Multi-State Projects
2026 Call for Proposals

Submission Deadline, September 19th, 2025, 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Submit by email at wrdc@uidaho.edu
Project funding limit: $30,000 per project
Project time limit: one year
Funding decisions announced: End of October 2025

Grant Program Manager: Dr. Nadeeka Weerasekara, nadeeka@uidaho.edu

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WRDC Multistate Integrated Research and Extension Seed Grants

To foster multistate collaboration and good integration between research and extension activities, the WRDC invests in supporting Multistate Integrated Research and Extension Projects addressing critical priorities in the Western U.S. Up to $30,000 will be awarded for each project.

Multistate integrated projects must have active involvement from two or more Western's land-grant institutions (both 1994 or 1862 institutions) or territories from start to finish and include research and extension activities that supplement and reinforce each other. These projects must have a high potential for obtaining external funding through federal competitive grants to sustain and enable the projects' ability to meet their objectives. The project's duration will be one year, with the possibility of being renewed for a second year, subject to funding. The budget allocation to either component (research or Extension) cannot exceed 66%, ensuring a balanced effort in both areas. HATCH and Cooperative Extension multistate project teams will be eligible to apply for this funding. Proposals submitted for review will be evaluated based on their relevance to the priorities of the WRDC program and their overall merit.

About the WRDC

The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four rural development centers established by Congress's Rural Development Act of 1972. It is a collaborative effort between the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Idaho. The core of its funding comes from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The WRDC works with public universities in the Western region to conduct research-based studies and educational outreach programs. It also partners with local communities, decision-makers, entrepreneurs, families, farmers, and ranchers to address various rural development issues. The center's objective is to enhance the research and extension capacity of the region's land-grant universities to help rural communities thrive in today's world. The WRDC works in conjunction with the other three Regional Rural Development Centers in the country to achieve their shared mission.

Western Land-Grant Institutions:

American Samoa Community College, College of Micronesia, Colorado State University, Montana State University, New Mexico State University, Northern Marianas College, Oregon State University, University of Alaska, University of Arizona, University of California, University of Guam, University of Hawaii, University of Idaho, University of Nevada, University of Wyoming, Utah State University, Washington State University, Blackfoot Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, Dine College, Fort Belknap College, Fort Peck Community College, Institute of American Indian Arts, Little Big Horn College, Navajo Technical College, Northwest Indian College, Salish Kootenai College, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Stone Child College, and Tohono O'odham Community College.

Proposal Instructions

Proposals must be submitted via email to **wrdc@uidaho.edu**. Before submitting, please refer to the submission checklist found on **page 4** of this Call for Proposals to ensure all required materials are included. All checklist items should be compiled into a **single email**—either as one document or as separate files. Accepted file types include **.doc, .docx,** or **.pdf**.
Please use the following subject line format for your email:
Multistate_[PI's Last Name]_[University Acronym]_[State]
Example:
Subject: Multistate_Brown_UI_ID

WRDC will reject incomplete proposals and those that do not follow the instructions. Ensure all sections are submitted by the deadline.

Project Team
Multistate integrated projects must have active involvement from two or more Western's land-grant institutions (1994 or 1862 institutions) from **start to finish**. Projects must incorporate research and extension, and bring together a team of researchers, students, and professionals from identified priority areas.

Project Funding Limit
Total funds requested may not exceed $30,000 over the entire budget period.

Project Time Limit
Projects may be one year in length with the possibility of being renewed for a second year, subject to funding.

Cover Page
The cover page must include:
- Project title
- A list of cooperating institutions (at least 2 Western land-grant institutions must be listed)
- A project summary (300 words max). A clear and concise summary is crucial in the review process. It should outline the problem and propose an innovative solution. The summary will be available to the public if the proposal is funded. The summary must include:
  - Identified problem or research question(s)
  - Describe the research components and explain how your project will creatively address the identified problem or research questions.
  - Identify the potential significance of the project and expected outcomes
  - Explain how your project will disseminate results.
  - Identify potential funding sources to expand the project (be precise).

Project Narrative

The project narrative section may not exceed 4 pages using 12-point Times New Roman font with single-line spacing (i.e., no more than six lines per vertical inch), including all figures and tables and 1-inch margins.

The project narrative must include, but is not limited to, the following sections:
- **Introduction:** Include a clear statement of the proposed project's long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives. Summarize the body of knowledge or past activities, if any, that substantiate the need for the proposed project. Include preliminary data/information pertinent to the proposed project. For example, estimates of issues' magnitude and relevance to Western stakeholders. Explain why it is important to the Western Region.
- **Approach:** For each research and extension objective, describe what will be done, including **methods** and **materials.** Describe the activities and expected results. How extension and education activities, if applicable, will be evaluated. How data will be analyzed or interpreted. Your plans to communicate results to appropriate audiences, including relevant scientific peers, stakeholders, and the public, as appropriate.
- **Benefits:** Briefly explain the project's benefits for you and the Western region.

Bibliography & References Cited

There is no page limit. All work cited in the text should be referenced in this application section. All references must be complete, including titles and all co-authors, conform to an acceptable journal format, and be listed in alphabetical order using the first author's last name or listed by number in the order of citation.

Project Team Members and Roles

For each team member, provide a Biographical Sketch (3 pages max) describing their background and expertise to demonstrate that they have the appropriate skills to complete the proposed project. We recommend you follow the NSF-approved format found here: https://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/biosketch.jsp.

Describe all team members' roles at all stages of the project. For each project objective, indicate who will be responsible and which team member(s) will be involved in the research and dissemination activities.

Letters of Stakeholder Support

Attach letter(s) of support from stakeholder individuals and/or organizations that support the proposed research and education activities. These letters are optional

Budget and Budget Justification

The WRDC does not allow indirect costs. Funding is for up to $30,000 per project. The budget justification detail should follow the same order as the budget. While you should provide information for each item of the budget, you must justify the following budget categories, where applicable: salaries, fringe, equipment, supplies, travel, contractual, and other direct cost categories.

Program Income: If an applicant wishes to generate program income through activities proposed in their project, this must be included in the proposal. Specifically, an applicant must address the following questions:
- How will the program income be generated?
- How much program income is anticipated?
- How will generating program income benefit the project?
- How will the program income be utilized?
- When will the program income be generated during the project period, and will there be sufficient time to expend it?

Please include these details in the **budget justification** section of the proposal so that reviewers and the WRDC staff can objectively evaluate the budget in relation to the proposed activities.

If a current WRDC subrecipient **DID NOT** include program income in their grant proposal, the PI, Authorized Official, or fiscal officer must request **prior approval** from WRDC to generate program income at least 30 days before program income is generated. Full details about program income can be found in the USDA-NIFA Policy Guide. See section V. Post award Federal Requirements, E. Program Income.

Timeline
Provide a timeline, such as a Gantt chart or other detailed breakdown for accomplishing each project objective. Identify the major milestones and activities that will be completed, and when each of those milestones or activities will occur and how they relate back to the objective(s). The timeline should cover one year. However, if you anticipate a potential extension for an additional year, please include a rough plan for the extended period. Extension is conditional.

Data Management Plan
The data management plan should outline how data that you collect will be handled throughout the project and after its completion. You should describe how the data will be acquired, managed, analyzed and stored. It should address how data storage will be compliant with regulations and address how the awardee plans to address sharing and reuse.

The proposal submission will have two steps. In the first step (pre-proposals) you will only need to submit the documents in the submission checklist below:

Submission Checklist

- ✓ Cover page
- ✓ Project Narrative
- ✓ Bibliography & References Cited
- ✓ Project Team Members and Roles
- ✓ Biographical Sketches of all team members
- ✓ Letters of Stakeholder Support (optional)
- ✓ Budget and Budget Justification
- ✓ Timeline
- ✓ Data Management Plan

Accepted projects will have to provide the following documents later on:

- ✓ Statement of responsibility
- ✓ Subrecipient form
- ✓ Signature page
- ✓ Statement of Work (This is the project narrative you submitted)
- ✓ Budget and budget justification
- ✓ Headshot of each team member
- ✓ IRB if you are collecting primary data