

Science-to-Practice Grant Program (S2P)

2021-2022 Request for Proposals

The College of Agricultural Sciences (CAS) Office for Research and Graduate Education and Penn State Extension invite proposals to the **Science-to-Practice (S2P) Grant Program** for new and renewal projects that integrate research and extension. The S2P program provides funding to support the formation and development of teams proposing to explore innovative methods, structures, and projects that foster the translation of research into outputs for dissemination and implementation.

Interdisciplinary teams of eligible participants can apply for grants **up to \$10,000** for one year, renewable as funding permits for up to three years. The purpose of the S2P program is ***to foster the formation of integrated research and extension teams*** in order to address pressing, complex challenges that require multiple perspectives and modes of knowledge. The S2P supports applied research-based activities that prioritize the development of collaborative networks in the college across research and extension faculty and extension educators as well as engaging partners beyond, such as practitioners, decision makers, and thought leaders in the field.

Eligibility

The team must be composed of a research leader and an extension leader, both of whom will serve as the principal investigators co-leading the project. Team leadership must meet the following criteria:

- 1) Research PI must be a faculty member (tenured, tenure-track, or non-tenure-track) with a research appointment in the College of Agricultural Sciences;
- 2) Extension PI must be full-time personnel (e.g., faculty member with an extension appointment, research associate and/or educator).

Additional participants are encouraged and may be from CAS, from other units at Penn State, and from outside the university. However, all funds must be used to directly support CAS activities and personnel. Funds cannot be used to support graduate students, employees, or other persons not employed by or not enrolled in a CAS program.

Current grantees of successful 2020-2021 S2P grants are eligible to submit a proposal to renew their project for one year. All remaining funds from previous awards do not carry over, and new budgets must be constructed for up to \$10,000. Additional criteria for renewals are included in the proposal guidelines for the project narrative and budget.

Proposal Requirements

The full proposal should include all of the following components (A – D) within a single document and should not exceed ten (10) pages. Budget and justification as well as any bibliographic references are not included in this page limit.

A. Title of Project, Primary Investigators

- a. Designate the research principal investigator and the extension principal investigator who will co-lead the project. Refer to the eligibility requirements stated above.
- b. Indicate “New Proposal” or “Renewal”

B. Summary (300 words maximum)

- a. Summarize the integrated project, including the primary stakeholders standing to benefit or who will be affected by the project, a brief statement of the goal(s), and the integrative strategy.

C. Project Narrative (90 total evaluation points)

- a. *Research Component (20 evaluation points)*
 - What is the research problem, defined in the context of a field of research or discipline?
 - What are the gaps in data or knowledge that make this project significant?
 - What is the potential for this project to impact the advancement of knowledge in a particular research field/discipline/area?
 - Identify research-specific activities required to advance the integrative strategy outlined below, including defined deliverables and expected outcomes and impacts.
 - Renewals only: Provide a brief report on the proposed and completed research activities and outcomes from the previous grant, including how extending the project for another year will further the goals and increase the impact of the project.
- b. *Extension Component (20 evaluation points)*
 - What are the learning objectives that will deliver the science-based knowledge generated through the research component?
 - What is the significant public benefit of this project?
 - Who will benefit from or be affected by this project?
 - Identify education-specific activities required to advance the integrative strategy outlined below, including defined deliverables and expected outcomes and impacts.
 - Renewals only: Provide a brief report on the proposed and completed extension activities and outcomes from the previous grant, including how extending the project for another year will further the goals and increase the impact of the project.

c. *Integrative Strategy (50 evaluation points)*

- What is the strategy that combines the generation, translation, and transfer of technology and knowledge into practical applications or practices?
- How do the research and extension components complement one another?
- Why does this project require an integrated approach and interdisciplinary team to create societal value through research-based education that is relevant to the needs of identified stakeholders?
- How will the identified stakeholders be engaged in the research and extension activities?

D. Team (10 total evaluation points)

- a. Briefly describe the roles and expertise of the research and extension PIs. Include a coordination plan for integrating team members across college functions and units as well as university and external partners.
- b. List all team members with their affiliations. Describe the role and responsibilities of each member, including how the expertise of each will contribute to the research, extension, or integrated activities. A balanced team representing both research and extension is important.
- c. Renewals only: If the previous grant opened new collaborations and partnerships, please report the outcomes of those relationships here.

E. Budget and Justification

- a. Successful projects will be awarded up to \$10,000, with the funding period beginning on October 1, 2021.
 - i. All budgets (for new and renewal) should be constructed so that up to \$5,000 in expenses support research activities and up to \$5,000 support extension activities.
 - ii. Renewals only: If funds remain from the previous award, include the remaining balances of the research and extension accounts along with a brief explanation for why these funds were not spent during the performance period.
- b. Include a detailed budget justification, providing a brief description and explanation of need for costs associated with project activities.
- c. Funds used to pay part-time wage-payroll must be for activities outside of any job description currently paid for by Penn State Extension or the College of Agricultural Sciences, or it must support work on a new activity.
 - i. Part-time wage-payroll must be paid through the University system (funds cannot be transferred to county systems).
- d. All other project costs typically allowed by federal extramural sponsors are allowed in this program.
- e. Funds **cannot** be used for the following:
 - i. Faculty salaries (including supplemental) or standing appointment salaries

- ii. Travel to professional meetings
 - iii. Out-of-country travel
 - iv. Equipment purchases exceeding \$5,000
 - v. Support of personnel NOT in the College of Agricultural Sciences
- f. Funds to support personnel outside the College of Agricultural Sciences must be obtained from other units and require a letter of commitment from the non-CAS unit, submitted with the proposal.
- g. Budgets are constructed for a maximum of 1 year. No carry over is allowed.
- h. Please note that submissions to this internal competition do not require the budget to be created through the College's Grants and Contracts Office.
- i. Funds from this program must be expended within one year of the award date.
- j. Funded projects can be competitively renewed for a total of 3 years; unexpended funds in one year will not carry over. Extensions for unexpended funds are not allowed for non-renewed projects.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated and scored on the following criteria:

- Identifies outcomes that are easily measurable and scalable
- Contributes to the knowledge base through distribution of results that benefit other efforts
- Presents a clear plan for building or supporting an interdisciplinary team
- Demonstrates the potential for effective strategies to integrate research and extension activities
- Proposes activities that help to initiate, advance, and strengthen teams and projects to obtain extramural support
- Provides clear benchmarks for achieving defined deliverables and expected outcomes and impacts
- Incorporates audiences traditionally not targeted
- Projects that demonstrate considerable opportunities to grow the mission of the College, Extension, and our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion are especially encouraged

Submission and Review Process

Full proposals must be submitted as a single PDF by **5:00 pm** on **August 6, 2021**, via the online submission form found on the website: <https://sites.psu.edu/casgrants/home/s2p/>

View this RFP online: <https://agsci.psu.edu/research/resources/funding/s2p>

Proposals will be evaluated by program administrators within the CAS Office of Research and Graduate Education and Penn State Extension. Applicants will be notified of decisions by **September 15, 2021**.

Reporting Guidelines:

The period of performance for S2P grants will begin **October 1, 2021**, and terminate **September 30, 2022**. Projects may be renewed for up to three years. Proposals for renewal can be submitted in the next cycle for the S2P grants. If a renewal is not submitted in the next competition cycle, a final report will be due on October 15, 2022. Report templates will be provided.