North Central Region Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grant

2026 RFP

- **Proposals accepted on a rolling basis**
- **Funding limit: $5,000**
- **Time limit: Complete within 12 months of the start date**

The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development (NCRCRD) at Purdue University announces a competition for Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grants aimed at enhancing the ability of land-grant institutions to positively influence the quality of life in rural areas of the twelve states in the North Central Region (NCR) of the United States. Priority areas for the Center's work include:
- Creating Resilient Communities and Economies
- Developing Leadership and Civic Engagement
- Promoting Community Health and Wellness

This grant opportunity incentivizes the implementation of Extension programs available through any of the 34 land-grant institutions in the NCR, in another NCR state where the program is currently not being implemented. This funding is meant to reduce barriers and encourage new collaborations. Priority will be given to Extension programs that are listed in the Community Development Extension Library (CDExt Library).

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include current faculty and staff of land-grant institutions (LGIs) in the North Central Region (NCR) and their partners. The PI must be employed by a land-grant institution in the NCR. Additional Co-PIs from other institutions or non-profits with expertise related to the curriculum chosen from the CDExt Library are encouraged but not required. Non-profits are encouraged to be in contact with land-grant institutions in their service region as LGIs engage in proposal development. The PI's employer will serve as the fiduciary institution for the grant, but the PI and all Co-PIs are expected to operate on a consensus basis in grant management decisions.

Extension programs that meet the requirements of the NCRCRD Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grants should demonstrate the following characteristics:
1. Aligns with the priority issues of the NCRCRD and/or national listening session results.
2. Incorporates a conceptual framework that is rooted in sound research.
3. Involves delivering multiple educational sessions that provide target audiences with more in-depth information/training on a specific topic/subject.

4. Embraces a series of short, medium, and long-term outcomes that are designed to track the impact of the program on participants over time (i.e., individuals and/or communities).
5. Employs a core set of metrics that Extension professionals use to report activities and outcomes associated with the program.
6. Represents a program that has expansion potential in the new state

ACTIVITIES TO BE FUNDED

Types of grant activities associated with the North Central Region Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grants may include, but are not limited to:
- Piloting and evaluation activities
- Train the Trainer activities
- Curriculum enhancements to increase access and relevance, especially to limited-resource and/or traditionally less-served populations
- Process improvement

The PI of each funded project will work with the NCRCRD staff to develop a vignette for the NCRCRD Annual Report and/or another NCRCRD venue (social media, blog post, Community Development NCR Impact Report, etc.)

FIDUCIARY & REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

NCRCRD Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grants budgets may not exceed $5,000. All projects must be completed within one year of start date. The Center does not pay overhead or other administrative costs. Cost sharing is not required.

The NCRCRD is hosted by Purdue University, which means that all proposals will involve subcontracting with a land-grant institution; subcontracts are typically necessary when the proposal covers the compensation of land-grant employees or consultants. In these cases, the fiduciary institution will invoice the Center for reimbursement of actual costs.

The final invoice should include the PI's final report. The final report should be no longer than three pages long and provide details about impacts, challenges, and barriers to sustaining or expanding the Extension program throughout the NCR. PI(s) will also be required to complete a survey of accomplishments and impacts.

REVIEW PROCESS

NCRCRD Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grant proposals will receive two levels of programmatic review. A technical review will be completed by the NCRCRD Advisory Committee. The Center's Board of Directors will provide input into the final selection and recommended funding levels. Selection criteria include:

1. The relevance of the Extension program to the Center's goal of enhancing the capacity of land-grant institutions to execute their rural development mission.
2. Relevance of the Extension program and the potential for impact in the new location.
3. The extent to which the Extension program aligns with the NCRCRD priority areas outlined in the call for proposals.
4. The feasibility of successfully expanding the scale and scope of the work even further in the new state.
5. The degree to which the plan of work is realistic (can the proposed activities be accomplished in the given timeline?).
6. The appropriateness of the budget for the proposed work.
7. The likelihood that the Extension program will be viable in the long term.
8. The demonstrated ability of the project team.

The Purdue University Office of Grant and Contract Administration will review budgets for consistency with its guidelines.

TIMELINE FOR AWARDS

<u>Proposals are accepted on a rolling basis</u>. Project PIs will be notified within 30-45 days of proposal submission. Projects funded under the NCRCRD Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grants process are expected to be completed within 12 months of the start date.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposals should use one-inch margins, 12-point font, and 1.5 spaced and should include the following items in the order listed below:

1. Proposal cover page:
    a. Name
    b. Abstract 150 words
    c. Summary of Deliverables
2. Project narrative (2 pages maximum)
    a. Introduction (land-grant institution(s), PI, Partners, Extension Program, etc.)
    b. Description of Population and Place Served
    c. Demonstrated Need for Extension Program
    d. Description of Previous Extension Programming Conducted Related to Need
3. Description of Implementation and Sustainability Plan, including the PI and Co-PIs (Partners) roles in executing the project (2 page maximum).

4. One-page timetable including specific deliverables. Investigators should plan on an award period of no more than twelve months.
5. Biographical sketch (2-page CV) for each PI and Co-PI
6. Budget
7. Budget Justification – brief description of why each expense is needed.
8. Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) approval of the proposal. This is normally an individual appointed in the university's grants office.

The entire proposal package should be saved as one pdf.
   A. Items 1 through 6 from the above list. Save as {PI Last Name_University Name_ Nar} *Example: Smith_UMN_nar.pdf*.

All files must be emailed to ncrcrd@purdue.edu as attachments to a single email with the following subject line: NCRCRD Extension Collaboration and Implementation Grant {Last Name of PI}.

Pre-proposals are not required. Persons wishing initial feedback on a potential Extension program implementation are welcome to submit questions any time before the proposal deadline. Applicants should contact potential collaborators, especially Extension program leads from the program host institution, when applicable. NCRCRD will complete feedback requests in the order received, so requests made very close to the final proposal deadline may not receive timely feedback.