



**NERCRD Request for Applications:
Community Resources & Economic Development (CRD) Evaluation Fellow**

The Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development seeks applications from faculty and educators in the Northeast U.S. to serve as a Center Fellow focusing on the development, coordination, and implementation of a common set of community resources and economic development (CRD) impact indicators for the Northeast. The successful applicant will remain at his or her home institution and enter into a professional services agreement with The Center for a period of up to one year, with the possibility of condensing the contract period (e.g. summer salary). The Evaluation Fellow will receive a payment of \$10,000 for professional services rendered.

As background, support for developing and implementing a common CRD impact indicators in the region and across the country has been identified as a key need by the Northeast CRD Evaluation Working Group, the National Association for Community Development Extension Professionals, and the four Regional Rural Development Centers. The North Central Region has already developed a common set of CRD indicators and evaluation metrics and tools from which the Center Fellow can draw upon. However, there is recognition that there may be distinct differences between CRD work in the Northeast and the North Central Regions.

The Center Fellow is expected to fulfill the following functions with respect impact evaluation indicators and evaluation metrics for CRD programming:

1. Identify what CRD impact data is currently collected and reported to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) by Extension and Land Grant Institutions in the Northeast and identify a way to aggregate existing data. Data may include what is directly measured by CRD programs, or secondary data analysis that demonstrates impact of CRD programs.
2. Identify 5-8 common impact indicators that are already being measured across the region, or have been identified as a priority by the region. The Center Fellow can draw upon a past assessment of common indicators by the Northeast CRD Evaluation Working Group.

Note: The indicators should span a range of community resources and economic development functions, possibly including civic engagement, economic development, leadership development, entrepreneurship, or functions that intersect with other program areas.

3. Develop a toolbox of metrics and evaluation instruments that can be used and/or modified by CRD program implementers to collect data.
4. Identify professional development needs across the region specific to measuring and collecting impact data.
5. Work with CRD Evaluation Working Group to develop and implement a plan to communicate indicators/metrics to Extension Directors, Program Leaders, and other Land Grant stakeholders across the Northeast to get buy-in by Leadership for a common set of indicators and metrics.
6. Conduct a final report outlining the progress to date with development of common indicators, evaluation metrics and identify next steps to get buy-in by Northeast Land grant stakeholders.

Supervision and Reporting: The Northeast CRD Evaluation Working Group will serve as an advisory group to the Center Scholar. The Center Scholar will report to the Center's director, Dr. Stephan J. Goetz, on activities and progress.

Applicant Criteria: The work of the Center Fellow on common impact indicators and evaluation metrics should complement and contribute to the applicant's existing work. Applicants should have background in impact evaluation, program assessment, and/or social and economic data analysis. While a Ph.D. degree is preferred, applicants with a Master's degree and substantive experience with program assessment and impact evaluation will be considered. This activity involves knowledge of a broad range of research and outreach functions across CRD programs, as well as networking ability. Preference will be given to applicants who provide strong evidence of familiarity with Community Resources and Economic Development programming and demonstrated connections with Land Grant institutions across the region.

Program Sponsorship: The Northeast Center's Board of Directors, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee, is sponsoring this Fellowship with the expectation of improved ability to demonstrate the impacts of CRD-related extension, research and engagement activities across the region.

Application Instructions: In their letter of application individuals should include ideas for developing common impact indicators and evaluation metrics across the region. To apply, please send a CV plus one-page letter of interest and evidence of prior work on evaluation or indicators to sgoetz@psu.edu by no later than Midnight ET on **February 28, 2014**. The expected starting date is early May/June 2014.