

Land-Grant Programs

FY16 Request for Proposals

INTRODUCTION:

The College of Agriculture, Urban Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (CAUSES) of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) embodies the land-grant mission of the university. CAUSES offers research-based academic and community outreach programs that improve the quality of life of people and communities in the District of Columbia and beyond. As the only public land-grant university in DC, UDC serves a highly diverse student and resident population: 65% of UDC students are local, 45% are African American, 15% are international students, and over 95% have high financial need and are PELL eligible.

The applied research and community outreach programs offered through UDC's land-grant programs are organized in five centers: (1) The Center for Urban Agriculture and Gardening Education; (2) The Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), which also houses the Water Resources Research Institute; (3) The Center for Nutrition, Diet, and Health (CNDH), which also houses the Institute for Gerontology; (4) The Center for 4H & Youth Development; and (5) The Architectural Research Institute (ARI). These Centers integrate research, teaching and community service through programs that create local capacity and improve the social, economic, and environmental condition of people and organizations in the District of Columbia.

CAUSES receives funding from the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement programs that:

1. improve food security;
2. mitigate climate change;
3. combat childhood obesity and other food related illness;
4. improve food safety;
5. improve water safety and management; and
6. expand alternative energy solutions.

The Sustainable DC Initiatives have established compatible goals to be achieved by 2032:

- Increase the number of Green-Economy jobs 5-fold;
- Increase the number of Green-Economy small businesses 3-fold;
- Reduce the obesity rate by 50%;
- Cut citywide greenhouse gas emission by 50%;
- Cut energy consumption by 50% while increasing renewable energy by 50%;
- Bring locally-grown food within a quarter mile of 75% of DC residents;
- Cover 40% of the District outdoor space with a healthy tree canopy;

- Meet 75% of all transportation needs through walking, biking and public transit;
- Achieve zero waste through reduced consumption and reuse;
- Make 100% of DC waterways fishable and swimmable; and
- Capture rainwater and runoff from at least 75% of the landscape.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

We are requesting multidisciplinary proposals that use Urban Agriculture and Urban Sustainability as a tool to advance at least one of the NIFA programs and the Sustainable DC goals, as previously outlined. Proposals that focus on any dimension of Urban Agriculture and Urban Sustainability are welcome, such as architecture, biology and ecology, economics, engineering, health/nutrition, social/community, and technology. Proposals that focus on 1) maximizing yield and nutrient density in urban spaces and 2) elucidating the positive health effects of fresh, local foods on residents of Washington, DC are particularly welcome. The Principal Investigator must be a member of the program staff or faculty of UDC and must include at least one co-PI from CAUSES. Partnerships and collaborations across UDC, with other DC Consortium Universities, as well as with DC public, private, and non-profit sector organizations are encouraged. Proposals that offer student mentorship and training opportunities or use the UDC research farm are also encouraged. Faculty members can use funds to buy the release time necessary to fulfill the demands of the proposed work.

Submission Requirements: Proposals must be submitted electronically in MS Word format to matthew.richardson@udc.edu by midnight on March 30, 2016. Proposals must follow the Land Grant Proposal Guidelines as shown in Attachment 1, and must include a line item budget for each year for which funding is requested. A budget form is provided in Attachment 2. The amount of funding requested cannot exceed \$60,000 or three years. All grant recipients must provide a report of accomplishment by January 31, 2017 and each subsequent year of funding.

Review Process, Award and Completion Dates: Proposals will be reviewed by a Technical Review Committee and with funded proposals selected by April 27, 2016. ***Questions should be addressed to Matthew Richardson, Assistant Director of Urban Agriculture Research at (202) 274-5947 or matthew.richardson@udc.edu.***

CAUSES Land-Grant Programs FY2016 RFP
ATTACHMENT 1
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Proposals must be submitted electronically in **Microsoft Word** to matthew.richardson@udc.edu no later than **Midnight March 30, 2016** using the following format:

1. **Title:** The project title should be concise, but descriptive;
2. **Start Date:** Enter the actual start date of the project;
3. **End Date:** Enter the estimated end date for the project;
4. **Principal Investigator(s):** Provide name, academic rank, university, email address and phone number for each principal and co-investigator;
5. **Abstract:** Provide a brief (one-page) description of the problem, methods, and expected outcomes.
6. **Statement of the critical problem and the targeted NIFA and Sustainable DC objectives:** Include an explanation of the need for the project, the stakeholders, and other relevant details of the situation of need.
7. **Statement of results or benefits of Expected outcomes:** Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used and disseminated.
8. **Nature, scope, and objectives of the research/outreach project:** Include a timeline of activities to accomplish the project.
9. **Methods, procedures, and facilities:** Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
10. **Related Research:** Show by literature and communication citations the similarities and dissimilarities of the proposed project by complete or on-going research on the same topic.
11. **Training potential:** Indicate the number and level of graduate and undergraduate students, by field of study and degree, that are expected to receive training in the project.
12. **Budget Breakdown** The attached Budget Breakdown form must be completed and included with the proposal for each year.
13. **Budget Justification** Provide a brief statement in each category justifying use of the funds requested.
14. **Investigator's qualifications:** Include a resume(s) of the principal investigator(s). No resume shall exceed two pages or list more than 15 pertinent publications.

**CAUSES Land-Grant Program RFP
ATTACHMENT 2
BUDGET BREAKDOWN**

Proposed Start Date:				Proposed Completion Date:	
		Project Title:			
		Principle Investigator(s):			
Cost Category	Year 1	Year2	Year 3	Total	
1. Salaries and Wages:	\$	\$	\$	\$	
-Principal Investigator (s) - -					
Total Salaries and Wages	\$	\$	\$	\$	
2. Fringe Benefits					
3. Supplies					
4. Equipment					
5. Services and/or Consultants					
6. Travel					
7. Other Direct Costs					
8. Total Direct Costs					
11. Total Estimated Cost	\$	\$	\$	\$	