Applying for a 2024 NCR-SARE Partnership Grant

The Partnership Grant program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze onfarm research, demonstration, and education activities related to sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education

northcentral.sare.org

Advancing sustainable agriculture since 1988

This is a presentation about applying for a Partnership grant in the North Central SARE program. This presentation goes over material that is in the Call for Proposals, so it would be useful to have that in front of you as you're going through this presentation.

It begins with a quick overview of SARE and North Central SARE, emphasizing some of the SARE philosophy that will aid you in developing your proposals, then goes over the sections of the Partnership grant proposal, and ends with screenshots from the online proposal submission website

We are the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, commonly referred to by our acronym, SARE. We are a part of the United States Department of Agriculture, funded through the National Institute of Food and Agriculture or NIFA program.

This program is intended to foster cooperation between agriculture professionals and small groups of farmers and ranchers to catalyze on-farm research, demonstration, and education activities related to sustainable agriculture. We anticipate that projects will be very similar to projects proposed through our Farmer-Rancher grants, but these projects will include an ag professional who is coordinating the collaboration, research and reporting.

What is SARE?

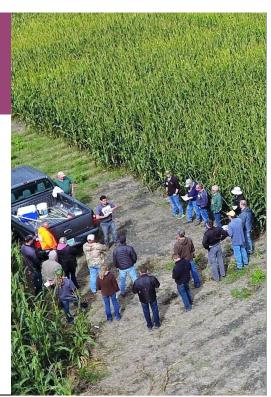
Grants and outreach to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.



We provide grants and outreach to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

A Different Kind of Grant Program

sare was started in 1988, conceived as a decentralized, **science-based**, **grassroots**, practical, problem solving – and **inclusive** – competitive grant making and outreach program.

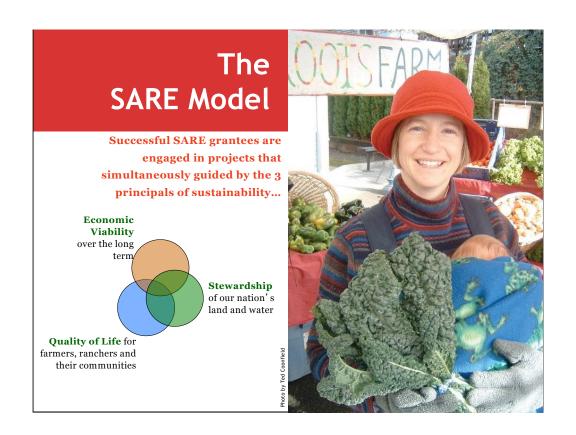


This slide highlights some of the main characteristics of the SARE program-

We are decentralized, in that each of the four regions make their own funding decisions, including which grant programs to offer.

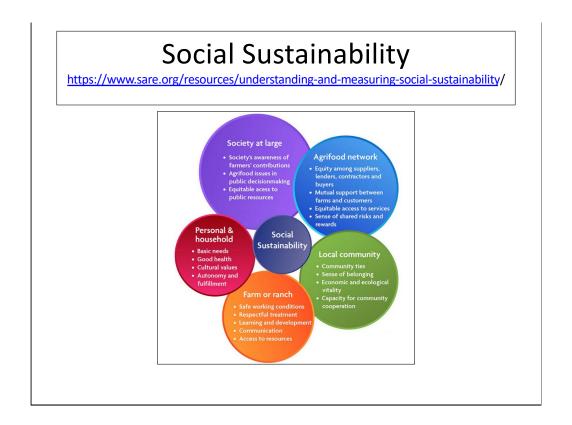
We are science-based, meaning that we expect research proposed to be planned with sufficient scientific rigor—so that findings are replicable, and we invite you to look at our bulletin on "How to Conduct Scientific Research" for more information. We are also a grassroots grants program. Our proposal review teams and our administrative council include people with knowledge and expertise that comes from farming and working with farmers. Our proposal review teams include farmers and ranchers, extension educators, researchers and personnel from state and federal agencies. That's an important point to remember when you're writing your preproposal—don't assume that everyone reviewing your proposal is an expert in your field—avoid using jargon.

In all of our grant programs, we look for projects with strong farmer/rancher or end-user involvement, and most projects are applied research projects.



Successful SARE grantees have projects that simultaneously address the 3 principals of sustainability—Quality of Life for farmers, ranchers and their communities, economic viability over the long term and Stewardship of our resources.

In your proposal, you should address how your project addresses each of these considerations, even if your project is focused more specifically on one of the aspects.



We are often asked about measures of social sustainability— SARE Outreach has a brief overview "Understanding and measuring social sustainability": https://www.sare.org/resources/understanding-and-measuring-social-sustainability/

The SARE Portfolio

- Sustainable pest and weed mgmt.
- · Marketing and local food systems
- Water quality and nutrient mgmt.
- · Systems research
- High tunnels and season extension
- Crop diversification
- Cover crops and soil health
- Small ruminants/poultry/cattle
- Pastured livestock/grazing systems
- Pollinators and biodiversity
- Urban agriculture

...and much more



We fund projects addressing a wide range of topics.



NCR-SARE Grant Types

- Farmer/Rancher
- Research & Education
- Partnership
- Professional Development
- Graduate Student
- Youth Educator

We are decentralized in that each of the four regional administrative councils set priorities and make grant decisions. The North Central region includes 12 Midwestern states—a highly productive, critical agricultural region. We offer the six grant programs listed above. Information on our grant programs can be found on our website www.northcentral.sare.org and you should look at all our grant programs to determine the one that might be the best fit for your project. The Partnership Grant program a newer program in the North Central region.



We are a grants and education program, and SARE Outreach produces practical information like you see here, and you can find a wealth of information online, including informative bulletins on topics from Social Sustainability in Agriculture to How to Conduct Research on Your Farm or Ranch. These are available to view online or download as pdfs.

NCR-SARE Partnership Grants

Grants for up to \$50,000 total for up to 2 yrs

Can be research, demonstration, education, or marketing

Involve a team of 3 or more farmers or ranchers

Led by an ag professional

Due ONLINE Thurs., Oct. 19th by 4:00 p.m. CDT



These are the program basics for the NCR SARE Partnership grant program. Partnership grants are for up to \$50,000, for up to 2 years. Grants can be for research, OR education, or demonstration projects, but all have must have an outreach component.

They should involve 3 or more farmers or ranchers, although as noted in the Call for Proposals, we recognize that there may be situations with specialty crops or livestock, or another developing area where you don't yet have three farmers established, so feel free to contact us to discuss that type of situation.

These projects will be led by an ag professional, and we anticipate funding 20 projects this year.

Your proposal must be submitted online by 4:00 p.m. CDT, on Thursday, the 19th of October.

Examples of Ag Professionals

Each project is to be led by an ag professional, such as:

Extension educators (specialist/agents)

Other university educators or researchers

Non-profit organization staff

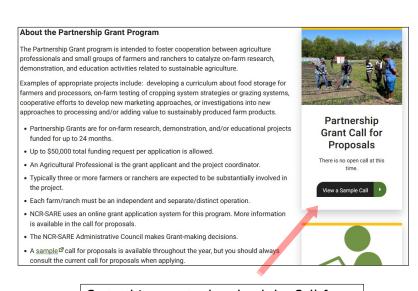
Agency staff

Certified crop advisors

Other ag and natural resource consultants



We define an ag professional fairly broadly—it could be an extension educator, or an educator from a university or college, or a nonprofit or federal agency or state agency, or a crop advisor directly working with farmers.



Go to this page to download the Call for Proposals (will be posted when system opens for applications on August 2nd.)

If you haven't yet, here is how to download the 2024 Call for Proposals. If you have any problems downloading the Call for proposals, please contact the NCR-SARE office and we can email you a copy or send a print copy.

The Call lists all the sections you'll be required to address in the online grant proposal, and the word limits.

Home » NCR-SARE Grants » Apply for a Grant

Apply for a Grant

Are you interested in applying for an NCR-SARE grant? If so, and if you live in one of the following states, this information is for you. The North Central Region consists of <u>Illinois</u> <u>Indiana</u>, <u>Iowa</u>, <u>Kansas</u>, <u>Michigan</u>, <u>Minnesota</u>, <u>Missouri</u>, <u>Nebraska</u>, <u>North</u> <u>Dakota</u>, <u>Ohio</u>, <u>South Dakota</u>, and <u>Wisconsin</u>.

If you're located elsewhere, follow these links for information on the <u>Western Region SARE</u>, <u>Southern Region SARE</u>, or <u>Northeast Region SARE</u>.

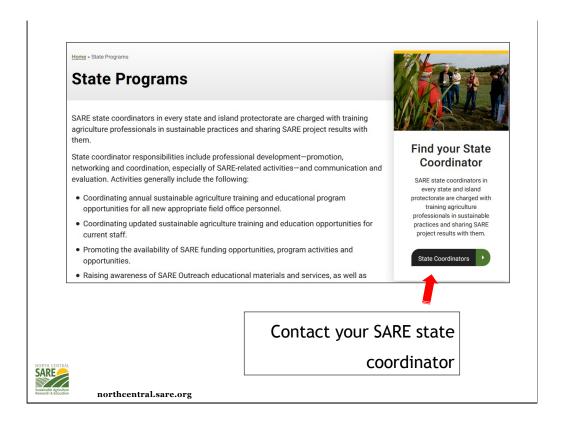
Writing a Grant Proposal

- 1. Determine which SARE grant program is right for you:
 - the <u>Research and Education Grant Program</u> a competitive grant program for researchers and educators
 - the <u>Farmer Rancher Grant Program</u> a competitive grants program for farmers a ranchers
 - the <u>Graduate Student Grant Program</u> a competitive grant program to fund graduate student projects
 - the <u>Youth Educator Grant Program</u> a competitive grant program for youth educators to encourage youth to try sustainable practices
 - the Professional Development Grant Program a competitive grant program

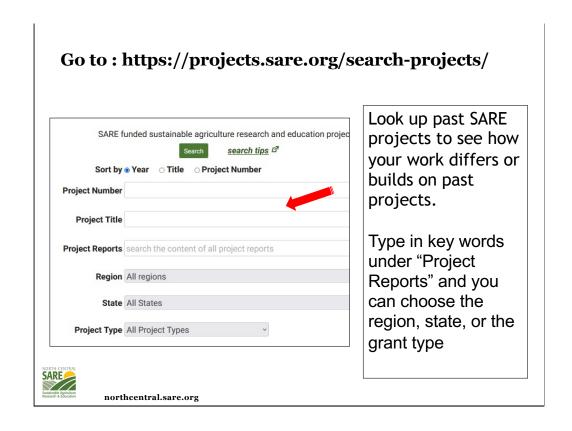


northcentral.sare.org

You can get additional help for writing grants on the NCR-SARE website.



An important resource for you is your state NCR SARE coordinator. If you click on the link indicated in this slide, you will pull up the contact information for your state coordinator. They can discuss your idea with you, offer suggestions, and may be able to link you to collaborators. They can be especially helpful in connecting you to farmers who might be interested in your work and willing to collaborate.



You should also look at past grant projects to see how your work builds on past projects and use that information in your preproposal.



For example, here is a partial list of the NCR Partnership projects that have dealt with cover crops. You can click on the title and be taken to the Project overview or click on the annual or final reports.

Application Guidelines

Proposals due October 19th by 4:00 p.m. CDT

Involve 3 or more farmers, with each farmer representing an independent and separate or distinct operation

Online application

Funding can cover partial salary and benefits of ag professional, on-farm research expenses, education programming, travel, etc.



Here are some of the main points to keep in mind as you begin to write your proposal.

Proposal Sections

- Summary
- Project objectives
- Relevance to sustainable ag and regional concerns
- Proposed activities, including outreach plan
- Role of ag professionals, farmers or ranchers
- · Previous research on the topic
- Outcomes and impact
- · Budget and budget justification
- Attach resumes, signature page, letters from participating farmers
- You will need to include an animal welfare statement (if applicable) but can wait until funded



These are the specific sections of the proposal that you'll be expected to complete in the online grant proposal application. If you input directly into the online system, be sure to save often.



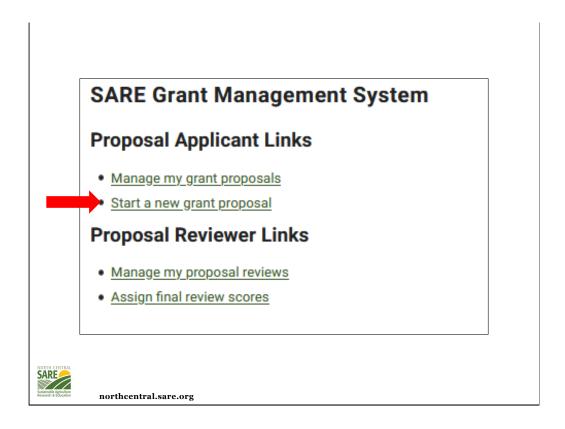
Now we'll show a few of the screen shots from the online submission system so that you know what to expect. When you go to projects.sare.org, this is what you'll see.

If you've never had a SARE grant before you will need to first create an account and complete your profile. Click on create account.

If you've had a SARE grant previously and filed reports in this system, your profile will already be in the system and you can log in with the username and password you used for reporting.

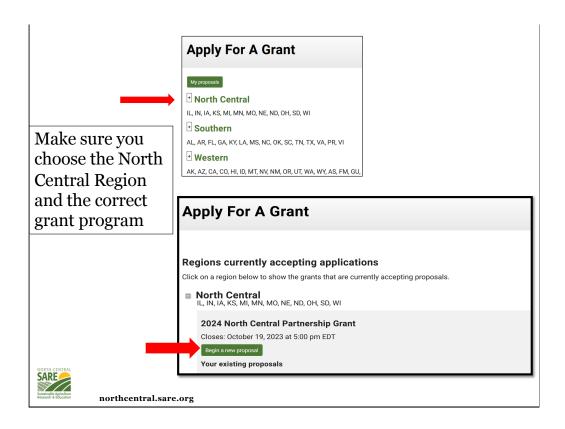
Applicant Re	egistration
SARE grants are only availa	ble to people and organizations or institutions in the US, it's territories and protectorates.
Email*	
Username*	
Name prefix	v
First name*	
Last name*	
Name Suffix	e.g. DVM or Jr.
Job Title*	
Institution, organization or	
business name* Institution, organization or	Select one
business type*	*
Address Line 1*	
Address Line 2	
City*	
State/Protectorate*	v
Zip*	
Office/Day Phone*	
Cell Phone	
Website	
	The SARE program is committed to an ethic of openness, inclusiveness, and diversity in all of its programs, policies, and procedures. To monitor our performance in these areas, we ask you to provide your demographic information. Demographic information is only displayed or used in aggregate.
Ethnicity*	- Select -
Race*	- Select ·
Sex*	
Year of birth (optional)	_ 1
NTRAL I'm not a robot	EDIFFOLA Harris Turns
Register	THE CAST OF STREET

To register as a new applicant, complete the requested information—note that we ask for demographic information the first time you use the system. Your demographic information is only aggregated with other proposal demographic information. The people reviewing proposals or determining the proposals funded will not have access to your demographic information. When you've finished, click on register



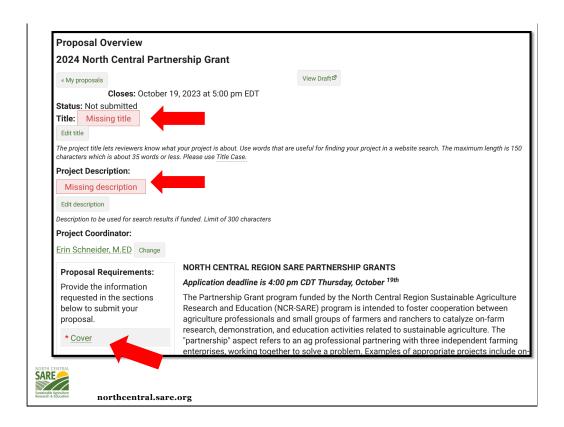
Once you log in, you'll see this screen. Under projects, you'll see a list of all projects you've been associated with. Under the proposal Applicant Links, you'll see a link to manage applications. This is for you to edit proposals you've started but not submitted.

Click on "Start a new grant proposal".



You will see a list of all open grant applications, for all regions.

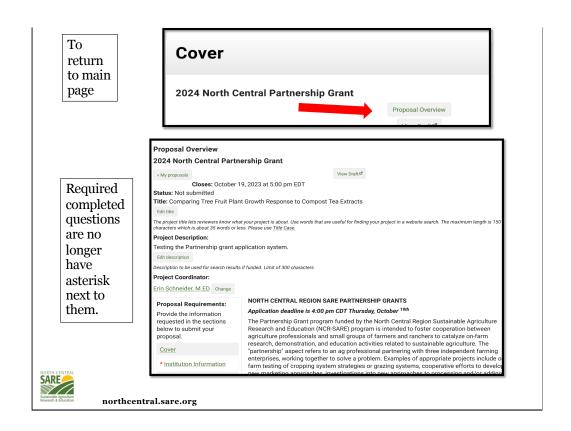
Make sure you choose the correct grant program and the North Central Region. You will be completing the 2024 North Central Partnership Grant Proposal Application



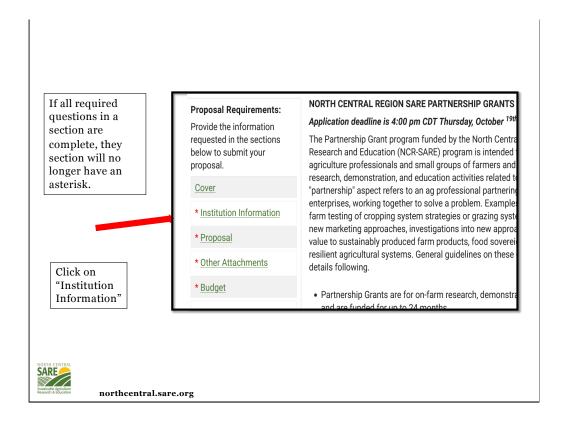
Enter the title and brief project description (less than 150 characters). Then click on "cover"

Cover	
2024 North Central Partnership Grant	
Proposal Overview	
View Draft®	
Comparing Tree Fruit Plant Growth Response to Compost Tea Extracts	Next section
☐ Proposed Start Date	
Your project cannot start prior to April 1, 2024.	
Answer: Edit	
April 30, 2024	
■ Proposed End Date	
Your project duration cannot exceed 24 months.	
Answer: Edit	
September 10, 2026	
□ Total Funds Requested	
Answer: Edit	
50,000	
Resubmission?	
Did you submit this project as a proposal in a previous year?	
Answer: Edit Edit	
• No	
☐ Focus on historically-underserved or limited resource farmers/ranchers?	
Will your proposed research/outreach primarily focus on historically-underserved* farmers/ranchers?	

Click on "Edit Answer" to complete the requested information—this fills in a "cover page" for your proposal. You will save the answer to each question as it is completed. **The system does not store information until you hit "Save."**

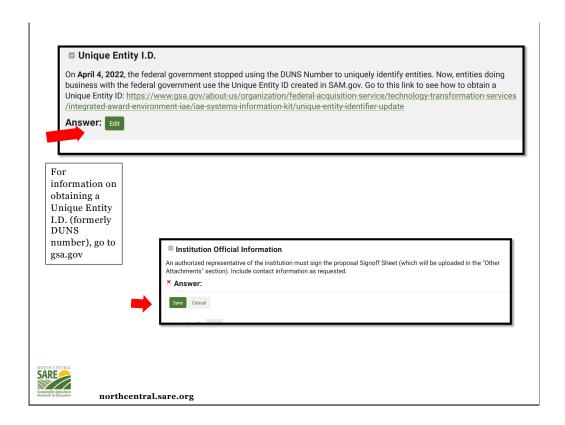


Answer each question by clicking on "edit answer" and saving your answer. Once you've completed the cover page information, or at any time, you can click on "Proposal Overview" to go back to the main page.

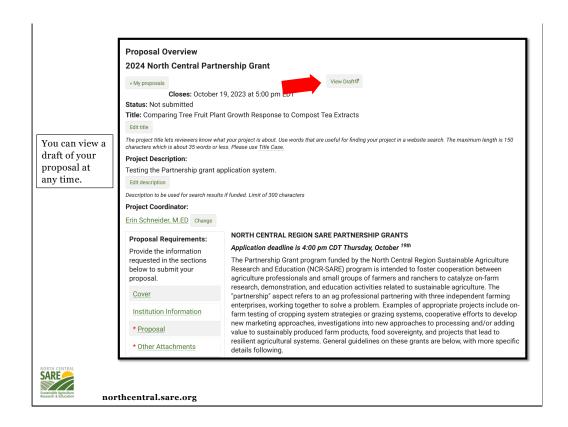


Once all required questions in a section are complete, the section will no longer have an asterisk.

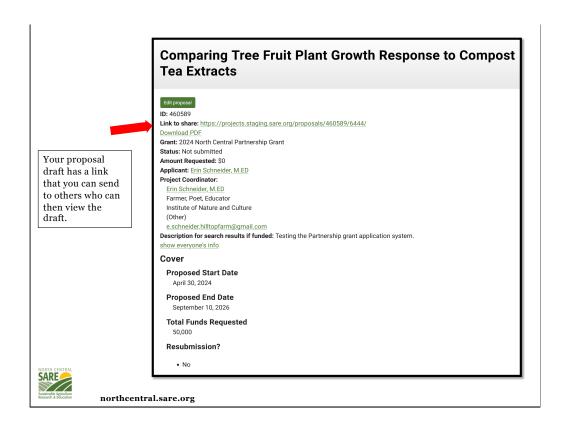
Then, click on another section, for example, "Institution Information" to complete the next section.



In this section, you will enter the Unique Entity I.D. (formerly DUNS number) and include the contact information of an authorized representation that can sign off on your proposal.



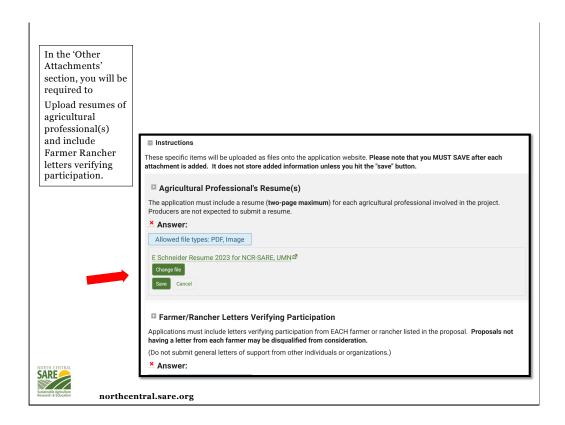
To view or share your draft preproposal, click on "View draft"



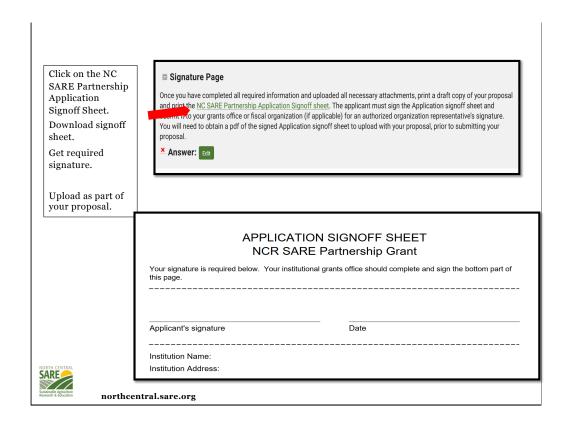
You can also share your draft with others before you submit.



Return to the proposal overview page and complete the Proposal section, then move on to complete each section that has an asterisk next to it.



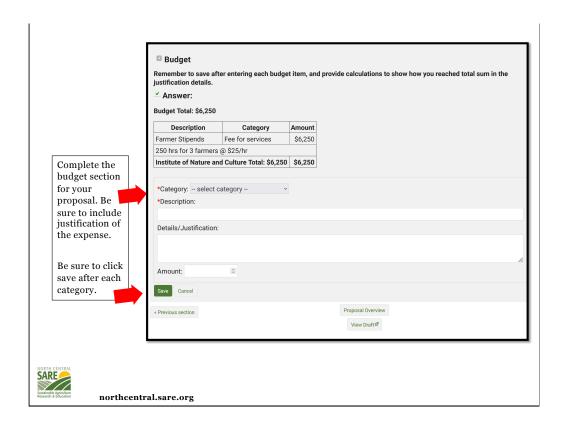
For Example, under Other Attachments, Include a resume for each agricultural professional involved in the project. Then include farmer/rancher letters from EACH farmer or rancher listed in the proposal verifying participation.



As part of the Other Attachments section,

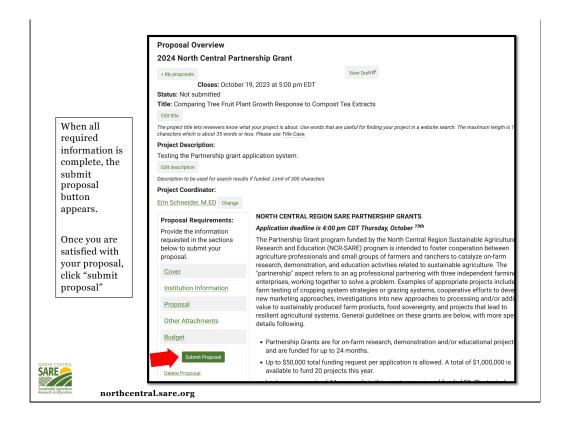
You will also be asked to submit an applicant sign-off sheet. Click on "Edit Answer"

And you can download the applicant must Signoff Sheet. You will submit it to your grants office or fiscal organization (if applicable) for an authorized organization representative's signature. You will need to obtain a pdf of the signed Application signoff sheet to upload with your proposal, prior to submitting your proposal.



Complete the budget section of your proposal, including justification of each expense.

Once you are satisfied with the budget items, click "save."

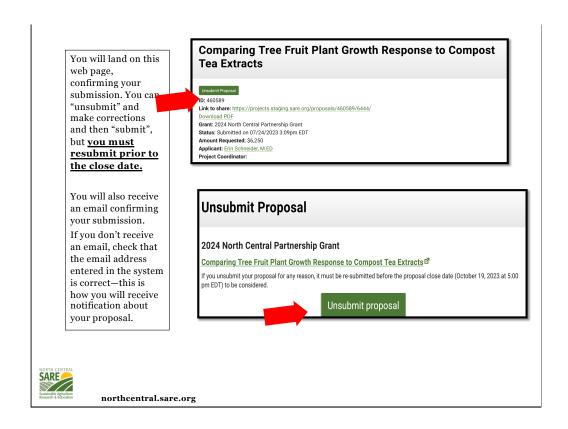


Once you have completed all required sections—the "submit proposal" button appears. If you don't see that button, you are still missing a required component. Check to make sure you've completed the project description and the title, which can often be overlooked.

Once you are satisfied with your proposals, click "submit proposal."



You'll land on this page to complete submission You do have the ability to unsubmit and make changes prior to the closing date for the grant program.



You will see this confirmation page. Note that in this system, you can "unsubmit" and make changes PRIOR to the closing date for the grant program. Make sure you resubmit by the closing date and time.

Timeline 2024 Partnership Program

Oct. 19, 2023 Proposals due online by 4:00

pm CDT

Early Feb. 2024 Applicants notified

April 1, 2024 Funds available to applicants

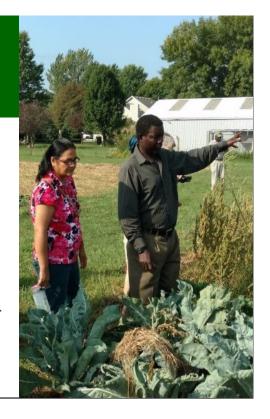
March 1, 2025 2024 Annual report due

Project end date Final report due 60 days after

project end date



Northcentral.sare.org



This is the timeline for the 2024 Partnership grant program. Your proposal, including the signed authorization, must be submitted online by Thursday, October 19th, at 4:00 p.m. CDT. They'll be reviewed and a recommendation made to the NCR-SARE Administrative Council in January, and all applicants will be notified whether or not they are awarded in February. We anticipate that funds will be available for you to begin your project April 1, 2024.

Contact for more information

Beth Nelson, phone 612.626.4436 email bethnelson@umn.edu

Rob Myers, phone 573.882.1547 email myersrob@missouri.edu

North Central SARE Office, phone 612.626.3113 email ncrsare@umn.edu northcentral.sare.org



Advancing sustainable agriculture since 1988



northcentral.sare.org

Beth Nelson and Rob Myers are co-coordinating the grant program, so feel free to contact either one of us if you have questions about preparing a proposal for this grant program. You can also contact the main SARE office with questions. We look forward to receiving your proposal.