

## Food for Health Collaboration Initiative Request for Applications (RFA) – Faculty FTE

### Application Deadline:

*Applications for Faculty FTE must be extensively vetted by campus administrators for strategic alignment. Potential applications should be discussed with campus administrators as soon as possible; requests must be received by college deans on or before February 29, 2016.*

University of Nebraska central administration must receive applications (from the campus' Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs) by Monday, March 14, 2016 – 5 PM Central Time.

**Introduction:** The **Food for Health (FfH) Collaboration Initiative** is a comprehensive effort to further enhance Nebraska's research capacity to address critical societal and human health issues related to food. The University of Nebraska is making an investment to strengthen its faculty expertise in areas critical to enhancing our ability to grow research awards.

Applications for faculty FTE should be prepared by interdisciplinary – intercampus faculty teams, in close coordination with Chairs/Heads/Deans and Vice Chancellors. Requests for faculty positions should be aligned with current or strategically planned future Food for Health strengths within and across at least two University of Nebraska campuses. Multi-campus research collaboration will be an expectation for any successful application. Funding requests must be justified, in part, by the potential to increase research awards/expenditures and the overall impact positions will have on the University of Nebraska's missions of research, teaching, service, and/or extension. New faculty expertise should be identified to benefit the research mission(s) of more than one University of Nebraska campus; the tenure home (if applicable), however, will reside on a single campus.

**Purpose:** To encourage the growth and leveraging of University of Nebraska's expertise in Food for Health research by strategically investing in faculty expertise.

**Intended Outcome:** Increased faculty capacity to address critical food and health issues important to Nebraskans by expanding University of Nebraska's national grant competitiveness.

### Program Description:

These awards are for faculty FTE (tenure-track preferred). We anticipate funding approximately 10 faculty FTE (total) with start dates beginning in FY2017 and FY2018; the faculty FTE funded from this pool predominately will be research FTE. Any teaching, extension, or service FTE not funded by campuses must be closely aligned to enrollment growth potential, urgent capacity needs, and/or designed to enhance the competitiveness of Food for Health extramural grants.

**Application Format and Content:** Type size must be 12 points or larger and margins must be at least 1 inch on all four sides. Proposals will only be accepted from the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs on each University of Nebraska campus. FTE funding may be requested for more than one faculty line per application, as long as the application addresses a single FfH theme. Each application must consist of a single PDF file, and should include the following:

### 1. Submittal Letter/Cover Page

All applications should include a submittal letter/cover page co-prepared by at least two different campus' Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs. It should include the:

- Project Title;
- Total funds requested, total faculty FTE supported by FfH funding (if for multiple positions);
- A confirmatory statement that the application has received multi-campus institutional approvals and the necessary budgetary support for any cost-share (if applicable).

### 2. Project Description

*The following should be provided:*

- A. Faculty Position's Disciplinary Title(s), Proposed Unit(s), College(s), University, Proposed Rank(s), Funds Requested (including benefits), FfH-funded Apportionment Percentages (Teaching, Research, Service, Extension).<sup>1</sup>
  - FfH funds may be requested to fund an entire faculty position (1.0 FTE).
    - The research apportionment funded via this program must be 0.5 – 0.8 FTE.
    - Campuses may choose to match FfH funding to leverage available funding, meet additional needs, and/or increase the position's research apportionment above 0.8 FTE.
    - Any teaching, extension, or service FTE not matched by campuses (and thus requested from FfH funding) must be closely aligned to enrollment growth potential, urgent capacity needs, and/or designed to enhance the competitiveness of Food for Health extramural grants. FfH will not fund administrative FTE.
- B. Explain (for each position requested) the unmet research need fulfilled by the new faculty line. This section should outline the unmet need in suitable technical terms appropriate to the discipline(s).
  - No more than 1 page per position.
- C. Describe how the proposed faculty line(s) align with and will enhance current/planned multi-campus University of Nebraska research expertise.
  - Indicate why and how the new expertise or increased depth in expertise will position the University of Nebraska to be more competitive for extramural grants.
  - No more than 1 page (total).
- D. Describe how proposed faculty hires will be introduced and integrated into current/planned multi-campus research groups(s) focused on Food and Health. Describe the institutional practices developed/being developed that will support and strengthen research collaboration between faculty members ("team science").
  - No more than ½ page (total).

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<sup>1</sup> Apportionments need only be specified for those component(s) supported by FfH funding.

- E. Describe (in general) how the faculty member's need for facilities/resources (e.g., space, startup package, and equipment access) will be met.
  - For example, state which unit(s)/campuses will be responsible for funding a startup package and how space and/or equipment access needs will be met.
  - No more than ½ page per position.
- F. If FfH funds are being requested for any non-research appointment, describe how the position fills an unmet teaching/extension/service need and how these apportionment(s) support the FfH initiative. Also, outline how the position supports student enrollment growth, instructional capacity and/or retention.
  - Section not required if FfH funds are only being requested to support research.
  - No more than ½ page per position.

**Application Submission Requirements:** Applications, as PDF files, must be submitted from the campus office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs via email to David Jackson <[djackson@nebraska.edu](mailto:djackson@nebraska.edu)> with a CC to Jeanne Holdren <[jholdren@nebraska.edu](mailto:jholdren@nebraska.edu)>. Applications received after the published deadline will not be accepted.

**General Criteria for Evaluation:** Applications will first be evaluated to determine if all RFA guidelines have been met. For those applications that meet stated RFA submission criteria, external and/or internal reviews will be solicited. Reviewers will be asked to only assess the scientific potential for achieving an increase in extramural research funding; they will not be asked to assess institutional mission(s) or strategic direction(s). Final funding decisions will be made by the University of Nebraska President, in conjunction with the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Funding announcements are expected to be made in March 2016.

**Post Award Management, Obligations, and Reporting Requirements:** Campuses receiving faculty FTE awards will be required to submit position descriptions prior to advertising/release; descriptions must be consistent with the proposal and clearly state expectations for multi-campus collaborative activity and extramural funding. In addition, a brief project initiation report will be due three months after award; programmatic progress and detailed financial reports will be due in conjunction with annual Program of Excellence Funding reports. A timely recruiting process will be required. This RFA and program is administered by the University of Nebraska's Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> RFA and award management questions should be directed Dr. David Jackson, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs ([djackson@nebraska.edu](mailto:djackson@nebraska.edu)).