

*The Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) exists to catalyze research, extension and educational activities that improve the sustainability of agriculture, natural resources and food systems in Washington State and around the world.*

*The Washington State Legislature appropriated two years of proviso funding to WSU to help create a state Soil Health Initiative (SHI). This initiative is being administered by the CSANR. Initial funds from this proviso are targeted to establish the SHI, including baseline soil health assessments, stakeholder road-mapping to guide future research and extension, develop and disseminate information on soil health, and initiate a LTARE at the WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center. As part of the SHI, this internal request for proposals is intended to fund short-term projects that develop and deliver soil health-related outreach and extension products to increase awareness of and help define soil health and its benefits to agriculture, the environment and humans.*

*More information on the SHI can be found: <http://csanr.wsu.edu/program-areas/soil-health-initiative/>*

*If the project does not fit the requirements of this call, two other opportunities may be of interest:*

- Funding from CSANR's BIOAg program is also available to support research, extension activities, or planning grants that advance the development, understanding, and use of biologically-intensive, organic and sustainable agriculture in Washington State. More information on that program can be found: <http://csanr.wsu.edu/csandr-grants/bioag-grant-program/> and the FY20 RFP is anticipated to be released by September 15<sup>th</sup>.*
- Funding from the USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Professional Development Program (PDP) is available to help improve the ability of Extension, Conservation Districts, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other agricultural professionals to respond to the needs of farmers, ranchers, and the public regarding sustainable agriculture concepts and systems. This includes (but isn't limited to) soil health. More information on that program can be found: <http://csanr.wsu.edu/csandr-grants/>*

### **WSU Soil Health Initiative (SHI): Request for Proposals**

#### **Goal:**

The goal of this SHI RFP is to advance and finalize extension outputs specifically related to soil health. These outputs should share results from soil health related research and/or educate stakeholders on soil health, define soil health, and its benefits to agriculture, the environment and/or humans. Stakeholders can include commercial producers, agricultural professionals (e.g. Extension, Conservation District, NRCS), allied industry (crop consultants, producer organizations), or other audiences that are justified.

#### **Projects and Outputs:**

- Proposals must include a specific deliverable that provides soil health information, such as peer-reviewed Extension publication, curricula, decision support tool, or video/podcast that meets the above-stated goal and effectively communicates soil health information to stakeholders. Other communication modes will be considered, if appropriate.

#### **Proposal Guidelines:**

- Proposals should clearly state the intended output (e.g. peer-reviewed Extension publication) and outcomes (e.g. increased knowledge by agricultural professionals) resulting from the project.
- Proposals should realistically estimate the outputs and outcomes given the timeframe of the RFP (see below).

**Submission Guidelines:**

- Proposals must be electronically submitted to [chrisbenedict@wsu.edu](mailto:chrisbenedict@wsu.edu) by the due date.
- The Lead PI must be a WSU faculty member (contact us if clarification is needed). Faculty members must limit their submissions as Lead PI to a single proposal and as co-PI to a single proposal.
- Each proposal is limited to \$10,000 and requested funds must be clearly justified relative to the product. Requests for smaller amounts will be considered.
- Funds can be used to finalize in-progress outputs, but also the generation of new outputs. Carefully consider the short timeline when weighing this decision.
- SHI funding may not be used for faculty salary augmentation (e.g. summer salary), and salary accruals are not allowable.
- All proposals are limited to 2-pages maximum with 11-point Times New Roman font. Proposals shorter than 2 pages are acceptable. Each proposal should contain the following sections:
  - Title and author(s)
  - Brief introduction and justification
  - Concise statement of the goal of the project, product to be developed, and how this product would support the goals of the SHI
  - Anticipated impact of output
  - Target audience
  - Team and team member roles
  - Project timeline
  - Brief budget with justification

Any questions regarding the appropriateness of proposed topics or allowable expenses should be directed to Chris Benedict, [chrisbenedict@wsu.edu](mailto:chrisbenedict@wsu.edu), 360-389-3853.

**Submission and Project Timeline:**

- All proposal submissions must be received by 5 PM on **October 10, 2019**.
- All projects must be completed and outputs made available by the end of **March 2020**.
- No extensions will be allowed given the nature of these funds.
- A final report will be due by the end of **March 2020**.

**Proposal Review and Funding Decisions:**

Each SHI proposal will be reviewed by a small group of SHI Leadership Team members, then ranked using the below criteria:

- Does the proposal follow guidelines stated in the SHI RFP?
- How well does the proposed project address the short-term goal of SHI as stated in this RFP?
- Are target audiences clearly identified, and are the desired educational objectives realistic and impactful?
- Is the work plan and budget realistic and clearly articulated?