

conditional commitment, which stipulates the conditions that must be fulfilled before the issuance of a guarantee, in accordance with 7 CFR 3565.303.

*Issuance of Guarantee:* The USDA Rural Development Office will issue a guarantee to the lender for a project in accordance with 7 CFR 3565.303. No guarantee can be issued without a complete application, review of appropriate certifications, satisfactory assessment of the appropriate level of environmental review, and the completion of any conditional requirements.

#### Non-Discrimination Statement

USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender."

Dated: February 4, 2010.

**Tammye H. Treviño,**

*Administrator, Rural Housing Service.*

[FR Doc. 2010-3959 Filed 2-25-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-XV-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

#### Funding Opportunity Title: Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States (Targeted States Program)

*Announcement Type:* Announcement of Availability of Funds and Request for Application for Competitive Cooperative Agreements.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA): 10.458

*Dates:* Electronic applications submitted through Grants.gov must be received by close of business (COB) on

April 27, 2010. Hard copy applications will not be accepted.

*Summary:* The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), operating through the Risk Management Agency (RMA), announces the availability of approximately \$5,000,000 (subject to availability of funds) to fund cooperative agreements under the Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States program (the Targeted States Program). The purpose of this cooperative agreement program is to deliver crop insurance education and information to U.S. agricultural producers in certain States that have been designated as historically underserved with respect to crop insurance. The states, collectively referred to as Targeted States, are Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Multiple cooperative agreements will be funded not to exceed the maximum funding amount established for each of the 16 Targeted States. Awardees must agree to the substantial involvement of RMA in the project. Funding availability for this program may be announced at approximately the same time as funding availability for similar but separate programs—CFDA No. 10.455 (Community Outreach and Assistance Partnerships), and CFDA No. 10.459 (Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions). Prospective applicants should carefully examine and compare the notices for each program.

The collections of information in this announcement have been approved by OMB under control number 0563-0067.

This Announcement Consists of Eight Sections:

#### Section I—Funding Opportunity Description

- A. Legislative Authority
- B. Background
- C. Project Goal
- D. Purpose

#### Section II—Award Information

- A. Type of Application
- B. Funding Availability
- C. Location and Target Audience
- D. Maximum Award
- E. Project Period
- F. Description of Agreement Award—Awardee Tasks
- G. RMA Activities
- H. Other Tasks

#### Section III—Eligibility Information

- A. Eligible Applicants
- B. Cost Sharing or Matching

#### Section IV—Application and Submission Information

- A. Electronic Application Package
- B. Content and Form of Application Submission
- C. Funding Restrictions

- D. Limitation on Use of Project Funds for Salaries and Benefits
  - E. Indirect Cost Rates
  - F. Other Submission Requirements
  - G. Acknowledgement of Applications
- #### Section V—Application Review Process
- A. Criteria
  - B. Selection and Review Process
- #### Section VI—Award Administration Information
- A. Award Notices
  - B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
    1. Requirement To Use Program Logo
    2. Requirement To Provide Project Information to an RMA-selected Representative
    3. Private Crop Insurance Organizations and Potential Conflict of Interest
    4. Access to Panel Review Information
    5. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards
    6. Audit Requirements
    7. Prohibitions and Requirements Regarding Lobbying
    8. Applicable OMB Circulars
    9. Requirement To Assure Compliance With Federal Civil Rights Laws
    10. Requirement To Participate in a Post Award Conference
    11. Requirement To Submit Educational Materials to the National AgRisk Education Library
    12. Requirement To Submit Proposed Results to the National AgRisk Education Library
    13. Requirement To Submit a Project Plan of Operation in the Event of a Human Pandemic Outbreak
  - C. Reporting Requirements
- #### Section VII—Agency Contact
- #### Section VIII—Additional Information
- A. Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
  - B. Required Registration With the Central Contract Registry (CCR) for Submission of Proposals
  - C. Related Programs

### Full Text of Announcement

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

##### A. Legislative Authority

The Targeted States Program is authorized under section 524(a)(2) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act).

##### B. Background

RMA promotes and regulates sound risk management solutions to improve the economic stability of American agriculture. On behalf of FCIC, RMA does this by offering Federal crop insurance products through a network of private-sector partners, overseeing the creation of new risk management products, seeking enhancements in existing products, ensuring the integrity of crop insurance programs, offering outreach programs aimed at equal access and participation of underserved communities, and providing risk management education and information. One of RMA's strategic goals is to

ensure that its customers are well informed of risk management solutions available. This educational goal is supported by section 524(a)(2) of the Act. This section authorizes funding for the establishment of crop insurance education and information programs in States that have historically been underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. In accordance with the Act, the sixteen States designated as "underserved" are Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming (collectively referred to as "Targeted States").

**C. Project Goal**

The goal of the Targeted States Program is to ensure that farmers and ranchers in the Targeted States are sufficiently informed so as to take full advantage of existing and emerging crop insurance products. In carrying out the programs established under the Food, Conservation, And Energy Act of 2008, the Secretary of Agriculture has placed special emphasis on risk management strategies, education, and outreach specifically targeted at—

- (A) Beginning farmers or ranchers;
- (B) Legal immigrant farmers or ranchers who are attempting to become established producers in the United States;
- (C) Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;
- (D) Farmers or ranchers who—
  - (i) Are preparing to retire; and
  - (ii) Are using transition strategies to help new farmers or ranchers get started; and
- (E) New or established farmers or ranchers who are converting production and marketing systems to pursue new markets.

**D. Purpose**

The purpose of the Targeted States Program is to provide farmers and ranchers in Targeted States with education and information to be able to understand:

- The kinds of risk addressed by crop insurance;
- The features of existing and emerging crop insurance products;
- The use of crop insurance in the management of risk;
- How the use of crop insurance can affect other risk management decisions, such as the use of marketing and financial tools;
- How to make informed decisions on crop insurance prior to the sales closing date deadline; and

- Recordkeeping requirements for crop insurance.

In addition, for 2010, the FCIC Board of Directors and the FCIC Manager are seeking projects that also include the Special Emphasis Topics listed below which highlight the educational priorities within each of the Targeted States:

- Massachusetts—LGM Dairy Cattle, Northern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- West Virginia—LGM Dairy Cattle, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Pennsylvania—Apiculture Rainfall Index and Vegetation Index, LGM Dairy Cattle, Pasture Rangeland Forage Rainfall Index and Vegetation Index, Northern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- New York—Apiculture Vegetation Index, LGM Dairy Cattle, Pasture Rangeland Forage Vegetation Index, Northern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Connecticut—LGM Dairy Cattle, Northern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Delaware—LGM Dairy Cattle, Southern Potatoes, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Maine—LGM Dairy Cattle, Northern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Maryland—LGM Dairy Cattle, Southern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- New Hampshire—LGM Dairy Cattle, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- New Jersey—LGM Dairy Cattle, Southern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Rhode Island—LGM Dairy Cattle, Northern Potatoes, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Vermont—LGM Dairy Cattle, Northern Potatoes, Apples, and Nursery Crop Insurance Tools
- Wyoming—Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage, Livestock Gross Margin, Specialty Crops, and Underserved Commodities
- Nevada—Crop Insurance in general
- Utah—Crop Insurance in general
- Hawaii—Hawaii Tropical Fruits and Trees and Crop Insurance in general

**II. Award Information**

**A. Type of Application**

In FY 2010, applications may be submitted for the Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States Program as a new application. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Section V—Application Review Process.

Each award will be designated as a Cooperative Agreement, which will require substantial involvement by RMA.

**B. Funding Availability**

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or make a specific number of awards. Approximately \$5,000,000 (subject to availability of funds) is available in fiscal year 2010 to fund multiple cooperative agreements not to exceed the maximum funding amount established for each of the Targeted States. The maximum funding amount anticipated for each Targeted State's agreement is as follows. Applicants should apply for funding for that Targeted State where the applicant intends to deliver the educational activities.

|                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Connecticut .....   | \$250,000        |
| Delaware .....      | 287,000          |
| Hawaii .....        | 246,000          |
| Maine .....         | 259,000          |
| Maryland .....      | 371,000          |
| Massachusetts ..... | 239,000          |
| Nevada .....        | 248,000          |
| New Hampshire ..... | 216,000          |
| New Jersey .....    | 282,000          |
| New York .....      | 586,000          |
| Pennsylvania .....  | 700,000          |
| Rhode Island .....  | 206,000          |
| Utah .....          | 316,000          |
| Vermont .....       | 259,000          |
| West Virginia ..... | 242,000          |
| Wyoming .....       | 293,000          |
| <b>Total .....</b>  | <b>5,000,000</b> |

Funding amounts were determined by first allocating an equal amount of \$200,000 to each Targeted State. Remaining funds were allocated on a pro rata basis according to each Targeted State's share of 2007 agricultural cash receipts relative to the total for all Targeted States. Both allocations were totaled for each Targeted State and rounded to the nearest \$1,000.

In the event that additional funds become available under this program or in the event that no application for a given Targeted State is recommended for funding by the evaluation panel, these additional funds may, at the discretion of the Manager of FCIC, be allocated pro-rata to State awardees for use in broadening the size or scope of awarded projects within the Targeted State, if agreed to by the awardee.

In the event that the Manager of FCIC determines that available RMA resources cannot support the administrative and substantial involvement requirements of all agreements recommended for funding, the Manager may elect to fund fewer agreements than the available funding

might otherwise allow. It is expected that the awards will be made approximately 120 days after the application deadline. All awards will be made and agreements finalized no later than September 30, 2010.

### C. Location and Target Audience

Targeted States serviced by RMA Regional Offices are listed below. Staff from the respective RMA Regional Offices will provide substantial involvement for Targeted States projects conducted within the respective Regions.

Billings, MT Regional Office: (WY)

Davis, CA Regional Office: (HI, NV and UT)

Raleigh, NC Regional Office: (CT, DE, MA, MD, ME, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT and WV)

Applicants must clearly designate the Targeted State where crop insurance educational activities for the project will be delivered in their application in block 12 of the SF-424 form, Application for Federal Assistance. Applications without this designation will be rejected. Applicants may apply to deliver education to producers in more than one Targeted State, but a separate application must be submitted for each Targeted State. Single applications proposing to conduct educational activities in more than one Targeted State will be rejected.

### D. Maximum Award

Any application that requests Federal funding of more than the amount listed above for a project in a given Targeted State will be rejected.

### E. Project Period

Projects will be funded for a period of up to one year from the project starting date.

### F. Description of Agreement Award—Awardee Tasks

In conducting activities to achieve the purpose and goal of this program in a designated Targeted State, the awardee will be responsible for performing the following tasks:

- Develop and conduct a promotional program. This program will include activities using media, newsletters, publications, or other appropriate informational dissemination techniques that are designed to: (a) Raise awareness for crop insurance; (b) inform producers of the availability of crop insurance; (c) inform producers of the crop insurance sales closing dates prior to the deadline; and (d) inform producers and agribusiness leaders in the designated Targeted State of training and informational opportunities.

- Deliver crop insurance training and informational opportunities to agricultural producers and agribusiness professionals in the designated Targeted State in a timely manner prior to crop insurance sales closing dates in order for producers to make informed decisions prior to the crop insurance sales closing dates deadline. This will include organizing and delivering educational activities using instructional materials that have been assembled to meet the local needs of agricultural producers. Activities should be directed primarily to agricultural producers, but may include those agribusiness professionals that have frequent opportunities to advise producers on crop insurance tools and decisions.

- Document all educational activities conducted under the cooperative agreement and the results of such activities, including criteria and indicators used to evaluate the success of the program. The awardee may also be required to provide information to an RMA-selected contractor to evaluate all educational activities and advise RMA as to the effectiveness of activities.

### G. RMA Activities

FCIC, working through RMA, will be substantially involved during the performance of the funded project through three of RMA's ten Regional Offices. Potential types of substantial involvement may include, but are not limited to the following activities.

- Collaborate with the awardee in assembling, reviewing, and approving risk management materials for producers in the designated RMA Region.

- Collaborate with the awardee in reviewing and approving a promotional program for raising awareness for risk management and for informing producers of training and informational opportunities in the RMA Region.

- Collaborate with the awardee on the delivery of education to producers and agribusiness leaders in the RMA Region. This will include: (a) Reviewing and approving in advance all producer and agribusiness leader educational activities; (b) advising the project leader on technical issues related to crop insurance education and information; and (c) assisting the project leader in informing crop insurance professionals about educational activity plans and scheduled meetings.

- Conduct an evaluation of the performance of the awardee in meeting the deliverables of the project.

- Assist in the selection of subcontractors and project staff.

Applications that do not contain substantial involvement by RMA will be rejected.

### H. Other Tasks

In addition to the specific, required tasks listed above, the applicant may propose additional tasks that would contribute directly to the purpose of this program. For any proposed additional task, the applicant must identify the objective of the task, the specific subtasks required to meet the objective, specific time lines for performing the subtasks, and the specific responsibilities of partners.

## III. Eligibility Information

### A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include State departments of agriculture, universities, non-profit agricultural organizations, and other public or private organizations with the capacity to lead a local program of crop insurance education for farmers and ranchers within a Targeted State. Individuals are eligible applicants. Although an applicant may be eligible to compete for an award based on its status as an eligible entity, other factors may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal assistance under this program governed by Federal law and regulations (e.g., debarment and suspension; a determination of non-performance on a prior contract, cooperative agreement, grant or partnership; a determination of a violation of applicable ethical standards; a determination of being considered "high risk"). Applications from ineligible or excluded persons will be rejected in their entirety.

### B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Although RMA prefers cost sharing by the applicant, this program has neither a cost sharing nor a matching requirement.

## IV. Application and Submission Information

### A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to the Risk Management Agency in response to this RFA.

Prior to preparing an application, it is suggested that the Project Director (PD) first contact an Authorized Representative (AR) (also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If the organization is not prepared, the AR should see, (<http://www.grants.gov/applicants/>)

*get\_registered.jsp*), for steps for preparing to submit applications through Grants.gov.

The steps to access application materials are as follows:

1. In order to access, complete, and submit applications, applicants must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov. This software is essential to apply for RMA Federal awards. For basic system requirements and download instructions, please see [http://www.grants.gov/help/download\\_software.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/help/download_software.jsp).

To verify that you have a compatible version of Adobe Reader, Grants.gov established a test package that will assist you in making that determination. Grants.gov Adobe Versioning Test Package: <http://www.grants.gov/applicants/AdobeVersioningTestOnly.jsp>.

2. The application package must be obtained via Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, click on "Apply for Grants" in the left-hand column, click on "Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions," enter the funding opportunity number USDA-RMA-RME-TSGP-001000 in the appropriate box and click "Download Package." From the search results, click "Download" to access the application package. If assistance is needed to access the application package (e.g. downloading or navigating Adobe forms), refer to resources available on the Grants.gov Web site first at (<http://grants.gov/>). Grants.gov assistance is also available as follows:

- Grants.gov customer support; Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726; Business Hours: 24 hours a day; E-mail: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov).

#### *B. Content and Form of Application Submission*

A complete and valid application must include the following:

1. A completed OMB Standard Form 424, "Application for Federal Assistance."

2. A completed OMB Standard Form 424-A, "Budget Information—Non-construction Programs."

3. A completed OMB Standard Form 424-B, "Assurances, Non-constructive Programs."

4. An Executive Summary (One page) and Proposal Narrative (Not to Exceed 20 single-sided pages in Microsoft Word) which will also include a Statement of Work.

5. Budget Narrative (in Microsoft Excel) describing how the categorical costs listed on the SF 424-A are derived. The budget narrative should provide enough detail for reviewers to easily understand how costs were determined and how they relate to the

goals and objectives of the project. Partnering Plan to include how each partner will aid in carrying out the project goal providing specific tasks. Include Letters of commitment from individuals and/or groups, and should include the specific tasks they have agreed to do with the applicant.

6. A completed and signed OMB Standard Form LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities.

7. A completed and signed AD-1049, Certification Regarding Drug-Free Workplace.

\*Applications that do not include items 1-8 above will be considered incomplete, will not receive further consideration, and will be rejected.

The percent of time devoted to the project for all key project personnel must be identified in the application. Applicants must list all current public or private support to which personnel identified in the application have committed portions of their time, whether or not salary support for persons involved is included in the budget (supporting agency, amount of award, effective date, expiration date, expiration date of award, etc.). An application that duplicates or overlaps substantially with an application already reviewed and funded (or to be funded) by another organization or agency will not be funded under this program. The percentage of time for both "Current" and "Pending" projects must not exceed 100% of time committed.

#### *C. Funding Restrictions*

Cooperative agreement funds may not be used to:

a. Plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct a building or facility including a processing facility;

b. Purchase, rent, or install fixed equipment;

c. Repair or maintain privately owned vehicles;

d. Pay for the preparation of the cooperative agreement application;

e. Fund political activities;

f. Purchase alcohol, food, beverage, or entertainment;

g. Lend money to support farming or agricultural business operation or expansion;

h. Pay costs incurred prior to receiving a partnership agreement; or

i. Fund any activities prohibited in 7 CFR Parts 3015 and 3019, as applicable.

#### *D. Limitation on Use of Project Funds for Salaries and Benefits*

Total costs for salary and benefits allowed for projects under this announcement will be limited to not more than 70 percent reimbursement of

the funds awarded under the cooperative agreement. One goal of the Targeted States Program is to maximize the use of the limited funding available for crop insurance education for Targeted States. In order to accomplish this goal, RMA needs to ensure that the maximum amount of funds practicable is used for directly providing the educational opportunities. Limiting the amount of funding for salaries and benefits will allow the limited amount of funding to reach the maximum number of farmers and ranchers.

#### *E. Indirect Cost Rates*

a. Indirect costs allowed for projects submitted under this announcement will be limited to ten (10) percent of the total direct cost of the cooperative agreement. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or 10 percent of the total direct costs.

b. RMA reserves the right to negotiate final budgets with successful applicants.

c. Applicants must provide a copy of their indirect cost rate negotiated with their cognizant agency.

#### *F. Other Submission Requirements*

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that RMA receives a complete application package by the closing date and time. The agency strongly encourages applicants to submit applications well before the deadline to allow time for correction of technical errors identified by Grants.gov.

Application packages submitted after the deadline will be rejected.

#### *G. Acknowledgement of Applications*

Receipt of applications will be acknowledged by e-mail, whenever possible. Therefore, applicants are encouraged to provide e-mail addresses in their applications. If an e-mail address is not indicated on an application, receipt will be acknowledged by letter. There will be no notification of incomplete, unqualified or unfunded applications until the awards have been made. When received by RMA, applications will be assigned an identification number. This number will be communicated to applicants in the acknowledgement of receipt of applications. An application's identification number should be referenced in all correspondence regarding the application. If the applicant does not receive an acknowledgement within 15 days of the submission deadline, the applicant should notify RMA's point of contact indicated in Section

## V. Application Review Information

### A. Criteria

Applications submitted under the Targeted States program will be evaluated within each Targeted State according to the following criteria:

#### Project Impacts—Maximum 20 Points

The applicant must demonstrate that the project benefits to farmers and ranchers warrant the funding requested. Applicants will be scored according to the extent they can: (a) Identify the specific actions producers will likely be able to take as a result of the educational activities described in the Statement of Work; (b) identify the specific measures for evaluating results that will be employed in the project; (c) reasonably estimate the total number of producers reached through the various methods and educational activities described in the Statement of Work; and (d) justify such estimates with clear specifics. Reviewers' scoring will be based on the scope and reasonableness of the applicant's clear descriptions of specific, expected actions producers will accomplish, and well-designed methods for measuring the project's results and effectiveness. Applicants using direct contact methods with producers will be scored higher.

#### Statement of Work—Maximum 20 Points

The applicant must produce a clear and specific Statement of Work for the project. For each of the tasks contained in the Description of Agreement Award (refer to Section II Award Information), the applicant must identify and describe specific subtasks, responsible entities, expected completion dates, RMA substantial involvement, and deliverables that will further the purpose of this program. Applicants will obtain a higher score to the extent that the Statement of Work is specific, measurable and reasonable, has specific deadlines for the completion of subtasks, and relates directly to the required activities and the program purpose described in this announcement. Applicants are required to submit the Statement of Work on the RME-2 Form. All narratives should give estimates of how many producers will be reached through this project. Estimates for non-producers can also be made but they should be separate from the estimates of producers.

#### Partnering—Maximum 20 Points

The applicant must demonstrate experience and capacity to partner with and gain the support of grower organizations, agribusiness

professionals, and agricultural leaders to carry out a local program of education and information in a designated Targeted State. The applicant is required to establish a written partnering plan that includes how each partner will aid in carrying out the project goal and purpose stated in this announcement and letters of commitment dated no more than 60 days prior to submission of application stating that the partner has agreed to do this work. The applicant must ensure this plan includes a list of all partners working on the project, their titles, and how they will be contributing to the deliverables listed in the agreement. The partnering plan will not count towards the maximum length of the application narrative. Applicants will receive higher scores to the extent that they can document and demonstrate in the written partnering plan: (a) That partnership commitments are in place for the express purpose of delivering the program in this announcement; (b) that a broad group of farmers and ranchers will be reached within the Targeted State; (c) that partners are contributing to the project and involved in recruiting producers to attend the training; (d) that a substantial effort has been made to partner with organizations that can meet the needs of producers; and (e) statements from each partner regarding the number of producers that partner is committed to recruit for the project that would support the estimates specified under the Project Impacts criterion.

#### Project Management—Maximum 15 Points

The applicant must demonstrate an ability to implement sound and effective project management practices. Higher scores will be awarded to applicants that can demonstrate organizational skills, leadership, and experience in delivering services or programs that assist agricultural producers in the respective Targeted State. The project manager must demonstrate that he/she has the capability to accomplish the project goal and purpose stated in this announcement by (a) having a previous working relationship with the farm community in the designated Targeted State of the application, including being able to recruit approximately the number of producers to be reached in the application and/or (b) having established the capacity to partner with and gain the support of grower organizations, agribusiness professionals, and agribusiness leaders locally to aid in carrying out a program of education and information, including being able to recruit approximately the number of producers to be reached in

this application. Applicants are encouraged to designate an alternate Project Leader in the event the Project Leader is unable to finish the project. Applicants that will employ, or have access to, personnel who have experience in directing local educational programs that benefit agricultural producers in the respective Targeted State will receive higher rankings.

#### Budget Appropriateness and Efficiency—Maximum 15 Points

Applicants must provide a detailed budget summary that clearly explains and justifies costs associated with the project. Applicants will receive higher scores to the extent that they can demonstrate a fair and reasonable use of funds appropriate for the project and a budget that contains the estimated cost of reaching each individual producer.

#### Targeted Producers—Maximum 10 Points

Applicants will obtain a higher score to the extent that the project places special emphasis on risk management strategies, education, and outreach specifically targeted at:

- Beginning farmers or ranchers;
- Legal immigrant farmers or ranchers who are attempting to become established producers in the United States;
- Socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers;
- Farmers or ranchers who—
  - Are preparing to retire; and
  - Are using transition strategies to help new farmers or ranchers get started; and
- New or established farmers or ranchers who are converting production and marketing systems to pursue new markets.

### B. Review and Selection Process

Applications will be evaluated using a two-part process. First, each application will be screened by RMA personnel to ensure that it meets the requirements in this announcement. Applications that do not meet the requirements of this announcement or are incomplete will not receive further consideration during the next process. Applications that meet announcement requirements will be sorted into the Targeted State which the applicant proposes to conduct the project and will be presented to a review panel for consideration.

Second, the review panel will meet to consider and discuss the merits of each application. The panel will consist of not less than three independent reviewers. Reviewers will be drawn

from USDA, other Federal agencies, and public and private organizations, as needed. After considering the merits of all applications within a Targeted State, panel members will score each application according to the criteria and point values listed above. The panel will then rank each application against others within the Targeted State according to the scores received. A lottery will be used to resolve any instances of a tie score that might have a bearing on funding recommendations. If such a lottery is required, the names of all tied applicants will be entered into a drawing. The first tied applicant drawn will have priority over other tied applicants for funding consideration.

The review panel will report the results of the evaluation to the Manager of FCIC. The panel's report will include the recommended applicants to receive cooperative agreements for each Targeted State. Funding will not be provided for an application receiving a score less than 60. An organization, or group of organizations in partnership, may apply for funding under other FCIC or RMA programs, in addition to the program described in this announcement. However, if the Manager of FCIC determines that an application recommended for funding is sufficiently similar to a project that has been funded or has been recommended to be funded under another RMA or FCIC program, then the Manager may elect to not fund that application in whole or in part. The Manager of FCIC will make the final determination on those applications that will be awarded funding.

## VI. Award Administration Information

### A. Award Notices

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the Director has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by the Department;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring re-competing for funds;
- (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by the Director during the project period;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;

(9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.rma.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view RMA award terms and conditions);

(10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by RMA to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

Following approval by the awarding official of RMA of the applications to be selected for funding, project leaders whose applications have been selected for funding will be notified. Within the limit of funds available for such a purpose, the awarding official of RMA shall enter into cooperative agreements with those awardees. After a cooperative agreement has been signed, RMA will extend to awardees, in writing, the authority to draw down funds for the purpose of conducting the activities listed in the agreement. All funds provided to the awardee by FCIC must be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are obligated in accordance with the approved agreement and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, and the applicability of Federal cost principles. No commitment of Federal assistance beyond the project period is made or implied for any award resulting from this notice. Notification of denial of funding will be sent to applicants after final funding decisions have been made and awardees announced publicly. Reasons for denial of funding can include, but are not limited to, incomplete applications, applications with evaluation scores below 60, or applications with evaluation scores that are lower than those of other applications in a Targeted State.

### B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

#### 1. Requirement To Use Program Logo

Awardees of cooperative agreements will be required to use a program logo and design provided by RMA for all instructional and promotional materials, if appropriate.

#### 2. Requirement To Provide Project Information to an RMA-Selected Representative

Awardees of cooperative agreements may be required to assist RMA in evaluating the effectiveness of its educational programs by providing documentation of educational activities and related information to any

representative selected by RMA for program evaluation purposes.

### 3. Private Crop Insurance Organizations and Potential Conflicts of Interest

Private organizations that are involved in the sale of Federal crop insurance, or that have financial ties to such organizations, are eligible to apply for funding under this announcement. However, such entities will not be allowed to receive funding to conduct activities that would otherwise be required under a Standard Reinsurance Agreement or any other agreement in effect between FCIC and the entity. Also, such entities will not be allowed to receive funding to conduct activities that could be perceived by producers as promoting one company's services or products over another's. If applying for funding, such organizations are encouraged to be sensitive to potential conflicts of interest and to describe in their application the specific actions they will take to avoid actual and perceived conflicts of interest.

### 4. Access to Panel Review Information

Upon written request from the applicant, scores from the evaluation panel, not including the identity of reviewers, will be sent to the applicant after the review and awards process has been completed.

### 5. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

The names of applicants, the names of individuals identified in the applications, the content of applications, and the panel evaluations of applications will all be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of review panel members will remain confidential throughout the entire review process and will not be released to applicants. At the end of the fiscal year, names of panel members will be made available. However, panelists will not be identified with the review of any particular application. When an application results in a cooperative agreement, that agreement becomes a part of the official record of RMA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to be considered confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within an application, including the basis for such designation. The original

copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by RMA for a period of one year. Other copies will be destroyed. Copies of applications not receiving awards will be released only with the express written consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to award.

#### 6. Audit Requirements

Awardees of cooperative agreements are subject to audit.

#### 7. Prohibitions and Requirements With Regard to Lobbying

Section 1352 of Public Law 101–121, enacted on October 23, 1989, imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on awardees of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans. It provides exemptions for Indian Tribes and tribal organizations. Current and prospective awardees, and any subcontractors, are prohibited from using Federal funds, other than profits from a Federal contract, for lobbying Congress or any Federal agency in connection with the award of a contract, grant, cooperative agreement, or loan. In addition, for each award action in excess of \$100,000 (\$150,000 for loans) the law requires awardees and any subcontractors: (1) To certify that they have neither used nor will use any appropriated funds for payment of lobbyists; (2) to disclose the name, address, payment details, and purpose of any agreements with lobbyists whom awardees of their subcontractors will pay with profits or other non-appropriated funds on or after December 22, 1989; and (3) to file quarterly up-dates about the use of lobbyists if material changes occur in their use. The law establishes civil penalties for non-compliance. A copy of the certification and disclosure forms must be submitted with the application and are available at the address and telephone number listed in Section VII. Agency Contact.

#### 8. Applicable OMB Circulars

All cooperative agreements funded as a result of this notice will be subject to the requirements contained in all applicable OMB circulars.

#### 9. Requirement To Assure Compliance With Federal Civil Rights Laws

Project leaders of all cooperative agreements funded as a result of this notice are required to know and abide by Federal civil rights laws and to assure USDA and RMA that the awardee is in compliance with and will continue

to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d *et seq.*), 7 CFR Part 15, and USDA regulations promulgated thereunder, 7 CFR 1901.202. RMA requires that awardees submit an Assurance Agreement (Civil Rights), assuring RMA of this compliance prior to the beginning of the project period.

#### 10. Requirement To Participate in a Post Award Conference

RMA requires that project leaders attend a post award conference, if conducted, to become fully aware of cooperative agreement requirements and for delineating the roles of RMA personnel and the procedures that will be followed in administering the agreement and will afford an opportunity for the orderly transition of agreement duties and obligations if different personnel are to assume post-award responsibility. In their applications, applicants should budget for possible travel costs associated with attending this conference.

#### 11. Requirement To Submit Educational Materials to the National AgRisk Education Library

RMA requires that project leaders upload digital copies of all risk management educational materials developed because of the project to the National AgRisk Education Library (<http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/>) for posting, if electronically reporting. RMA will be clearly identified as having provided funding for the materials.

#### 12. Requirement To Submit Proposed Results to the National AgRisk Education Library

RMA requires that project leaders submit results of the project to the National AgRisk Education Library (<http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/>) for posting if electronically reporting.

#### 13. Requirement To Submit a Project Plan of Operation in the Event of a Human Pandemic Outbreak

RMA requires that project leaders submit a project plan of operation in case of a human pandemic event. The plan should address the concept of continuing operations as they relate to the project. This should include the roles, responsibilities, and contact information for the project team and individuals serving as back-ups in case of a pandemic outbreak.

#### C. Reporting Requirements

Awardees will be required to submit quarterly progress reports using the Performance Progress Report (SF–PPR) as the cover sheet, quarterly financial

reports (OMB Standard Form 425), and quarterly Activity Logs (RMA 300 Form) throughout the project period, as well as a final program and financial report not later than 90 days after the end of the project period. The quarterly progress reports, activity logs, and final program reports MUST be submitted through the Results Verification System. The Web site address is <http://www.agrisk.umn.edu/RMA/Reporting>.

Awardees will be required to submit prior to the award:

- A completed and signed Assurance Agreement (Civil Rights).
- A completed and signed Faith-Based Survey on EEO.

#### VII. Agency Contact

*For Further Information Contact:* Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact: Leonard Randolph, Sundii Johnson-Phillips, or Lydia M. Astorga, USDA–RMA–RME, phone: 202–720–0779, e-mail: [RMA.Risk-Ed@rma.usda.gov](mailto:RMA.Risk-Ed@rma.usda.gov). You may also obtain information regarding this announcement from the RMA Web site at: <http://www.rma.usda.gov/aboutrma/agreements/>.

#### VIII. Other Information

##### A. Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)

A DUNS number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of over 70 million businesses worldwide. The Office of Management and Budget published a notice of final policy issuance in the **Federal Register** June 27, 2003 (68 FR 38402) that requires a DUNS number in every application (i.e., hard copy and electronic) for a grant or cooperative agreement on or after October 1, 2003. Therefore, potential applicants should verify that they have a DUNS number or take the steps needed to obtain one. For information about how to obtain a DUNS number, go to <http://www.grants.gov>. Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete.

##### B. Required Registration With the Central Contract Registry (CCR) for Submission of Proposals

The Central Contract Registry (CCR) is a database that serves as the primary Government repository for contractor information required for the conduct of business with the Government. This database will also be used as a central location for maintaining organizational information for organizations seeking and receiving grants from the Government. Such organizations must

register in the CCR prior to the submission of applications. A DUNS number is needed for CCR registration. For information about how to register in the CCR, visit "Get Registered" at the Web site, <http://www.grants.gov>. Allow a minimum of 5 business days to complete the CCR registration.

### C. Related Programs

Funding availability for this program may be announced at approximately the same time as funding availability for similar but separate programs—CFDA No. 10.455 (Community Outreach and Assistance Partnerships), and CFDA No. 10.457 (Commodity Partnerships for Risk Management Education). These programs have some similarities, but also key differences. The differences stem from important features of each program's authorizing legislation and different RMA objectives. Prospective applicants should carefully examine and compare the notices for each program.

Signed in Washington, DC on February 23, 2010.

**William J. Murphy,**  
Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation.

[FR Doc. 2010-3974 Filed 2-25-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-08-P

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

#### Funding Opportunity Title: Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions (Commodity Partnerships Small Sessions Program) Announcement Type: Announcement of Availability of Funds and Request for Application for Competitive Cooperative Partnership Agreements

*Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (CFDA): 10.459.*

**DATES:** Electronic applications submitted through Grants.gov are due at April 27, 2010. Hard copy applications will NOT be accepted.

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), operating through the Risk Management Agency (RMA), announces the availability of approximately \$1.1 million (subject to availability of funds) for Commodity Partnerships for Small Agricultural Risk Management Education Sessions (the Commodity Partnerships Small Sessions Program). The purpose of this cooperative partnership agreement program is to deliver training and information in management of production, marketing, and financial

risk to U.S. agricultural producers. The program gives priority to educating producers of crops currently not insured under Federal crop insurance, specialty crops, and underserved commodities, including livestock and forage. A maximum of 110 cooperative partnership agreements will be funded, with a minimum of ten in each of the ten designated RMA Regions. The maximum award for any cooperative partnership agreement will be \$10,000. Awardees must demonstrate non-financial benefits from a cooperative partnership agreement and must agree to the substantial involvement of RMA in the project. Funding availability for this program may be announced at approximately the same time as funding availability for similar but separate programs—CFDA No. 10.455 (Community Outreach and Assistance Partnerships), and CFDA No. 10.458 (Crop Insurance Education in Targeted States). Prospective applicants should carefully examine and compare the notices for each program.

The collections of information in this announcement have been approved by OMB under control number 0563-0067.

### This Announcement Consists of Eight Sections

#### Section I—Funding Opportunity Description

- A. Legislative Authority
- B. Background
- C. Definition of Priority Commodities
- D. Project Goal
- E. Purpose

#### Section II—Award Information

- A. Type of Application
- B. Funding Availability
- C. Location and Target Audience
- D. Maximum Award
- E. Project Period
- F. Description of Agreement—Awardee Tasks
- G. RMA Activities
- H. Other Tasks

#### Section III—Eligibility Information

- A. Eligible Applicants
- B. Cost Sharing or Matching
- C. Other—Non-Financial Benefits

#### Section IV—Application and Submission Information

- A. Electronic Application Package
- B. Content and Form of Application Submission
- C. Funding Restrictions
- D. Limitation on Use of Project Funds for Salaries and Benefits
- E. Indirect Cost Rates
- F. Other Submission Requirements
- G. Electronic Submissions
- H. Acknowledgement of Applications

#### Section V—Application Review Information

- A. Criteria
- B. Selection and Review Process

#### Section VI—Award Administration Information

- A. Award Notices
- B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Requirement To Use Program Logo
  2. Requirement To Provide Project Information to an RMA-selected Representative
  3. Private Crop Insurance Organizations and Potential Conflicts of Interest
  4. Access to Panel Review Information
  5. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards
  6. Audit Requirements
  7. Prohibitions and Requirements Regarding Lobbying
  8. Applicable OMB Circulars
  9. Requirement To Assure Compliance With Federal Civil Rights Laws
  10. Requirement To Participate in a Post Award Teleconference
  11. Requirement To Submit Educational Materials to the National AgRisk Education Library
  12. Requirement To Submit Proposed Results to the National AgRisk Education Library
  13. Requirement To Submit a Project Plan of Operation in the Event of a Human Pandemic Outbreak
- C. Reporting Requirements
- Section VII—Agency Contact
- Section VIII—Additional Information
- A. Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS)
  - B. Required Registration With the Central Contract Registry (CCR) for Submission of Proposals
  - C. Related Programs

### Full Text of Announcement

#### I. Funding Opportunity Description

##### A. Legislative Authority

The Commodity Partnerships Small Sessions Program is authorized under section 522(d)(3)(F) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (Act) (7 U.S.C. 1522(d)(3)(F)).

##### B. Background

RMA promotes and regulates sound risk management solutions to improve the economic stability of American agriculture. On behalf of FCIC, RMA does this by offering Federal crop insurance products through a network of private-sector partners, overseeing the creation of new risk management products, seeking enhancements in existing products, ensuring the integrity of crop insurance programs, offering outreach programs aimed at equal access and participation of underserved communities, and providing risk management education and information.

One of RMA's strategic goals is to ensure that its customers are well informed as to the risk management solutions available. This educational goal is supported by section 522(d)(3)(F) of the Act, which authorizes FCIC funding for risk management training and informational efforts for agricultural producers through the formation of partnerships with public and private