

Request for Proposals

Post-Secondary Curricula for Next-Generation Biofuels

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: February 6, 2012 - midnight CDT

BACKGROUND. More than 8 million United States jobs were lost during ‘The Great Recession,’ pushing unemployment from 4.4 percent in 2007 to 10.2 percent in 2009. Nearly half of all job losses occurred among lower-skilled workers in construction and manufacturing industries. During this same period, however, jobs in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries grew an unprecedented 9 percent. As part of a \$4.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) initiated development of a workforce training program to ‘retool’ recession displaced workers for career opportunities in new and emerging green industries.

SCOPE. This request seeks proposals for curricula development in the area(s) of ‘next-generation’ biofuels (e.g. new or emerging technologies) to create a skilled workforce that, in part, may attract business development and create employment opportunities within the state of Nebraska.

The target audience(s) of this grant are unemployed and underemployed persons having at least a 9th grade/GED literacy level who may be trained to manufacture, install, operate and maintain technical components or processes related to next-generation biofuels technology. Curricula may relate to a specific technology or process, or, may be general and address basic technician-level competencies applicable to a broad range of technologies and processes.

The curricula should consist of instructor training materials (lectures, exercises, assignments, exams, projects, etc.) in a modular format that is appropriate for approximately 40 classroom and/or laboratory contact hours.

At the conclusion of curricula development, one (1) full-day ‘train-the-trainer’ session must be held with in-state training provider instructors (e.g. community colleges, labor organizations, etc.) that will be responsible to provide the training to the target audience as part of existing certificate, apprenticeship and continuing education training programs. Priority will be given to curricula that qualifies for a nationally or industry recognized credential or certificate.

ELIGIBILITY. The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a current UNL faculty member. A faculty member may serve as the PI for only one (1) proposal.

AWARDS. Maximum award size is \$100,000. Most awards are expected to be \$50,000-\$100,000.

FUNDING SOURCE. The funding source is federal funds made available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), as U.S. Department of Labor State Energy Sector Partnership & Training grant funds. Federal funds were granted to the Nebraska Department of Labor and made available for this purpose through an agreement between the Nebraska Department of Labor and the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska on behalf of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

USE AND RESTRICTION ON USE OF FUNDS. All standard UNL financial regulations will apply. Determination of allowable costs will be made in accordance with the applicable federal cost principles. All recipients will be subject to all applicable federal laws, regulations and applicable Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circulars. Funds may be used for actual costs, which may include but are not limited to faculty salaries and benefits, supplies and technical support, graduate students, hourly help and post doctoral positions (post docs). Funds may not be used for, but not limited to the following:

- Any partisan or nonpartisan activity to further the election or defeat of any candidate for public office.
- To replace current funding;
- Remodeling, renovation or construction;
- Recruitment start-up packages;
- Supplies for general purposes, such as desk or laptop computers, printers, software and related accessories;
- Out of state or foreign travel.

PROJECT DURATION Projects may be proposed not to exceed one (1) year. The project period is scheduled to begin March 15, 2012 and end on March 14, 2013. All work must be completed in that time period since the funding agreement to UNL expires June 30, 2013.

SELECTION CRITERIA. Proposals should clearly provide data supporting that chosen topical area(s) for curricula development are likely to experience market growth and provide future job opportunities in Nebraska. The depth and breadth of the curricula to be developed, and, the probability of success in achieving sustained employment outcomes for the target population(s) will be the main selection criteria. Proposals must follow the instructions to be reviewed.

REVIEW. Proposals will be evaluated based on merit, probability of success, relevance to the selection criteria and potential impact with regard to the target population(s).

SELECTION. The final decision on funded projects will be made by the review committee, which will include, but not be limited to, the grant administrator from the Department of Labor (DOL), the DOL grant Principal Investigator for UNL and a senior representative from the Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research.

PROPOSAL. The proposal should, at a minimum, include a cover page (limit of one page), description of the curricula to be developed (limit of three pages), proposed project team (limit of one page), standard UNL budget (limit of one page) and schedule (limit of one page). Proposals may include supplemental information (biosketches, past project examples, etc.) not to exceed a total of ten (10) pages including the cover page. The minimum margins are one inch and the minimum font is 11 point Times Roman.

SUBMISSION. The deadline is **February 6, 2012 - midnight CDT**. To submit, upload the complete proposal as a Word document at <http://ncesr.unl.edu/rfps/biofuels.php>.

NUgrant. Do not enter the proposal in *NUgrant* since this is an internal competition.

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. As a project funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), all materials or products funded under this program, in whole or in part, are considered to be in the public domain. Intellectual property rights are reserved by the federal government in accordance with Federal Register/Vol.74, No. 120 (Wednesday, June 24, 2009, Notices, p. 30121.

REPORTING. PIs whose project proposals are selected for funding will be required to submit brief technical progress reports (<200 words) the start date of the funding award. The quarterly reporting schedule will be detailed in the funding award.

INFORMATION. If you have questions about this request for proposal, contact Ann Selzer, Program Manager at aselzer2@unl.edu or (402) 472-6743.



It is the policy of the University of Nebraska–Lincoln not to discriminate based upon age, race Ethnicity, color, national origin, gender, sex, pregnancy, disability, sexual orientations, genetic Information, veteran’s status, marital status, religion or political affiliation.