

Seeding Solutions

Addressing Challenges in Food and Agriculture

Opportunity Overview

To kick off FFAR's new direction of embarking on Challenge areas, we are Seeding Solutions, a call to the community to come forward with bold, innovative, and potentially transformative research proposals in our recently launched Challenge Areas. Prospective grantees may come forward with a proposal for up to \$1,000,000 of FFAR funding over one to five years, and must secure 1:1 [matching funding](#) from a non-Federal source before a grant will be awarded. FFAR anticipates funding at least one meritorious and transformative proposal in each challenge area. Each grant will be awarded over a period of one to five years. FFAR will continue to seek and develop additional partnerships and projects in the Challenge areas but this will serve as a first step to bringing innovative ideas to FFAR's doorstep.

Pre-Proposals Due: Monday, January 16, 2017

Pre-Proposal Requirements

To be considered, projects must be transformative research that addresses and provide solutions to an intractable problem and/or accelerates innovation within the Challenge Areas. Proposals may be new projects or expansions of ongoing projects. If a request is to expand an ongoing research project, then the request must adequately explain why additional funding for an existing project will enhance innovation or accelerate the project. FFAR will only consider research proposals that:

1. Have the potential for a transformative impact within the Challenge Area. The Challenge Areas are:
 - a. Food Waste and Loss
 - b. Protein Challenge
 - c. Water Scarcity
 - d. Innovation Pathway to Sustainability
 - e. Healthy Soils, Thriving Farms
 - f. Urban Food Systems
 - g. Making "My Plate" Your Plate

Find more detailed information about the Challenge Areas [here](#).

2. Demonstrate partnerships with different sectors (private, NGOs, governments, academia, and end users, etc.), such that research outcomes may be scalable and applicable to working food and agriculture systems.
3. Contribute to the goal of sustainable food and agriculture, defined as practices that, "satisfy human food and fiber needs; enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the

agricultural economy depends; make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls; sustain the economic viability of farm operation; and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.” (Food and Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, Public Law 101-624, Title XVI, Subtitle A, Section 1603).

4. Serve the public good by making data open and accessible to the public, creating unique economic development opportunities, and/or contributing to food and agriculture workforce development.

To apply, potential grantees must:

1. Submit a pre-proposal to FFAR by **Monday, January 16, 2017** through Proposal Central. FFAR encourages potential applicants to reach out the managing FFAR staff member for their Challenge Area of interest to hone their ideas prior to submitting a pre-proposal (see below). Finalists will be notified in the **first week of February 2017** and invited to submit full proposals. Full proposals are due April 1, 2017 by which time applicants must have identified a committed partner who will provide non-federal matching funds should the proposal be selected backed up by letters of support. **Successful applicants will be notified by June 1, 2017.**
2. Finalists must identify a committed source for 1:1 non-federal [matching funding](#) prior to submitting the full proposal. The matching funding must correspond to line items in the full proposal budget. Up to 50% of matching funds can be in-kind match. The remainder must be a cash match. Matching funding must supplement and not supplant any pre-existing funds for the project. FFAR will match up to \$1,000,000.00 USD, for a total project budget of \$2,000,000.00 USD. Indirect costs cannot exceed 10% of the total budget (FFAR contribution + grantee’s matching funding).

FFAR encourages potential funders and partners who are committing match funds to reach out to FFAR early in the process to work through any issues with how the funds will meet FFAR’s matching requirements. Establishing an organizational relationship with FFAR will ease the process going forward for these and future interactions the two organizations may have.

Pre-Proposal Submission Instructions

1. Visit <https://proposalcentral.altum.com> and log in as an applicant.
 - If you do not already have a login, you can click the orange “Create One Now!” button.
 - If you do not remember your password, you can use the “Forgot Your username/Password?” link. Your email address will work as the username.
2. Once logged in, you can either begin your Professional Profile and save your information or you can begin by creating an application.
3. To start the application, click the gray “Grants Opportunities” tab in the upper right of the screen.
4. Filter by the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research.
5. You will see the open opportunity listed. Click “Apply Now”.
6. The application will open. Once you save on the Title Page, the application will become interactive and you can move between sections.

Budget Guidelines

Budgets must be commensurate with the work proposed and FFAR expects that some challenge areas may require budgets at the \$2,000,000 level (FFAR contribution and matching contribution combined), while others may require lower budgets. However, FFAR will fund only bold and transformative ideas, thus small budget proposals under \$500,000 (FFAR contribution and matching contribution) are not likely to be considered. Total project budgets can exceed \$2,000,000.00, however, FFAR will only match up to \$1,000,000.00

Staff Contacts by Challenge Area

As stated above, FFAR encourages potential applicants to reach out the managing FFAR staff member for their Challenge Area of interest to refine their ideas prior to submitting a pre-proposal. Please include “Seeding Solutions” and the name of your Challenge Area of interest in the subject line of your email.

| Challenge Area | Program Director | Email Address |
|---|------------------|--|
| Food Waste and Loss | | |
| Innovation Pathway to Sustainability | Lucyna Kurtyka | lkurtyka@foundationfar.org |
| Healthy Soils, Thriving Farms | | |
| Overcoming Water Scarcity | LaKisha Odom | lodom@foundationfar.org |
| Protein Challenge | Tim Kurt | tkurt@foundationfar.org |
| Making “My Plate” Your Plate | | |
| Urban Food Systems | John Reich | jreich@foundationfar.org |