

APPENDIX 1: WILD CERVID FUNDING OPPORTUNITY CRITERIA

Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Research Activities 2024 Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Administrative Eligibility Criteria

Proposal packages must meet these initial screening criteria to be considered for further review. Proposals that do not meet these criteria may not be considered.

1. Proposals must be received by the deadline. Proposals received after the established deadline will not be reviewed or considered.
2. Proposals must be submitted by an eligible applicant.
3. Proposals should address at least one of the funding priorities or fall under the scope of activities described in [Section A.2](#).
4. All required documents and forms listed in [Section D.2](#) must be included in the proposal package and comply with the submission instructions described in [Section D](#). Any proposal package with missing or significantly incomplete documents or forms may not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
5. Proposals must be consistent with allowed use of funds guidance. Proposals that do not align with the cost guidance described in [Section B.1](#) of this announcement may not be considered for review, resulting in a rejected proposal.
6. Research or methods development proposals only:
 - a. Project must focus on applied research¹. Proposals without a clearly defined application will be rejected.
 - b. Timeline must be reasonable to complete objectives within 12 months. If the proposal is designed to run more than 12 months, it will be rejected.
 - c. The principal investigator must clearly demonstrate evidence of necessary technical background and facilities to conduct the proposed project. Demonstrated evidence of technical background may include relevant peer reviewed publications and/or technical reports.
 - d. If the project involves working with the CWD agent (i.e., infectious CWD prions) and/or known positive tissues or other biological samples from known CWD positive animals, the investigator must have and submit a copy of their current CWD Controlled Materials, Organisms and Vectors permit issued by APHIS VS to work with CWD in their facility.
 - e. If the work involves live animals the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval of the project must be included.

¹ Applied CWD research attempts to find practical solutions to solve a specific problem(s) such as the ability to detect, prevent, or manage CWD.

Evaluation Criteria

APHIS WS will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals during the review process. Applicants should consider the criteria when preparing the proposal package. **NOTE:** Proposed activities must align with current Federal, State and Tribal regulations.

1. **Requirements in the announcement.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the applicant and proposal meet the minimum eligibility requirements. Submissions that do not meet these criteria cannot be considered for funding.
 - a. **Applicant criteria for States or Tribal Nations.** State agencies and Tribes, or in the case of Native American Tribal organizations the Native American Tribal governments they are representing, must have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for wild cervids to be eligible. APHIS WS may give priority to applications for management agreements from States or Tribes that have experienced recent incidents of CWD or border a [CWD endemic area](#) based on the USGS CWD Distribution Map, have a State or Tribal wild cervid CWD control program or propose to create a Federal, State, or Tribal CWD control program.
 - b. **Regulations.** The submitted proposal must be compliant with current Federal and State regulations.
2. **Addresses priorities**
 - a. **Funding priorities.** The proposal directly addresses at least one of the five funding priorities. The activities, outcomes, or deliverables should directly address a concern identified in at least one of the five funding priorities. "Scope" refers to activities that further develop/implement CWD control, prevention, surveillance, testing, management, and/or response.
 - b. **Research project type.** Research projects must be applied in nature and attempt to find practical solutions to solve a specific problem(s) such as the ability to detect, prevent, or manage CWD.
 - c. **Critical need.** The proposal should address a critical need or known gap related to CWD control and prevention and demonstrate how the need or problem aligns with the priority area being addressed. The expected outcomes/deliverables should, if successful, address or resolve the identified need/gap.
 - d. **Redundancy.** Research proposals should avoid redundancy with similar work already conducted. The proposed activities should complement existing or ongoing activities without being duplicative to work already completed. For management or education proposals, effective strategies that have been successfully implemented by other entities are not considered redundant when being repeated in or expanded to new areas and should be scored as "Expansive."
3. **Feasibility of success**
 - a. **Outcomes and deliverables.** The proposal should include enough detail for the reviewer to understand what outcomes/deliverables will be produced for each objective.
 - b. **Methods or activities.** The proposal should provide sufficient detail so the reviewer can understand what methods or activities will be performed to generate the stated outcomes

and deliverables for each objective. The proposal should include a plan of action that is logical, well organized, and complete.

- c. **Technical and scientific soundness.** The proposed methods or activities should be technically/scientifically sound and likely to successfully produce the stated outcomes and deliverables for each objective. These activities or methods should be supported by current scientific knowledge and, in the case of management proposals, relevant past experience. The proposal should include reasonable quantitative and qualitative criteria to evaluate project success.

4. Performance parameters

- a. **Performance period.** The proposed objectives must be accomplished in a one-year performance period. The performance period must begin on or before September 30, 2024, and should end no later than twelve months after the start date. The project schedule should include a reasonable amount of time to complete all proposed objectives within this performance period.
- b. **Potential problems.** The proposal should describe factors that may negatively impact the project and provide solutions to reduce risk as well as any potential problems that may negatively impact the successful accomplishment of the proposed objectives. This would include any situations that may delay project outcomes/deliverables, such as competing time commitments of collaborators or stakeholders who are critical to project completion. The proposal should also describe possible solutions to reduce or eliminate these risks.

5. Resources

- a. **Partnerships.** The proposal should describe partnerships and collaborations needed to complete the proposed objectives and produce the expected outcomes/deliverables. This may include but is not limited to land grant or other universities; State or national livestock, wildlife, sportsmen, or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD; or a federal agency. A letter of collaboration from each contributor must be included in the proposal.
- b. **Qualifications/skills.** The Project Manager or Principal Investigator should have the qualifications and skills to successfully produce the outcomes/deliverables. This criterion considers the extent to which the key persons who will carry out the methods or activities have the qualifications, skills, abilities, and experience to successfully achieve the objectives, conduct the proposed methods or activities, and produce successful outcomes/deliverables.
- c. **Infrastructure.** The Project Manager or Principal Investigator should have the infrastructure to successfully conduct the proposed methods or activities. The proposal should include information to support that key persons who will carry out the project have the infrastructure (e.g., personnel, facilities, equipment) to achieve the proposed objectives by conducting the proposed activities and producing the outcomes/deliverables. This may include articles, reports, and/or testimonies from interested parties other than the applicant and any relevant experience supporting the proposed activities.

6. Impact and value of outcomes

- a. **Impact.** If successful, the outcomes/deliverables should positively impact CWD control or

prevention. The expected outcomes and deliverables should support the overarching goal of the funding opportunity, which is to control or prevent CWD. If successful, the project should produce outcomes/deliverables that are high in value and positively impact the funding priority area.

- b. **Use to others.** The outcomes/deliverables could be used by other States, groups, and stakeholders, either by replicating the proposed activities in other areas (e.g., in other States/regions or to new audiences) or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes/deliverables so other entities can make use of them.
- c. **Data sharing.** Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes/deliverables (e.g., peer reviewed publication, video) with other States, Tribes, groups, or stakeholders.

7. **Cost effectiveness**

- a. **Justification.** The proposal should provide specific and detailed justification to fully understand how each budget item supports the proposed activities. (Necessary Costs) The proposal should include a budget that is logical, well organized, and complete. All costs should be explained in enough detail for the reviewer to understand how each budget item is necessary to complete the proposed activities.
- b. **Reasonable cost.** The proposed costs should be reasonable to complete the proposed objectives. For this opportunity, a cost is reasonable if it does not exceed costs that would be incurred under normal circumstances. Costs included in the proposal should be generally recognized as ordinary to complete the proposed activities.

Cost saving measures. The proposal may include cost-saving measures to complete the proposed objectives. APHIS WS may take an applicant's ability to contribute non-Federal funds into consideration (cost-sharing). The proposal may also include cost-saving measures using existing resources or partnerships (in-kind contributions). For example: An applicant may include the practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete proposed activities. Cost share will be evaluated in this criterion and will make up less than five percent of the total score.