



Large Grants Overview

Prerequisite for Q&A Sessions

Large Grants include the following Northeast SARE grant programs:
Research & Education, Professional Development, Novel Approaches, and Farming Community

GRANT ADMINISTRATORS (*Large Grants*)



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Feel free to reach out to the Grant Administrator of any program you are interested in!

Not sure who to contact?
Email: northeast-large-grant@sare.org

ABOUT Northeast SARE

The Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program offers competitive grants, in sustainable/regenerative agriculture in the Northeast region.

We support agriculture in the Northeast that is regenerative so that farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure economic viability and a high quality of life.



LEGISLATED PRIORITIES

By law, projects that Northeast SARE funds must contribute to SARE's legislated priorities:

1. Maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil;
2. Conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat;
3. Maintain and enhance the quality of surface and ground water;
4. Protect the health and safety of persons involved in the food and farm system;
5. Promote the well-being of animals; and
6. Increase employment opportunities in agriculture.



OTHER PRIORITIES

- Proposals submitted to Northeast SARE must be in alignment with current administration priorities
- Northeast SARE is a program of the USDA, NIFA



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

OUTCOME STATEMENT

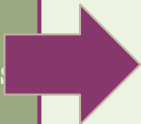
Northeast agricultural communities honor the holistic connection among land, water, air, and all living beings. Agriculture in the Northeast is regenerative so all farmers and farm employees can steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, economic viability, and a high quality of life.

REVIEW/EVALUATION

All reviewers receive orientation and adhere to Northeast SARE's Conflict of Interest Policy

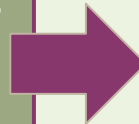
Initial Review of Proposals

Single blind review is conducted by an independent panel.



Ranking

Scores and comments are reviewed by staff for completion and creation of a ranked proposal listing.



Oversight Panel ("OP")

Top-ranked proposals from the initial review move to the OP. This group ensures that proposals meet federal administrative requirements.



Decisions

The OP recommends a slate of proposals for funding.

RUBRIC SNAPSHOT

Criterion 1: Comprehensive	Reviewers should consider the FULL proposal when scoring the following three questions in addition to the specific contributions described in the Project Summary.	15% of total score
LEGISLATION	Does this project contribute to SARE's legislated priorities and the program purpose? These include: 1) maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil; 2) conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat; 3) maintain and enhance the quality of surface, and ground water; 4) protect the health and safety of persons involved in the food and farm system; 5) promote the well-being of animals; and 6) increase employment opportunities in agriculture. The legislated purpose of Professional Development Program projects is to provide sustainable agriculture education for professionals who work with farmers "in order to develop their understanding, competence, and ability to teach and communicate the concepts of sustainable agriculture."	5%
INNOVATION	Is this project innovative by addressing new practices, improving existing practices, or introducing existing practice to a new service provider or farmer audience? "Practices" may include growing, managing, marketing, educational approaches, or other skills and techniques relevant to agricultural service providers.	5%
IMPACT	Will the project have substantive impact on service provider and farmer ability to steward resources to ensure sustainability, resilience, economic viability, and a high quality of life in the Northeast?	5%
Section Criteria	These criteria apply to specific sections of the proposal. Reviewers should focus on the information in that section to score, but should also consider information found elsewhere in the proposal as relevant.	85% of total score
Criterion 2: CONTEXT	Includes Previous Work, Service Provider Audience and Solution, Citation List, and Optional: Service Provider and Farmer Testimonials	30%

PROPOSAL RUBRIC

Specific scale ranges vary by program.

1 - 2	3-4	5-6	7-8	9-10
1 - 3	4 - 5	6 - 7	8 - 9	10
Proposal fails to demonstrate alignment or feasibility. Responses are incomplete, vague, or show fundamental misunderstandings. Major gaps or ineligibility make funding inappropriate.	Proposal offers partial or general responses with significant weaknesses. Elements are present but poorly developed, unclear, or lack detail and feasibility. Significant improvements would be required to be fundable.	Proposal clearly addresses requirements with solid, realistic, and appropriate responses. Minor gaps or missed opportunities may remain, but overall meets expectations for funding.	Proposal offers highly detailed convincing responses that are strongly aligned with criteria. Demonstrates readiness, feasibility, innovation, and clear benefit for Northeast service providers and farmers with few or no weaknesses.	Proposal is exceptional, demonstrating perfect alignment with program goals. Responses are precise, innovative, and compelling, with outstanding feasibility, farmer-centered planning, and potential for significant regional impact.

Novel Approaches

- **Proof of Concept:** This program funds applied research projects that test the feasibility and benefits of new practices or approaches in agriculture.
- **Documented Needs and Interests:** Projects should demonstrate interest among farmers and service providers in utilizing or promoting the novel approach should it be proven beneficial and feasible
- **\$250,000** for up to 3.5 years
- **10%** success rate

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Research & Education Grant

- **Farmer-Centered Education:** Must include a robust education program that leads to measurable, on-farm behavior change
- **Performance Target Required:** Clearly defined, realistic, and ambitious goal for what farmers will do differently as a result of the project
- **Optional Research Component:** Applied research may be included—but only if it supports the educational goals
- **\$250,000** for up to 3.5 years
- **8%** success rate

Heather Omand

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Professional Development Program

- **Trains the Trainers:** Help service providers improve the way they work with farmers through research-based education
- **Performance Target Focus:** Service providers must take action with farmers based on learning during the project period
- **\$150,000** for up to 3.5 years
- **18%** success rate

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Farming Community

- **Health and Social Science focused agricultural research and education:** Community projects that strengthen farming communities by addressing quality of life and social and economic challenges.
- **Expected Results:** Farmers will adopt and implement regenerative and sustainable agricultural practices that improve soil and farm health while supporting better nutrition, human health, and reduced risks at the people–animal–pathogen interface.
- **\$250,000 to \$500,000** for up to 3.5 years
- **13%** success rate

Leons Kabongo

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PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL

Once you've decided to apply, here's what to do next.

1. Make sure you have an account at projects.sare.org

The person who starts the proposal in the system will automatically be listed as the Applicant, but you can add other team members as Editors so they can help with the submission.

2. We strongly recommend submitting well before the deadline in case you run into technical issues. No late proposals will be considered, regardless of reason *(even if it's a tech issue with GMS!)*

3. You can unsubmit your proposal to make changes at any point prior to the deadline, just don't forget to resubmit it again before the deadline.

THERE IS A GREAT HELP PAGE AT: projects.sare.org/help/

PREPARING YOUR PROPOSAL

Once you've downloaded the CFP:

1. Read the CFP.

The purpose of the CFP is to inform you of the opportunity and the requirements, but you do not need to read the entire CFP.

2. View the CFP online. You can view the CFP online at northeast.sare.org.

3. Download the CFP. You can download the CFP by clicking on the "Download CFP" link in the "Resources" section of the CFP page.

TIP:

Download a word version of the CFP and begin drafting answers to part 4 - where the proposal questions and instructions begin.

PART 4 Instructions and Proposal Questions

Further instructions are available at northeast.sare.org/appendixA/

DRAFTING A BUDGET

Large Grants

Your budget should:

- Use the required “Budget Narrative and Justification” Template at: northeast.sare.org/BudgetTemplate
- Consider depth vs breadth with funding requests
- Allowable expenses and encouragement to value people and intended outreach

Reminder:

Qty, unit price & justification are required for every budget item.

Budgets for projects with larger total requests and longer timelines will receive more scrutiny

(depth vs. breadth on scope & activities, project duration, impact, etc.)

APPENDICES & REQUIRED DOCS

Large Grants

Appendices

- **(A)** Preparing and Submitting Your Proposal
northeast.sare.org/appendixA/
- **(B)** Expectations for Funded Proposals
northeast.sare.org/appendixB/
- **(C)** Explanation of Budget Categories
northeast.sare.org/appendixC/

Your One-Stop-Shop for all Materials!

All links, templates, appendices, and application materials
can be found at: northeast.sare.org/grants/get-a-grant

GRANT ADMINS

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 Need additional support? Contact the Program's Grant Administrator	Kaitlyn Sirna	Leons Kabongo
	Novel Approaches 440-336-0594 (text) ksirna@sare.org	Farming Community 740-325-2008 Lkabongo@sare.org