**RELEASED April 10, 2019**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES/MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY JOINT WILDLIFE DISEASE INITIATIVE**

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resource/Michigan State University Joint Wildlife Disease Initiative leadership team announces a request for proposals for funding for research, education, and outreach projects to address the most important issues around wildlife diseases in Michigan with an emphasis on Chronic Wasting Disease.

This program is a collaborative effort between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and Michigan State University (MSU). This program pertains to the MDNR General Fund Line Item entitled “Wildlife Management”, found in Public Act 207 of 2018.

**PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

1. Applied Research: To develop science-based management plans based on regional prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD); study CWD transmission, spread, and prevention in free-ranging and captive cervids (members of the deer family); assess the impact of CWD on cervid survival and long-term population growth; evaluation of the effectiveness of various modalities for communicating about CWD to hunters, landowners, and the public; and identify and investigate species that harbor CWD and the ecological factors that may facilitate CWD transmission.
2. Basic Research: To study CWD prion behavior and persistence in the environment; development of new field detection and testing methods; perform epidemiological modeling; and investigate the role of genetic variation in disease dynamics and impacts.
3. Extension/Demonstration: To develop and deliver innovative educational materials to inform natural resource managers and citizens about CWD and work cooperatively with the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development to assess the effectiveness and direction of the farmed Cervidae program, with a focus on biosecurity and CWD risk factors.
4. Multi-institutional Collaborations: To form a consortium of states and provinces to seek federal, state, and private funding and share research on CWD surveillance methods, diagnostic tools, transmission pathways, and management practices and support high-risk exploratory research on prion biology, methods to destroy pathogenicity, and other innovative approaches. Multi-institutional/multi-state collaborations can be part of any of the three programmatic areas listed above.

**PROGRAM EXPECTATIONS**

All proposals must articulate the following to be considered for funding and be written in clear concise language that is understandable by private sector and government agency stakeholders. **Collaboration with other states and agencies in a fashion that leverages available data, knowledge and, programming to advance rate of discovery and impact of work is encouraged in all program areas.**

Applied research:

* Relevance to program priorities
* Technical merit and feasibility
* Means by which proposed activities will enhance knowledge base relevant to ability of DNR to manage wildlife disease, particularly CWD
* Long term benefits to Michigan natural resource systems and economy
* Plans for dissemination of information to stakeholder groups

Basic research:

* Relevance of research area to wildlife disease and program priorities
* Technical merit and feasibility; potential long term impact
* How proposed activities will leverage and advance development of highly competitive extramural grant proposals
* Timeline, target funding agency and program for future extramural proposal submission

Extension:

* Relevance to program priorities
* Utilization of a team of campus and field based personnel, as feasible
* Technical merit and feasibility
* Current/future need for proposed activities
* How proposed programming will advance the understanding and management of wildlife diseases

Proposals must clearly state the potential benefits of proposed research or outreach to targeted audiences and focus on the understanding and/or management of critical wildlife diseases with focus on Michigan and the Great Lakes region. There must be sufficient attention to plans for dissemination of project results to relevant stakeholder groups. Communication of results to scientific community via traditional journal articles alone is not sufficient. Failure to communicate in proposal specific plans for dissemination of results to the larger stakeholder audience in Michigan will result in disqualification of proposal from funding consideration.

Partnerships between campus and field-based Extension personnel are critical to maximization of impact of supported Extension activities. Demonstration of such partnering in development and execution of proposed activities is highly encouraged and will be given strong consideration in context of funding decisions.

**PROGRAM PRIORITIES (unranked)**

* Testing technology
	+ Increased efficiency of current methods
	+ New rapid tests, including field and live animal tests
* Modeling, including applications of machine learning and other new approaches
* Genetic susceptibility and resistance
* Telemetry and new surveillance technology
* Communication with hunting, legislative and critical communities
* Human dimensions
* Prion biology and behavior
* Public policy
* Research and testing infrastructure
* Other innovative approaches

**PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

1. Eligibility: There are no restrictions on employment status of project leaders but all projects must include at least one Michigan-based investigator. There are NO restrictions on the employment status of collaborators or other project personnel.
2. Grant size will be determined by the objective and duration of the project. Target budget level will be $75-125K per year for up to two years. Exceptions will be considered if justified by the scope of the objectives, personnel, equipment or other infrastructure needs.
3. Projects will initially be funded for the first year with second year funding contingent on meeting first year goals and reporting requirement.
4. Institutional overhead/F&A: This program will NOT fund institutional overhead/F&A charges. No exceptions will be granted.
5. Faculty salaries: The program will fund up to one month of summer salary per year for university faculty PI or a co-PI (combined) per project. This program will NOT fund academic year salary. Exceptions will be considered with strong justification.

**2019 PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

Timeline:

* April 10, 2019 Call for proposals
* June 3, 2019 Proposals due by 5:00 pm
* July 1, 2019 Notification of awards
* August 15, 2019 Project funds available
* September 1, 2020 Termination date for one-year projects
* September 1, 2021 Termination date for two-year projects

Proposal Components:  ***Note items 2-7 cannot exceed three pages in length.***

1. Cover page using template provided below (first page of whole proposal; proposal summary must be in lay terms appropriate for stakeholder audience)
2. Problem statement and relevance to stakeholder priorities
3. Objectives
4. Approach and feasibility
5. Anticipated results and impact
6. Stakeholder partnering (include cost share) and scope
7. Timeline
8. Budget (see attached budget form)
9. Brief budget justification
10. Literature cited
11. Team qualifications (one-page vitae for each project member outlining qualifications to complete proposed research or extension activity)

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

MSU researchers should submit their proposals electronically, through MSU’s Research Administration system. A Proposal Development (PD) document is required for each proposal using Sponsor Code: 107048 MSU MDNR.

1. MSU employees go to ebs.msu.edu and log in using your MSU Net Id and password.
2. Click on Research Administration, then “Create Proposal”. Work with your research administrator or department contact to complete your PD document.
3. Upload final proposal documents to the Internal Attachments tab in the PD.

All other researchers should submit their completed proposals in pdf file format via email to: hillann@msu.edu.

**Any questions or issues please contact:**

Ann Hill Mary Weinzweig

(517) 884-4671 (517) 884-3877

hillann@msu.edu weinzwem@msu.edu

**PROPOSAL REVIEW PROCESS**

 All proposals will be reviewed by an ad hoc group of experts. The Board of Advisors will serve as the grant panel and make funding recommendations to the Directors of MDNR and MSU AgBioResearch.

**Proposal Evaluation and Award Criteria:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Evaluation criteria** | **Applied Research** | **Extension** | **Basic Research** |
| Relevance to wildlife disease priorities, potential long-term impact | 20 | 20 | 30 |
| Technical merit and feasibility;  | 30 | 20 | 35 |
| Investigator qualifications | 10 | 10 |  |
| Mechanisms to deliver research information generated to relevant stakeholder groups | 20 | 30 | - |
| Leverage of external and other funding sources; extent of partnering with natural resource groups, government agencies or other organizations  | 20 | 20 | 15 |
| Plans for future extramural funding and importance of seed funding to future success | - | - | 20 |

* All proposals will be reviewed by a group of experts composed of MSU faculty, MDNR staff, external experts and stakeholder representatives. Any employee, agent, or representative of MSU or MDNR involved in developing any component of a proposal, shall not participate in the review process for proposals in the same funding category.
* Upon completion of review process, proposals will be ranked within category based on above scoring criteria for final funding determination by the MDNR/MSU WILDLIFE DISEASE INITIATIVE.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

A progress report on multi-year projects will be required for each year of the project. A comprehensive final report will be required at the end of the termination year. Multi-year projects are funded one year at a time and are subject to annual evaluation and renewal. These reports will be placed on the MDNR/MSU WILDLIFE DISEASE INITIATIVE website and used for communication 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 MDNR/MSU WILDLIFE DISEASE INITIATIVE funding.**

**WILDLIFE DISEASE INITIATIVE COVER PAGE**

 **Internal Proposal Number:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Proposal Title:**  |  |
| **Principal Investigator:**  |  |
| **Email:**  |  |
| **Department/Institution:** |  |
| **Mailing Address:** |  |
| **Co-Principal Investigator(s):** |  |
| **Program Area:**(applied, extension or basic) |  |
| **Total Funding Requested:** |  |
| **Duration of Project:**(years) |  |

**Project Summary:**

**BUDGET TEMPLATE**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **PI:Co-PI(s): Institution:**  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **SPONSOR DEADLINE:** | **June 1, 2019** |  |  |  |  |
| **GRANTOR/SPONSOR CODE:** **107048 MSU MDNR** |  |  | MSU Specific |  |  |
| **PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT #:** |  |  | MSU Specific |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **PROJECT START DATE:**  |  | **PROJECT END DATE:** |   |  |  |
| **PROJECT TITLE:** |  |
|  |  |
| **Project Budget** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **TOTAL** |
| **SALARY** |
| **PI/Co-PI Summer Salary** |  |  |  |
|  **Fringe** |  |  |  |
| **Research associates/post-docs/on-call/technical** |  |  |  |
|  **Fringe**  |   |   |   |
| **Graduate students** |   |   |   |
|  **Fringe (health, tuition, fees)** |   |   |   |
| **Undergraduate students** |   |   |   |
|  **Fringe (summer work)** |   |   |   |
| **Non-expendable equipment (attach explanation)** |   |   |   |
| **Materials, supplies & publications** |   |   |   |
| **Travel** |   |   |   |
| **Other direct costs (attach explanation, list of items and individual costs)** |   |   |   |
| **Grand Total** |  **$ -**  |  **$ -**  |  **$ -**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Budget justification should address specifics of numbers summarized above.**  |