

Grant Applicants/Recipients Implementation Team Action Plan

Issue: CSREES should do a better job surfacing critical science and education issues that impact national policy development and assemble experts to address those issues.

Action Plan: CSREES will assemble and distribute a list of CSREES scientific staff that participate on OSTP-NSTC and inter-agency committees that address national policy development. CSREES will ensure that stakeholder input is utilized by these committees.

Issue: CSREES should provide processes for Grant Applicants/Recipients to participate in priority setting. If CSREES adequately performs these tasks, CSREES should institute a communication strategy that lets customers know about CSREES involvement.

Action Plan: CSREES will revise the current 'stakeholder input' page on the CSREES website (www.csrees.usda.gov/business/reporting/stakeholder.html) to include links to: 1) upcoming stakeholder workshops and 2) an archive of documents from previous stakeholder workshops, listening sessions, white papers, or other sources. State Liaison NPLs will help distribute information about opportunities for stakeholder input.

Issue: CSREES should keep Grant Applicants/Recipients abreast of changes in laws, regulations, and policies.

Action Plan: CSREES will develop and distribute more handouts/newsletters with updated information. NPL state liaisons will serve as an important vehicle for communicating updated information to administrators at land grant universities.

Issue: CSREES should increase the amount of time between announcement and deadline to submit proposals.

Action Plan: When possible, CSREES will continue to provide a minimum of 60 days between release of the RFA and the deadline for submission of applications.

Issue: Applicants want a shorter turn-around time from submission of applications to notification of award/decline.

Action Plan: CSREES is transitioning to the electronic peer review system (PRS) which will enable Program Staff to communicate funding decisions and return reviews to applicants within 30 days after the conclusion of the panel meeting.

Issue: CSREES should make it easier to find information about policies and procedures as well as funded projects.

Action Plan: CSREES will increase the amount of information that is available on the website, make sure this information appears in key word searches, and conduct outreach through NPL state liaisons and multi-state committees to help applicants/recipients find this information.