



Request for Proposals 2024

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 FY24 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 employment status of other team members.

TIMELINE FOR FY24 PROJECTS

- **October 23, 2023** Call for proposals
- **January 8, 2024** Proposals due
- **April 1-5, 2024** Notification of awards
- **May 1-5, 2024** Project funds available*
- **June 30, 2025** Termination date for FY24 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. They are available by visiting https://www.canr.msu.edu/research/plant-agriculture/Michigan_plant_agriculture_industry_priorities/.

All proposals must clearly state how the proposed activities will enhance Michigan's plant-based agriculture. 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

All proposals should focus on priorities identified by plant industry groups and other commodity partners.

Applied Research proposals must:

- Enhance industry profitability
- Provide long-term benefits to Michigan's plant agriculture
- Link to plant agriculture industry priorities
- Contain a 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:

- Position investigators to be competitive for national/international grants
 - Include a specific plan (including timeline and target funding agency) for the submission of a grant proposal
 - The major outcome of the project is the successful submission of a proposal to the target program
- Generate knowledge that can be used to:
 - Address contemporary problems and/or
 - Enable future development of improved techniques
- 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 orientation
- Link to plant agriculture industry priorities
- Utilize a team of campus and field-based personnel
- 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 fiscal year 2024 projects-time limits:

- Applied Research – two year maximum
- Basic Research – two year maximum
- Extension/Demonstration – two year maximum

New fiscal year 2024 projects:

There is no formal cap on the amount of funding requested. However, strong justification is required for requests in excess of:

- Applied Research - \$50,000 per year
- Basic Research - \$50,000 per year
- Extension/Demonstration - \$30,000 per year

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 individual funding panels. 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.

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 with matching funds.	20	20	20
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
Scientific soundness; appropriateness of methodology; feasibility of completion. Does it connect to previous research? Does it position the research for future competitive funding?	35	40	25
Team composition and investigator qualifications are aligned with project	10	10	5
Leverage of external and other funding sources	10	25 ¹	5
Total	100	100	100

¹ For Basic proposals, the potential to leverage external and other funding sources is an important criterion that will be evaluated.

