



# DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development ARPA Grant 2022 Request for Proposals

The Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD) and Missouri Department of Agriculture (MDA) are pleased to provide this Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development Request for Proposals (RFP). We look forward to receiving your submissions. Please send questions to the ARPA Grants team at [Reimbursements@dhewd.mo.gov](mailto:Reimbursements@dhewd.mo.gov).

### Background Information

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. The act contains the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF), which creates opportunities for Missouri to respond to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 through investments in higher education and workforce development. The fund is administered by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and its allowable uses are described in [final rule](#) and [overview](#) documents. For more information on SLFRF and other related ARPA funds, please visit the U.S. Department of the Treasury's [website](#).

### General Information

**Purpose.** Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development awards will fund projects that implement agriculture innovation and workforce development programs that directly address negative economic impacts on agriculture production, the food or labor supply chain, or agriculture input. Projects should impact Missouri agriculture broadly.

**Who May Seek Funding.** Proposals may be submitted by individual institutions or consortia of institutions. Only public institutions of higher education, including community colleges, State Technical College of Missouri, and public universities, may submit proposals.

**Maximum Awards.** Each institution may request up to \$2 million.

**Allowable Activities.** Funds appropriated through the Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development ARPA Grant may be used for outreach and recruitment efforts, professional and

curriculum development, construction/renovation, and the purchase of equipment. Funds may not be used to pay students' tuition, fees, or other expenses.

**Match.** All proposals must include a dollar-for-dollar match. Matching funds may be in-kind contributions but may not include the cost of staff time from the institution(s) proposing the project. The match can be provided by the institution; an organization; an individual; a local, state, or federal agency; or a grant. While the match does not have to be in-hand, it must be firmly committed and documented.

**Funding.** Funding will be released as a reimbursement to institutions for project expenditures. Institutions must submit the Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development Reimbursement Form and supply copies of all invoices to MDHEWD to receive reimbursement.

**Performance and Project Reporting.** Funding recipients must report on performance on October 30, January 30, April 30, and June 30 each year until the program has achieved its objectives. MDHEWD may invite grant recipients engaging in similar activities to meet periodically to provide updates, identify best practices, problem-solve, and celebrate successes.

## **Proposal Requirements**

Applicants must complete the Agriculture Innovation & Workforce Development application form in the Missouri ARPA Grant Portal. You do not need to submit any additional documents unless you are asked to do so by the review committee.

## **Timeline**

- July 1, 2022:** Call for proposals issued
- September 1, 2022:** 5:00 p.m.: Deadline to submit proposals in the Missouri ARPA Grant Portal
- December 7, 2022:** Recommendations presented to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education

## **Review and Award Process**

Proposals will be scored by a committee comprised of staff from MDHEWD and MDA. The committee will score proposals based on a standardized rubric (attached). The committee's recommendations will be conveyed to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education, which will make final ranking and funding recommendations to the Governor.

## **Funding**

MDHEWD reserve the right to recommend funding for a project in whole or in part, to request additional information, to reject any of the proposals submitted, and to re-issue this RFP and accept new proposals if the review committee determines that doing so is in the best interest of

the state of Missouri. In the event that available funds exceed the total amount requested by all institutions, MDHEWD may invite institutions to submit requests for additional funding.

All costs incurred in preparation of proposals submitted in response to this RFP shall be borne by the institutions that apply for funding.