



Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention
University of Kentucky
Feasibility Project Program (FPP)
2009 Grant Opportunities

Detailed Instructions for Proposal Submission

Applications received from October 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009.

The Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention provides grant funding to encourage new and innovative pilot studies in agricultural occupational safety and health. As one of a select number of agricultural research centers funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (CDC/NIOSH), the Southeast Center has established a feasibility project program (FPP). Its purpose is to increase scientific understanding through pilot studies involving agricultural occupational health and safety in the Center's 10-state service region: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Applications are sought from investigators who possess the vision and skills to complete a project and to use its results to seek additional funding for larger/longer-term endeavors. Applicants can select from one of three types of projects:

Research Projects

For the purposes of the FPP, research is defined as a process of discovery using quantitative or qualitative scientific methods to explore or develop research questions or hypotheses, with the aim of preventing human injury and illness in agriculture. Research activities can be laboratory based, data based, field based, or community based, and include studies in epidemiology, industrial hygiene, health education, nursing, engineering, clinical medicine, public health, health services administration, biostatistics, environmental health, health policy, social and behavioral science, economics, and other disciplines. Studies can address any of a variety of occupational safety and health issues in agriculture (defined as farming, fishing, or forestry), including needs among special populations such as migrant farm workers, children, older farmers, women, and farmers with disabilities, *et al.* Studies of occupational hazards and their prevention in logging and forestry are especially encouraged at this time.

Prevention/Intervention Projects

Prevention/intervention projects are studies that test promising approaches in actual agricultural field settings. Prevention/intervention projects may include efforts to eliminate or reduce exposure, practices or policies that further agricultural occupational health and safety, projects to demonstrate the value of screening, and related public health approaches to detect disorders and diseases in early stages. Projects also may examine the larger value of prevention systems (i.e.,

workplace or public policy) in reducing hazards to, and adverse outcomes among, agricultural workers. Other prevention/intervention projects might examine the utility and impact of new and existing measures in the workplace, such as engineering controls/control technologies, personal protective equipment, worker training programs, etc.

To enhance needs assessment and project relevance, prevention/intervention projects should have significant involvement of agricultural stakeholders. Active participation of the target population is expected, as is an evaluation plan to determine the efficacy of the intervention.

Education/Translation Projects

Education/translation projects focus on applying existing knowledge and theory into products or practices that meet the needs of stakeholders and promote measurable improvements in agricultural health and safety practice and/or rates of injury and illness. Examples of education/translation projects include demonstration projects that expand the use of effective interventions, projects that disseminate innovations, and community-based participatory research projects where researchers and subjects work as partners toward health and safety objectives. A strong evaluation component is expected with education/translation projects.

A. Eligibility

Priority will be given to applicants from the ten southeastern states served by the Center: AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, and WV. New faculty, doctoral students, occupational medicine residents, agricultural extension agents, state government employees, and other professionals who have not received a major grant award for agricultural health research are especially encouraged to apply. Principal investigators who have previously received a feasibility award from the Center are not eligible. Award recipients must be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident.

B. Other Requirements

Budget Period: Maximum of 24 months from start date, which will be between December 1, 2008 and March 30, 2009.

Grant Amount: Awards will be up to \$25,000 for direct costs. Historically, a limited number of \$25,000 and \$12,500 grants have been awarded through each cycle of the annual Feasibility Projects program. Indirect costs may be requested at a rate not to exceed 46.5 percent. All funds must be expended within 24 months of the project start date.

Deadline: Proposals must be received at the Southeast Center by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2009.

Allowable Expenses: Itemize project expenses, including support personnel, supplies, travel necessary to conduct the research, and small equipment items. Equipment purchased for the project becomes the property of the sponsoring agency. Funds allocated for computer equipment cannot exceed \$500. Budget justification must be provided. Monies may be used for specialized equipment, domestic travel, research assistants, and other costs necessary to complete the study. Indirect costs up to 46.5% are allowed. For awards up to \$12,500 combined investigator and mentor salary must be less than \$7,000. For awards up to \$25,000 combined investigator and mentor salary must be less than \$10,000. Travel costs for one trip to Lexington to present study results must be included in the budget.

Disallowed Expenses: Indirect costs > 46.5%, computer equipment exceeding \$500.

Other: No supplemental funding beyond the approved budget will be available.

C. Application Format

Compile your application in the following sequence.

Cover Sheet

Complete the 1-page Grant Application Cover Sheet. Attach the following information.

Abstract / Project Description

In 250 words or less, describe the type of project you are proposing (i.e., research, prevention/intervention, or education/translation).

Budget/Justification

Provide budget justification consistent with proposed study and timeline. Successful candidates and/or mentors will be required to travel to UK to present the results of their project. Travel costs for one trip to Lexington to present study results must be included in the budget.

Biographical Sketches

Provide a biographical sketch for the PI, supervisor, mentor, and consultants. Include details about *other research support* (for PI, other key personnel, mentor)

Details of the Proposed Study

Do not exceed 10 pages for items 1 through 5 below. The detailed project description must be single spaced, using Arial 11 point type on 8.5 x 11-inch paper, with one-inch margins.

1. Specific Aims
2. Background
3. Methods and Data Analysis
4. Expected Results
5. Future Directions (*Maximum of 10 pages for these items, 1 through 5*).
6. Protection of Human or Animal Subjects (not part of the 10-page limit). If humans or animals are used in the project, then a section on human subjects or animal protection must be included. If available, a copy of the project's approval by an appropriate human or animal subjects' committee should be included in the application. Human (IRB) or animal care approval must be obtained before the University of Kentucky will fund the project. If human subjects or animal protection approval is not available at the time the proposal is submitted, investigators are urged to submit human/animal paperwork to their respective agencies simultaneously with this application and forward the approval letter as soon as possible.
7. Timetable
8. References
9. Letters of Support
If the investigator is a student, a faculty mentor must be listed and his or her biographical sketch must be included. Also include a letter of support from the mentor indicating the

student investigator's ability to complete the proposed study in accordance with the timetable, his or her potential as a researcher, and the potential for future funding.

10. Appendices (e.g., data collection forms, other letters of support and commitment, etc.)

Mail the original plus six copies to:

Feasibility Project Program
c/o Teresa A. Donovan, MPH
Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention
University of Kentucky
Suite 102, 1141 Red Mile Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40504-9842

D. Questions

Please direct questions to Teresa Donovan at 859-323-4602 or tdono2@email.uky.edu. Copies of these instructions and cover forms may be found online at <http://www.mc.uky.edu/scahip/> under Research.

E. Review Process

Each proposal will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criteria Weight (100 total points)

Significance/Relevance (20 points) Does this study address an important problem in agricultural occupational safety and health? If the project aims are achieved, how will scientific knowledge be advanced? Is the study likely to advance the translation of research to practice? Does this study have the potential to reduce rates of injury and illness among farmers, farm workers, and/or farm family members?

Approach (20 points) Are the conceptual framework, design (including composition of study population), and methods adequately developed and thoroughly appropriate to the project aims? Can this project be accomplished in the timeline presented? Has the PI obtained "buy-in" (i.e., letters of support) from relevant stakeholders? Is the study protocol ready for Human Subjects review/Institutional Review Board approval? Does the applicant recognize limitations or potential problems and consider alternative strategies and tactics?

Innovation (20 points) Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods? Are the aims original? Does the project challenge existing paradigms or develop new technologies or methods?

Future Funding Potential (15 points) Does the project have the potential of obtaining pilot data that may increase the probability of developing larger fundable R01-type or other research grants or contracts in the future?

Investigator (12 points) Does the investigator have sufficient skills and support to meet the project aims? Are additional expertise and suitable guidance available to the PI (e.g., mentor or research team)? It is recognized that the feasibility grant applicant may have little or no experience in writing grant applications, so appropriate allowances are given when evaluating

each application; however, the application must conform to format and content requirements specified in this announcement.

New Investigator (5 points) For investigators who have not received a previous grant in the past 5 years in excess of \$5,000 to study agricultural safety and health issues.

Environment (8 points) Does the environment in which the work will be performed contribute to the probability of success? Does the proposed project increase the institution's ability to conduct agricultural health and safety research and contribute to regional needs? Does the project involve multiple stakeholders (employers, employees, and academicians)?

Review Panel

Each proposal will undergo a rigorous merit review process. At least two members of the review panel will examine each proposal. Reviewers may include those with different areas of expertise. Please keep this in mind when preparing the application and avoid the use of jargon. Explain technical terms and include sufficient background information to enable reviewers to judge the soundness of the proposal. Proposals will be reviewed in the order they are received. Award recipients will be notified of results within 6 weeks of receipt of application.

F. Monitoring Progress and Progress Report Submission Requirements

Investigators will be scheduled to present their progress at a feasibility project seminar called "Works in Progress." Dates and location will be announced at a later time.

A brief written interim report will be due six months after the funding begins.

A written final report will be due 90 days after the project end date. (*Final written report is due 15 months following the award of one-year funding, 27 months following the award of two-year funding.*) The report must document study results, as well as presentations, publications, and extramural funds that have ensued directly or indirectly from the award. A notice with formatting instructions will be sent to the investigator before the due date for the final report.

A brief written summary will be submitted along with the final report detailing the actual disposition of funds compared with the original budget categories.

The principal investigator must acknowledge support from the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention Feasibility Project Program in all related publications resulting from the feasibility grant award.

In order for this type of funding to continue, CDC/NIOSH expects to see measurable and future benefits. For up to three years after FPP funding ends, the investigator may be asked to provide details on additional publications and presentations resulting from the feasibility study, as well as updates on new proposals that resulted from the findings of the study.

Checklist

- Cover Page signed by appropriate official
- Abstract /Project Description \leq 250 words
- Budget with Justification
- Biographical Sketch
 - Principal Investigator (PI) include other research support
 - Mentor (if applicable)
 - Co-investigators (if applicable)

Details of Proposed Study

- Specific Aims
- Background
- Methods and Data Analysis
- Expected Results
- Future Directions
- ↑ Total pages for Details of Proposed Study \leq 10
- Human Subjects/Vertebrate animals (if applicable)
- Timetable
- References (2 pages maximum)
- Letter from Mentor if PI is a student
- Appendices (other letters of support, copies of data collection forms, etc.)

- Mail original and 5 copies of completed application to:

Feasibility Project Program
c/o Teresa A. Donovan, MPH
Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention
University of Kentucky College of Public Health
1141 Red Mile Road, Suite 102
Lexington, Kentucky 40504-9842