department of Agriculture/Indian Tribe works cooperatively with currently ongoing projects to improve the accessibility of predictive genetics testing for cervid producers within the State/Indian Tribe. This could include providing a cost share to reduce the cost of genetic testing in exchange for participating in a genetic selection plan evaluation and/or increasing test capacity to ensure producers receive rapid results.
- A State Department of Agriculture/Indian Tribe investigates the effectiveness of predictive genetics as a method of preventing disease in endemic areas or as a mitigation strategy for producers in the Herd Certification Program. This could include supporting the testing of farmed cervids in endemic areas through the support of genetic selection through breeding and/or culling.
- A State Department of Agriculture/Indian Tribe collaborates with ongoing genomic prediction research at Texas A&M University to provide additional samples from infected herds to further validate and improve the model by providing larger sample sets, investigate the relationship between lower genetic susceptibility and CWD shedding, or investigate the genetic susceptibility in other CWD susceptible species.

Priority #5. Develop and/or deliver educational outreach materials or programs.

For purposes of this priority, educational outreach means the methods, process, or action that provides education and facilitates learning of critical knowledge necessary to control or prevent CWD and its spread. The following are examples of activities that align with Priority 5:

- A State Department of Wildlife/Indian Tribe develops culturally appropriate behavioral messaging to explain CWD risk mitigations while encouraging hunter recruitment and retention, including providing materials and delivery methods that are culturally appropriate for minority groups such as, but not limited to, the Amish and Native Americans. In this example, the project includes an analysis of culturally appropriate and behaviorally effective messages and methods to ensure the materials reach hunters from diverse backgrounds, such as printing materials in multiple languages, podcasts, webinars, broadcasting messages over local radio, etc.
- A State/Indian Tribe develops training materials and delivers CWD training to a group of farmed cervid producers, focused on proper biosecurity practices, adequate carcass disposal, the potential for disease in nonclinical animals, and the potential benefits of genetic selection and mortality testing.
- The State Department(s) of Wildlife, State Department(s) of Agriculture and/or Indian Tribe(s) collaborate to develop a regional training opportunity for stakeholders to address risk behaviors including cervid movements and the importance of surveillance sampling. In this example, the organizations facilitate communications between free ranging and farmed cervid interests to support a multi-agency management plan.

Scope of Activities

The priorities for award are listed above; however, other projects that can result in improved CWD control or provide the information or tools needed to control CWD may also be considered, such as but not limited to, the following:

- Animal movements
- Biosecurity
- Carcass movements
- Cervid population management
- Collaboration (State, Federal, Indian Tribes)
- Disposal (carcass and waste management)
- Education
- Environmental contamination
- Environmental decontamination
- Environmental testing
- Epidemiology and risk analysis
- Expanded development and use of amplification assays, such as RT-QuIC
- Genetic research
- Herd Certification Program implementation
- Identification and investigation of treatment options for CWD
- Indemnity
- Management of affected herds and exposed animals, including the potential use of genetics to identify CWD less-susceptible animals
- Novel test developments
- Role of scavengers or predators in CWD transmission
- Surveillance
- Test result reporting
- Traceability

APPENDIX 2: CWD PROJECT PROPOSAL WORK PLAN TEMPLATE

INSTRUCTIONS
Place requested information in the blocks. Write in a narrative format and paste or type the appropriate information into each block. Increase the size of the block so all content is visible.

WORK PLAN SYNOPSIS

Project Title:	
Name of Organization Submitting the Proposal:	
Geographic Location of the project and/or the area that will be served:	
Contact Information (name, phone number, email) for Applicant Submitting the Proposal:	

Select the type of applicant entity from the list below:

- ☐ State department of agriculture
- ☐ State animal health agency
- ☐ State department of wildlife or natural resources
- ☐ Indian Tribes

PROPOSED PERIOD OF ACTIVITY
[Enter start and end dates (not to exceed 12 months).]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
[Describe project in 500 words or less.]

OBJECTIVES
[Clearly and concisely state the project objectives. Objectives are intermediate steps taken to achieve the overall purpose of the project activity. Objectives should lead to specific results and be measurable.]

Objective 1:	
Objective 2:	

Objective 3:	
Objective 4:	
Objective 5:	

RELEVANT NEED OR PROBLEM REQUIRING A SOLUTION

[Describe the problem to be solved in 500 words or less, including any relevant physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, or other problems; the potential solutions to the problem; and how the project will help arrive at the solution.]

ALIGNMENT TO CWD MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE

[Describe in 500 words or less how the identified need or problem aligns with the elements of CWD management and response activities (see Funding Opportunity Announcement).]

WORK PLAN NARRATIVE

INTRODUCTION

Each applicant must submit a Work Plan that identifies the details of each activity, the specific roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in the project, as well as the resources to be contributed by each. Project proposal Work Plans that do not use this template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the ten-page limitation.

WORK PLAN

This Work Plan reflects a cooperative relationship between the *[insert Recipient's agency name]*, the Recipient and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). It outlines the mission-related goals, objectives, anticipated outcomes, as well as the approach for conducting the proposed activities *[the CWD control activities and the related roles and responsibilities of the parties (e.g. mutual roles, APHIS role(s), and Recipient role as negotiated]*.

The project proposal Work Plan should also include detailed information for the major topics listed below. Additional topics can be added as needed to be inclusive.

I. Objectives and Need for Assistance
   A. *Objectives:* List 3-5 objectives for the project with a detailed description of each and how they support the development and management of CWD control or prevention.
   B. *Relevant Need or Problem Requiring a Solution:* Identify and describe relevant needs, problems, or gaps and how the project will provide the solution necessary to address them.

C. *Contributors:* List organizations, recipients, consultants, or other key individuals, in addition to the applicant, that will contribute to the project. This may include, but is not limited to, land grant or other universities; State or national livestock, wildlife, hunting or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD; or, a Federal agency. Describe the roles/responsibilities for each contributor and include a description of their involvement, the interaction between parties and the cooperator, their scope of work, and detailed activities to be conducted by the parties for the agreement. A letter of collaboration from each contributor should be included with the completed Work Plan and may be uploaded separately from the Work Plan as attachments. For consulting contracts, applicants must include the following information:
    1. Names of consultants to be engaged;
    2. Daily fees to be paid to each consultant;
    3. Number of estimated days of continuing services;
    4. Scope of work to be performed (deliverables);
    5. Other incidental data supporting the proposed costs; and,
    6. A description of how the consultant(s) will be selected: competitive or sole source. (If sole source, provide a justification with the package.)

D. *Supporting Documentation*: Articles, reports, testimonies from concerned interests other than the applicant, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, letters of collaboration, or other documents that support the need for the project and its specific actions. These items must be uploaded separately from the Work Plan as attachments.

II. Approach

A. *Plan of Action:* For each objective provide:

1. Detailed description of the proposed activities.
2. Description of the methods that will be utilized for each objective.
3. Description of both the roles and responsibilities of the applicant, contributors, and APHIS[1] (if applicable) in terms of technical personnel required and activities.
4. Describe factors which might negatively impact the work and how any potential risks or issues will be mitigated.
5. List any features that may be unusual or unique, such as technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and community involvements, etc.

B. *Resources Required*: For each objective provide:

1. Number and Type of Personnel. Use of funds for personnel (salaries, wages and fringe benefits) is limited to temporary employees hired to assist in completing proposed activities. Include the number of people and the number of hours for each position under each action. Address the basis for determining employee compensation and identify any compensation increases projected during the award

[1] Need for APHIS Assistance: If there is a need for APHIS technical assistance position(s) these should be listed with the respective number of hours to be spent on the project for each position.

period. Identify any benefits included in the wages or salaries (e.g. vacation and sick leave).

2. Equipment Funded by the Project. If equipment needs to be purchased for the project list the number and type of equipment needed and the uses for the equipment. See the Project Proposal Detailed Financial Plan section below for the Federal definition of equipment. Ensure the purpose of each equipment item and how it will benefit or be used for the project has been provided in the proposed activities. Describe how the equipment will be disposed at the end of the project.

3. Supplies Funded by the Project. List the amount and type of consumable supplies needed and how they will be used. Describe how unused supplies totaling more than $5,000 will be disposed at the end of the project.

4. Travel Needs. Both local travel and extended travel should be addressed. Local travel means there is no overnight stay, whereas extended travel includes overnight lodging. For both types of travel, list the role and activity of each traveler, the purpose of the travel, and the method of transportation. For local travel, list the number of round trips and the total number of miles for all of the round trips for each traveler. For extended travel, list the total number of travel days.

5. In-Kind Contributions. For each contributor, identify the type of resources provided, e.g. funds, personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, etc., and the quantity, type and purpose of each resource.

III. Performance and Outcomes

A. *Projected Performance and Outcomes:* Give a comprehensive description of the projected outcomes for each objective.

B. *Quantitative Projection of Performance and Outcomes:* Describe how performance will be measured, and list for each objective:

1. Achievements, outcomes and deliverables produced when the actions are completed, including the delivery date for each.

2. Measurement of improvement in efficiency or effectiveness of capabilities.

C. *Information Management:* Discuss management of information or data that is developed and/or collected during the project. Describe how the information or data collected for the proposal will be shared and maintained.

IV. Target Audience and Geographic Location

A. List the State(s) or region(s) of the country where the activities will take place and the locations that will benefit most from the project's outcome(s).

V. Supplemental Information

A. *Personnel Qualifications:* Present the qualifications of the lead technical experts and other key personnel for the project. List each by position; first and last name; employer name, city, state, and phone; title and major duties in the project; and, other experience pertinent to their project duties.

B. *Relationship to Other Projects:* Describe the relationship between this project and other work planned, anticipated, or underway.

APPENDIX 3: CWD PROJECT PROPOSAL FINANCIAL PLAN TEMPLATE

INSTRUCTIONS

Each applicant must submit a detailed Financial Plan that provides sufficient information to determine the costs for each of the project activities.

When identifying the resources needed, the applicant must be in compliance with Federal and State policy and the cost guidance in Section B.1. The Financial Plan should include the following details:

1. *Personnel:* APHIS will allow costs for salary and wages provided the total compensation to individual employees is reasonable for the work performed, conforms to the established policy of the organization, and is consistently applied to Government and nongovernmental activities. Applicants must:
    - List personnel needed to accomplish this project, their classification, number of hours to be worked, and the rate of pay per hour (or percentage of effort) for each major task in the project, the total for each employee type, and the overall total.
    - Identify key investigators, titles, number of hours, hourly rate (or percentage of staff year), and the total.
2. *Fringe Benefits*: List the fringe benefit rate and what the rate includes. Benefits may include health and life insurance, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, retirement, including social security, leave and pensions, etc.
3. *Travel:* Funds may be requested for field work, training, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Recipients should follow their State written travel policies when calculating travel costs. If there is no State travel policy, Federal per diem rates should be used in the calculation of travel costs. Federal per diem rates can be found on the General Services Administration website. Reference 2 CFR Part 200.474.
    - Local travel: Identify any local travel to daily work sites as outlined in your proposed activities. Indicate by position type who will be traveling, total projected mileage, and rate per mile. Indicate the number of trips per day/week/month, as appropriate.
    - Extended travel: Provide the number of travelers, cost of transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items, number of days, rate per day, and the total related to extended travel. If extended travel is to attend a meeting/training include the event title and destination. Registration fees should be included in the "Other" category.
    - International travel: Not authorized by this cooperative agreement.
4. *Equipment:* The Federal definition of equipment is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit value of $5,000 or more; unless the applicant definition of equipment is more restrictive. Provide a description of the equipment to be purchased or leased, including unit cost, and total purchase or leasing costs.
5. *Supplies:* Provide a general description of the supplies required to perform the proposed activities. Identify quantities required and unit costs.
6. *Contractual:* Identify the contract, i.e., what goods or services are being purchased for what activity and where. Recipient procurement activities shall be in accordance with 2 CFR. The work

plan should include a statement requiring APHIS' pre-award review of any statement of work (SOW) where there might be a specific need relevant to APHIS. For instance, if the Recipient is developing a database and APHIS desires access to the system, APHIS requires the SOW be reviewed by program management and Information Technology Department to ensure data recorded is relevant and the type of software or systems used is compatible with APHIS systems. Otherwise, APHIS might decline to provide funding or have to negotiate some changes to the SOW to build in acceptable requirements.

Provide the contractor or sub-awardee cost breakdown of amounts in a separate budget for all applicable cost categories and totals, if available. However, the contractor or sub-awardee breakdown is not to be used to develop the applicant's breakdown; the contractor or sub-awardee total costs will be classified as contractual in the applicant's budget.

7. *Other:* Identify any direct costs which were not itemized elsewhere, such as conference registration fees, communications, printing, publication charges, computer time or usage, applicant laboratory testing, etc.
8. *Indirect Costs and Recipient Cost Share:* Include the Indirect Cost rate and the applicable base. This should be consistent with the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. A lower rate than what is listed on the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement may be claimed; a higher rate may not.
9. *Recipient Share:* List the Recipient share by cost category as applicable throughout the Financial Plan.

TEMPLATE

Cost Category	Item Description	Quantity	Rate	Recipient Share	APHIS Share	Total Budget
Personnel						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
				$0.00	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Fringe Benefits						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
				$0.00	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Travel						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
				$0.00	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Equipment						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
				$0.00	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Supplies						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
				$0.00	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Contractual						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
				$0.00	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Other						$0.00
						$0.00
						$0.00
				$0.00	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Totals			**Total Direct Costs**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
			Avian Indirect Costs(% of)			**$0.00**
			Total Project Costs	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**

APPENDIX 4: CWD PROJECT PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA DEFINITIONS

This appendix contains the criteria APHIS will use to evaluate application packages during the review process. Applicants should consider these criteria when preparing the application package.

1. **Addresses the Priorities and Requirements in the Announcement.** This criterion assesses if the proposal strongly supports and clearly addresses one or more of the priority areas described in the funding opportunity announcement (FOA) and the extent to which the application package addresses all considerations requested in the announcement.

    1.1 **Directly addresses the concern in at least one of the priorities identified in the FOA.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed activities directly address a concern identified in the FOA.

    1.2 **The extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables will support the overarching goal of the FOA,** which is to control or prevent CWD or develop the knowledge or tools needed to control or prevent CWD.

    1.3 **Degree to which the proposal builds on existing knowledge.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal reflects awareness of current concerns, known gaps, activities conducted by other entities, related to the CWD management and prevention in farmed and/or free ranging cervids. Proposals should complement and build on existing activities, address known gaps, and avoid redundancy with similar work already conducted by other entities, including but not limited to work conducted by USDA.

    1.4 **Are the proposed activities legal within the jurisdictions where the activities will occur or if not was a waiver provided from the regulatory authorities.** Proposed activities also must align with current federal and State regulations.

2. **Feasibility (Likelihood of Success).** This criterion assesses the likelihood the proposal will successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables based on key factors such as a well-organized and sound approach; a reasonable schedule; effective partnerships and collaborations; and the applicant's skills, knowledge, and experiences.

    2.1 **Well organized approach.** The Work Plan and Financial Plan lay out a course of action that is logical, well organized, complete, and likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It considers whether the approach is explained in sufficient detail for the reader to understand what activities will be performed, how they will be conducted, and what will be produced.

    2.2 **Sound approach.** The proposed work is technically sound. The proposed methods should be supported by current scientific knowledge and in the case of management proposals relevant past experience supporting the proposed mitigation. References, including unpublished data from previously tried mitigations, should be included to support the proposed methods or approach.

    2.3 **Adequate budget.** The budget is sufficient to successfully produce the proposed outcomes and deliverables.

    2.4 **Reasonable schedule.** The proposed activities can be accomplished in a one year performance period, and accounts for situations that may cause delays in the schedule.

2.5 Partnerships. The proposal creates partnerships and collaborations between State wildlife and agricultural agencies, allowing for the generation of outcomes and deliverables that are of interest to both parties. Single agency proposals are acceptable, but higher scores will be given to proposals that include the above mentioned collaborative efforts.

2.6 Skills, knowledge, and experience. Key persons who will carry out the project have the qualifications, skills, ability, experience and infrastructure (facilities and equipment) to successfully conduct the proposed activities and produce successful outcomes and deliverables.

3. **Impact.** If successful there would be a positive impact on controlling or preventing CWD.

3.1 Value of results. If successful, will produce outcomes and deliverables that are needed to control or prevent CWD.

3.2 Scope of impact. The scope of impact, including whether the project will create impact at:

3.2.1 State, regional, national, or other geographic levels; or

3.2.2 For one stakeholder group or many, for example just farmed or free ranging cervids or both.

3.3 Knowledge transfer. The outcomes and deliverables are likely to be used by other groups and stakeholders, either by replicating the activity in other regions or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes and deliverables so other entities can make use of it.

4. **Cost Effectiveness.** The proposal identifies a cost effective approach to produce the desired outcomes and deliverables.

4.1 All costs are reasonable and necessary. The Financial Plan is clear, logical, and includes only reasonable and necessary costs to produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan provides sufficient detail for reviewers to fully understand how each budget item specifically supports the activities outlined in the Work Plan, without including budget items that are not allowed or appear superfluous or tangential to producing the outcomes and deliverables.

4.2 Good use of existing resources. The proposal includes cost-saving measures by leveraging existing resources or partnerships where possible. For example, the proposal describes practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete the project.