

Points of Clarification for 2011 Ag Center Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)  
(Updated December 14, 2010)

**One Application per Institution**

Eligible institutions may submit one application to PAR-11-022. University systems with multiple campuses, schools, departments, colleges, etc. will be allowed one application. The application may incorporate co-investigators at the various campuses, schools, departments or colleges.

This FOA is for Center applications that are expected to have a regional (multi-state) focus on impacts/outcomes in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector. Applicants are expected to incorporate interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary approaches and have strong “on the ground” partnerships to enhance the potential for prevention, intervention, education or translation outcomes and impacts.

To allow more than one application per institution would unnecessarily complicate the application and review process. An institution would be competing with itself in addition to other applicants. It also could be perceived as a poor reflection on the ability of the applicant institution to develop a concise, cohesive center application (and subsequently a functional center) with a regional (multi-state approach).

**Geographic Balance of Centers among Regions of the Country**

It is very unlikely that NIOSH will fund more than one center in a particular geographic area of the country. This is based on expected availability of funds and a clear need for geographic balance of Centers. Institutions in the same general geographic region are encouraged to partner in developing a cohesive application to PAR-11-022. Geographic balance is specifically mentioned on page 31 of the announcement.

**Collaborative, Sustainable Partnerships**

Organizations listed on page 8 are provided as partnership examples. All potential partnership organizations could not be listed in the announcement. Partnerships could also include: state departments of agriculture, labor, motor vehicle safety, or transportation; producer organizations or cooperatives; regional, local or community worker organizations; migrant and seasonal worker organizations; and various communication media (radio, TV, print and social).

Broad-based partnerships can help extend the ability of an Ag Center to initiate, promote and sustain a wide range of prevention, intervention, education, translation, evaluation and research efforts related to agricultural, forestry and fishing health and safety. Applicants have the flexibility to include a wide variety of partnerships, but must clearly explain the purpose, goal, rationale and relevance of each proposed partnership.

**Outreach Program**

The cap on the amount which can be requested for the Outreach Program is \$40,000. This is correctly shown on page 11 of the announcement. The \$50,000 amount shown on page 14 is incorrect.

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### **Updates Related to Page Limits**

- Past Performance/Accomplishments in Last Project Period (for existing centers): **7 pages.**
- Past Performance/Accomplishments Relevant to Ag Center goals (for new applicants): **7 pages.**
- Research Strategy for R18 projects: **12pages.**

### **External Advisory Committees**

NIOSH scientists may serve on Ag Center External Advisory Committees as part of their normal duties providing appropriate NIOSH approvals are obtained. Travel and related costs must be paid by the respective NIOSH program. Extramural grant funds awarded to the Center may not be used.

It is recommended that any NIOSH scientist participating in an External Advisory Committee do so as a non-voting member, however, the final decision on this is left to the Center leadership. This guidance is provided to reconcile contradictory information on pages 13 and 33 of the announcement.

### **A Note about the Table of Contents for an AG Center Application**

The table of contents is organized to help facilitate an effective and efficient peer review process. Each individual core, program or project (*i.e.*, research, prevention/intervention or education/translation) should constitute a complete, discrete unit within the application with minimal duplication elsewhere. NIOSH recognizes that there will be some duplication. Our overarching concern is that each reviewer can easily access the pertinent information needed without having to search through an entire application.

### **What project period should be used?**

Currently funded Centers should plan to continue with their existing month/day start dates for 2011 providing they do not fall on a weekend. If your current month/day start date falls on a weekend in 2011, please move it to the prior Friday.

New applicants should plan on a 9/30/11 start date.

### **Other Support**

Other support is not required in the application. As noted in the Instructions for PHS 398, this information will be requested at an appropriate time after peer review. NIOSH will request and review this information prior to award.

### **Other Questions**

#### **What does PAR mean?**

PAR is the designation for a Program Announcement that identifies the location of the [initial peer review](#), either in the [Center for Scientific Review](#) or an [institute](#), and may include other information on receipt, referral, or review.

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**Is there an opportunity to propose 5-year translation projects (currently listed at 2-4 years)?**

Yes. The information in the announcement is intended as guidance. The rationale and justification for a five-year translation project should be clearly explained in the application. Applicants are also advised to read the review criteria for translation projects.

**If an R-18 project is proposed for 5 years, does that make it ineligible?**

No. If you do this, you must clearly explain the rationale and justification. You should also clearly indicate how this fits into the overall Center

**General Guidance**

Be concise, clear and transparent in all aspects of the application. Use the allotted space wisely.

Applicants are **not required** to use all the space allotted for any given section of the application.

Applicants are **not required** to request the maximum funding indicated for any category or for the overall Center.

**Inquiries**

**For scientific/research inquiries, contact:** W. Allen Robison, Ph. D., (404) 498-2530 or [WRobison@cdc.gov](mailto:WRobison@cdc.gov).

**For peer review inquiries, contact:** M. Chris Langub, Ph.D., (404) 498-2543 or [mlangub@cdc.gov](mailto:mlangub@cdc.gov).

**For financial or grants management inquiries, contact** Maryann Monroe (412) 386-5075 or [MPMonroe@cdc.gov](mailto:MPMonroe@cdc.gov).

You may email your questions to NIOSH/OEP Correspondence (CDC) with PAR-11-022 in the subject line.

Please visit the NIOSH/OEP Website (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/oep/funding.html#res>) for additional information.

**NOTE: When specific pages of the announcement are referenced, this means the announcement as printed from the NIH Guide.**