2024 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PILOT PROJECTS

The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) is requesting applications for small grants ranging from $5,000 to a maximum of $30,000 to address health and safety issues related to agricultural workers and their families. We anticipate funding 4 or more awards.

UMASH is specifically interested in projects that address the concepts outlined in the National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) for agriculture and in the NORA strategic goals, approach agricultural safety and health challenges using a One Health model that considers the connections between human, animal, and environmental health, and address issues important to the agriculture industry in the Upper Midwest.

In response to the recent legalization of cannabis products in Minnesota and 22 other states and availability of cannabis for medical purposes in an additional 12 states, UMASH has partnered with the University of Minnesota Cannabis Research Center to fund **one or more** additional pilot projects that specifically address worker health and safety issues related to cannabis use and production.

This announcement is open to investigators working in academic, government, community, industry or health care settings who have the knowledge, skills, and ability to carry out the proposed work. Special preference is given to investigators in the Upper Midwest (Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin).

The UMASH pilot project program will consider proposals that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Develop innovative ideas in agricultural safety and health research, education, and outreach that have a high probability of obtaining additional funding. Cannabis-related proposals should have a research focus.
2. Conduct exploratory activities to characterize emerging issues related to the health and safety of agriculture workers and their families.
3. Create new partnerships to address health and safety of agriculture workers and their families by bringing together multidisciplinary expertise to initiate new and innovative activities, e.g., a symposium or conference to develop a new collaboration (it is anticipated these would be lower cost activities).

A final report summarizing research activities and results must be received within one month of the end of the grant funding period. A template for the final report will be available for awardees to download from the UMASH website. Investigators will be expected to complete a poster and/or provide a short presentation of their project results at a UMASH meeting. Costs to attend the meeting can be included in the budget. In addition, investigators will be expected to provide UMASH with a brief post-project update annually for up to 3 years. These updates will enable UMASH to track the outcomes of funded projects.

It is anticipated that these projects will be completed in one year or less.

Application Process
This is a two-step application process.

At this time we are calling for pre-proposals.

Interested investigators should send a **one-page summary** of their proposed idea to umash@umn.edu addressing the following points:

- Summary of the problem, including who is affected and how it relates to agriculture in the Upper Midwest Institutions, organizations, individuals involved.
- Specific hypothesis/objective to be tested or achieved
- Population to be studied/engaged.
- Expected outcome.
- Potential for future funding to extend this work and potential funding sources
- Approximate cost (this is non-binding).

The pre-proposals will be reviewed and **selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.**

Pre-proposals deadline: February 9, 2024

Full Application Deadline: April 5, 2024