

2008-2009 Call for Proposals
University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension Action Team Programming

Extension Administration will make available \$100,000 for funding action team/work group programming efforts on a competitive basis during 2008-2009. These dollars will be distributed in two ways: \$500 per team for communication among team members and \$97,500 for funding of grants. Possible uses of the grant funding include:

- delivery of targeted educational programming
- curriculum development for targeted programming
- professional development to enhance competency of focused educators
- publication development and printing for targeted programming
- purchasing publications or other educational materials for targeted programming
- travel to support an action team/work group educational program
- preparing multimedia materials for targeted programming
- conducting impact evaluations
- needs assessment

The maximum for which grant proposals can be written is \$7,500. Action teams, as well as work groups of action teams, are eligible to submit proposals. The intent is to fund projects that contribute to the comprehensive educational goals of the action plans and not one time, stand alone events. An attempt will be made to balance funding across the five plans based on submission of quality proposals.

Proposals should include: 1) a two page (not including the logic model) overview of how the educational project addresses the goals of an action plan 2) a completed logic model for the proposal and 3) a short statement from action plan leaders that the proposed project is consistent with action plan goals (action plan leaders are listed in the Extension/s personnel directory).

The following items must be included in the proposal:

- title
- action team(s) and/or work group(s) involved
- contact person
- definition of why this is an important issue
- how the proposal supports the goals of a current Extension action plan
- overall educational objectives (outcomes-impacts detail will be submitted as part of the logic model)
- research base that supports this educational project (one or two sentences)
- target audience
- how the funds requested can leverage additional resources
- how impact will be documented, including EARS report(s) planned, and process for sharing the impact with stakeholders
- budget (buying out the time of current employees to work on a project will not be funded)
- statement from action plan leaders

The following issues can be addressed as applicable:

- what makes this proposal “cutting edge” programming
- which academic departments are involved
- identify potential connections with research and teaching programs
- what is the potential for applied research programming
- what are the opportunities for traditional and nontraditional partnerships
- how this educational effort will contribute to the goals of the IANR Strategic Plan

A completed logic model of this educational project describing the goals (outcomes-impacts), process (inputs-outputs) and evaluation steps is required as an attachment to the two page overview.

Proposals are due May 15 (no exceptions).

Action Team Grants funded must be expended by June 30, 2009.

Consider using Polycoms, Breeze, Blackboard and other effective communication tools that are relatively inexpensive to facilitate team/work group activities and efficiently use the team’s \$500 for awarded communications.

Proposals will be evaluated by a team that includes a District Director, a Department Head or Chair, three Extension Advisory Committee representatives, Keith Niemann, Rick Koelsch, and Kathleen Lodl. Collaboration across various program focus areas is encouraged. Criteria for evaluating the proposals are:

- contribution of proposal to the long term goals of the action plan
- perceived probability of achieving expected outcomes/impacts
- creativity exhibited in addressing action plan goals and objectives
- clear, measurable, meaningful and logical outcomes for the proposed educational project
- activities appropriate for achieving outcomes
- inclusion of an evaluation process in the logic model that monitors progress toward outcomes
- strategy for sharing impact report with stakeholders
- contribution to the goals of the IANR Strategic Plan
- completed logic model

Attached is a logic model diagram. Information on the logic model and a blank form can be found on the UNL Extension website under the "Program Planning" link in the Faculty/Staff Resources section.

Questions can be directed to Rick, Kathleen or Keith. **Send proposals electronically to Linda Tempel (ltempel1@unl.edu) by May 15, 2008.** Please share a copy of the proposal with the unit administrator(s) of the work group members directly involved in the project.