



AREERA State Plans of Work

2007-2011 Plan of Work

This Plan of Work (POW) newsletter will look back at the 2007-2011 Plan of Work and an overview of what is coming in the year ahead.

Quick Statistics

Of the 85 Plans of Work we expected to receive, all 85 have been submitted. We have completed 82 reviews. Of the 82 reviews, all 82 were accepted and returned to each respective State institution within the allowed 90 day review period. Three POW submissions or resubmissions were received too late to effectively complete the review before the beginning of Fiscal Year (FY) 2007. Thus, these three institution formula funds are being held until the Plans are approved.

What is CSREES Working on Now for the Plan of Work?

We are deep into redevelopment of the POW software to include the rolling 5-year functionality. Thus, when we roll out the next iteration of the software later this year, you will be able to enter your POW data for 2012 and change any data you wish for 2008-2011. The 2007 data will remain static in the database and cannot be changed since the POW is always a forward-looking document.

What Other Improvement are Expected in the 5-Year Rolling Plan of Work Software?

The first thing you should notice is an improvement in navigation throughout the software. You will be able to navigate more readily to specific screens of each major section of the POW. Also, you will be able to move backwards and forwards between screens instead of only forward as in the first iteration of the software.

The second thing you should notice is you will have the choice to read and print your POW as an HTML document, a PDF document, and/or an RTF (rich text format) document.

The third thing you should notice is an improvement on the current submit process. Only the Director(s)/Administrator(s) will be able to click a submit button. It was previously superfluous for anyone else to click a submit button.

What about the 2007 Annual Report?

The FY 2007 Annual Report development is underway. We are deep into drafts of the 2007 Annual Report wire frames right now. We have vetted the report within CSREES and we are ready to start vetting it with various partner groups. The first group to see it will be the regional executive directors for research and extension at a meeting next week in Wisconsin. From there it will go to other partner groups.

AREERA Plan of Work Due Dates

We will unveil the final draft at the Planning and Evaluation mini-conference sessions that are being planned in conjunction with the Administrative Officers Conference in April.

2008-2012 Plan of Work Update - 4/1/2007

2006 Annual Report - 4/1/2007

What is the Planning and Evaluation Mini-Conference?

The Planning and Accountability unit of CSREES is planning a mini-conference in conjunction with the Administrative Officers Conference in Seattle, WA. The Administrative Officers Conference is April 22-26, 2007. Six sessions dedicated to Planning and Evaluation are scheduled for the afternoon of April 23, and all day April 24. These six sessions are entitled:

1. Plan of Work 2007 Annual Report Requirements;
2. Best Practices for State Plans of Work;
3. Patterns and Direction Found in the 2007-2011 Plan of Work;
4. How CSREES Uses Your Reporting;
5. Performance Measures, Outcomes, and Impacts; and
6. Developing Consensus on Common Models and Standard Sets of Indicators: FCS and 4-H Experiences as Exemplars.

CSREES is looking for three States to share their experiences in developing their Plan of Work at the “Best Practices ...” session. Contact Bart Hewitt, at 202-720-0747, or bhewitt@csrees.usda.gov, for more information.

For more information on the Plan of Work, contact Bart Hewitt, 202-720-0747, or pow@csrees.usda.gov .