



# Southern Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SSARE) 2026 Professional Development Program Grant Call for Pre-Proposals

**Amount Funded:** Up to \$100,000

**Project Duration:** One (1) to Two (2) years

**Proposal submission deadline:** November 14, 2025 at 12 p.m. (NOON) EST

**Online submission link:** [SARE Grant Management System](#)

*Read more about the requirements for Professional Development Program Grants before applying. Questions should be directed to David Redhage at [dredhage@kerrcenter.com](mailto:dredhage@kerrcenter.com) or call 918-647-9123*

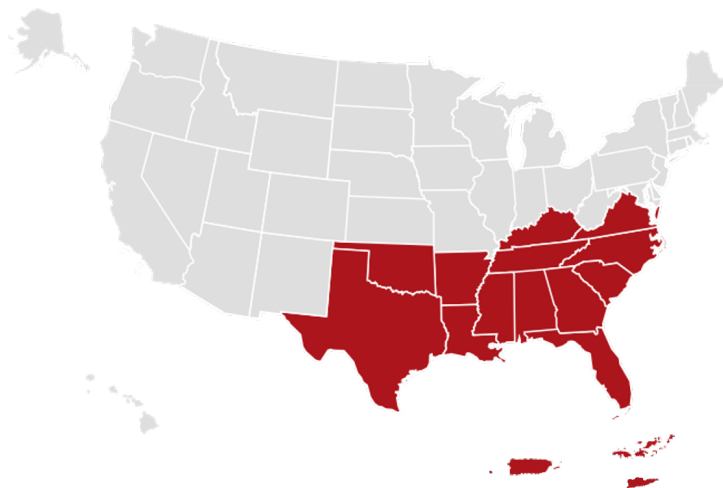
## About SARE

The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program is a U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grants and outreach program.

Competitive research grants, offered annually, are the primary tools of the SARE program. SARE seeks out innovations in sustainable agriculture, and rewards grant applicants who offer interesting and potentially workable ideas. SARE also emphasizes outreach and the dissemination of project results so the grant programs will have the widest possible benefits.

Southern SARE is one of four regional SARE programs, hosted by University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture. Southern SARE accepts proposals from applicants in the Southern region: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Learn more about Southern SARE at <https://southern.sare.org>



*This work is supported by the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, project award no. 2025-38640-45389, from the U.S.D.A.'s National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and should not be construed to represent any official USDA or U.S. Government determination or policy. The Southern region SARE program is hosted by University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Oklahoma.*

---

# Southern SARE Professional Development Program Grants

## Overview

Professional Development Program Grants are competitive training grants. They are designed to further education and outreach strategies for professional and educators who work directly with farmers and ranchers.

The grant funds training activities that educate ag professionals in up-to-date strategies and technologies to help farmers and ranchers increase profits and lessen environmental impacts. PDP grants support such activities as producing workshops, creating educational manuals and videos, or conducting on-farm tours and demonstrations.

**The grant is comprised of a pre-proposal and full proposal application process. This document represents the Call for Pre-proposals.**

## What is Sustainable Agriculture?

Proposed projects must focus on Southern SARE's program objectives in developing sustainable agriculture systems or moving existing farming systems toward sustainability, as defined by Congress in the 1990 Farm Bill.

A simple way to think about sustainable agriculture is that it involves producing enough food and fiber to satisfy today's needs without compromising the ability of future generations to do the same. Sustainability as defined by the SARE program contains three pillars:

- Profit over the long term;
- Stewardship of our nation's land, air and water;
- Quality of life for farmers, ranchers, farm employees and our communities.

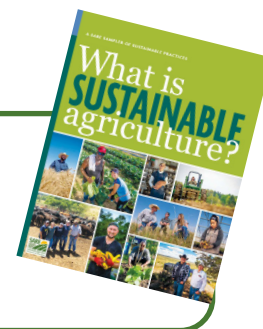
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PILLARS



There are almost as many ways to reach these goals as there are farms and ranches in America. One thing sustainable producers have in common is they look at their farm or ranch from a holistic perspective and develop an integrated management plan that uses principles from nature.



**Learn more about how some of the most common practices can enhance sustainability for all farms through this SARE sampler of proven practices:**  
**[“What is Sustainable Agriculture?”](#)**





**IMPORTANT! Professional Development Program Grants are train the trainer grants. The focus is on training those who train farmers.**

## Professional Development Program Grant Call for Pre-proposals Schedule

**October 3, 2025:** Calls for Pre-Proposals Released

**November 14, 2025:** Pre-Proposals Due

**February 2026:** Selected Pre-Proposals Invited to Submit Full Proposals

**May 2026:** Full Proposals Due

**August 2026:** Full Proposals Awarded

## Eligibility Requirements

- Invited to apply: SARE is an inclusive program and encourages pre-proposals from land grant and non-land grant universities, colleges, USDA agencies, community-based organizations, and non-governmental organizations.
- To be considered for funding, a project must meet the following five criteria:
  - Project outcomes must focus on developing sustainable agriculture systems or moving existing systems toward sustainability, as defined in the 1990 Farm Bill. The 1990 Farm Bill defines sustainable agriculture as an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term:
    - satisfy human food and fiber needs.
    - enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends.
    - make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources, and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls.
    - sustain the economic viability of farm operations.
    - enhance the quality of life of farmers and ranchers, and of society as a whole.
  - A project's central purpose must be to provide or enable training to one or all of the following: Cooperative Extension Service agents, USDA field personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency and other USDA agencies, and other agricultural professionals and educators, including mentor farmers\* who will serve as trainers. Research projects and farmer-outreach or education projects do not qualify for this funding. Per USDA-NIFA, proposals must not promote, support, or take part in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives or any other initiatives that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected characteristic.
- Mentor Farmer – In Southern SARE, we use the term “mentor farmer”. While there is no strict definition, we see mentor farmers as innovators in sustainable agriculture who teach others what they have learned. They may be active in a farmer's market, farmer cooperative, associations, or simply be a producer who tries innovative practices and hosts field days, trainings, demonstrations, and other

---

events. PDP is a train the trainer program and the main idea is that mentor farmers participate in sustainable agriculture education events and take the information home to teach other producers.

3. Quality of Life- How will this Train-the-Trainer program lead to improved quality of life for producers, and, by extension, communities and consumers in the Southern region?  
See Southern SARE's working document on what quality of life means.
4. Outreach- Please indicate how you will conduct your outreach plan, such as trainings, workshops, or field days.



## IMPORTANT!

**Pre-proposals must be submitted on the Southern SARE Grant Management System website <https://projects.sare.org> Once you have read through this call for pre-proposals, click on the link above and follow the directions to begin your pre-proposal. Complete all of your editing and modifying before you finalize your pre-proposal. Once your pre-proposal is finalized, it cannot be modified. Also, once the November 14, 2025 deadline passes, the online system will close and pre-proposals- even those in progress that haven't been finalized- can no longer be submitted. Please print your pre-proposal and have it reviewed (if required) by your institution or organization, execute any necessary modifications to the pre-proposal, then perform the online submission.**

## General Guidelines for Submission of a Pre-Proposal

All of the guidelines, program goals, and review criteria for submitting a Southern SARE PDP pre-proposal can be found in the following pages of this call for pre-proposals. Pre-proposals must include all of the elements listed in the "Pre- Proposal Format and Outline" below and comply with length restrictions. We recommend that you compose the lengthy sections of your pre-proposal in Microsoft Word, then copy and paste into the online submission forms.

---

Projects should include or involve the following:

- the development of a case for relevancy to southern agriculture and significance to the state(s) involved
- participation or support from both 1862 and 1890 land grant universities
- how the training need was determined
- effective participatory training methods
- systems approach that includes environmental, societal, and economic impacts to the community
- interdisciplinary efforts and multi-institutional partnerships that can endure beyond the life of the project
- farmer involvement in planning, evaluation, and delivery of training
- when possible, multiple formats should be used in the delivery of training material; while other formats are allowed, final deliverables should be in an internet-ready format

## Pre-Proposal Format and Outline

Pre-proposals should include the following elements:

- 1. General Information** – This will include the project title, project director information, institutional administrative contact (cannot be the same as the project director), institutional financial contact, and key words.
  - Project Director Demographic Data – This information will not be part of the review process. It will be confidential and will not appear on any copy of the submitted proposal, including the applicant's copy.
- 2. Project Information** – The project information should reflect the list of the proposal by including Key collaborators and major partnership(s), Project summary, Project goals and objectives, include target audience, Activities proposed, How results will be evaluated, and Project duration and timetable.
- 3. Funding Request** – **An itemized budget is no longer required at the pre-proposal stage.** We only require an estimate of your total funding request, as well as estimates of any funds you will budget for cooperating institutions. SARE PDP will allow indirect costs (IDC) up to 10%. Matching funds are not required.

A detailed breakdown of the proposal template can be found starting on page seven (7).

## Indirect Costs

USDA-NIFA will allow recovery of indirect costs. Indirect costs under a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) On-Farm Research Grant is limited to 10 percent of Total Direct Costs (TDC) or the grantees' Federally Negotiated Rate, whichever is less.

Therefore, when preparing budgets, limit your request for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of your institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 10 percent of total direct costs awarded. The Indirect Cost of 10 percent Total Direct Costs (TDC) is the maximum allowable. Amounts exceeding the maximum allowable indirect cost is considered unallowable.



---

## Modified Total Direct Costs

If your institution or organization does not have a federally negotiated indirect rate agreement (NICRA), you may request a 10 percent de minimus indirect cost rate. The 10 percent de minimus rate is applied to modified total direct costs (MTDC). MTDC means total direct costs related to the award, such as labor, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, publications, consultant services and travel costs. MTDC excludes the following costs: equipment, capital expenditures, rental costs, participant support costs and the portion of each sub-award in excess of \$25,000. Indirect costs cannot be charged on the excluded costs.

To determine MTDC:

Total Direct Cost Amount – (minus) Excluded Costs Amount = MTDC Amount  
MTDC Amount X 10 percent de minimus rate = IDC Total

Organizations that do not have a NICRA in place may also waive indirect cost recovery and request only direct research costs. If this option is selected, the organization is required to include in the award budget only those types of costs consistently treated as direct research costs by the organization. If your organization is waiving indirect costs, this must be noted in the budget narrative.

## Unallowable Costs

Copy machines, FAX machines, furniture, any general purpose equipment that does not have a particular scientific, technical, or programmatic purpose, entertainment, capital improvements, and land.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sandra Blackwell  
sblackwell@uga.edu  
1109 Experiment St  
Room 206, Stuckey Bldg.  
University of Georgia-Griffin  
Griffin, GA 30223-1797  
Phone: (770) 229-3212

David Redhage  
SSARE PDP Coordinator  
dredhage@kerrcenter.com  
24456 Kerr Road  
Poteau, OK 74953-5215  
Phone: (918) 647-9123, ext. 220



***Looking for more sustainable agriculture research ideas?***

**Visit SARE's national projects database to learn more about funded projects. Over 9,000 research and education projects have been funded nationally.**

**<https://projects.sare.org/search-projects/>**

---

# Preparing Your Pre-Proposal

Refer to the following template when preparing your pre-proposal. The information provided here is required for submitting your pre-proposal online. **When you are ready to submit your pre-proposal, apply in the SARE Grant Management System. Be sure you submit your pre-proposal prior to the deadline. Once the November 14, 2025 application deadline passes, the online system will close and late proposals will not be accepted.**

## Project Title

The title of the proposed project.

## Project Description

The project description will be used to filter search results if funded. Limited to 300 characters.

## Principal Investigator

Information requested consists of principal investigator name, lead institution name, full address, telephone, and e-mail. This person will be the main project PI listed on the proposal and the person the SSARE office will contact regarding this project. The institution/organization the PI is associated with is considered the leading institution and will receive the grant funding.

## Principal Investigator Role

Detail the area of expertise and specific role of the principal investigator.

## A. General Information

### Proposed End Date

Professional Development Program Grants duration may be either one (1) or two (2) years in duration. The end day may either be August 31, 2027 or August 31, 2028.

### Project State

The state of which the majority of the proposed project work will be conducted.

### Institutional Administrative Contact

List the name of the administrative contact, including institution/organization name, full address, telephone, and e-mail. The administrative contact is the person who handles grant contracts and has signature authority.

---

## **Institutional Financial Contact**

List the name of the financial contact, including institution/organization name, full address, telephone, and e-mail. The financial contact is the person who submits invoices and answers questions concerning invoicing and payments.

## **Other Institutions Receiving Funding**

List cooperating institutions that will receive funds. A budget is required for each institution listed. You will enter budget information in the budget section. If you have cooperators that will not receive funds, enter those in the Other Cooperators section.

## ***B. Project Information***

### **Key Collaborators and major partnership(s) (if applicable)**

Each cooperator or farmer/producer listed must have a unique and detailed role specified in the “additional information” field. A proposal with a list of farmers/producers all with the same role will not be nearly as competitive as one where each farmer is on the list due to their unique contribution to the project. The strongest proposals clearly demonstrate a train-the-trainer focus that will ultimately be relevant to producers, providing practical answers to their questions and problems. The best way to accomplish this goal is to involve farmers/producers in the planning, design and implementation of the project. Producers must run their own farms, regardless of size; alone or with family or partners.

### **Project Summary**

The project summary should reflect the gist of the proposal, including how the proposed training is relevant to sustainable agriculture. How will this Train-the-Trainer program lead to improved quality of life for producers, and, by extension, communities and consumers in the Southern region? Give a brief description of how the need for training was determined. Limited to 150 words.

### **Project Objectives**

State the grant projects goals and objectives. Include brief information on the target audience. What are the expected changes in attitudes, knowledge, skills and/or behaviors related to sustainable agriculture? Limited to 300 words.



---

## **Project Activities**

List project activities, how the target audience will be reached, and how these activities will be used to achieve stated objectives. When possible, multiple formats should be used in the delivery of training materials; while other formats are allowed, final deliverables should be in an internet-ready format. Please indicate how you will conduct your outreach plan if you anticipate public health emergency restrictions will prevent travel related to your activities plans or prevent any in-person events, such as trainings, workshops, or field days. Limited to 200 words.

## **Project Evaluation Methods**

Briefly describe the methods that will be used to evaluate grant project activities. Limited to 200 words.

## **Project Timetable**

State whether this will be a one (1) or two (2) year project. The timetable should include an estimated project schedule. Limited to 150 words.

## ***C. Funding Request***

### **Budget Estimate**

At the pre-proposal stage, an itemized budget is not required. Please enter an estimate of your total funding request, as well as estimates of any funds you will budget for cooperating institutions. SARE PDP will cover indirect costs (IDC) up to 10%. Matching funds are not required.

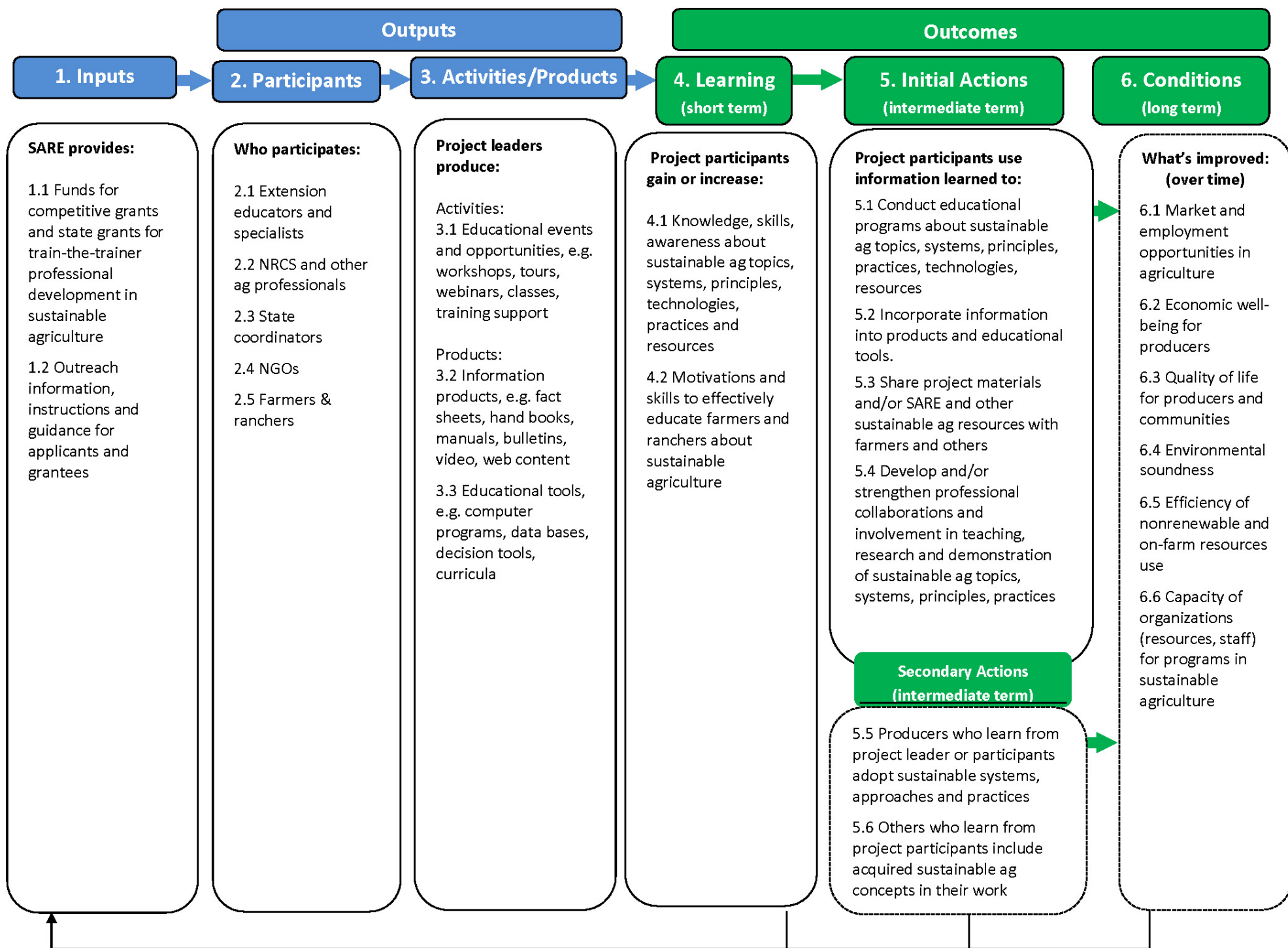
An example would look like:

Lead Institution --	\$50,000
Cooperating Institution --	\$20,000
Cooperating NGO --	\$10,000
<b>Total Proposed Budget Request --</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>

### **Amount Requested**

List the amount of funding that is being requested.

## SARE Logic Model – Professional Development Program



## PDP Grant Budget Check List

The following are allowable budget items as a guide when putting together your budget. Justification of each budget item is required. Explain why each budget item and its cost are needed to conduct your project.

### Personnel Labor of

#### Lead Institution/Organization

This includes such positions as PI, Co-PI, project leader, research associate, program manager, technician, lab specialist, graduate student, undergraduate student, Extension specialist, county agent, communications specialist, web developer, policy analyst, operations manager. Secretarial/clerical must be exceptional in nature and justified as it relates to the project. ***Do not list non-employee payments in this section.***

- Job Title
- Salary (FTE; part-time; hourly rate; etc.)
- Length of time expected to work
- Description of the work to be conducted

### Personnel Labor of

#### Coop Institutions/Organizations

This includes such positions as PI, Co-PI, project leader, research associate, program manager, technician, lab specialist, graduate student, undergraduate student, Extension specialist, county agent, communications specialist, web developer, policy analyst, operations manager. Secretarial/clerical must be exceptional in nature and justified as it relates to the project. ***Do not list non-employee payments in this section.***

- Job Title
- Salary (FTE; part-time; hourly rate; etc.)
- Length of time expected to work
- Description of the work to be conducted

### Fringe Benefits

Provide the total allowable fringe benefits.

- Salary X %Rate = Fringe Benefits

### Personnel Labor of Cooperating Farmers

- Job Title
- Salary (FTE; part-time; hourly rate; etc.)
- Length of time expected to work
- Description of the work to be conducted

### Travel

Travel expenses can be associated with the project education/training needed for the lead institution/organization, cooperating institution/organization, and cooperating farmers. Travel can also be associated with the project outreach plan.

- Origin/Destination
- Mileage per federal per diem rates
- Airfare
- Lodging (include cost per person per night)
- Meals per federal per diem rate.
- Description of how the travel relates to project/outreach and why it's needed

### Non-expendable Equipment

Equipment equal to or greater than \$5,000, and has a useful life of more than one (1) year.

- Type/description
- Cost
- Demonstrate how the item(s) relate to the project and are needed for the project

### Materials, Supplies, and Technical Equipment

Materials and supplies and technical equipment are items directly related to the project activities and are needed for carrying out the objectives of the project. Items normally covered under Facilities and Administrative Costs, such as office supplies, must be justified as being required for the project, can be easily identified to the specific project, and are above and beyond what would normally be covered under Facilities and Administrative Costs.

- Type/description
- Cost
- Demonstrate how the item(s) relate to the project and are needed for the project

### Outreach

Expenses related to the project's outreach plan and outreach activities. This can include the costs of holding the event, food and refreshments, and marketing and advertisement.

- Event facilities/Planning Spaces (such as community center, hotel conference room, tents for educational programming)
- Technical equipment (such as audio/visual technologies)
- Materials and supplies needed for the event
- Marketing and advertisement; communications
- Travel for speakers and presenters only.
- Food and refreshments (breakfasts are not allowed). Justification for food and refreshments include the support of the continuity of the event; or the event is being held at a remote location and food is not easily available. **UGA employee participants cannot be included.**

- Type/description
- Cost
- Demonstrate how the item(s) relate to the project and are needed for the project

### Computer Costs

Line/computer processing usage charges, including Internet service provider fees.

- Type/description
- Cost
- Demonstrate how the item(s) relate to the project and are needed for the project

### Publication Charges

Commercial printing or field-related publication charges for brochures, program materials, manuals, etc.

- Type/description
- Cost
- Demonstrate how the item(s) relate to the project and are needed for the project

### Other Direct Costs

Direct project charges not include in other categories. Other direct costs can include:

- **Subcontracts:** Entities which complete a portion of the project. Include a plan of work, budget, and detailed budget narrative.
- **Honorariums:** Provide recipient information (if known) or number expected, reason for need, and fee associated with the honorarium.
- **Speaker/Trainer Fees:** Provide speaker information, description of services, and fees.
- **Fee for Services:** A fee for services is the cost of professional services by non-employees of the lead institution/organization required for a project that is beyond the scope of the work the grant recipient can perform or provide. Fee for services covers work that is needed for the project, but the professional performing the work or skill is not actually working on the project. *Examples of fee for services include: Lab/data analysis, survey development, graphic design, videography/photography, transcription.*

When listing fee for services in the budget narrative:

- Determine the cost of the service (per hour, flat rate, etc.);
- Provide the nature and scope of the service in relation to the project;
- Provide the qualifications of the individual/group
- Rendering the service;
- Provide the fees charged by the individual/group for the service to be performed.  
*A fee for service is not the same as a consultation.*
- **Consultants:** Persons or Entities who provide advice for the project. Provide the name and organization of the consultant, a statement of work, and funds being charged to the project. Also provide a copy of the resume/vita.
- **Meetings/Workshops:** Includes costs of holding a conference or meeting. (e.g. Rental of facilities, equipment for meeting, honorariums, speaker fees, travel and per diems for non-UGA employee participants.) Provide detail in the budget justification.
- **Service Maintenance:** Maintenance contracts in direct correlation to use of equipment for the project (e.g. 50% use of equip for project, 50% of svc contract applied to budget costs).

- **Photocopying:** In-house copying (not commercial printing) for materials associated to the program.
- **Communications:** Mailings, postage, faxes, telephone  
(These items are also considered indirect costs and if placed in budget should be exceptional in nature and justified as it relates to the project).

- Type/description
- Cost
- Demonstrate how the item(s) relate to the project and are needed for the project

### Indirect Cost

USDA-NIFA will allow recovery of indirect costs. Indirect costs under a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Education Grant is limited to 10 percent of Total Direct Costs (TDC) or the grantees' Federally Negotiated Rate, whichever is less.

Therefore, when preparing budgets, limit your request for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of your institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 10 percent of total direct costs awarded. The Indirect Cost of 10 percent Total Direct Costs (TDC) is the maximum allowable. Amounts exceeding the maximum allowable indirect cost is considered unallowable.

### Modified Total Direct Cost

If your institution or organization does not have a federally negotiated indirect rate agreement (NICRA), you may request a 10 percent de minimus indirect cost rate. The 10 percent de minimus rate is applied to modified total direct costs (MTDC). MTDC means total direct costs related to the award, such as labor, fringe benefits, materials and supplies, publications, consultant services and travel costs. MTDC excludes the following costs: equipment, capital expenditures, rental costs, participant support costs and the portion of each sub-award in excess of \$25,000. Indirect costs cannot be charged on the excluded costs.

To determine MTDC:

Total Direct Cost Amount – (minus) Excluded Costs Amount = MTDC Amount

MTDC Amount X 10 percent de minimus rate = IDC Total

Organizations that do not have a NICRA in place may also waive indirect cost recovery and request only direct research costs. If this option is selected, the organization is required to include in the award budget only those types of costs consistently treated as direct research costs by the organization. If your organization is waiving indirect costs, this must be noted in the budget narrative.

The maximum amount allowed for funding an PDP Grant, even if indirect costs are entered, is still \$100,000.

Review your budget thoroughly to ensure expenditures are allowable, proper justification has been provided, and the total direct costs and indirect costs add up correctly. This will aid tremendously in the time frame it takes to process the award if we do not have to request budget revisions and further justification.

***NOTE: If your institution is waiving indirect costs, this must be noted in the budget justification.***

Federal Per Diem Rates Website:  
[www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates](http://www.gsa.gov/travel/plan-book/per-diem-rates)

Questions about your budget?  
Contact: Denise Quick at [denise.quick@uga.edu](mailto:denise.quick@uga.edu)  
or (770) 229-3420.

---

*Produced by the Southern Region of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. Funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Southern SARE operates under cooperative agreements with the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University, and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture to offer competitive grants to advance sustainable agriculture in America's Southern region. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.*

---



---

## How Your Proposal Will Be Reviewed

Professional Development Program Grants reviews are a two-stage pre-proposal and full proposal process. Roughly 30 percent of pre-proposals are invited to submit a full proposal.

The Administrative Council (Southern SARE PDP Committee) is involved in screening pre-proposals at the close of the pre-proposal grant deadline. All pre-proposals are reviewed by three PDP Committee members who vote on whether or not a pre-proposal should move forward to the full proposal stage.

Full proposal invite is based on the following review criteria:

- **Collaboration:** The pre-proposal should demonstrate interdisciplinary efforts and multi-institutional partnerships that can endure beyond the life of the project. Collaboration may include: non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, land grant universities, non-land grant universities, colleges, USDA agencies, and mentor farmers. There is meaningful farmer / producer participation in the planning, delivery, and evaluation of the training. Farmers and ranchers are not the primary audience of the training, but they are the ultimate beneficiaries of information, so they can provide a valuable perspective and should be included in the planning and implementation of training.
- **Project Summary:** A project's central purpose must be to provide or enable training to one or more of the following: Cooperative Extension Service agents; USDA field personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, and other USDA agencies, and; Other agricultural professionals and educators, including farmers who will serve as trainers. Research projects and farmer-outreach or education projects do not qualify for this funding.
- **Project Objective:** Project outcomes must focus on developing sustainable agriculture systems or moving existing systems toward sustainability, as defined in the 1990 Farm Bill. The 1990 Farm Bill defines sustainable agriculture as: An integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long term; Enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agricultural economy depends; Make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources, and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls; Sustain the economic viability of farm operations; enhance the quality of life of farmers and ranchers, and of society as a whole.
- **Project Activities:** The proposed training projects must be relevant to sustainable agriculture in the Southern SARE service region.
- **Project Evaluation:** A coherent evaluation plan should demonstrate a feedback loop, which is essential to assess the effectiveness of the training model and include a plan to measure realistic outcomes that assess the change in attitudes, knowledge, skills, and actions of the trainees.



- 
- Project Timeline: Timeline of project activities reasonable for to achieve objectives in a one or two year time frame.
  - Estimated Budget

Each criteria is scored on a scale of One to Four (1-4) with the scores averaged for a final score. Each pre-proposal is scored as described:

Four (4): High Priority. Invite for Full Proposal: Pre-Proposal meets the mission/vision of the SARE program, addresses SARE's three pillars of sustainability, and fulfills the review criteria. Pre-Proposal requirements are met and addresses a topic of need with a unique, innovative, sustainable ag solution. The Technical Reviewers should provide information on the Objectives and Methods.

- Three (3): May Be Invited for Full Proposal But Not as Strong as High Priority Pre-Proposals: Pre-Proposals are not as strong as high priority pre-proposals, but there are elements that might make them worth seeing again. Pre-Proposal meets the mission/vision of the SARE program, pertains to sustainable agriculture, and fulfills the review criteria. Improvements are evident before they go through a technical review.
- Two (2): Revise and Resubmit: Proposal meets the mission/vision of the SARE program and pertains to sustainable agriculture, but there are sections of the proposal that don't fulfill review criteria or not all requirements of Call for Proposals have been met. Applicant is encouraged to Revise and Resubmit for the next grant cycle per the Administrative Council reviewer's comments to strengthen the proposal.
- One (1). Do Not Invite for Full Proposal: Proposal does not fit into the grant program applied for; proposal does not meet the mission/vision of the SARE program; does not pertain to sustainable agriculture; and/or does not meet the requirements of the Call for Proposals.

A brief written explanation is also included in the review process. Based on this final score and the comments, the Executive Council makes a recommendation to invite pre-proposal applicants to submit a full proposal.

After the full Executive Council votes on the pre-proposals that are invited back to submit a full proposal.

---

## Resources

Learn more about [Southern SARE Professional Development Program Grants](#), with information on grant writing tips.

Contact your local [SARE state ag coordinator](#) for information on SARE.

Reach out to [ATTRA \(Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas\)](#) for practical sustainable agriculture resources.

The [Alternative Farming Systems Information Center](#) (AFSIC) at the National Agricultural Library specializes in locating, collecting, and providing information about sustainable agriculture. Information specialists can answer questions, highlight resources, and share search techniques for literature reviews, background research, and identifying experts in the field and pertinent USDA researchers and projects.

Looking for more sustainable agriculture research ideas? Visit SARE's national [projects database](#) to learn more about funded projects. Over 9,000 projects have been funded nationally.

*Published by the Southern Region of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program. Funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), Southern SARE operates under cooperative agreements with the University of Georgia, Fort Valley State University, and the Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture to offer competitive grants to advance sustainable agriculture in America's Southern region. USDA is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.*