

Updated March 1st, 2021.

Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP)

Call for Professional Development Small Grants Proposals 2020-2023

Deadlines Funding Dependent: Quarterly, 3/31/2021 – 7/31/2023

Background: Agriculture is widely known as a high-stress occupation. Stressors faced by farmers in the geographically large and culturally diverse Western region are many: unstable finances (high debt loads) and changing commodity markets whilst often carrying the pressure of multigenerational farm lineage, complex regulation and policy, adverse weather and climate change, and recent COVID-19 related stressors. Migrant farmworkers experience their own set of stressors. While the stressors vary, the impact of extreme stress in agriculture reveals itself in the high occupational suicide rates of farmers and farmworkers. To meet these varied needs requires a network of trusted agencies, familiar with the agricultural needs of their communities and trained in behavioral health, equipped to offer targeted, culturally-appropriate stress reduction support, be it in moments of crisis (call line and suicide prevention trainings) as well as upstream interventions to lessen the impact of compounding stress. The Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP) is dedicated to improving the health and safety of those working in Western agriculture through multidisciplinary research, outreach, and trainings.

Funding Opportunity: The overarching goal of this WRASAP Small Grants Program is to facilitate and support professional development activities that will directly improve farm stress and agricultural suicide prevention for the Western U.S.

WRASAP will accept proposals from individuals who wish to attend **professional development opportunities** (professional conferences, trainings, workshops, continuing education, etc.) that relate to farm stress and agricultural suicide prevention for the Western states and territories of the United States of America (Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Micronesia, Montana, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Wyoming). This request for proposals is open to any individual who is interested in attending a professional development opportunity that fits within this topic area. However, proposals from individuals who are affiliated with signed WRASAP partners will be prioritized.

Award: Funding will be awarded on monthly cycles for the 2020–2023 academic years. Individuals may request up to \$10,000 (without special approval) for participation in a professional development activity.

Please note that although we have funding through September 2021 at our disposal for these Small Grants awards, future years' funding is solidified on a yearly basis from USDA, and thus is subject to change.

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Eligibility: Any individual serving the Western U.S. may apply, however, preference points will be administered to the following grant partnering organizations: University of California Davis Extension and CA AgrAbility, Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety (WCAHS), Health Education Council (CA), CommuniCare Health Centers (CA), National AgrAbility Project (NAP), University of Nevada Extension, Utah State University Extension, Colorado State University AgrAbility and Extension, University of Idaho Extension, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union (RMFU), Farm Aid, University of Alaska Fairbanks AgrAbility, American Samoa Community College, Montana State University Extension, University of Wyoming Extension, University of Hawaii Extension, Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture, University of Arizona Tribal Extension Program, University of Guam, College of Micronesia, Northern Marianas College, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Washington State Dairy Federation, Idaho Dairymen's Association, New Mexico State Dairy Extension, New Mexico State University, New Mexico State University Extension AgrAbility, Washington State Department of Health and Washington State University.

Key Dates: Proposals are due on the last day of the quarter, beginning on March 31, 2021 and ending on July 31, 2023.

Proposals will be reviewed, and a funding decision will be made within 30 days.

Please include the following in the application using the Small Grants Application Form (applications should not exceed 3 pages total):

- A description of the professional development (PD) activity;
- Two statements of relevance;
 - Relevance of the PD to the applicant's work
 - Relevance of the PD to the aims and objectives of the WRASAP grant (see project background)
- A statement of sustainability;
- How will attendance at the PD event/training yield sustainable positive change
- Detailed budget including budget justification (please include whether additional funds from another source are being used to support PD attendance).

**Graduate student and postdoctoral scholar applicants require an additional letter of faculty support*

Submission Instructions: **Proposals are due on or before 5pm PST on the last day of the quarter.**

Proposals will be accepted each quarter until July 31, 2023. Please send all applications materials in one pdf to grants@farmstress.us.

Review Criteria: Proposal reviewers will place high value on whether attendance at the PD will likely result in a significant impact to be made in the Western US region vis-à-vis decreasing/coping with farm stress and/or a directly related issue. Proposals wherein the applicants' attendance at the PD event will contribute to the goals of the WRASAP grant will be scored highly. Please indicate in the two statements of relevance how, specifically, attendance at this PD will yield direct results that will benefit farmers and ranchers in the Western region of the US.

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Expectations of Successful Applicants:

Successful applicants are expected to submit two reporting documents:

- A 250-word immediate reflection on the professional development activity for which WRASAP funds were used. This reflection can be written in first person. **This reflection is due two weeks after the professional development has concluded.**
- A 500-word impact statement that describes the impact that attendance at the PD had on work outcomes (i.e., was a new collaboration formed? Were trainings implemented? Did a new project come to fruition?). This reflection can be written in first person. **This reflection should be written 6 months after the PD has concluded, and submitted no later than 8 months after the conclusion of the PD.**

Reporting requirements will be articulated in the award funding contract.

Awardees will be expected to acknowledge WRASAP and USDA NIFA in publications, presentations and outreach that result as a direct consequence of attending the PD.

If, due to COVID-19, the PD event is cancelled or changed (e.g., a face-to-face conference moves online), the awardee is expected to notify the grantor at grants@farmstress.us of the change (and associated cost change) immediately.

In an effort to bring meaningful resources to farmers and farm workers in the Western region, all products, materials, data and results from Small Grants efforts are expected to be shared openly with WRASAP network and made available for use/adaptation as appropriate.