CELS CARES[1] FY2011
College of the Environment and Life Sciences
Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station
Rhode Island Cooperative Extension

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR CELS CARES INITIATIVES:
RESEARCH PROJECTS INTEGRATED WITH EXTENSION

CELS CARES: dedicated to supporting relevant, outcome-oriented, impact-driven research and outreach.

Focus: The Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station (RIAES) and Rhode Island Cooperative Extension (RICE) requests research/extension proposals for fiscal year 2011[2]. The focus of this request is made in the context of the strategic goals of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/pdfs/csrees stratic_plan.pdf) and the Rhode Island State Plan of Work. Importantly, this request encourages investigators from around the University to respond. This specific solicitation is for research projects that have clear integration with extension (Extension is the outreach and engagement arm of the University's Land Grant programs) and are interdisciplinary. Further, we are interested in funding projects focused on areas of great societal need: renewable energy/bioenergy (a new area for the Rhode Island State Plan of Work) and health (especially as it relates to healthy lifestyles and obesity.) Collectively, we anticipate funding projects in areas of societal need; areas that support the Rhode Island State Plan of Work; and areas of innovation that enhance and expand Rhode Island State Plan of Work.

Letter of intent: If you are interested in submitting a proposal, please provide Rick Rhodes with a letter of intent that includes a project title and a one-paragraph description of the project by October 23, 2009.

Proposals are due December 4, 2009 at 4:30 PM. Proposals are to be submitted electronically as a single PDF file. Please submit to the Director of RIAES and RICE, Rick Rhodes at rcr3@uri.edu. Questions about this RFP can be forwarded to Rick Rhodes (874-2468 or by email).

Proposal review: All proposals will be peer-reviewed by an external panel of experts, an internal panel of Land Grant Program Leaders, and the Director of RIAES/RICE. The external panel and the Program Leaders rank the proposals and make recommendations for funding to the Director.

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[1] College of the Environment and Life Sciences *Community Access to Research and Extension Services*
[2] Begins October 1, 2010.

The Director will make the final decision on funding. Decisions on funding will be completed by March 2010.

Proposal details: Projects can run for up to 3 years. We expect that the average annual allocation for a standard project will be approximately $40,000 (50% research [RIAES]: 50% outreach [RICE]) plus a graduate student tuition waiver, if appropriate. Successful faculty investigators may receive a release of up to three credits per semester, depending on the scope of the project. Larger budgets will be considered for multi-investigator/interdisciplinary projects. No overhead is charged to these projects.

Eligibility for funding. All URI tenure-track faculty, Appendix F faculty, research faculty, research associates, and educators may apply. PIs may not receive funding for more than one ongoing CELS CARES project – investigators with a previously approved Project for FY 2011 are not eligible for this year's competition.

Proposal requirements. All proposals must support a strategic goal and objective of the National Institute of Food And Agriculture (NIFA; formerly known as the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service [CSREES]), the cognizant federal agency for the Land Grant program. The strategic goals include:

> *Strategic Goal 1*: Enhance International Competitiveness of American Agriculture; *Strategic Goal 2*: Enhance the Competitiveness and Sustainability of Rural and Farm Economies; *Strategic Goal 3*: Support Increased Economic Opportunities and Improved Quality of Life in Rural America; *Strategic Goal 4*: Enhance Protection and Safety of the Nation's Agriculture and Food Supply; *Strategic Goal 5*: Improve the Nation's Nutrition and Health; *Strategic Goal 6*: Protect and Enhance the Nation's Natural Resource Base and Environment.

Detailed descriptions of the NIFA strategic goals, objectives, outcomes, and actionable strategies can be secured at: (http://www.csrees.usda.gov/about/offices/pdfs/csrees stratic_plan.pdf).

Proposals should also complement and/or enhance the Rhode Island State Plan of Work. The following fourteen programs constitute the current Rhode Island State Plan of Work. (A copy of "The 2010 Rhode Island State Plan of Work" is available at http://riaes.cels.uri.edu/resources/library/ or from Rick Rhodes.

> 1) Food Safety; 2) Nutrition, Health and Obesity Prevention; 3) Food Insecurity and Nutrition in Vulnerable Populations; 4) Children, 4-H and Families; 5) Sustainable Communities;
> 6) Vector Borne Diseases and Human Health; 7) Aquaculture Biotechnology; 8) Water Quality;
> 9) Forestry and Wildlife; 10) Community Gardening and Outreach; 11) Health and Well-being of Livestock; 12) Horticulture and the Reduction of Pests and Disease Outbreaks in Plants; 13) Natural and Environmental Economics, Markets and Policy; and 14) College of the Environment and Life Sciences Community Access to Research and Extension Services (CELS CARES).

Questions about the RFP: Questions about the RFP can be directed to Rick Rhodes or to Program Leaders. Program Leaders include: Terry Bradley (Animal Health, Aquaculture, Vector Borne Diseases; tbradley@uri.edu), Art Gold (Natural Resources, Forestry, Water Quality, Natural and Environmental Economics; agold@uri.edu), Marion Gold (Community Gardening and Outreach; mgold@uri.edu) and Brian Maynard (Horticulture; bmaynard@uri.edu). Financial questions can also be directed to Meredith Silvia (meredithc@mail.uri.edu).

REQUIRED PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

COLLEGE TRANSMITTAL SHEET (attached; requires a signature from Departmental Chair)

TITLE PAGE:

Title *(maximum 100 characters)*

PI Name(s) and Departmental Affiliation(s)

I. NARRATIVE: **Limit to 8 single-spaced pages.** (12 point font, 1" margins)

A. ISSUE(S) TO BE ADDRESSED AND JUSTIFICATION:
Include a clear statement of what the project will address and the long-range importance of the project. What are overarching scientific, biological, economic, environmental or societal problems that your work will address? As appropriate, consider the likely scientific, economic, environmental, or social benefits from this research. What are the expected outputs, outcomes and impacts of this work? Who are the key stakeholders for this work and how was stakeholder input sought? How will you assess impact? How does the work proposed fit into or complement the current Rhode Island State Plan of Work? If the proposal is in an area not currently described in the Rhode Island State Plan of Work, identify the specific goal, objective(s), and actionable strategies described in the NIFA Strategic Plan. How will the work enhance or support the Land Grant portfolio of research projects and programs?

B. STATE SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESES:
All projects must explicitly state the hypotheses or questions being asked and the research and outreach objectives.

C. PREVIOUS AND PRESENT WORK: Describe the current status of research in this field. Summarize previous and current research on the problem. All work cited should be referenced.

D. EXPERIMENTAL PLAN: Explain the methodology to be used, and how tasks will be divided amongst PIs if appropriate. Include a tentative schedule for conducting major steps involved in these investigations, experiments and/or projects.

E. INTEGRATION WITH EXTENSION EFFORTS: Proposals can link to ongoing extension efforts at URI or other institutions. Identify the extension outcomes (i.e., how will the knowledge derived from this research enhance the public's capacity to address and solve a particular issue), outputs (i.e., what specific training activities or training materials will emerge from this project) and the extension professionals and programs at URI (or elsewhere) who will cooperate with this project.

F. LEVERAGING: Proposals are expected to serve as magnets and/or magnifiers for additional outside funding. Please include a description of existing external funding sources

and the relevance of this proposal to priorities of future external funding sources. How will this project strengthen and complement existing research and outreach? How will this project lead to further studies supported by external grants? If you have received RIAES/Land Grant funding in the past, briefly describe what external funds (…from what agency? …how much?) you leveraged.

II. BUDGET AND BUDGET JUSTIFICATION (Over and above the 8 page limit)

Provide a budget (*please use the Excel budget template available at http://riaes.cels.uri.edu/resources/library/)* and a budget justification. We expect that the average allocation per funded project will be approximately $40,000 plus a graduate student tuition waiver if appropriate. A larger budget may be available for multi-investigator/interdisciplinary/multistate projects. No overhead is charged to these projects.

Budgets will be reviewed and renegotiated annually, and funds will be contingent upon productivity, effort and success in attracting related external funds, availability of Land Grant funds, and on Land Grant priorities. *We reserve the right to terminate a project and discontinue funding for lack of activity or productivity, or to deal with issues of fiscal exigency.*

Budget Justification:

Personnel: Tenure-track PIs may not request summer salary. *Non-tenure track faculty and research associates may request up to two months of salary.* Specify research associates or technicians, by name if appropriate, and their role in the project.

Graduate students: The Land Grant mission strongly supports student participation and views with favor, projects with graduate student involvement. Specify MS or Ph.D. students. The awarding of Land Grant assistantships will be done in consultation with the academic departments. Assistantships are typically for the academic year. Summer support for graduate students can be requested. Typically, Land Grant funds support MS students for two years and Ph.D. students for three years.

Undergraduate students: Specify number of hours per week. If a Coastal Fellow will participate in this project, the time of the fellow should be included in the budget.

Equipment, Travel and Other costs: Describe the supplies, travel, equipment, and other operating costs.

Matching Funds: The proposal must match federal formula funds with non-Federal funds (1:1 match is required). **Third-party match** is defined as non-Federal, including funding from other state agencies, non-governmental organizations, private business, or individuals. Specific questions about match should be directed to Meredith Silvia.

III. APPENDICES: (over and above the 8 page limit)

A. EXTERNAL LINKAGES: List colleagues from local, state, or federal agencies (include institution); or from the private sector (include company), with a brief annotation of how they are essential to or enhance this project.

B. LOGIC MODEL: According to the USDA, all research projects must fit the Logic Model. What are the inputs, expected outputs, expected outcomes and expected impacts of this work? A template for the Logic Model and an example of a generic Logic Model is available on the CELS/RIAES website http://riaes.cels.uri.edu/resources/library/.

D. REPORTING, CREATING THE INPUT FOR THE AD 416/417: The AD 416 and 417 are the initial reports that must be filed with the USDA's Current Research information System (CRIS) to establish this proposal as a recognized project. As an appendix please provide the following:
Project Objectives: Concise statement of the objectives attainable during the lifespan of the project. This should not exceed 3200 characters.
Approach: Describe the ways in which the research will be conducted with emphasis on the scientific methods. This should not exceed 3200 characters.
Non-technical summary: Provide a short 3-4 sentence non-technical description of the project. One sentence should describe the problem or situation and another sentence should describe the purpose of the project.
Knowledge area, subject of investigation, and field of science: Each project in CRIS must be assigned a code from three series of classifications. What is the knowledge area, subject of investigation, and field of science for this project? Descriptions of the classifications can be secured at http://daisy.uvm.edu/cris/kacs.htm.

C. RELATED PROJECTS: Describe relationships to other projects and the enhancements made possible by Land Grant support.
-Research: List major research projects you are involved in that complement this proposal including current or pending projects. Specify projects that are external, competitive grants.
-Extension and Outreach: List related outreach projects (Extension or other) and collaborators—internal and external to URI—and note how these projects will benefit from results of this research.

D. CURRICULUM VITA: Include a 1-page CV for each PI on the proposed project, plus a separate section listing all AES projects, peer-reviewed publications, extension projects (include outputs), external grants, and graduate students trained in the past five years.

RFP APPENDIX
PROCEDURES FOR APPLICATION REVIEW, INITIAL APPROVAL, ANNUAL REVIEW, AND FUNDING

STEP 1: PRELIMINARY INTERNAL REVIEW

Proposals will be first reviewed by Land Grant Administrative staff for required elements outlined in the *Required Proposal Components*. Only complete proposals will enter into the review process.

STEP 2: EXTERNAL PANEL REVIEW

Background for External Panel Reviewers: The CELS CARES Initiative funds approximately 40% of submitted proposals. In addition to the budget submitted in each proposal (~$40,000 per year), the award includes a graduate student tuition waiver and substantial buy-out of faculty time. A typical, 3-year Land Grant award provides support comparable to a $200,000 NRI funded project.

All proposals will be evaluated by an expert, external panel. Review, evaluation and ranking of the proposals will be based on the following criteria:

30%: <u>Science and Technology</u>.

- Does this proposal use top quality science and/or technology?
- Is the PI familiar with relevant previous and contemporary investigations?
- Are the objectives and hypotheses explicit and clear?
- Is the experimental plan clear and is the methodology described in the plan appropriate to meet the objectives?
- Is (are) the principal investigator(s) and specified members of the research team qualified to conduct the research?
- Will this work advance our understanding of the science and the contemporary problems that it seeks to resolve?

30%: <u>Integration with Extension</u>:

- Does this work identify the key stakeholders?
- Are extension professionals fully engaged in the project?
- Is the research clearly integrated with extension?
- How will the results of this work address the needs of key stakeholders? Will this project extend our knowledge to key stakeholders?
- Are the expected extension outputs, outcomes and impacts clearly described?

20%: <u>Capacity and Continuity:</u>

- Will this project increase our capacity to compete for external funds to support research and outreach?
- Will this project create an opportunity for a new line of research and outreach that will eventually become self-sustaining?
- Will this funding complement and provide stability to an on-going successful line of research that is otherwise sustained by external funding?

10%: <u>Previous AES/CE and Externally Funded Research Record:</u>

- Does the investigator and her/his team have a track record of internal and external funding?
- Is there evidence that the investigator(s) has(have) an established record indicating a high probability of success on the proposed work?

10%: <u>Rhode Island State Plan of Work and CSREES Strategic Plan:</u>

- Does this proposal complement the current State Plan of Work?
- Does the proposal create new opportunities for the State Plan of Work?
- Does the proposed work address a CSREES strategic goal, objective and actionable strategy?

Proposals will be ranked, using the above criteria, and funded by priority. Peer reviews and comments by the Program Leader or the Director will be returned to the PI along with the approval and funding decisions.

ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL FOR CONTINUATION.

Each year, the PI will be expected to provide written narrative for the Rhode Island AES/CE Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results, complete a CRIS program report (form AD-421, due in February of each year), and respond to any specific requests from the Director or Associate Director regarding progress. All reports will be reviewed by the Program Leaders, the Director and Associate Director. If insufficiencies are identified, the PI will develop a schedule for their remedy, which will be submitted to the Director and Associate Director. Failure to bring the work of the project to a satisfactory level of progress will result in immediate termination.

College of the Environment and Life Sciences

ELS

University of Rhode Island

CELS CARES
Research and Extension
RFP FY2011

Internal Proposal Approval Form

***For Internal Use Only ***

Principal Investigator(s) and Department:

Title:

Total Amount Requested:

Proposed Start Date: **Duration:**

Matching Requirements: 1:1

Matching Sources: CELS $_____ URI Other $_____ External $_____

Required Signatures:

Principal Investigator:_____ Principal Investigator:_____

Principal Investigator:_____ Principal Investigator:_____

Department Chair:_____

Department Chair:_____

Department Chair:_____ Business Office:_____

Date Received _____