Request for Global Policy Research Incentive Award Proposals

Food – Health – and Nutrition

Purdue Global Policy Research Institute
Purdue University
West Lafayette, IN 47907

[Letters of Intent Due – September 7, 2012]
[Proposals Due – November 16, 2012]

Purpose

The Purdue University Global Policy Research Institute (GPRI) requests the submission of proposals, which describe interdisciplinary research that explores the basic interrelationships among food – health – and nutrition holistically. The intention of this solicitation is to examine these interrelationships at the interfaces among, for example, biochemistry, health science, plant science, food science, animal science, pharmacy, and engineering. These scientific explorations shall relate research findings to such objective factors as chronic diseases, the efficacy of plant modifications, improvements in nutrition, and ecological considerations, such as epigenetic factors. Food in the context of this solicitation may include animal and seafood sources as well as plant foodstuffs.

The involvement of economists and social sciences is encouraged in order to understand the social and economic factors involved in: optimizing new regimes, achieving greater wellness and quality of life, respecting cultural diversity, and relating research findings to desired policy developments. Capacity building through engagement (e.g., faculty and student exchanges, curriculum and courseware exchanges, dual-degree and “sandwich” programs) is also at the heart of this solicitation. In this respect capacity building applies to Purdue University, U.S. partners, and collaborating universities and institutions abroad.

The preferred countries and regions for this solicitation among those specified in the Feed the Future initiative of USAID and USDA are Ethiopia, Tanzania, and the Ganges Delta, India. Preference is also given to the State of Indiana. However, focus on other countries and global initiatives will be considered. Priority in all cases will be based on scientific merit.

In meeting the sustainability-planning requirement in this solicitation, teams will be expected to:

• Identify existing, major, relevant investments in food, health, or nutrition research by major funders (e.g., BMGF, NIH, Welcome Trust, or USAID) in the country(s) of interest,
• Identify gaps or barriers that may limit the impact of these investments, and
Propose integrated or higher synergetic approaches that will overcome such barriers or add more palpable impact generation in major follow on research and outreach efforts to be proposed to such funders.

In this round $150,000 will be provided for up to three research awards at $50,000 each. These incentive award grants are intended to support proposal development activities that will lead to the submission in 2013-2014 of competitive grants for federal or other sources of support. Proposals that will lead to international collaborations with international co-PI(s) with that will lead to building research and education capacity are required.

Eligibility

The PI must be a faculty member of Purdue, West Lafayette, and approved by Sponsored Program Services to serve as a Principal Investigator to an outside agency. Proposals must include faculty from multiple colleges/departments. Co-PI proposals with PIs from different colleges/disciplines are especially encouraged and will be prioritized for funding. Personnel from Purdue’s regional campuses are eligible. Co-PIs from other universities may be included on a BYOB (bring your own budget) basis.

Application and Submission Process

**Letters of Intent (required):** The deadline for receipt of letters of intent is **5:00 p.m., Friday, September 7, 2012.** Letters should be sent as a single PDF file attachment to an e-mail message addressed to GPRI Managing Director, Angela Phillips Diaz at apdiaz@purdue.edu. Letters of Intent should include only:

- Proposed Title
- Name and affiliation of participants in the project
- Brief description (no more than 3 pages) including a description of the:
  - Grand challenge issue and pressing policy issue,
  - Multi-dimensional dimensions of the initiative,
  - Targets of opportunities for funding (agencies, foundations, private industries, etc.),
  - Impacts of the proposed initiative,
  - Alignment with GPRI mission.

GPRI's Director and Managing Director will provide written feedback to proposers to the Letter of Intent submission no later than September 30, 2012. Only proposal applicants encouraged to submit full proposals may do so.

**Proposals:** The deadline for receipt of proposals is **5:00 p.m., Friday, November 16, 2012.** Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file attachment to an e-mail message addressed to Angela Phillips Diaz, apdiaz@purdue.edu. Projects typically would have a
start date of January 1, 2013, for a period of one year, although other timing will be considered.

**Budget Requirements**

Proposals must include a budget prepared by the investigator’s pre-award office. A COEUS budget is to be included with the proposal. Due to the source of funding, F&A charges, all fringes and fee remits will not be charged to the award and, therefore, should not be included in the COEUS budget.

**Cover Page**

Proposals are to be attached to a completed Proposal Submission Form (the pre-awards office will prepare this form) and should follow this sequence:

*Page 1. Face page, including:*
  - Proposal Title
  - Principal investigators
  - Total budget
  - Project period

*Pages 2-6. Research plan, limited to 5 pages, single-spaced, one-inch margins, and no smaller than 11 point font. Proposals must address:*
  - The review criteria listed below.
  - What extramural funding will be pursued on the basis of the proposed activity?
  - What roles will other university partners will contribute to the research?
  - What international collaborations are included in the plan of research?

*Page 7. References*
  - Two-page (max) biographical sketch for each PI or co-PI/investigator
  - Two-page (max) current and pending support for each participant
  - Budget, as prepared through COEUS by the college’s pre-award office.

**Review Criteria**

**Technical:**

- Demonstrated alignment with the GPRI goals through output and impact by addressing global grand challenge questions (pressing public issues) *(required)*
- High potential for submission to funding agencies, foundations and other sources of funding support in 2013-2014 *(required)*
• Reasonable probability of award success (required)
• Explicit cross-campus/cross-disciplinary collaborative team (required)
• Defined capacity building with international collaborators (required)
• Possibilities for private sector support and participation (desired)

General

• Quality: The proposed research will meet high standards of scientific merit and scholarship.
• Leadership: The investigators must have a strong research track record, and show initiative in addressing the proposed opportunity. They must be driven to overcome obstacles to finding options to addressing global grand challenge problems and policy issues.
• Interdisciplinary approach: A team should submit the proposal with the skills needed for a holistic approach within the intent of the solicitation (including social and economic factors where appropriate). Projects focused on a single discipline will not be funded.
• Scope: The proposed research must be consistent with the mission of the GPRI, which is to connect Purdue researchers with citizens, policy makers, and members of the media, informing decision-makers with objective research findings within the scope of the research.
• Leverage: Proposals will be judged on how well and creatively resources are leveraged (intellectually and internationally) to enhance research success and build research and education capacity among the participating institutions.
• Partnerships: Proposal teams are strongly encouraged to promote partnerships among centers and institutes engaged in the targeted countries and the State of Indiana for this research.
• Sustainability: The means for sustaining the research project following the grant period with follow-on resources must be identified.
• Deliverables: All publications and materials produced with the funding provided must acknowledge GPRI. Electronic copies (or summaries, in the case of publications where copyright would otherwise prevent a full copy) must be delivered to GPRI for possible linking to the GPRI website.

Post-Award and Reporting Requirements

• 6 months after the start of the project:
  o All proposal teams are required to submit a progress report with budget status (2 page max plus a one page budget summary).
  o All proposal teams are required to give a 1-hour status presentation to the GPRI Director, Managing Director and members of the GPRI Faculty Leadership Committee. This will provide the means for constructive feedback.
• 30 days after the end of the project period
- All proposal teams are required to submit a final written report.
- All proposal teams are required to submit a policy brief.

Contact Information

Questions about proposal submission should be directed to Angela Phillips Diaz at apdiaz@purdue.edu.