

Agricultural Climate Resiliency Competitive Grants Program Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the purpose of the letter of intent for this grant program?
The letter of intent is requested so that we know how many proposals to expect, the theme of each proposal and the identity of each team member. This allows us to assemble a panel of appropriate size and expertise to review the proposals and ensure that we do not run into issues related to conflict of interest. For example, an individual who is a PI or a CoPI on a proposal will not be selected to serve on the review panel. The letter of intent is not used to screen or exclude proposals.
- As this is a relatively new program, how do we know if our proposal will be a good fit and competitive for funding?
As this program is driven by industry needs, PIs are encouraged to discuss their ideas with [industry leaders](#) to determine whether they align with industry priorities related to climate change.
- Does the proposed research need to be conducted in multiple crops?
Proposals addressing research in a single crop are welcomed, particularly if the crop is important for Michigan Agriculture. However, the proposal should address how outcomes from the proposed research can be broadly applied to related crops or general cropping systems.
- Does the proposed research need to focus on crops relevant to Michigan Agriculture?
Proposals should address research relevant to Michigan agriculture and industry stakeholder priorities. Therefore, it is expected that the proposed research be conducted on crops that are important to the state. However, it is acknowledged that the climate is changing and if strong justification can be presented, proposals focused on emerging crops will be considered.
- Are proposals required to have an extension component?
It is vital that proposals include team members from MSU Extension who can develop and lead initiatives to translate research outcomes from funded projects directly to stakeholders.
- I am an MSU faculty member interested in forming a team to submit a proposal to this program. How do I identify colleagues from MSU Extension with the relevant expertise who I can partner with?
More information about MSU Extension and Michigan Agriculture, including the expertise of MSUE staff members can be found [here](#). If you need additional information or have more questions, feel free to contact MSUE Agriculture and Agribusiness Institute Director, Ron Bates at batesr@msu.edu

- I am an MSU faculty member interested in forming a team to submit a proposal to this program. How do I identify relevant Michigan plant industry and stakeholder groups to discuss my ideas with and obtain letters of support and / or collaboration?
A list of industry partners and stakeholders and their commodity responsibilities can be found [here](#).
- Are there restrictions on team size and composition?
There are no limits on team size, but the expectation is that successful proposals are multidisciplinary. Therefore, proposals should not be submitted by single investigators. Proposals must also include a strong outreach / extension component and therefore it is expected that colleagues from MSU Extension, who work directly with stakeholders, be included.
- Can a Co-PI from outside of MSU be included in the proposal?
The PI must be an MSU employee, but Co-PIs can come from other Michigan institutions or from industry if relevant expertise is lacking at MSU, and this is justified in the proposal.
- Can we include a Co-PI from outside of Michigan.
As funding for the program is provided by the State of Michigan, it is not possible to allocate funds to Co-PIs from outside of the state.
- Should collaborators be included in the proposal?
Because this is an opportunity with a considerable amount of funding, it is expected that anyone who is making a significant contribution to the project be included as a Co-PI. We don't want to run into a situation where 10 or 20 collaborators with poorly defined roles are listed in a proposal.
- Can MSU-affiliated postdoctoral scholars and research associates serve as CoPIs on proposals?
Yes, as long as the PI is an MSU faculty member, postdocs and research associates can be included as Co-PIs.
- Are letters of support from stakeholders required?
Proposals should be of direct relevance to stakeholders and the Michigan plant industries. Therefore, up to three letters of support from industry stakeholders or commodity groups outlining the importance and relevance of the proposed research to Michigan agriculture should be included.
- Can PI or CoPI salary be included in the budget?
With the exception of Postdoctoral Associates, the Agricultural Climate Resiliency Program does not allow PI or CoPI salary support. This applies to both annual and academic year appointments. Faculty summer salary cannot be included in the budget.
- Can funds be requested to purchase major equipment items?

It is possible to request funds for major equipment items, but there needs to be strong justification made for the purchase of the equipment and this must address how the equipment is essential and unique to the proposed research.

- Do we need to include F&A, IDC, or Overhead as part of the budget?
The Agricultural Climate Resiliency Program does not permit the inclusion of F&A, IDC, or Overhead in the budget.
- Are proposals required to have matching funds from stakeholder groups or the MI Plant Industries?
Matching funds are not required and should not be included in the proposal documents.
- Will smaller-scale proposals that do not request the full \$1.275M be considered?
While we appreciate that the maximum funding amount need not be requested, PIs must consider that the aim of the program is to address large scale problems using holistic approaches with multidisciplinary teams. If you have an idea that is smaller in scope, it would be best to identify colleagues who you could collaborate with as part of a larger proposal.
- Is it expected that awards funded through this program will lead to additional extramural funding?
It is expected that awards made through this program will utilize integrated and holistic approaches to address the challenges of climate change. We hope that these awards will provide a solid foundation that will allow PIs to generate the data they need to be successful in securing additional competitive extramural funding through combinations of federal, foundation, or corporate sources to continue their research and develop solutions that can be implemented by stakeholders.