



USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Opportunities 2021 Cooperative Agreements

Fiscal Year 2021 CWD Funding Opportunity

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0009

Publication Date: April 20, 2021

Application Due Date: July 4, 2021 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time

Funding Opportunity: USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Opportunities 2021

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS) is announcing the availability of up to \$300,000 in cooperative agreement funding to further develop and implement wild cervid chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance, testing, management, and response activities, including further development and evaluation of techniques and strategies to prevent or control CWD in wild cervids on lands owned or managed by Tribal entities.

SYNOPSIS

Funding Opportunity Title: FY21 Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Opportunities

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0009

Funding Type: Cooperative Agreement

CFDA Number: 10.028 Wildlife Services

Application Due Date: Proposals must be received by July 4, 2021 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time through [ezFedGrants](#). Proposals received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Submissions through grants.gov will not be accepted.

Funding Opportunity Description: In this 2021 opportunity, APHIS WS will make available up to \$300,000 in funds to further develop and implement wild cervid CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities, including further development and evaluation of techniques and strategies to control CWD in wild cervids on lands owned or managed by Tribal entities.

Eligible Applicants: This opportunity is open to the following entities, provided they have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for wild cervids: Federally recognized Native American tribal governments.¹

Eligible applicants can also apply for funding under the competitive Funding Opportunity Announcements below, as applicable:

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0008

Funding Opportunity Title: *Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2021*

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-21-0108

Funding Opportunity Title: *Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2021*

Funding will not be provided for the same projects, as determined by APHIS, submitted through the competitive cooperative agreement process.

¹ Federally recognized Native American tribal governments are listed on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior; [Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website](#).

Cost Sharing: Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS WS may take an eligible entity's ability to contribute non-Federal funds for proposed activities into consideration.

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A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Awarding Agency Name: USDA APHIS WS

Funding Opportunity Title: USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Opportunities 2021

Announcement Type: Initial Announcement

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0009

CFDA Number: 10.028 Wildlife Services

Key Dates: Proposals must be received by July 4, 2021 at 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time through [ezFedGrants](#). Proposals received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding. Submissions through grants.gov will not be accepted.

The performance period will begin prior to October 1, 2021 and should end no later than twelve months after the start date. There is an allowance of a one-time extension request of the performance period up to twelve months to complete the project, assuming there is no increase in funding requested. This request must be submitted in accordance with the cooperative agreement [terms and conditions](#) in order to be considered.

Applicants can find the funding opportunity information on the [ezFedGrants](#) or [Grants.gov](#) by searching either the CFDA number **10.028** or the Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0009**.

A.1 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

This funding opportunity is provided to control and prevent CWD in wild cervids, including the development and/or implementation of CWD surveillance, testing, management, prevention, and response activities.

APHIS WS will make available up to \$300,000 in funds for the following entities, provided they have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for wild cervids: Federally recognized Native American tribal governments.

If all funds are not awarded through this funding opportunity, the unawarded funds will be used to fund projects submitted to the *Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2021* submitted by Federally recognized Native American tribal governments and Native American tribal organizations representing Federally recognize Native American tribal governments.

The overall objective of the funding opportunity is to control and prevent CWD in wild cervids.

Through this funding opportunity, APHIS WS is soliciting collaborators who will further develop and implement wild cervid CWD surveillance, testing, management, prevention, and response activities, including the use of funds for providing the information or tools needed to control and prevent CWD. Funds may also be provided to further develop and evaluate techniques and strategies for controlling CWD in wild cervids.

Eligible applicants can also apply for funding under the competitive Funding Opportunity Announcements below, as applicable:

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0008

Funding Opportunity Title: *Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2021*

Applicants can find the funding opportunity information on the [ezFedGrants](#) website by searching either the CFDA number **10.028** or the Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0008**.

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-21-0108

Funding Opportunity Title: *Farmed Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Management and Response Activities 2021*

Applicants can find the funding opportunity information on the [ezFedGrants](#) website by searching either the CFDA number **10.025** or the Funding Opportunity Number **USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-21-0108**.

Funding will not be provided for the same projects, as determined by APHIS, submitted through the competitive cooperative agreement process.

A.2 FUNDING PRIORITIES

Eligible applicants are encouraged to develop project proposals that directly support at least one of the five funding priorities described below:

- 1. Improve the management of CWD-affected wild cervid populations.** For the purpose of this priority, management means effectively controlling CWD in affected cervid populations by implementing or improving upon current guidance, such as the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) [Best Management Practices](#). Examples of activities that may be included under this priority are: disease detection, investigation, and response; the development and use of novel CWD tests in wild cervids, epidemiology and risk analysis; wild cervid movement monitoring and control (traceability); identification and investigation of treatment options for CWD; wild cervid population management; sample collection training programs for sample collectors; surveillance of CWD in wild cervids; prevention of CWD in wild cervids; or, test result reporting to APHIS.
- 2. Improve the management of wild cervid CWD-affected areas.** For the purpose of this priority, management means managing the environment to effectively control CWD in wild cervid affected areas (CWD endemic areas) to control or prevent the spread of CWD by implementing or improving upon current guidance, such as the AFWA [Best Management Practices](#). Examples of activities that may be included under this priority are: the development and use of novel CWD tests for environmental testing; environmental decontamination; environmental testing; wild cervid carcass and waste management; identification and investigation of treatment options for CWD; or, investigating the role of scavengers or predators in CWD transmission to or within wild cervid populations or managing these risks.
- 3. Conduct research on amplification assays in wild cervids.** Amplification assays are test methods that identify CWD by amplifying small amount of prion protein to levels that are detectable [i.e. Protein Misfolding Cyclic Amplification (PMCA), real-time quaking induced conversion (RT-QuIC), etc.]. Specifically, this funding opportunity is interested in novel proposals which further the use of amplification assays as diagnostic or environmental tests. Examples of activities that may also be included under this priority: are the development of new amplification assays, or the expanded use of amplification assays for novel samples types and applications.

4. **Develop whole genome predictive genetics for wild cervids.**² Research to support the use of whole genome predictive genetics to determine and understand the susceptibility of wild cervids to CWD on the landscape.
5. **Develop and/or deliver educational outreach materials or programs to wild cervid stakeholders.** For purposes of this priority, educational outreach means the methods, processes, or actions that provide education and facilitate learning of critical knowledge necessary to control and/or prevent CWD and its spread in wild cervids to various cervid populations, including the study of human dimensions on CWD prevention and control. Behavioral messaging research may also be included as part of an outreach program.

Any other proposed projects or activities that would further develop and implement wild cervid CWD control, prevention, surveillance, testing, management, and response fall within the scope of activities for this funding opportunity. While proposals within this scope that do not fall under the priorities, they will be reviewed and may still be funded.

A.3 OTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Each proposal should describe how the project will leverage existing resources through partnerships with local, State, and/or Federal government agencies, Native American tribal governments and Native American tribal organizations representing Native American tribal governments, industry organizations, professional associations, producer groups, and/or non-profit organizations with direct and significant interest in the control or prevention of CWD in wild cervids. Successful projects will meet the criteria described in [Section E.1](#).

While all proposals meeting the administrative eligibility criteria listed in [Section C.4](#) will be considered for funding, APHIS WS may give priority to proposals submitted by an eligible entity (1) in Tribal lands that has either experienced recent incidents of CWD in wild cervids or that have wild cervid populations bordering a CWD endemic area; and, (2) has a CWD control program that includes, but is not limited to, monitoring and surveillance, or that proposes to create a control program. Eligible applicants not meeting these criteria are encouraged to apply and their proposals may still be considered for funding.

Applicants should describe the anticipated involvement by APHIS personnel needed to complete the proposed activities in the Work Plan and Financial Plan (excluding personnel to administer or oversee the cooperative agreement). APHIS intends to collaborate with recipients to successfully complete activities funded via this opportunity; however, due to the limited availability of personnel, APHIS encourages proposals that are not contingent on APHIS participation where possible, unless participation was agreed upon during the development of the proposal.

A.4 ALIGNMENT WITH USDA APHIS GOALS

The mission of APHIS is to protect the health and value of American agriculture and natural resources. APHIS works in a variety of ways to protect and improve the health and quality of our nation's animals by taking steps to prevent, control, and eliminate those diseases and conditions facing animals today.

² An eligible applicant including a genome predictive genetics strategy as a proposed activity should plan to submit ninety-eight samples at a time and include a laboratory cost of \$75.00 per sample when completing the project proposal Financial Plan.

This funding opportunity supports the overall mission of USDA, which is to protect and promote food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues, and [USDA Strategic Goal 2](#) – Maximize the ability of American agricultural producers to prosper by feeding and clothing the world. Specifically, this funding opportunity supports the following [USDA APHIS Strategic Goals](#):

USDA APHIS Strategic Goal 2: Safeguard American agriculture.

Objective 2.2: Manage plant and animal pests and diseases once established in the United States to promote plant and animal health.

Tactic: Collaborate with industry, Tribes, and States to develop approaches that take advantage of best management and husbandry practices to minimize the damage and spread of plant and animal diseases.

Objective 2.4: Manage conflicts caused by wildlife, detect and control wildlife disease, and protect agriculture and natural resources.

Tactic: Develop and implement science-based, effective, and practical methods and new technology for eliminating and managing wildlife damage and threats posed by diseases to agricultural resources, livestock, property, human health and safety, and natural resources. Emphasize the development of methods that present a low environmental burden and a high degree of species-specificity.

Objective 2.6: Provide and coordinate timely diagnostic laboratory support and services.

Tactic: Provide leadership and coordinate with other partners on diagnostic techniques, assays, and new technologies including scientific computing to support greater use of genomics and bioinformatics.

A.5 LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Under the Act of March 2, 1931, (46 Stat. 1468-69; 7 USC §§ 8351-8352, as amended), and the Act of December 22, 1987 (Public Law No. 100-202, §101(k), 101 Stat. 1329-331, 7 USC § 8353), the Secretary of Agriculture may conduct a program of wildlife services with respect to injurious animal species and take any action the Secretary considers necessary in conducting the program. Additionally, the Secretary of Agriculture, except for urban rodent control, is authorized to conduct activities to control nuisance mammals and birds and those mammal and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases. In carrying out a program of wildlife services involving injurious and/or nuisance animal species or involving mammal and bird species that are reservoirs for zoonotic diseases, the Secretary is authorized to cooperate with States, local jurisdictions, individuals, public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions.

Under the [Animal Health Protection Act](#) (AHPA), as amended, (7 USC § 8301 et seq.), the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to issue regulations and orders and to carry out operations and measures to prevent, detect, control, and eradicate diseases and pests of livestock and to cooperate with other Federal agencies, States or political subdivisions of States, national governments of foreign countries, local governments of foreign countries, domestic or international organizations, domestic or international associations, Indian Tribes, and other persons to carry out the purposes of the AHPA.

Pursuant to 7 USC § 2279 (g) and, notwithstanding Chapter 63 of Title 31, APHIS is authorized to use cooperative agreements to reflect a relationship with a state or other recipient to carry out programs to

protect the nation's animal and plant resources or to carry out educational programs or special studies to improve the safety of the nation's food supply.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

Total Amount to be Awarded: APHIS WS will make available up to \$300,000 in funds to support projects that address the funding priorities described in [Section A.2](#).

Type of Assistance Instrument: Awards will be funded via cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements include substantial involvement by APHIS WS to assist in the completion of the goals and objectives of the work.

Anticipated Awards: APHIS WS anticipates awarding around five cooperative agreements and the amount awarded will range from \$10,000 to \$75,000 each. Based on reviewer recommendations, APHIS WS may award less than the requested amount of funds to a project. In these cases, applicants may accept or decline the offered award. If accepted, applicants must submit a revised proposal package that addresses reviewer concerns and aligns with the amount awarded. APHIS WS will provide additional guidance to applicants in these situations.

Anticipated Award Start Date: The performance period will begin prior to October 1, 2021.

Period of Performance: Projects must be completed no later than twelve months after the start date. Funding will not be allowed, nor activities approved to occur, outside of the period of performance. There is an allowance of a one-time extension request of the performance period up to twelve months to complete the project, assuming there is no increase in funding requested. This request must be submitted in accordance with the cooperative agreement [terms and conditions](#) in order to be considered.

Cost Sharing: Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS WS may take into consideration an eligible entity's ability to contribute non-Federal funds to carry out a cooperative agreement. Additional information on cost sharing is outlined in [Section C.2](#).

B.1 COST GUIDANCE

Each applicant must submit a detailed Financial Plan that provides sufficient information to determine the costs for each of the proposed project activities and objectives.

Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cost principles ([2 CFR Subpart E](#)) must be used to determine whether a cost can be charged to the project and, if so, the extent to which it can be charged. Funds are intended to complement and build upon activities associated with other APHIS cooperative programs geared toward controlling or preventing CWD in wild cervids.

Allowable uses of cooperative agreement funds include, but are not limited to, activities, equipment, supplies, and services needed to complete approved program activities that support the priorities and considerations described in [Section A.2](#). This may include:

- *Equipment.* The Federal definition of equipment is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit value of \$5,000 or more unless the applicant's definition of equipment is more restrictive.

- *Information technology systems.* The term “information technology,” defined in [2 CFR Part 200.1](#) includes, but is not limited to, computers, network, and ancillary equipment, software, firmware, and similar procedures, services (including support services), and related resources. This also includes any equipment, interconnected system(s), or subsystem(s) of equipment that is used in the automatic acquisition, storage, manipulation, movement, control, display, switching, interchange, transmission, or reception of data or information.
- *Outreach materials.* Whenever possible, existing publications or audiovisuals, referred to as outreach materials, should be used. A draft of any publications or audiovisuals produced with cooperative agreement funds for public use must be reviewed and approved by APHIS WS, the Office of the Deputy Administrator, and the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs. A determination will be made if the USDA logo may be used and APHIS’ participation in the project may be acknowledged. Please allow a minimum of four weeks for review and approval of materials (pamphlets, flyers, posters, etc.). Approval must be obtained prior to printing.
- *Personnel.* APHIS will allow costs for salaries and wages provided the total compensation to individual employees is reasonable for the work performed, conforms to the established policy of the organization, and is consistently applied to Government and nongovernmental activities.
- *Travel.* Funds may be requested for field work, trainings, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Recipients should follow their Tribal government’s written travel policies when calculating travel costs. If there is no travel policy, Federal per diem rates should be used in the calculation of travel costs.

Project funds must be obligated by the recipient during the performance period identified in the Award Document. Reimbursement of costs prior to the performance period identified in the Award Document will not be reimbursed.

Funds **may NOT be used** for the following:

- Land acquisition
- Compensation for Federal Employees
- Travel of Federal Employees
- Federal subawards
- Construction and/or major rehabilitation of buildings
- Bonuses or commissions
- Fundraising
- Meeting, conference, symposia, or workshop honoraria, which is payment to individuals or guests other than for documented professional services
- Vehicle purchases or leases
- Positions funded with other federal cooperative agreements or grants
- International travel
- Projects or activities associated by APHIS-State-Industry cooperative program activities already funded via USDA APHIS annual cooperative agreements
- Promotional, outreach, or giveaway items such as calendars, rulers, pens, pencils, squishy balls, cups, refreshments, etc.

Nothing in this section prevents an eligible entity from using funds received to enter into sub-agreements with another eligible entity, University, or nonprofit entity or to reimburse a state, or local agency for services rendered, such as for animal depopulation or testing.

C. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

C.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

The following entities are eligible for funding through this opportunity, provided they have regulatory oversight or direct responsibility for wild cervids:

1. Federally recognized Native American tribal governments.³

This list does not preclude award recipients from collaborating with other entities who may have direct and significant interest in the control or prevention of CWD in wild cervids, such as land grant or other universities, State or national livestock, wildlife, sporting groups, conservation organizations, or a Federal Agency.

C.2 COST SHARING OR MATCHING

Cost sharing and matching is defined in [2 CFR Part 200.1](#) as a “portion of the project costs not paid by Federal funds (unless otherwise authorized by Federal statute).” For more information on cost share please reference [2 CFR Part 200.306](#).

Although cost sharing is not required, APHIS WS may take into consideration an eligible entity’s ability to contribute non-Federal funds to carry out such a cooperative agreement, but shall not require an eligible entity to make a contribution as a condition to enter into a cooperative agreement.

If applicable, applicants should describe cost-share or in-kind funding for the project. Once the cooperative agreement is accepted and finalized, the cost share becomes legally binding and the recipient will be required to meet the cost share ratio.

C.3 OTHER CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

All applicant organizations must have at least two users registered in [ezFedGrants, a Grants Administrative Officer and a Signatory Official, in order to successfully submit a proposal package](#). This system will be used for all stages of the funding opportunity process, including submitting the proposal package, signing the cooperative agreement, and submitting reports.

Applicants will be checked against the System for Award Management (SAM) to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. See [Section D.3](#).

C.4 ADMINISTRATIVE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Proposal packages must meet these initial screening criteria to be considered for further review. Proposals that do not meet these criteria will not be considered. Applicants should refer to [Appendix 1](#):

³ Federally recognized Native American tribal governments are listed on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior; [Indian Entities Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website](#).

[Funding Opportunity Criteria](#) for a full list of both the Administrative Eligibility Criteria and the Evaluation Criteria for this opportunity.

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 an eligible applicant.
3. Proposals address at least one of the funding priorities or the scope of activities described in [Section A.2](#).
4. All required documents and forms listed in [Section D.2](#) must be (a) included in the proposal package, and (b) comply with the submission instructions described in [Section D](#) of this announcement. Any proposal package with missing or incomplete documents or forms may not be considered for review and could result 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 will not be considered.

D. PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

An eligible applicant may submit multiple proposals for this opportunity, requesting up to \$75,000 per proposal for activities to control or prevent CWD in wild cervids. Applicants who wish to submit multiple proposals must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package. Based on reviewer scoring, multiple proposals from a single eligible entity may be selected for funding.

Applicants should refer to [Appendix 2: Proposal Checklist and Tips](#) for initial steps to take when developing a proposal.

D.1 OBTAINING A PROPOSAL PACKAGE

All application materials are available through this announcement and [ezFedGrants](#).

If assistance is needed with locating application materials, please reach out to APHIS-WS.CWD_Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline.

D.2 CONTENT AND FORM OF THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE

The proposal package must include the following:

- SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance” – Completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- SF-424A, “Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs” that matches the submitted Financial Plan – Completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- [Certification Regarding Lobbying](#) (for Federal Assistance greater than \$100,000)
- [SF-LLL](#), “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities” (for Federal Assistance greater than \$100,000 when there are activities to disclose)
- Waiver or approval response letter from the State’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if the applicant is in a state that is required to comply with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (See [Section D.5](#) for additional information)

- ❑ Copy of the current, signed Negotiated BHI Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if indirect costs are being claimed
- ❑ CWD Project Proposal Work Plan (See [Appendix 3 Proposal Work Plan Template](#) below)
- ❑ CWD Project Proposal Financial Plan (See [Appendix 4 Proposal Financial Plan Template](#) below)

Applicants should refer to the [Appendix 2: Proposal Checklist and Tips](#) when preparing a proposal package for submission. Failure to submit any required documents may result in a rejected proposal.

Letters of support are not required but may be included in the proposal package. Applicants should not request letters of support from APHIS employees; however, informal discussions are encouraged.

Project Proposal Work Plan

Applicants must submit a project proposal Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the CWD Project Proposal Work Plan Template available in [Appendix 3 Proposal Work Plan Template](#). Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to use the CWD Project Proposal Work Plan Template. Project proposal Work Plans using this template may not exceed twenty pages in 12-point font. Project Proposal Work Plans that do not use the template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors, will not count toward the ten-page limitation.

Project Proposal Work Plans should address at least one of the priorities or the scope of activities described in [Section A.2](#) with individual objectives directed toward wild cervid management or research. Applicants are encouraged to submit separate proposals for each priority provided the objectives or activities are not dependent on each proposal being selected for funding. If multiple priorities are addressed within a single Work Plan, applicants should specify which funding priority is addressed for each objective.

Project Proposal Financial Plan

Applicants must submit a project proposal Financial Plan that clearly identifies the costs associated with the proposed activities for each objective listed in the project proposal Work Plan and include all of the information outlined in the CWD Project Proposal Financial Plan Template available in [Appendix 4 Proposal Financial Plan Template](#). Applicants are encouraged, but not required, to use the CWD Project Proposal Financial Plan Template. Project proposal Financial Plans must match and provide additional details on the information provided in the required SF-424A submitted through ezFedGrants. When preparing a project proposal Financial Plan, applicants must comply with the cost guidance and funding restrictions described in [Section B.1](#).

D.3 UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SYSTEM FOR AWARD MANAGEMENT (SAM)

All applicants are required to register in SAM prior to submitting a proposal for this funding opportunity and to maintain current information throughout the award period of performance([2 CFR Part 200.206](#)).⁴ To register, go to the [SAM Website](#). Please allow a minimum of 5 days to complete the SAM registration. Frequently Asked Questions, User Guides, Demonstration Videos, etc. can be found at the [SAM Website](#),

⁴ Unless the applicant is an individual or Federal awarding agency that is excepted from those requirements under [2 CFR 25.110](#)(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the Federal awarding agency under [2 CFR 25.110](#)(d).

under the “Help” tab. Registration is free. During the SAM registration process, it is mandatory to complete the Financial Assistance Certification Report in order to receive federal financial assistance.

In order to register in SAM, your organization will need a valid Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number. A DUNS number is a unique nine-character identification number provided by the commercial company, Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). To see if your organization already has a DUNS number or to obtain a DUNS number, contact D&B at 1-866-705-5711 or visit the [D & B website](#). Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete. Registration is free.

Be sure to complete the Marketing Partner ID (MPIN) and Electronic Business Primary Point of Contact fields during the registration process. These are mandatory fields that are required when submitting applications.

During the application package review process, APHIS will conduct a risk assessment. All applicants will be verified in SAM to ensure they have not been disbarred or suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any Federal department or agency. APHIS may not make a Federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements. If an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements, APHIS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a Federal award to another applicant.

When the anticipated total Federal share exceeds the simplified acquisition threshold, APHIS is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. An applicant, if desired, may review and comment on any information about their organization that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM. APHIS will consider any comments provided by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the risk assessment.

D.4 SUBMISSION DATES AND TIMES

All proposals must be completed and received electronically through [ezFedGrants](#) no later than **July 4, 2021, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time**. The electronic date and time stamp from ezFedGrants will be used to determine whether proposals were received before the deadline. Submissions through Grants.gov will not be accepted.

An overview of the ezFedGrants application process can be obtained at [ezFedGrants Applications Quick Reference](#). We understand unanticipated issues can arise; therefore, we urge applicants to submit their application package early to allow time to address any complications. If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please reach out to APHIS-WS.CWD_Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the deadline for assistance. Proposal packages received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

Applicants should refer to [Appendix 2: Proposal Checklist and Tips](#) to ensure that all documents are included prior to submission of the proposal package.

D.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW

The Intergovernmental Review Process (CFDA 10.028) is subject to [Executive Order 12372](#), “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs” in the States or Territories of: American Samoa, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Iowa (State Agencies only), Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Nevada (private and non-profits only), New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Utah (State Agencies only), Virgin Islands, and West Virginia. Awards will not be made until this process has been completed in applicable states.

Names and addresses of States’ Single Point of Contact (SPOC) are listed in the https://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/fmd/downloads/spoc_list.pdf. Please reach out to your State’s SPOC for additional information on your specific state requirements.

Please upload a waiver or approval response letter from the SPOC to your proposal package in [ezFedGrants](#) to fulfill this requirement. Awards will not be made until this process has been completed in the applicable states.

D.6 FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Project funds are only available during the period of performance and must be obligated by the recipient within 12 months from the date the funds are made available by APHIS WS (the beginning date of the period of performance on the Award Document unless otherwise stated in the Award Document. Any expenses prior to the beginning date of the period of performance will not be reimbursed. Construction is not authorized.

Applicants must submit a copy of their fully executed current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, negotiated by its recognized Federal Agency, when indirect costs are assessed in the budget. Indirect costs for any sub-award must be disclosed.

Higher education institutions and non-profit organizations’ assessment of indirect costs are limited to not more than ten percent of total direct costs or the application of their Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, whichever is less.

Please refer to the cost guidance in [Section B.1](#) for additional information on funding restrictions and limitations.

D.7 OTHER SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Only electronic submissions of proposals through [ezFedGrants](#) will be accepted. Hard copy proposals and submissions through Grants.gov will not be accepted. APHIS follows compliance with the [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#).

Applicants experiencing technical difficulties should reach out to APHIS-WS.CWD_Agreements@usda.gov at least 72 hours prior to the application deadline of July 4, 2021, 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time for assistance. If technical difficulties cannot be resolved APHIS may allow submission by email on a case by case basis. Proposals received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

E.1 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. Applicants should refer to [Appendix 1: Funding Opportunity Criteria](#) for a full list of both the Administrative Eligibility Criteria and the Evaluation Criteria for this opportunity

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Addresses the Priorities and Requirements in the Announcement.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal strongly supports and clearly addresses one or more of the priorities identified in [Section A.2](#).
 - a. **Strong and direct support for at least one of the funding priorities.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed activities directly address a concern identified in at least one of the funding priorities, as well as the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables will strongly support the funding priority area of concern.
 - b. **Strong and direct support for the overarching goal of the funding priority.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables will support the overarching goal of the funding opportunity, which is to control or prevent CWD through the development and implementation of CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities.
 - c. **Sound knowledge of existing activity associated with the funding priority topic.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal demonstrates awareness of current concerns, known gaps, activities conducted by other entities, and the regulatory landscape related to the funding priority topic, if applicable.
 - d. **The degree to which a proposal complements and builds on existing activities.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal addresses known gaps and avoid redundancy with similar work already conducted by other entities, including but not limited to work conducted by USDA. Proposed activities must also align with current federal and state regulations.
2. **Feasibility of success.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal is likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables based on key factors, such as a well-organized and sound approach, a reasonable schedule, effective partnerships and collaborations, and the applicant's skills, knowledge, and experiences.
 - a. **Plan of action.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Work Plan and Financial Plan lay out a plan of action that is logical, well organized, complete, and likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It considers whether the approach is explained in sufficient detail for the reader to understand what activities will be performed, how they will be conducted, and what will be produced.
 - b. **Proposed work and methods.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed work is technically sound. The proposed methods should be supported by current scientific

knowledge and, in the case of management proposals, relevant experience supporting the proposed activities. References, including unpublished data from previous actions, should be included to support the proposed methods or approach.

- c. **Adequate budget.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the budget is realistic, adequate, and sufficient to successfully produce the outcomes and deliverables described in the proposal.
 - d. **Reasonable schedule.** This criterion assesses whether the project schedule allows an appropriate amount of time for completing all proposed activities in a one year performance period, including but not limited to considering a reasonable amount of time to complete each activity, the competing time commitments of stakeholders who are critical to project completion, and other risks that may cause schedule delays.
 - e. **Partnerships and collaboration.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies and describes the partnerships and collaborations necessary to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also considers the likelihood the project will develop and strengthen relationships that are likely to foster progress in the funding priority area or related areas.
 - f. **Skills, knowledge, and experience.** This criterion considers the extent to which the key persons who will carry out the project have the qualifications, skills, ability, experience, and infrastructure (facilities and equipment) to successfully conduct the proposed activities and produce successful outcomes and deliverables.
3. **Impact and value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables are likely to have measurable and significant impact and value in the funding priority area.
- a. **Scope of impact.** This criterion assesses scope of impact on controlling or preventing CWD, including whether the project will create an impact at:
 - i. State, regional, national, or other geographic levels; or
 - ii. For one stakeholder interest group or many.
 - b. **Value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the likelihood the project will produce outcomes and deliverables that are high value with respect to positively impacting the funding priority area.
 - c. **Knowledge transfer.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the outcomes and deliverables are likely to be used by other groups and stakeholders, either by replicating the activity in other regions or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes and deliverables so other entities can make use of them.
4. **Cost Effectiveness.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies a cost-effective approach to produce the desired outcomes and deliverables as compared to alternatives.
- a. **All costs are reasonable and necessary.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan is clear, logical, and includes only reasonable and necessary costs to produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan provides sufficient detail for reviewers to fully understand how each budget item

specifically supports the activities outlined in the Work Plan, without including budget items that are not allowed or appear superfluous or tangential to producing the outcomes and deliverables.

- b. **Use of existing resources.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal includes cost-saving measures by leveraging existing resources or partnerships where possible. For example, the proposal describes practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete the project. Cost share will be evaluated in this criterion and will make up less than five percent of the total score.

E.2 REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

APHIS WS has final authority in determining which projects are funded for this initiative. Based on reviewer recommendations, a project may be selected for partial funding of specific objectives or activities within a proposed project Work Plan.

Proposals that meet the eligibility criteria in [Section C](#) will be subject to an administrative review by a APHIS WS Grants Specialist and evaluated by reviewers based on the merit of the proposal. APHIS WS is responsible for reviewing proposals against the evaluation criteria and will seek assistance and counsel from Federally recognized Native American tribal governments, and internal and external subject-matter experts as appropriate. High quality proposals are those that strongly support the priorities and address the needs, considerations, and evaluation criteria described in this Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Reviewers will have no association with projects they are reviewing to avoid potential conflicts of interest. In the event of a real or perceived conflict of interest, a reviewer shall recuse themselves as appropriate.

A risk assessment will be conducted as part of the selection and review process. See [Section D.3](#) for additional information on the components of this risk assessment.

E.3 ANTICIPATED ANNOUNCEMENT AND FEDERAL AWARD DATES

There is a single application deadline followed by the simultaneous review of all applications. APHIS WS will review proposals within 55 days of the application deadline and applicants will be notified by email of award status.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

APHIS WS will administer awarded cooperative agreements, collaborating with project recipients to provide advice, receive and review project documents, offer comments and suggestions, track project performance, and communicate as necessary to ensure progress in accomplishing the project, identifying obstacles, and resolving concerns.

Recipients will track performance and expenditures, provide progress reports and project deliverables in accordance with the project Work Plan, and communicate with APHIS WS staff to assess and evaluate progress. Recipients may be asked to provide a brief presentation outlining their work and anticipated outcomes with wild cervid stakeholders during an APHIS WS Cervid Stakeholder meeting.

F.1 FEDERAL AWARD NOTICES

Applicants selected for funding will receive a notification stating that their application has been selected for award. This notification is not an authorization to begin performance on the project or to expend the funds. An Award Document will be routed to the applicant's signatory official(s) via ezFedGrants. This fully signed Award Document is the only document that authorizes the project to begin. Either the APHIS WS Grants Specialist or the APHIS WS NWDP Program Coordinator may informally contact the applicant with application/Federal award status details.

The Award Document will provide pertinent instructions and information including but not limited to the information described in [2 CFR Part 200.211](#) and reference to the [Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards](#). The applicant must provide an E-Signature in ezFedGrants for the Federal Award document unless an alternate Federal award signature process is provided to the applicant by APHIS WS.

F.2 ADMINISTRATIVE AND NATIONAL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants must comply with the requirements contained in the "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards," [2 CFR Part 200](#); "Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension," [2 CFR Part 417](#); "Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace," [2 CFR Part 421](#); "New Restrictions on Lobbying," [2 CFR Part 418](#); and, Office of Management and Budget regulations governing "Controlling Paperwork Burdens on the Public," [5 CFR Part 1320](#).

In accordance with the Office of Management and Budget's guidance located at 2 CFR part 200, all applicable Federal laws, and relevant Executive guidance, the Federal awarding agency will review and consider applications for funding pursuant to this notice of funding opportunity in accordance with the Guidance for Grants and Agreements in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (2 CFR), as updated in the Federal Register's 85 FR 49506 on August 13, 2020. Particularly on selecting recipients most likely to be successful in delivering results based on the program objectives through an objective process of evaluating Federal award applications (2 CFR part 200.205); prohibiting the purchase of certain telecommunication and video surveillance services or equipment in alignment with section 889 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2019 (Pub. L. No. 115—232) (2 CFR part 200.216); promoting the freedom of speech and religious liberty in alignment with Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty (E.O. 13798) and Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities (E.O. 13864) (§§ 200.300, 200.303, 200.339, and 200.341); providing a preference, to the extent permitted by law, to maximize use of goods, products, and materials produced in the United States (2 CFR part 200.322), and terminating agreements in whole or in part to the greatest extent authorized by law, if an award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities (2 CFR part 200.340).

Successful applicants must also comply with the general [Terms and Conditions for APHIS awards](#), approved project Work Plan, approved project Financial Plan, and applicable authorization used to issue the cooperative agreement.

F.3 REPORTING

The Recipient's Project Coordinator will provide quarterly performance reports and properly certified Federal Financial Reports, SF-425's to the APHIS WS NWDP Program Coordinator through ezFedGrants as outlined in the Award Document and in accordance with the general [Terms and Conditions for APHIS](#)

[awards](#). The reports will be used by APHIS WS to verify compliance with provisions of the cooperative agreement.

The performance and financial reports will be due as specified on the Award Document. Any requests for an extension of time to submit reports must be made in writing to the APHIS WS NWDP Program Coordinator. Extensions of time for submission of the reports will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the discretion of the APHIS WS NWDP Program Coordinator. If allowed, approval will be provided in writing.

F.4 PROJECT EVALUATION

The Recipient's performance will be evaluated, through the review of performance and financial reports, based on the following criteria to determine if the Recipient met the project standards and if the proposed results and benefits were achieved:

1. Adherence to project schedule.
2. Adherence to project budget.
3. Delivery of results that meet the cooperative agreement performance standards and achieve the stated outcomes.
4. Periodic discussion of project progress with the APHIS WS NWDP Program Coordinator.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions pertaining to this funding opportunity, required documents, or the ezFedGrants application process, please contact APHIS-WS.CWD_Agreements@usda.gov.

For questions regarding the wild cervid CWD program, please contact the following APHIS WS Program staff:

Primary point of contact:

Tom Gidlewski, Program Coordinator, WS National Wildlife Disease Program,
Thomas.Gidlewski@usda.gov, (O) 970-266-6350, (C) 970-219-0187

Secondary point of contact:

Tim Linder, Staff Biologist, WS National Wildlife Disease Program,
Timothy.J.Linder@usda.gov, (O) 970-266-6217, (C) 970-420-5309

H. OTHER INFORMATION

USDA is not obligated to make any award as a result of this announcement nor to make any changes to future announcements. Only the APHIS Authorized Departmental Officer can bind the Government to an expenditure of funds and this obligation of funds shall only occur in writing by authorized officials and under the approved USDA APHIS Cooperative Agreement or Grant format.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) is announcing a separate funding opportunity for the control and prevention of CWD in wild cervids under the title "FY21 Wild Cervid CWD Management and Response Activities" Applicants can find this funding opportunity information on [ezFedGrants](#) or [Grants.gov](#) by

searching this title, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number 10.028, or the Funding Opportunity Number USDA-APHIS-10028-WSNWRC00-21-0008.

USDA APHIS Veterinary Services (VS) is announcing a separate funding opportunity for the control and prevention of CWD in farmed cervids under the title “FY21 Farmed Cervid CWD Management and Response Activities.” Applicants can find this funding opportunity information on the [ezFedGrants](#) or [Grants.gov](#) by searching this title, the Assistance Listing Number 10.025, or the Funding Opportunity Number USDA-APHIS-10025-VSSPRS00-21-0108.

APPENDIX 1: FUNDING OPPORTUNITY CRITERIA

USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Opportunities 2021 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 an eligible applicant.
3. Proposals 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 application package and comply with the submission instructions described in [Section D](#) of this announcement. Any application package with missing or incomplete documents or forms may not be considered for review and could result 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 this announcement will not be considered.

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.

1. **Addresses the Priorities and Requirements in the Announcement.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal strongly supports and clearly addresses one or more of the priorities identified in [Section A.2](#).
 - a. **Strong and direct support for at least one of the funding priorities.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed activities directly address a concern identified in at least one of the funding priorities, as well as the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables will strongly support the funding priority area of concern.
 - b. **Strong and direct support for the overarching goal of the funding priority.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables will support the overarching goal of the funding opportunity, which is to control or prevent CWD through the development and implementation of CWD surveillance, testing, management, and response activities.
 - c. **Sound knowledge of existing activity associated with the funding priority topic.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal demonstrates awareness of current

concerns, known gaps, activities conducted by other entities, and the regulatory landscape related to the funding priority topic, if applicable.

- d. **The degree to which a proposal complements and builds on existing activities.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal addresses known gaps and avoids redundancy with similar work already conducted by other entities, including but not limited to work conducted by USDA. Proposed activities must also align with current federal and state regulations.
2. **Feasibility of success.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal is likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables based on key factors, such as a well-organized and sound approach, a reasonable schedule, effective partnerships and collaborations, and the applicant’s skills, knowledge, and experiences.
 - a. **Plan of action.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Work Plan and Financial Plan lay out a plan of action that is logical, well organized, complete, and likely to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It considers whether the approach is explained in sufficient detail for the reader to understand what activities will be performed, how they will be conducted, and what will be produced.
 - b. **Proposed work and methods.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposed work is technically sound. The proposed methods should be supported by current scientific knowledge and, in the case of management proposals, relevant experience supporting the proposed activities. References, including unpublished data from previous actions, should be included to support the proposed methods or approach.
 - c. **Adequate budget.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the budget is realistic, adequate, and sufficient to successfully produce the outcomes and deliverables described in the proposal.
 - d. **Reasonable schedule.** This criterion assesses whether the project schedule allows an appropriate amount of time for completing all proposed activities in a one year performance period, including but not limited to considering a reasonable amount of time to complete each activity, the competing time commitments of stakeholders who are critical to project completion, and other risks that may cause schedule delays.
 - e. **Partnerships and collaboration.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies and describes the partnerships and collaborations necessary to successfully produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also considers the likelihood the project will develop and strengthen relationships that are likely to foster progress in the funding priority area or related areas.
 - f. **Skills, knowledge, and experience.** This criterion considers the extent to which the key persons who will carry out the project have the qualifications, skills, ability, experience, and infrastructure (facilities and equipment) to successfully conduct the proposed activities and produce successful outcomes and deliverables.
3. **Impact and value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the expected outcomes and deliverables are likely to have measurable and significant impact and value in the funding priority area.

- a. **Scope of impact.** This criterion assesses scope of impact on controlling or preventing CWD, including whether the project will create an impact at:
 - i. State, regional, national, or other geographic levels; or
 - ii. For one stakeholder interest group or many.
 - b. **Value of outcomes.** This criterion assesses the likelihood the project will produce outcomes and deliverables that are high value with respect to positively impacting the funding priority area.
 - c. **Knowledge transfer.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the outcomes and deliverables are likely to be used by other groups and stakeholders, either by replicating the activity in other regions or by using the information to support policies and decisions. Proposals should indicate how the applicant will share the project outcomes and deliverables so other entities can make use of them.
4. **Cost Effectiveness.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal identifies a cost-effective approach to produce the desired outcomes and deliverables as compared to alternatives.
- a. **All costs are reasonable and necessary.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan is clear, logical, and includes only reasonable and necessary costs to produce the expected outcomes and deliverables. It also assesses the extent to which the Financial Plan provides sufficient detail for reviewers to fully understand how each budget item specifically supports the activities outlined in the Work Plan, without including budget items that are not allowed or appear superfluous or tangential to producing the outcomes and deliverables.
 - b. **Use of existing resources.** This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal includes cost-saving measures by leveraging existing resources or partnerships where possible. For example, the proposal describes practical use of existing personnel, vehicles, computers, venues, supplies, and other items to complete the project. Cost share will be evaluated in this criterion and will make up less than five percent of the total score.

APPENDIX 2: PROPOSAL CHECKLIST AND TIPS

USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Opportunities 2021 Proposal Checklist and Tips

Proposal Checklist

The proposal package must include the following:

- SF-424, “Application for Federal Assistance” – Completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- SF-424A, “Budget Information – Non-Construction Programs” that matches the submitted Financial Plan – Completed when applying to the Opportunity in ezFedGrants
- [Certification Regarding Lobbying](#) (for Federal Assistance greater than \$100,000)
- [SF-LLL](#), “Disclosure of Lobbying Activities” (for Federal Assistance greater than \$100,000 when there are activities to disclose)
- Waiver or approval response letter from the State’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC) if the applicant is in a state that is required to comply with Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs (See [Section D.5](#) or additional information)
- Copy of the current, signed Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, if indirect costs are being claimed
- CWD Project Proposal Work Plan (See [Appendix 3 Proposal Work Plan Template](#) below)
- CWD Project Proposal Financial Plan (See [Appendix 4 Proposal Financial Plan Template](#) below)

Tips for Applicants

- Submit proposals early. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE DAY OF THE PROPOSAL DEADLINE.**
- **DO** remember that the reviewer’s job is to ensure Government funds are well spent, with those proposals selected for funding providing the highest likelihood of tangible end products that control or prevent CWD.
- **DO** take some time to think out your proposal. A proposal that is well written and easy to follow will be well received by the review panel.
- **DO** clearly and concisely define the need or problem that this proposal is addressing. Be **SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time bound.** **DO NOT** include why it is important to control CWD or general information on CWD.
- **DO** align your proposal with the priorities in the current year’s opportunity announcement.
- **DO** provide sufficient detail for a reviewer to be convinced that you have thought out the process well, and understand the resources needed to complete the proposed tasks.
- **DO** be sure to include all APHIS resources your proposal will need to successfully complete the work.
- **DO** ask questions. We want to help you put forth the best proposal possible.

New Applicant Information

The applicant will be required to complete the application process by following the instructions below.

Register in SAM

- Applicants must register and complete the Financial Assistance Certification Report in SAM.gov.

Obtain a DUNS Number

- Applicants are required to have a DUNS number.
- To see if your organization already has a DUNS number or to obtain a DUNS number, contact D&B at 1-866-705-5711 or visit the Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) website.

Apply for an eAuthentication Account

- Applicants will be required to have a USDA eAuthentication Account. Use the eAuthentication Account Creation job aid to get started.
- An individual may apply for a USDA eAuthentication Account by visiting the Create an Account page. For help with eAuthentication accounts or passwords, contact the eAuthentication help desk at eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov.

Getting Started in ezFedGrants

- Applicants will be required to establish an account in ezFedGrants which requires a USDA level 2 eAuthentication account. USDA eAuthentication is the system used by USDA agencies to enable customers to obtain accounts that will allow them to access USDA Web applications and services via the Internet. Please note that USDA will only accept eAuthentication Accounts from Individuals.
- Applicants new to ezFedGrants should review the Job Aids by either clicking on the Training icon on the ezFedGrants Homepage.
- The USDA eFG External User Onboarding Quick Reference Job Aid summarizes the process for users to gain access to ezFedGrants.
- The ezFedGrants system requires each applicant with a successful proposal to have a minimum of at least one Grants Administrative Officer (GAO) and one Signatory Official (SO).
- To complete an application for a proposal selected for funding, the applicant must access the "Search Opportunities" screen and search for the correct opportunity number.
- For help with ezFedGrants system, applicants may contact the ezFedGrants help desk at ezFedGrants@cfo.usda.gov.

APPENDIX 3: PROPOSAL WORK PLAN TEMPLATE

USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Opportunities 2021 Proposal Work Plan Template

Instructions

The information requested in this template is required in all project proposal Work Plans. Applicants may submit more than one project proposal. Applicants who submit more than one proposal must submit each proposal as a separate proposal package that includes a separate Work Plan.

A project proposal Work Plan must address at least one of the funding priorities described in the USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Opportunities 2021.

Applicants are encouraged but not required to use this template. Please provide detailed information about the proposed project in the topic areas below. Write in narrative format where indicated and paste or type the appropriate information into each box. Expand boxes or add rows as needed. For those boxes where a word limit has been set, applicants can verify the number of words by selecting the box and referencing the word count in the lower left corner.

Project proposal Work Plans using this template may not exceed twenty pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the twenty-page limitation.

Project proposal Work Plans not using this template may not exceed ten pages in 12-point font. The use of diagrams, visuals, and reference sheets, as well as any letters of collaboration from contributors will not count toward the ten-page limitation.

Template

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Title

Name of Organization Submitting the Proposal

Type of Applicant Entity

Select the type of applicant entity from the list below:

- Federally recognized Native American tribal government

For Federally recognized Native American tribal governments list the name(s) of the Indian Tribal entities as they appear on the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior; [Indian Tribal Entities Within the Contiguous 48 States Recognized by and Eligible To Receive Services From the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs website:](#)

Priority Area

Select the one 2021 funding priority that your proposal most strongly supports:

- Improve the management of CWD-affected wild cervid populations;
- Improve the management of wild cervid CWD-affected areas;
- Conduct research on amplification assays in wild cervids;
- Develop whole genome predictive genetics for wild cervids;
- Develop and/or deliver educational outreach materials or programs to wild cervid stakeholders;
- Another management priority or area included in the scope of activities described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement; or,
- Another research priority or area included in the scope of activities described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Total Amount of Funding Requested

Each project proposal should not exceed \$75,000 in requested funds. Applicants may submit more than one project proposal, submitting each as a separate proposal package.

\$ _____

Period of Performance

Enter proposed project start and end dates (not to exceed 12 months).

Proposed Project Start Date	Proposed Project End Date

Submitting Organization’s Principal Investigator/Primary Point of Contact

Primary point of contact for administration of the cooperative agreement.

Name	
Title	
Phone	
Email	

Submitting Organization’s Financial Point of Contact

Primary point of contact for financial administration of the cooperative agreement.

Name	
Title	
Phone	
Email	

Contributors

Name, title, organization, phone number, and email of co-investigators or other lead technical experts. Add rows as needed.

Name	Title	Organization	Phone	Email

Other Projects Submitted

List all other projects submitted to either the WS 2021 Tribal Nations Wild Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity Announcement, the WS 2021 Wild Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity Announcement, and the VS 2021 Farmed Cervid CWD Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Application Number	Project Title

II. PROJECT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND NEED FOR ASSISTANCE

Objectives

List each specific objective the proposed project will accomplish, the funding priority addressed, and the expected results or benefits to be derived from this work and effort. The objectives described in this section are intermediate steps taken to achieve the overall purpose of the project activity. Objectives should be measurable and lead to specific results. No more than 3-5 objectives are recommended per proposal.

Objectives	Description
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	

Critical Relevant Need or Problem Requiring Solution

Describe in 100 words or less the critical need that this project will address or what problem the project will solve. Include how the need or problem aligns with the priority area(s) described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Background and Significance

Provide supporting information for justifying why the proposed work needs to be done. Describe and reference any documents (e.g., articles, reports, testimonies from concerned interests other than the applicant, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, and letters of collaboration) from concerned interests other than the applicant that supports the need for the project. If attachments are needed, list them and upload them separately from the Work Plan.

Alignment to Wild Cervid CWD Surveillance, Testing, Management and Response Activities, including the further development and evaluation of techniques and strategies to prevent or control CWD

Describe in 100 words or less how the identified need or problem aligns with the elements of wild cervid CWD prevention, management, and response activities described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Geographic Location

List the state(s) or region(s) of the country where the proposed activities will take place.

State or Region	Proposed Activities

Target Audience

Describe in 100 words or less the specific audience or population that will directly benefit from and/or use the project outcome(s) or deliverable(s).

Expected Impact and Value

Describe in 100 words or less the anticipated impact and value that this project will provide in the selected priority area(s) from the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Relationship to Other Projects

Describe in 100 words or less the relationship between this proposed project and other work planned, anticipated, or currently underway, including how the proposed activities will complement and build upon existing activities conducted by other entities.

--

III. APPROACH

Outcomes and Deliverables

For each objective listed in Section II, describe the individual outcomes that will demonstrate successful completion of the objective, including the deliverables for each. Identify in which quarter of the project Work Plan each activity is expected to begin and end. Add rows as needed.

Objectives	Outcomes and Deliverables	Start	End
Objective 1			
1.1			
1.2			
Objective 2			
2.1			
2.2			
Objective 3			
3.1			
3.2			
Objective 4			
4.1			
4.2			
Objective 5			
5.1			
5.2			

Activities and Methods

For each outcome listed above, provide a detailed description of the proposed activities and methods that will be used. Include any applicable protocols, standards that will be met, or other supporting information.

Activities or Methods for Each Outcome or Deliverable	
Objective 1	
1.1	
1.2	
Objective 2	

2.1	
2.2	
Objective 3	
3.1	
3.2	
Objective 4	
4.1	
4.2	
Objective 5	
5.1	
5.2	

Additional Contributors

List organizations, cooperators, consultants, or other key individuals, in addition to those listed in Section I, who will contribute to the project. This may include, but is not limited to, land grant or other universities, State or national livestock, wildlife, sporting groups, or conservation organizations with direct and significant interest in the control of CWD or a Federal agency. A letter of collaboration from each contributor should be uploaded separately from the project proposal Work Plan as attachments.

Name, Title, Organization	Role or Contribution

Need for APHIS Assistance

Describe any support needed from APHIS to accomplish the project objectives, such as help from APHIS WS subject matter experts. Include a description of the quantity or duration of the need for assistance. Add rows as needed.

Type of Assistance Requested	Describe the Need for APHIS Assistance

Qualifications and Relevant Experience of the Principal Investigator and Lead Technical Experts

Present the qualifications of the lead technical experts and other key personnel indicating their ability to successfully complete the project. Applicants may attach this information in separate documents instead of listing it here. Add additional rows as needed.

Name and Title	
Organization	
Role in this project	

Qualifications and Relevant Experience	

Potential Problems and Anticipated Solutions

Describe any factors that may negatively impact the project (potential problems) and how these factors might be mitigated to reduce risk (anticipated solutions). Be sure to address any situations that may cause a delay in the project schedule, resulting in activities not being completed in the proposed period of performance.

Potential Problems	Anticipated Solutions

Best Practices, Innovations, or Unusual Features

In 100 words or less, describe any of these that apply: (1) How the proposed approach aligns with best practices, standards, or guidelines that will assure high quality results; (2) How the proposed approach is novel or innovative; and/or, (3) Any unusual features of the project, such as design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and community involvements.

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IV. PERFORMANCE METHODS AND CRITERIA

Quantitative and Qualitative Project Evaluation Methods and Criteria for Success

Describe the methods and the criteria that the Recipient will use to evaluate the project’s results, outcomes, and deliverables, including how the Recipient will determine the success for each objective and for the overall project.

Objectives	Quantitative (Measurable) and Qualitative Evaluation Methods and the Criteria Used to Measure Success
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	

Overall Project

Information Management

Discuss the management of information or data that is developed and/or collected during the project, including a description of how this information or data will be shared and maintained.

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V. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A concise executive summary of no more than 500 words is required for all projects.⁵ **If the executive summary exceeds 500 words, only the first 500 words will be used.**

Executive Summary

Provide a brief overview of the project, including the specific problem that the project solves, what will be delivered and/or accomplished, and the target audience that will directly benefit from the project’s outcomes. Please do not include any general information about CWD or why the control of CWD is important.

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VI. BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

All costs must be reasonable and necessary to complete the project and budget requests should reflect a good use of existing resources. Information provided in this section must align with the cost guidance outlined in the Funding Opportunity Announcement and support the information

⁵ If the project is funded, recipients can expect that this executive summary will be used in its entirety or in part for media purposes including press releases or program reports, and to provide upper echelons of government with a snapshot of the project.

provided in the project's Financial Plan. **Specific and detailed justification for each budget category is required.**

Funding Requested

For each of the objectives listed in Section II, provide the total amount of funding requested.

Objectives	Total Amount of Funding Requested
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	

Personnel Funded by the Project

Describe all personnel who will be paid by the project for each objective, including the number of people and the number of hours for each position. Include a short description of the title or type of personnel needed and what they will do (purpose or role). If the personnel name is not yet known, list as Technician 1, Trainer 2, or similar. Add rows as needed.

Personnel	Role and Justification for Each Position/Person
Objective 1	
Objective 2	
Objective 3	
Objective 4	
Objective 5	

Fringe Benefits

Provide the fringe benefit rate and a description of what the rate includes for each of the personnel listed in the table above. Fringe benefits may include health/life insurance, leave, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, retirement, social security, pensions, etc.

Personnel	Rate	Fringe Benefit Description
Objective 1		

Objective 2		
Objective 3		
Objective 4		
Objective 5		

Travel

Describe both local and out of state travel needed to accomplish each objective, including details for each traveler. Identify the objective(s) where the travel is needed and number of trips to achieve the objective(s). If a traveler name is not yet known, list as Person 1, Trainer 2, or similar. For local travel (no overnight stay), indicate "0" for number of nights of lodging. For means of travel, describe transportation type (air, GOV for government owned vehicle, etc.). Add rows as needed.

Traveler Name, Title	Trip Purpose, Justification, and Objectives Where Travel Is Needed	# Trips	# Nights Lodging (per trip)	Starting Location and Destination	Means

Equipment

Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of equipment having a per unit value greater than \$5,000 needed to accomplish the project. Identify the objective(s) where the equipment will be used. Recipient procurements must be in accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.317](#) or [2 CFR Part 200.318](#), as applicable. Add rows as needed.

Type of Equipment to be Purchased	Purpose, Justification and Objectives Where Equipment Will Be Used	Quantity and Value

Describe how will each type of equipment be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.

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Supplies

Describe the type, purpose, and quantity of consumable supplies needed to accomplish the project. Identify the objective(s) where the supplies will be used. Recipient procurements must be in accordance with [2 CFR Part 200.317](#) or [2 CFR Part 200.318](#), as applicable. Describe how any unused supplies totaling more than \$5,000 will be disposed at the end of the project. Add rows as needed.

Type of Supplies to be Purchased	Purpose, Justification and Objectives Where Supplies Will Be Used	Quantity and Value

Describe how unused supplies totaling more than \$5,000 would be disposed of or utilized after the period of performance.

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Contracts/Sub-Agreements

Describe contracts and/or sub-agreements to be awarded by the recipient to accomplish the project, including specific details about what the contract or sub-agreement will provide to the project. Include the objective(s) where the contract and/or sub-agreement is needed. Add rows as needed.

Name of Contractor/Contributor	Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Contract or Sub-Agreement Will Contribute

Other Costs

Describe and provide justification for all other costs listed in the Financial Plan. Add rows as needed.

Type of Other Cost	Purpose, Justification, and Objective(s) Where the Other Costs Apply

In-Kind Contributions to the Project

Describe in-kind contributions that the submitting organization will provide to each objective. Type of contribution may include personnel, facilities, equipment, event space, travel, and other items that will assist in completing the project outcomes or deliverables. Add rows as needed.

Contributor Name	Type of Contribution	Description of the Contribution and Applicable Objectives	Quantity

VII. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

References

Provide references to support the proposed method/approach using either current scientific knowledge in the case of CWD research proposals or relevant past experience in the case of CWD management proposals, as applicable.

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Supporting Documents

List any supporting documents (e.g., articles, reports, testimonies from concerned interests other than the applicant, preliminary data from other ongoing or planned studies, and letters of collaboration) supporting the need for the project. When referring to specific documents from this list in the project proposal Work Plan, applicants may refer to documents from this list using a numbered format. Upload these documents separately from the project proposal Work Plan.

List of Supporting Documents

APPENDIX 4: PROPOSAL FINANCIAL PLAN TEMPLATE

USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Opportunities 2021 Proposal Financial Plan Template

Instructions

Applicants must submit a detailed project proposal Financial Plan that clearly identifies the costs associated with the proposed activities for each objective listed in the project proposal Work Plan. Project proposal Financial Plans must match and provide additional details on the information provided in the required SF-424A submitted through ezFedGrants.

Allowable uses of cooperative agreement funds include, but are not limited to, activities, equipment, supplies, and services needed to complete approved program activities that support the priorities and considerations described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement. Funds are intended to complement and build upon activities associated with other APHIS cooperative programs or grants geared toward controlling or preventing CWD in wild cervids.

Allowable costs must be reasonable, allocable, and necessary to the project. Office of Management and Budget cost principles ([2 CFR Subpart E](#)) must be used to determine whether a cost can be charged to the project and, if so, the extent to which it can be charged.

When identifying the resources needed, the applicant must be compliant with Federal and State policy, the cost guidance in the Funding Opportunity Announcement and, should include the following details:

1. *Personnel*: APHIS will allow costs for salary and wages for personnel who are essential to complete the activities in the Work Plan. The total compensation per individual employees must be reasonable for the work performed, conforms to the established policy of the organization, and is consistently applied to Government and nongovernmental activities. Applicants must:
 - List personnel needs to accomplish the project and include their titles, number of hours, hourly rate (or percentage of effort), and the total number needed for each employee classification.
 - Identify if employees are full-time, temporary, or part-time workers.
 - Explain how the employee compensation was calculated.
 - Identify any compensation increases projected during the award period.
2. *Fringe Benefits*: List the fringe benefit rate and a description of what the rate includes. Fringe benefits may include health and life insurance, unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, leave, retirement, social security, pensions, etc.

3. *Travel:* Funds may be requested for field work, training, attendance at meetings and conferences, and other travel costs associated with the proposed work. Recipients should follow their Tribal written travel policies when calculating travel costs. If there is no Tribal travel policy, Federal per diem rates should be used in the calculation of travel costs. Federal per diem rates can be found on the [General Services Administration](#) website. Reference [2 CFR Part 200.474](#).
 - Local travel: Identify any local travel to daily work sites as outlined in your proposed activities. Indicate by position type who will be traveling, total projected mileage, and rate per mile. Indicate the number of trips per day/week/month, as appropriate.
 - Out of State travel: Provide the number of travelers, cost of transportation, lodging, subsistence and related items, number of days, rate per day, and the total related to out of state travel. If out of state travel is necessary to attend a meeting/training, include the event title and destination. Registration fees should be included in the “Other” category.
 - International travel: Not authorized by this Funding Opportunity Announcement.
4. *Equipment:* The Federal definition of equipment is tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per unit value of \$5,000 or more unless the applicant’s definition of equipment is more restrictive. Provide a description of the equipment to be purchased or leased, including unit cost, and total purchase or leasing costs. Ensure the purpose of each equipment item and how it will benefit or be used for the project has been provided in the proposed activities.
5. *Supplies:* Provide a general description of the supplies required to perform the proposed activities. Identify quantities required and per unit costs.
6. *Contractual:* Describe any contract that the applicant may enter into to complete the proposed activities, identifying what goods or services are being purchased for which activity and from where. Recipient procurement activities shall be in accordance with 2 CFR. The Work Plan should include a statement requiring APHIS’ pre-award review of any statement of work where there might be a specific need relevant to APHIS. *For example:* If the Recipient is developing a database and APHIS desires access to the system, APHIS requires the SOW be reviewed by program management and the Information Technology Department to ensure data recorded is relevant and the type of software or systems used is compatible with APHIS systems. Otherwise, APHIS might decline to provide funding or have to negotiate some changes to the SOW to build in acceptable requirements.

Provide the contractor or sub-awardee cost breakdown of amounts in a separate budget for all applicable cost categories and totals, if available. However, the contractor or sub-awardee breakdown is not to be used to develop the applicant’s breakdown; the contractor or sub-awardee total costs will be classified as contractual in the applicant’s budget. If testing is done as a subcontract, identify which approved laboratories will be conducting diagnostic testing, detail the type of test, number of tests, and cost per test/sample. All billing for laboratory costs shall be done on a cost-per-test basis (e.g. 500 samples at \$10.00

equals \$5,000). Do not include any costs which are covered by other laboratory funding sources such as NAHLN or NIFA funding.

7. *Other*: Identify any direct costs which were not itemized elsewhere, such as conference registration fees, communications, printing, publication charges, computer time or usage, applicant laboratory testing, etc.

If testing is done in an applicant's laboratory, detail the type of test, number of tests, and cost per test/sample. All billing for laboratory costs shall be done on a cost-per-test basis (e.g. 500 samples at \$10.00 equals \$5,000). Do not include any costs which are covered by other laboratory funding sources such as NAHLN or NIFA funding.

8. *Indirect Costs and Recipient Cost Share*: Include the Indirect Cost rate and the applicable base, as necessary. This should be consistent with the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement. A lower rate than what is listed on the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement may be claimed; a higher rate may not.
9. *Recipient Share*: List the Recipient share by cost category throughout the Financial Plan, as applicable.

Template

DETAILED FINANCIAL PLAN TEMPLATE					
USDA APHIS Tribal Nations Wild Cervid Chronic Wasting Disease Opportunites 2021					
This Financial Plan must match the SF-424-A, Section B – Budget Categories. Funding requested under the budget categories must be described in detail within the narrative. If budget modifications are approved applicants must submit a revised budget template with their final report.					
Project Title:					
Recipient Name:					
Time Period:	<i>(to be added post award)</i>				
Cost Category	Item Description	Quantity	Recipient Share	APHIS Share	Total Budget
Personnel					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
	Personnel Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
	Fringe Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
	Travel Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0
Equipment					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
	Equipment Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0
Supplies					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
	Supplies Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
	Contractual Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Costs					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
					\$0
	Other Subtotal		\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals	Total Direct Costs		\$0	\$0	\$0
	Indirect Costs (% of Total Direct)	10%		\$0	\$0
	Total Project Costs		\$0	\$0	\$0