

## **Mini-grant Funding Opportunity**

**Background and purpose:** In anticipation of an upcoming funding opportunity in support of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) demonstrations, UF/IFAS is issuing this call for mini-grant funding opportunities. The proposed project should demonstrate the ability of UF/IFAS Extension to provide science-based education and outreach that assists agricultural producers with the implementation of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) water quality and water conservation BMPs.

**Requirements:** Extension activities supported under this call include educating producers about FDACS BMPs through direct contact, demonstrating BMP implementation in the producer context, and presenting advancements in practices or technologies that promote nutrient and water use efficiency on agricultural operations. Projects must incorporate performance measures or metrics for determining meaningful impacts on educational efforts and behavioral changes.

**Eligibility:** All University of Florida County Extension faculty may apply. Projects must be led by county faculty, who are encouraged to collaborate with state specialists on projects. Awardees must also keep local field staff from the FDACS Office of Agricultural Water Policy informed throughout the project. Projects can be single or multi-county and may extend for up to 24-months.

**Available funding:** Funding requests may not exceed \$15,000 per project (including 24-month projects). Regional projects (more than one county) for up to \$30,000 may be funded with appropriate justification, such as broad scope, multi-county applicability, and BMP implementation expansion.

**Budget:** Awards can be used for materials, supplies, soil testing, tissue testing, petiole sap testing, in-state travel, and OPS assistance. Funds may not be used for graduate students or Extension salaries. Funds will be provided on a cost reimbursement basis upon receipt of invoices and appropriate supporting documentation. OPS hours must be directly related to percent of effort on the project, and payroll documentation is required for reimbursement.

### **Pre-proposal format (2 page maximum):**

- A. Project title
- B. Investigator Information - Name/Organization/Email/Phone
- C. Co-Investigator(s) - Name/Organization/Email/Phone
- D. Scope of work (350 words max.) - Include an overview of the project and objectives and briefly describe materials and methods
- E. Budget - Include overall costs of travel (in-state project, materials, OPS, and anything else pertinent to your project)

Projects will be evaluated based on relevance to the FDACS BMP program, demonstration of FDACS BMPs, and expected outcomes related to increasing BMP implementation.

**Important dates:**

Proposal application deadline - Friday, May 26, 2023

Notification - Week of July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Project end - June 15, 2024

Final results due - June 15, 2024

Last day to submit for reimbursements - June 15, 2024

Final report due - June 15, 2024

**Submit proposals to** Melissa Friedman, [melimel@ufl.edu](mailto:melimel@ufl.edu) (Proposals will be accepted by e-mail until 11:59 p.m. on May 26, 2023)

**For further information:** Please contact Dr. Lakesh Sharma, [lakesh.sharma@ufl.edu](mailto:lakesh.sharma@ufl.edu) or Dr. Michael Dukes, [mddukes@ufl.edu](mailto:mddukes@ufl.edu)