



Extension Risk Management Education Competitive Grants Program

2025 RFA
Applicant Webinar
October 10, 2024



EXTENSION RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATION

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Outline

- Risk Management Overview
- Request for Applications
- Evaluation Criteria
- Completing the Application

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Risk Management Overview

Risk:

Possible adverse event that has the potential to interfere with:

- Business entity's financial stability
- Ability to achieve mission

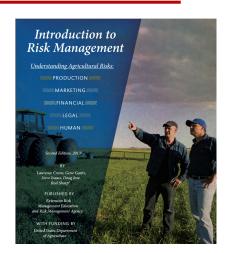


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Universe of Risk:

- Production
- Marketing
- Financial
- Legal
- Human



Available in English and Spanish on the following webpage: https://ncerme.org/about-risk-management-education

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Risk Management Overview

Risk Management

- Tools and strategies reducing financial effects of risk
- Ability to run a business in rapidly changing business environment

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Extension Risk Management Education



Mandate and Mission

- Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000
 - Education for producers in the "full range of risk management activities"
- 2018 Farm Bill
 - Education for producers underserved by Federal crop insurance



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Risk Management Overview

Program Goal:

To help farm and ranch families improve their economic viability through targeted risk management education.

 Participants in education programs achieve specified risk management outcomes



What are Proposed Risk Management Outcomes?

- Measurable and verifiable risk management actions that participants understand, develop, or implement
- Within 6 to 18 months



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Risk Management Overview

Proposed Outcomes and the Theory of Change

- How will your project lead farmers and ranchers to the desired risk management outcomes?
- What are your assumptions and rationale?
 - Why will your efforts/activities make a difference
 - What gaps does your project aim to fill
 - Why is this significant



What are the Long-Term Impacts?

- Projects help participants learn, achieve, or apply "best risk management practices"
- Methods and indicators that measure the use of these practices help document long-term impact



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Risk Management Overview

A grant awarded is an investment made by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center to help producers achieve the proposed risk management outcomes.

Return on investment: changed behavior or actions taken by participants resulting in increased ability to manage risk.



The Extension Risk Management Education program is committed to:

- Fostering risk management outcomes with real impacts for producers
- <u>Documenting</u> impacts through comprehensive evaluation efforts
- <u>Demonstrating</u> impacts through evaluation results, success stories, and outstanding projects



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Request for Applications



2025 RFA now open

- Three Program Areas
 - Education Projects
 - Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects
 - Exploratory Projects
- Applications are due no later than 5:00 PM CST on November 14, 2024
- All applicants will be notified by February 14, 2025



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Request for Applications

Education Projects

 Education for producers in the "full range of risk management activities"

Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects

- Education for producers underserved by federal crop insurance
- Identification and justification of targeted producer audiences left to applicant

Exploratory Projects

 Smaller projects that support planning, development or pilot education efforts to better address risk management education needs



Education Projects: can address any of the five risk areas

- Programs should provide decision tools, practices, and other risk management strategies that producers can adopt to manage risk and improve their economic viability
- Consider emphasis on North Central Center regional priorities
- \$75,000 maximum
- Project timeline is April 1, 2025 September 30, 2026 (18 months)
- No extensions



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Request for Applications

Education Projects - Regional Priorities (pages 9-10 of RFA)

- Beginning Farm & Ranch Opportunities
- Economic Conditions & Decision-Making
- Farm & Ranch Family Well-Being
- Farm Transition
- Labor Management & Retention
- Weather and Climate Resilience



Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects

- Projects can address any relevant risk area, recognizing that funding is specifically designated for the delivery of risk management education to agricultural producers underserved by crop insurance
 - Programs should provide decision tools, practices, and other risk management strategies that producers can adopt to manage risk and improve their economic viability
 - Consider emphasis on the North Central Center regional priorities
 - \$100,000 maximum
 - Project timeline is April 1, 2025 September 30, 2026 (18 months)
 - No extensions



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Request for Applications

Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects – Regional Priorities (pages 10-11 of RFA)

- Audiences & Producers
- Enterprises, Markets & Management
- Insurance Products & Decisions



Exploratory Projects: for planning, development, or piloting efforts

- Goal of establishing an educational program, delivery plan, and collaboration that leads to future risk management education projects
- \$10,000 maximum
- Project timeline is April 1, 2025 September 30, 2026 (18 months)
- Abbreviated application template
- See instructions: https://ncerme.org/erme-rfa (see Step 7)



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Request for Applications

Exploratory Projects

These smaller, simplified projects can be used to support:

- Producer education workshops;
- Conferences;
- Development of a new idea;
- Evaluation of previous funded project;
- Other







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Education/Exploratory Projects

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Evaluation Criteria

Producers Underserved by Crop

Insurance Projects Proposed Outcomes 40% Proposed Outcomes 40% Regional Priorities 10% Regional Priorities 10% Outcomes Verification 10% Outcomes Verification 10% Producer Demand 15% Underserved Audience 20% • Team/Organizational Capacity & Collaborators • Team/Organizational Capacity & Collaborators 15% 15% Review of Past Projects, Innovative Approach and Innovative Approach and Wide Application 5% 10% Wide Application



Proposed Outcomes – 40%

- Single most important factor in funding decisions
- Clear statement of what you "anticipate producers will understand, develop or implement"
- Realistic and attainable producer numbers
- Relative level of rigor associated with producer actions
- Specific actions, measurable and verifiable



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Evaluation Criteria

Looking at Proposed Outcomes

- What is the risk management improvement for producers?
- What is the producer action?

 - 2. Develop Actions
 - 3. Implement Change/Conditions
- Plan outcomes to get the strongest actions possible



Looking at Proposed Outcomes

- An outcome needs to describe a change as a result of participation.
 - Participation is not an outcome
- An outcome should have only one producer action per outcome.
 - Choose the correct producer action



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Evaluation Criteria

Looking at Proposed Outcomes

What is farm or ranch economic viability?

- To improve profitability
- To increase opportunities for equity growth over time

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Regional Priorities – 10%

- The degree to which proposed outcomes address regional priorities as identified in the RFA
- Caveats
 - If addressing regional priorities, ensure they are an integral part of the project
 - Projects that do not address regional priorities are still valued and will be considered



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Evaluation Criteria

Outcomes Verification – 10%

- How effective is the plan for evaluating and tracking producer progress toward achieving the proposed risk management outcomes?
 - How and when will outcomes be measured
 - How will you verify risk management outcomes were achieved
 - How will you establish & identify indicators for long-term outcomes



Why verify?

Think about the "why measure" question as you create the "what to measure" plan.

- Serve interests/relevance to producers
 - Measure changes in producer knowledge
- Serve interests of your program and the overall ERME program
 - Improve program planning and performance
 - Demonstrate impacts and public value



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Evaluation Criteria

How will you verify?

What methods and questions will allow you to verify your outcomes and impacts?

- Make sure proposed outcomes are measurable or have measurable indicators (this impacts not just your evaluation plan but also the validity of your proposed outcomes)
- Consider evaluation and verification steps when planning education efforts
- Frame questions to appropriately and effectively deliver evaluation measures



How will you verify?

- Direct Measures of Participant Learning
 - Provide tangible proof that an outcome has been achieved:
 - · Pre/Post Tests, Quizzes
 - · Homework Assignments (business plan draft, farm/ranch assessment for potential agritourism activities, etc.)
 - Presentations (presentation of business plans, farmer/rancher videos demonstrating practices/strategies being put in place)
 - · Interviews designed to demonstrate proficiencies
 - Direct Observation

Indirect Measures of Participant Learning

- Measure behavior changes/attitudes/values/perceptions:
 - · Retrospective Evaluation
 - Satisfaction surveys
 - Interviews
 - · Focus Group Discussions
 - Testimonials



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Evaluation Criteria

Education/Exploratory Projets

Producer Demand - 15%

- Document the willingness of producers to participate
- Survey results; follow-up evaluations from prior workshops; benchmark information on participants' knowledge level and attitude
- A statement of risk management needs without any evidence of actual producer demand will not meet the requirements of this criterion.

Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects

Underserved Audience - 20%

- · Evaluation based on the ability to define:
 - Who the producers are that are underserved by crop insurance
 - Why there is a low level of crop insurance participation and availability
 - Why existing crop insurance products do not provide an effective risk management tool
 - Why these producer types are not normally reached through other risk management tools of education offerings; this may include targeted underserved producer groups as identified in the RFA.
- Demonstrate how this audience will achieve access and participation through the proposed risk management education.



Team/Organizational Capacity & Collaborators – 15%

- Equal value to team and collaborators
- Skills, knowledge, and experience of team and organization to effectively deliver risk management education projects
- Important to identify your project team and project collaborators and the specific role each will have in the project.



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Evaluation Criteria

Team/Organizational Capacity & Collaborators – 15%

- Evaluate how well-engaged collaborators will increase the likelihood of farmer/rancher participation and strengthen the project
 - Collaborators provide technical expertise/knowledge
 - Collaborators provide access to your target audience





Education/Exploratory Projects

Review of Past Projects, Innovative Approach & Wide Application – 10%

- The ability to build upon or collaborate with at least 2 previously funded ERME projects or alternatively, how it is a unique and innovative project
- Innovative approaches to develop or deliver training, materials, or tools
- Potential application of program, materials, and techniques to other areas, audiences and situations.

Producers Underserved by Crop Insurance Projects

Innovative Approach & Wide Application – 5%

- The extent to which a project employs innovative approaches to develop or deliver training, materials or tools
- The extent to which program might have wide application; including adopting materials to specialized audiences, marketing and promotion techniques, eliciting high interest in crop insurance strategies with new methodologies, etc.



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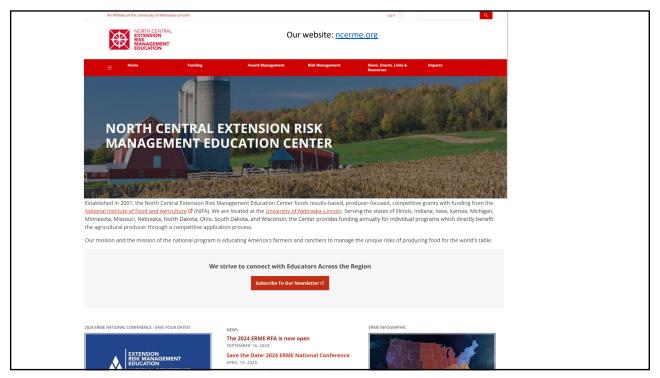
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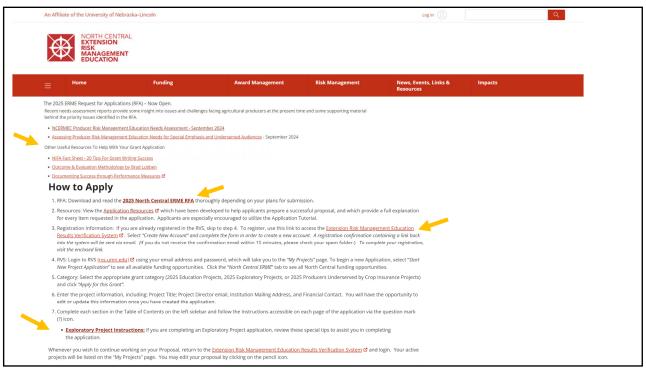


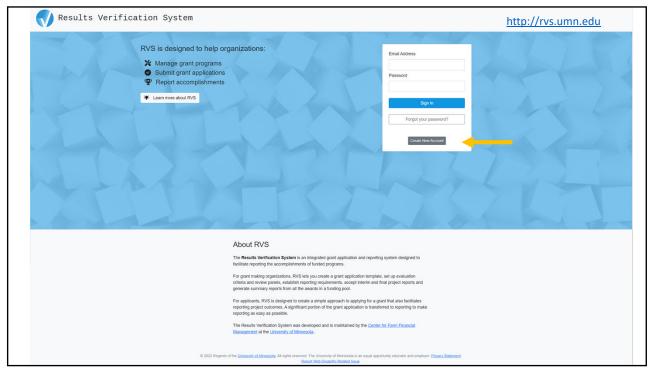


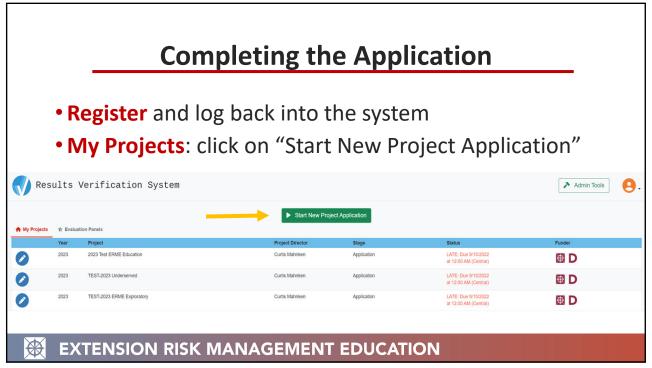
Completing the Application

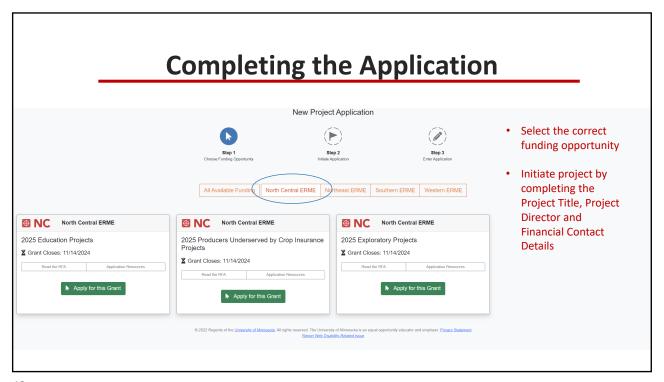


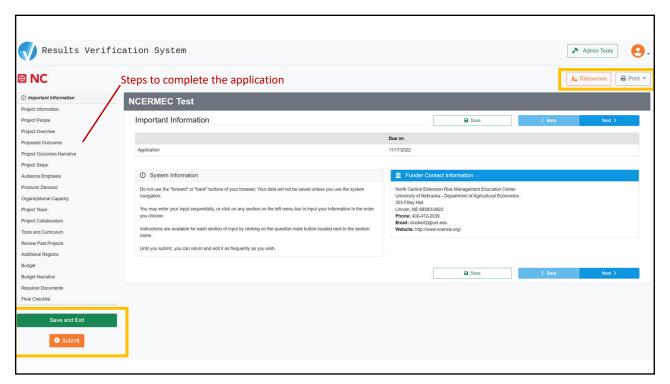


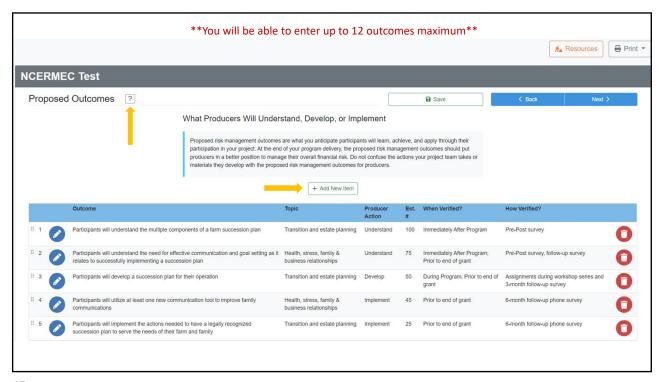


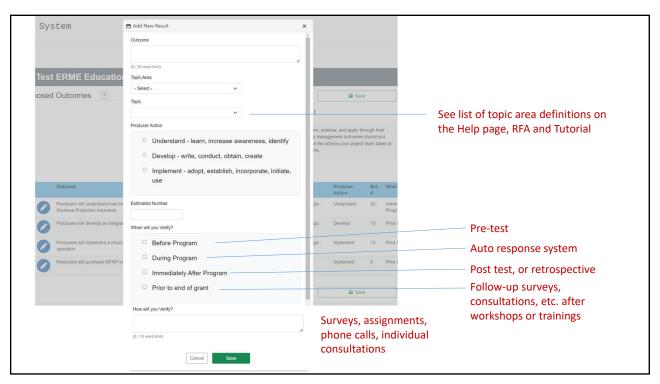












Proposed Outcomes

Questions to ask yourself:

- Do the proposed outcomes that I have listed have a direct relationship to the producers' ability to manage risk?
- What is the producer action?
 - Is it identified correctly related to how the outcome is written?
- Are the proposed outcomes specific, measurable and verifiable?
 - Make sure it is not a project step



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Completing the Application

Project Outcomes Narrative (400-word limit)

- Describes rational for project
 - Identifies risk areas related to proposed outcomes
 - Demonstrates appropriate educational approach for target audience
 - Estimates anticipated economic impact
 - · Addresses contingency planning

Project Overview (200-word limit)

 Describes estimated number of participants/workshops/locations/risk topic areas/outcomes



Project Steps

- Plan of work with an accurate and realistic timeline for program delivery (how will these activities lead producers to the desired outcomes)
- Timeline for Evaluation (when completed date)

Tools and Curriculum

- Describe educational tools and curriculum
- Describe delivery methodology

Audience Emphasis

 Check up to 3 primary farmer and rancher audiences your project will intentionally target



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Completing the Application

Project Team

The Project Director (co-PD) and all others who will actively participate in the development, delivery, and management of the project – whether from the applicant organization or not.

- Letters of commitment are not required unless the person is a consultant or part of a sub-award
 - Any required documents will need to be uploaded on this page at the time of entry. The contributor cannot be saved until the consultant/subaward materials have been uploaded



Project Collaborators

People or organizations who will bring expertise or provide access to your target audience, but who are not involved in the day-to-day management of the project.

- A letter of commitment is required from every collaborator
- The collaborator cannot be saved until the required letters/documents have been uploaded to this page



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Completing the Application

Sub-Award

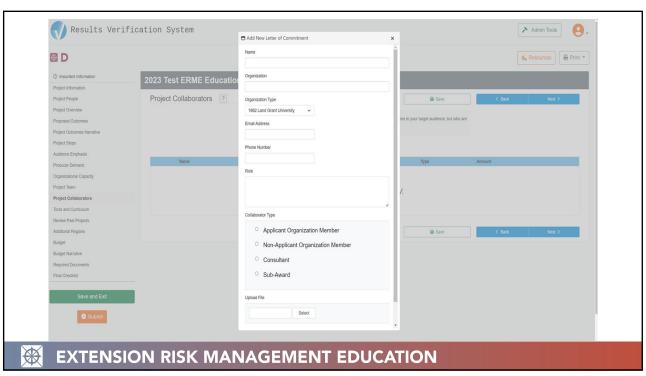
- Not to exceed 49% of the requested budget
- Sub-award package required:
 - Separate Budget
 - Separate Budget Narrative
 - Letter of Commitment from the subcontractor organization that also includes a clear Scope of Work outlining their portion of the work to be completed
- Not allowed on Exploratory Projects

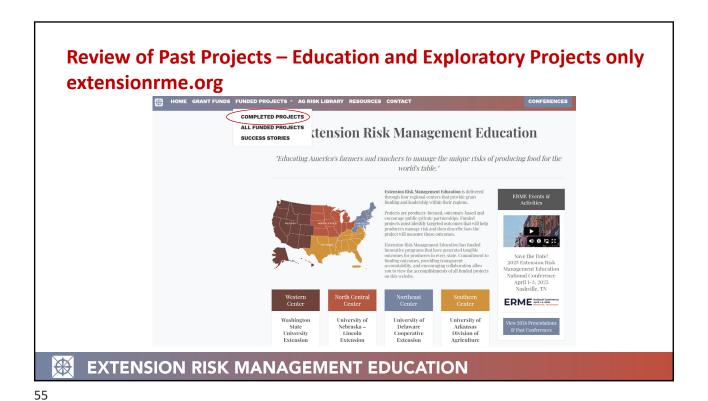


Consultant Requirements:

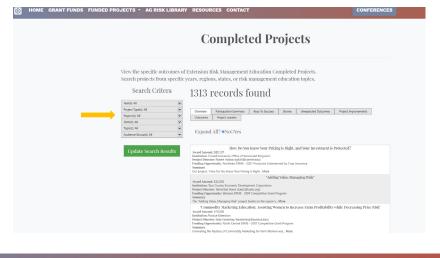
- Letter of Commitment that also outlines:
 - Scope of Work;
 - Rate of pay, number of hours to be paid;
 - See the allowable rates of pay as identified in Appendix A of the RFA
 - Travel, etc.
- Abbreviated 2-page maximum resume or CV for each consultant
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Review of Past Projects – Education and Exploratory Projects only extensionrme.org



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Budget Narrative

- The budget narrative should provide an explanation of how the proposed expenditures support your project
- Refer to the budget instructions for required information for each line item
 - Resources or Appendix A of the RFA
 - Sample Budget Narrative
 - Provide detail



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Completing the Application

Budget Narrative – Project Director Training Workshop

- All budgets should include estimated travel expenses to attend the Project Director Training Workshop to be held in conjunction with the 2025 ERME National Conference. Visit erme.events for details.
- All Project Directors (PDs) are required to attend this training in person when possible:

PD Training Workshop Nashville, Tennessee April 1, 2025 Approx 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

We also encourage you to budget to attend the 2025 ERME National Conference as well to be held April 2-3, with a pre-conference beginning at 1:00 PM on April 1st.



Budget Narrative - Indirect Costs

Can we claim Indirect Costs (Facilities and administrative costs)?

- Indirect Costs on awards under this program may not exceed the lesser of the institutions official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 30% of the total Federal funds awarded
 - The 30% of total Federal funds limitation is equivalent to 42.857% of the total direct costs of an award
- If your organization does not have, nor ever has had, a federally negotiated indirect cost rate, then a F&A rate of 10% Total Direct Cost will be allowed



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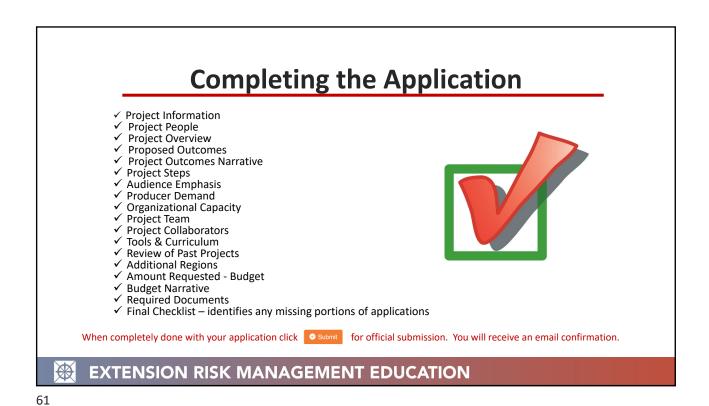
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Completing the Application

Required Documents

- ERME Cover Sheet (SF424) signed by Authorizing Official
 - Must be downloaded and opened in Adobe
 - Need a certified electronic signature or actual signature scanned in
- Completed ERME budget form
- Other Required Docs
 - Letters of Commitment
 - Upload on Project Collaborators page
 - Consultant/Sub-Award packages
 - Upload on Project Team or Project Collaborators page as appropriate





Review these valuable resources and the Help tab available on each * Resources application section in RVS ? **Application Tutorial** Application Tutorial - Exploratory Funding Opportunity Application Tutorial - Underserved Audience Funding Opportunity Other useful resources to help with your Grant Application can Reporting Tutorial be found on our website under the Funding tab/ERME RFA 2025 ERME Budget Form NIFA Fact Sheet - 20 Tips For Grant Writing Success ERME Budget & Budget Narrative Instructions Outcome & Evaluation Methodology by Brad Lubben ERME Sample Budget Narrative <u>Documenting Success through Performance Measures</u>

☑ ERME Cover Sheet (SF 424) ERME Cover Sheet Instructions RFA Definitions ERME Retrospective Evaluation Presentation http://extensionrme.org/Resources.aspx#RVS





Virtual Office Hours

NCERME will host two open Zoom sessions for applicants to drop in and ask any questions they have on the grant application process.

- -Tuesday, October 22 at 10:00 11:00 AM Central
- Monday, November 4 at 1:00 2:00 PM Central

https://unl.zoom.us/j/8069602344?omn=97523192602 Meeting ID: 806 960 2344



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Thank you for joining us!

North Central ERME Center 303 Filley Hall University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Brad Lubben, Director, blubben2@unl.edu, 402-472-2235

Christine Lockert, Grants & Administrative Specialist, clockert2@unl.edu, 402-472-2039

Sheila Johnson, Communications Specialist, sheila.johnson@unl.edu, 402-472-2757

