

2025 - 2026
Multistate and McIntire-Stennis Programmatic Funding Opportunity
Request for Proposals
Application Deadline: June 6th, 2025

Description

AgBioResearch (ABR) at Michigan State University invites faculty to submit proposals for the FY26 Multistate and McIntire-Stennis Programmatic Funding Opportunity. Approximately 25% of the Hatch Act funds allocated to ABR are designed to support Multistate research activities, while McIntire-Stennis funds support forestry research. We intend to offer this competitive opportunity every year, contingent upon funding availability. The goal of this internal funding program is to catalyze new transdisciplinary, integrated research within and across individual and multiple Multistate research and McIntire-Stennis projects, leading to the submission and success of major extramural grant applications and significant future external funding linked to the mission of ABR. In addition, we welcome proposals that address graduate student support funding gaps resulted from project notifications that lead to a pause, or stop work, or termination due to executive orders.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, only Michigan State University faculty who are registered participants on a Multistate Research Committee (MRC) or have an approved McIntire-Stennis (MS) project may serve as Principal Investigators (PIs). Non-ABR affiliated team members are encouraged to contribute to enhancing interdisciplinary outcomes and funding potential; however, they may not serve as PIs or Co-PIs but as key personnel. To learn more or request to participate in MRC and MS, please contact Jackie Garcia-Henning (jdesande@msu.edu). To learn more about this RFP, please contact Lori Bramble (bramble2@msu.edu).

Timeline for FY26 Projects

May 6, 2025	RFP announced
June 6, 2025	Proposal submissions due
August 16, 2025	Notification of awards
October 1, 2025	Award funds available
August 1, 2026	Year 1 progress report due for consideration of year 2 fund renewal
October 30, 2026 or October 29 2027	Final report due (2026 for 1-year projects, 2027 for 2-year projects)

Hatch Multistate Research Committee Programmatic Funding Opportunity

Programmatic funding is available on a competitive basis with the goal of enhancing contributions to MRC projects (NC-, NE, S-, or W-xxx) to catalyze new, additional transdisciplinary research activities and impacts, and future competitive grants. MRCs involve collaborative research addressing issues across states and regions involving committees of researchers from different Land Grant Universities and are governed by a five-year work plan approved by the regional agricultural experiment station directors and USDA NIFA. These awards are intended to enable significant contributions to the research area(s) being investigated by the MRCs and address current and emerging issues vital to

agriculture, natural resources and the environment, and food and health in Michigan and beyond. One area in which we encourage submissions is the development of user-centered adoptable technology in food and agriculture.

McIntire-Stennis Funding Opportunity

Programmatic funding supports programs of state forestry research and develops trained forestry scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research under the following research topics: 1) Reforestation and management of land for the production of crops of timber and other related products of the forest; 2) Management of forest and related watershed lands to improve conditions of water flow and to protect resources against floods and erosion; 3) Management of forest and related rangeland for production of forage for domestic livestock and game, as well as for the improvement of food and habitat for wildlife; 4) Management of forest lands for outdoor recreation; 5) Protection of forest land and resources against fire, insects, diseases, or other destructive agents; 6) Utilization of wood and other forest products; 7) Development of sound policies for the management of forest lands and the harvesting and marketing of forest products. Funds will be available on a competitive basis to catalyze additional transdisciplinary research activities and impacts, and future competitive grants.

Guidelines

These funds are intended to leverage research efforts that lead to major new transdisciplinary grant submissions. New transdisciplinary collaborations are important criteria for funding consideration.

- **PIs must be current MSU registered participants on a MRC or have an approved MS project.**
- An individual can serve as PI on only one submitted project but may serve as Co-PI or Key Personnel on other submitted proposals (no limit).
- PIs of current MRC or MS ABR awards are not eligible to submit a new proposal as PI. There are no restrictions on Co-PI's or team members.
- Projects duration may be 1 or 2 years, with funding requests of up to \$100,000 per year.
- An annual progress report must be submitted by August 1 of year 1 funding to be considered for year 2 funding.
- Funding for a third year may be requested upon submitting a nationally competitive proposal and identifying new benchmarks for continued funding. To be considered for a third year, the PI should meet with ABR leadership before the Year 2 report is due. If approved, the request should be described in the Year 2 report, and the objectives to be addressed.
- Funds are available from October 1 through September 30 of the following calendar year.
- Expenditures must follow Federal-State cost policies (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200/subpart-E>)
- Awarded funds cannot be subcontracted.

Proposal Submission Process

Proposals must be submitted via ([Multistate & McIntire-Stennis Portal](#)) by 5:00 PM on June 6, 2025.

A Proposal Development (PD) document must also be routed through the MSU Research Administration/Kuali Research (KR) system. Please use the information below for the sponsor and sponsor code:

Sponsor: MSU-ABR-Capacity
Sponsor Code: 122416

Submissions that do not follow guidelines as written will be returned without review.

Proposal Information

1. Cover page:

- a. **Principal Investigator (PI), Co-PI, and Key Personnel:** List all essential project participants, titles, and academic units
- b. **Keywords (up to 5)**
- c. **Project summary (< 200 words, written for lay audience):** The project summary should describe the goals and objectives of the current MRC project(s), how the proposed work will contribute to the project(s) goals and objectives and the relationship between new collaborations/activity to be developed and future funding programs and potential.

OR

Describe how the proposed work will meet the objectives of both the national and individual project goals for MS project and the relationship between new collaborations/activities to be developed and future funding potential.

2. Project Description: The project description is limited to 3 pages and should include the sections below:

- a. **Statement of Issues and Justification:** Provide a rationale and explain the significance.
- b. **Goals and Objectives:** "Clearly outline the goals and objectives of the proposed research activity. Describe how it aligns with the goals of existing Multistate and/or McIntire-Stennis projects. Additionally, explain its potential to secure future extramural funding by identifying relevant funding agencies and programs. New collaborations to be initiated should be explicitly described, including how the collaborations could enhance competitiveness for extramural funding success.
- c. **Methods:** Provide a brief description of the methods that will be used, along with how the results will be evaluated, shared, and translated into practices by the targeted users. Explain how the findings will address existing knowledge gaps and enhance the strength of future extramural funding proposals.
- d. **Target Audience and Alignment with ABR Mission:** Provide a clear description of the primary audience that the project aims to impact, which may include individuals, groups, markets, communities, or specific population segments. Additionally, clearly explain how the proposed research activity aligns with the mission of ABR.
- e. **Expected Outcomes:** Clearly describe the anticipated changes, impacts, or actions that will result if the project is successfully implemented.

Budget and Justification

Please complete the budget section using the attached template. Include the annual costs for each year and specify the total amount requested, which should not exceed \$100,000 per year for a period of 2 years. **Please note that Facilities & Administrative (F&A) costs are not permitted.** Projects will not be eligible for annual renewal if the related foundational MRC or MS projects are not successfully renewed before the start of the second year of funding. Please note the following budget guidelines:

- Each faculty member is eligible for up to 1.5 months of summer salary. Academic Year (AY) salary is not allowed.
- Research associate, graduate student, undergraduate student, on-call, and technical salary is allowed.
- Funding for graduate student tuition is not allowed.
- Funds for renovation, infrastructure, administrative support, or for travel, lodging, and meals in a foreign country are not allowed.
- Equipment over \$5,000 is not allowed.
- Sub-awards are not allowed, but expenses can be invoiced by project partners outside of Michigan State University.
- Further spending guidelines can be found at:
<https://osp.msu.edu/PL/Portal/134/FederalStateCostPolicy>

Please complete the budget justification using the attached template. The budget justification should include a description of costs for each year of the project. PI's Department(s)/School(s) will be responsible for expenditures beyond the approved budget. **Requests to carry forward funding are highly discouraged.** Any funds remaining after the end of the project will be transferred back to the ABR Director's Office.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria (Total 100 Points)

Scientific merit, appropriateness of methodology, feasibility of completion.	25 points
Relevance to AgBioResearch and alignment with goals/objectives of a regional/national multistate committee or national/individual McIntire-Stennis project	15 points
Plan on how the research results will be evaluated, shared, and translated into practices by the targeted users	20 points
Potential for impact on PI/Co-PI's overall research effort.	20 points
Appropriateness of the budget in relation to the proposed activities and objectives.	10 points
Justification on how the graduate student support funding gaps resulted from the recent project notifications that lead to a pause, or stop work, or termination might affect your proposed work	10 points

Multistate Research Committee and McIntire-Stennis Cover Page
You will enter this information into the submission portal.

Proposal Title: Click here to enter text.
Principal Investigator (Title and Email Address): Click here to enter text.
PD #:
Email Address: Click here to enter text.
Umbrella Project MICL #: Click here to enter text.
Academic Units Involved: Click here to enter text.
Co-PIs (Title(s) and Email Address(es)): Click here to enter text.
Key Personnel (s), Title(s), and Email Address(es): Click here to enter text.
Project Dates: Click here to enter text.
Total Funds Requested: Click here to enter text.
Keywords (limited to 5): Click here to enter text.

Project Summary (limit to 200 words):

Please submit the Project Summary through the submission portal

Budget. Please use the MRC/MS Excel budget template provided with the RFP.

Please upload the completed Excel Budget template as a PDF file to the submission portal.

Budget Justification. Please use the MRC/MS justification template provided with the RFP.

Please upload the Budget Justification document as a PDF file to the submission portal.