



Request for Proposals and Proposal Preparation Instructions 2026

INTRODUCTION

Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs) is a cooperative effort by plant- based commodities and businesses with AgBioResearch, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The Michigan Legislature created Project GREEN to advance Michigan’s economy through its plant-based agriculture. Its mission is to:

- Develop research and educational programs in response to industry needs;
- Ensure and improve food safety; and
- Protect and preserve the quality of the environment.

Funding for competitive grants to meet this mission is available during the upcoming fiscal year. New proposals for 2026 will be considered for funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Principal Investigators (P.I.) must be employed by Michigan State University or Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. There are no restrictions on the employment status of other team members. Please visit the Project GREEN website for detailed [PI eligibility information](#).

TIMELINE FOR 2026 PROJECTS

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| • November 3, 2025 | Call for proposals |
| • November 18, 2025 | Workshop 1 – for campus-based faculty/academic staff |
| • November 20, 2025 | Workshop 2 – for MSUE field staff |
| • December 1, 2025 | Deadline to submit a new user request (new faculty only) |
| • January 12, 2026 | Proposals due |
| • April 1, 2026 | Notification of awards |
| • May 1, 2026 | Project funds available* |
| • June 30, 2027 | Termination date for 2026 funding |

*Please note that technically the funding cycle runs from July 1st – June 30th. Project GREEN awards are allocated in May to assist with the planting season. Our target for award allocation is early May; however, allocations may occur at a later time.

INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

Project GREEN has been meeting plant agriculture industry challenges since 1998. Current research and extension priorities have been submitted to Project GREEN by commodity groups and other partners. Industry priorities can be accessed at this [link](#).

All proposals **must** clearly state how the proposed activities will enhance Michigan’s plant-based agriculture and **should be accompanied by letters of support from commodity groups and / or industry stakeholders** that document the relevance, importance, and timeliness of the proposed research or extension projects (see proposal preparation instructions for more details). Projects must deliver clearly defined results within a realistic time frame. All proposals will be evaluated by peer review panels composed of researchers, educators, and industry/government professionals.

PROGRAM AREAS

Project GREEN funds activities in three key areas: Applied Research, Basic Research, and Extension / Demonstration Projects.

Applied Research proposals must:

- Enhance industry profitability
- Provide long-term benefits to Michigan’s plant agriculture
- Link to plant agriculture industry priorities
- Contain an extension or outreach plan to disseminate information to the plant industries
- Be environmentally and socially responsible
- Address issues through single or multi-disciplinary approaches
- For resubmissions, describe how reviewer comments were addressed in the revised proposal

Basic Research proposals must:

- Be innovative and generate knowledge that can be used to address contemporary problems and/or enable the development of improved techniques
- Position investigators to be competitive for national/international grants
 - Include a specific plan (including timeline, target funding agency, and program) for the submission of a grant proposal
 - The major outcome of the project is the successful submission of a proposal to the target program
- Link to plant agriculture industry priorities
- Include a vision and plans for the improvement of Michigan crops or other industry segments
- For resubmissions, describe how reviewer comments were addressed in the revised proposal

Extension/Demonstration proposals must:

- Have regional or statewide impact
- Link to plant agriculture industry priorities
- Utilize a team of main campus and statewide extension / outreach professionals
- Be supported by and use results from Project GREEN or other relevant MSU research projects
- For resubmissions, describe how reviewer comments were addressed in the revised proposal

FUNDING SCOPE

To maintain the flexibility of Project GREEN funding, there are established guidelines for funding amount and multi-year proposals. All multi-year requests must clearly justify the proposed time span and provide a progressive linkage among the activities in subsequent years. Multi-year funding is not guaranteed but is contingent on satisfactory progress and available Project GREEN funding. If year one activities are considered preliminary, submit as a single-year proposal.

MULTI-YEAR FUNDING GUIDELINES AND LIMITS

Project GREEN has established limits on the number of submissions by lead Principal Investigators. The limits are:

- Applied Research – limit 2 submissions
- Basic Research – limit 1 submission
- Extension/Outreach – limit 1 submission

New 2026 projects-time and funding limits:

- Applied Research – two year maximum, up to \$60,000 per year
- Basic Research – two year maximum, up to \$60,000 per year
- Extension/Demonstration – two year maximum, up to \$40,000 per year

Proposal Submission Guidelines

We encourage you to submit your proposals prior to the deadline of **Monday, January 12, 2026**. This will give us ample time to manage any issues that may arise.

NEW USERS: If this is your first time submitting to Project GREEN, you must submit a new user request by **December 1, 2025** using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/DFW4dmArcf>. This will allow you access to the new SharePoint system.

CURRENT USERS: If you plan on submitting for continued funding and do not know the original project ID, you must submit an old data request using this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/DFW4dmArcf>.

Please visit the tutorial and user guide listed below, both will give you an excellent overview of the new system.

You can access the Researcher Tutorial Powerpoint and Project GREEN's App User Guide at https://www.canr.msu.edu/project-green/rfps_and_forms.

Once you have completed the tutorial and user guide, click on the URL below to begin your online submission.

tinyurl.com/ProjectGREEN

GENERAL FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Proposals must include the cover page, must be single-spaced with indented paragraphs, double-spaced between sections, in 12-point type with 1-inch margins and no more than 4 pages long. Per panel reviewer request, this will be enforced.

NEW PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

- I. **COVER PAGE**
Sections II – VII should not be more than 4 pages total.
- II. **PROBLEM STATEMENT**
- III. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES**
- IV. **SPECIFIC METHODS AND PROCEDURES**
Do you have collaborators? If so, state what their specific role is.
- V. **PROPOSAL IMPACTS**
The project must demonstrate potential impacts on Michigan’s plant agriculture. The proposal must outline how impact will be estimated. Outreach and economic rationale must be included.
**Basic grant proposals must present the plan for a federal competitive grant submission in this section.
- VI. **PROJECT SCOPE**
Describe how this project builds on or supports any similar projects submitted to OR funded by other sources.
- VII. **TIMELINE**
Two-year projects must include plans for both years.
- VIII. **Resubmission Proposals Only – Provide a point-by-point response of how reviewer comments were addressed in the revised proposal (Limit 1 page).**
- IX. **BUDGET PAGE**
Two-year projects must include budgets for both years. **List both existing matching support and support from pending proposals that are directly related to the Project GREEN proposal. You must provide a budget justification. Please refer to the [Project GREEN Eligibility Document](#) for information on the categories of personnel that can be supported by Project GREEN funds.**
- X. **FUNDING HISTORY**
List each team member’s Project GREEN funding over the past three years, including current allocations (note total funds by project number). Indicate how these funds have been used to leverage external grants.
- XI. **LITERATURE CITED**
Literature that supports goals, objectives and methods of proposal.
- XII. **TEAM QUALIFICATIONS**
One-page vita for each team member outlining their qualifications and accomplishments.
- XIII. **LETTERS OF SUPPORT**
Letters of support are strongly encouraged. Letters of support should not be sent directly to the AgBioResearch office. They must be uploaded in the competitive database as part of your proposal upload. Please be courteous and contact commodity groups and/or organizations well in advance for letters of support. Letters of support must specifically address the relevance to industry priorities and the importance of your project to MI agriculture. Generic endorsements of the project are not helpful.

CONTINUING PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

A progress report on multi-year projects is due in January of each year which is the same deadline as the competitive process. A comprehensive final report will be requested in late May for submission late June of the termination year. Multi-year projects are funded one year at a time and are subject to annual evaluation. These reports will be placed on the Project GREEN website and used for report to the legislature and the general public.

Failure to submit timely and quality progress reports, or to make acceptable project progress, will result in termination of a project and recovery of unspent funds. Investigators failing to submit a final report for a completed project will become ineligible for future Project GREEN funding.

CONTINUING PROJECT PROPOSAL PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

- I. **COVER PAGE (Proposal summary may go into 2nd page)**
All fields must be completed.
Section II should not be more than 2 pages total.
- II. **PROGRESS REPORT**
Submit a concise (**two-page maximum**, including photographs, charts, or figures) progress report highlighting accomplishments, projected activities, **outreach and impacts** on the Michigan agricultural industry. Reported information will be used to demonstrate the relevance and impact of Project GREEN funding in communications. Files should be imbedded in the report document. Images should be saved at 300 dpi or higher.
- III. **EXTERNAL GRANTS**
List all grant proposals submitted in 2025 related to your Project GREEN award and the status of the submitted proposals (awarded, pending, or rejected).
- IV. **TIMELINE**
Outline plans for remainder of project.

V. BUDGET

Complete a Project GREEN Budget form for the remainder of the project. Please include any matching funds leveraged to this point to support the project. You must provide a budget justification. **Please refer to the [Project GREEN Eligibility Document](#) for information on the categories of personnel that can be supported by Project GREEN funds.**

In order to upload your proposal go to tinyurl.com/ProjectGREEN.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals are subjected to scientific review and ranking by panels composed of current and emeritus MSU faculty, academic staff, MSUE educators, MDARD employees, and industry professionals. Each panel is selected by Project GREEN leadership to meet the needs of the specific program area. The identity of panel members is confidential.

The chair of each review panel reports the recommendations of the panel to the Directors’ Action Team (DAT). The DAT reviews these rankings and makes final decisions on funded proposals and appropriate allocations. The following criteria are used by all panel members. PIs are strongly encouraged to take into consideration these criteria when preparing proposals.

Evaluation Criteria	Applied	Basic	Extension
Alignment with specific programmatic priorities of the industries and/or commodities served by Project GREEN. Letters of support from industry and commitment of matching funds.	20	20 ¹	20
The extent of partnering with and potential impact on Michigan plant agriculture industries.	10	5	15
Mechanism to deliver information to Michigan plant agriculture industries.	15	-	30
Is the proposed research innovative and scientifically sound? appropriateness of methodology; feasibility of completion. Does it connect to previous research? Does it position the research for future competitive funding?	35	40	25
Investigator expertise aligned with project objectives.	10	10	5
Leverage of external and other funding sources	10	25 ²	5
Total	100	100	100

¹ Matching funds are not a requirement for proposals submitted to the Basic Research Panel.

² For Basic proposals, the potential to leverage external and other funding sources is an important criterion that will be evaluated.

