

National Stakeholder Team For Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding

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Summary – Second Teleconference – November 28, 2012

The following focus areas were considered, for potential work groups to brainstorm and explore:

1. USDA & PSEP – *What is the mechanism by which USDA could provide permanent funding to PSEPs, for example, IPM (Integrated Pest Management) Centers?*
2. State Regulations – *What model legislation (language) exists or could be developed for States to dedicate a portion of their funding for pesticide safety education?*
3. Third Party Administrator – *Using the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC) as an example, what would a similar model for PSEPs look like?*
4. Direct Gifts/Grants – *What processes exist or need to be developed for Universities to accept both restricted and unrestricted gifts/grants including directly from industry for PSEPs? What are the recommended overhead charges for restricted gifts/grants?*
5. EPA & PSEP – *What funding sources exist and what is necessary to secure this funding in the future?*
6. Adopt A State PSEP Program – *Would industry be willing to fund specific State PSEPs and would the States be able to accept that funding? What would a model program look like? (#6 will be considered by #3/#4).*

1. USDA & PSEP: USDA caps overhead at 30% (applicable to the annual \$500K PRIA funds currently distributed by EPA via USDA). Some USDA funds are being funneled into PSEP via IPM Centers and IPM Coordinator Grants. These funds are often competitive, probably not sustainable for maintaining a program, and often dependent on the working relationship between the PSEP and IPM Coordinators. A better understanding of IPM funding criteria and USDA policy on allowable indirect charges for non-research education-oriented grants to universities will be pursued. To assist with this, Thostenson will author a fact sheet on indirects/overhead charges on grants.

2. State Regulations: Different state regulations or state policies need to be researched. The goal would be to develop a menu of tools that states could choose from to support PSEP, and perhaps stakeholders could push legislation on a state by state basis to get these tools enacted.

3. Third Party Administrator: If industry could develop some ongoing and sustainable method of supporting PSEPs, perhaps a third party like NASDA, CLA, TPSA, and or RISE could distribute these funds. Another idea would be to develop something on the model of ACRC (which registrants pay into in order to recycle containers).

4. Direct Gifts/Grants: It is possible to provide unrestricted gifts/grants for use specifically by PSEPs (since the meeting, this has been confirmed in all states). Endowment funds or other special accounts are another possible option. Universities doing contract research for pesticide registrants might be able to funnel some of these funds into PSEP, like some sort of check-off or assessment that either the universities collect against these funds or the companies pay directly to PSEP. Universities can vary indirect costs based on whether the project is Extension, Research, on-campus, or off-campus.

5. EPA & PSEP: EPA has not been able to provide discretionary funding to PSEP the past two funding cycles. The only funds now available are via PRIA (\$500,000/year). EPA is looking for a way to provide these funds without going through an intermediary (traditionally USDA). PRIA funding for PSEP is set for the next 5 years but this does not preclude trying to come up with another vehicle for going to Congress or encouraging EPA to provide discretionary funds.

Other: Recent factsheet on “Certification of Applicators – The Federal Basis for University PSEPs” has been posted to psep.us. A survey will be sent out to request volunteers for the work groups, which should begin work prior to the next full team call (January 24, 2013, 2:30 p.m. ET). The PSEP funding issue should be discussed with the directors/commissioners of agriculture from all 50 states (Feb, 2013 NASDA meeting was proposed venue.)