

Points of Clarification for 2011 Ag Center Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA)
(November 8, 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. State, regional, local or community labor organizations also can provide effective partnership to help initiate, promote and sustain a variety of partnerships related to agricultural, forestry and fishing health and safety.

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.

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 is guidance is provided to reconcile contradictory information on pages 13 and 33 of the announcement.