The North Central Regional Center for Rural Development is pleased to announce a call for policy projects. These are single- or multiple-investigator projects, and must be led by personnel from a land grant institution within the 12 North Central States. Land grant graduate students and others not employed by land-grants may join a project led by an eligible land grant employee. A list of eligible institutions is available on the Center’s web site.

- Budget line items are limited to personnel and reimbursable travel. The proposal fiduciary arrangement is a subcontract with one or more NC land grant institutions (no consulting).
- Personnel are NOT required to relocate to Center offices during their appointment
- Payment will be made on receipt of acceptable products.

All projects should plan on starting in April 2015 and submitting a first draft by June 22, 2015. All projects will provide a webinar overview of the project findings aimed at individuals employed by land grant universities in the region. Webinars will be scheduled upon final approval of the other outputs.

**Project Types:** (one per proposal, multiple proposals from the same individual are permitted), maximum of $15K budget per proposal:

1. **Impacts of Oil on Rural North Central Communities.** The Center is interested in strategies to help communities react appropriately to the changing price of this key commodity. Price declines will create busts in some areas while increasing opportunities in others. How can leaders best position their areas? Authors could also explore the impacts and implications of alternative oil shipment policies, or midstream/downstream impacts of shale oil and gas development. Papers should not repeat information available on the National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center website (http://www.nardep.info/).

2. **Impacts of Alternative Trade Proposals on Rural North Central Communities.** There are ongoing high-level discussions of changes in trade policy with the EU and Asia. How would the different proposals with the EU and/or Asia likely impact the North Central region?

3. **Rural Housing Issues.** Potential themes might be appraisal problems, mismatch of stock and housing needs for aging population, effects of federal loan limits on manufactured housing, or coping with booms.

4. **Rural Health Care under the Affordable Care Act.** How has the ACA changed rural health care? What are policy options for local communities in the North Central region under the act given their states’ responses?

5. **Managing Long-Term Environmental Contamination Risk in Mining Communities.** Underground resources are a potential boon to the local economy but extracting them often carries unknown risks. How can communities balance off these tradeoffs?
6. **Locally-based Policies to Create Upward Mobility Opportunities for Residents.** What are positive steps local decision-makers can take to encourage people in poverty or the shrinking middle class to create income and wealth?

Required outputs for all funded projects: 10-20 page document; 2 page policy brief; webinar.

To Apply:
Proposal authors should use the cover page found below. Authors should provide a **one page narrative** outlining their approach, **budget**, and **curriculum vitae** (up to 5 pages per person) for each individual involved with the project. An **MSU subrecipient form** is also required for each institution involved in the proposal. Proposals should also use the cover page as shown below. Download the subrecipient form at: [http://expeng.anr.msu.edu/uploads/files/133/MSU%20FINAL%20Subrecipient%20Form.doc](http://expeng.anr.msu.edu/uploads/files/133/MSU%20FINAL%20Subrecipient%20Form.doc)

Applications will be reviewed by the NCRCRD Board of Directors. Proposals should be received no later than **March 9, 2015**. Email to **ncgrants@anr.msu.edu**. Use “NCRCRD Special Project Proposal” in the subject line.
Cover Page

Proposal Title (Suggested length is no more than ten words.)

Project Type Number: (From previous page, select 1 or 2)

Principal Investigator Contact Information (should include Last and First Names Title, Mailing Address, Email Address, Work Telephone, Cell Phone)

Co-Principal Investigator Name, Title and Contact Information (for multiple Co-PIs, repeat as needed)

Proposal Abstract (250 words maximum):

Summary of Deliverables (List major project outputs and completion dates. Do not use paragraph format.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Month</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Proposals should include a budget. Guidelines:
For each author (if more than one) list the following in separate lines, grouped by institution (if more than one):

Salary
Fringe Benefits
Tuition (if any)

The NCRCRD does not pay overhead. Source of funds is federal, and MSU (host institution) does not receive overhead on these funds.

If travel is required, list that separately; all travel will be reimbursed directly to the individuals.