

National Stakeholder Team For Pesticide Safety Education Program Funding
Summary - Conference Call 3 - January 24, 2013
Archived documents available at <http://psep.us>

Fleeson moderated the call. Activities of each of the four workgroups were briefly reviewed by workgroup leads, and the team then focused on brainstorming different ways to distribute PSEP funds.

Non-Governmental Funding Workgroup – working on 1) different mechanisms for distributing funds to PSEP, 2) identifying an organization to actually manage the distribution of funds, and 3) how to determine what amount was needed to support PSEPs across the country.

Other Funding Workgroup – working on understanding FAC (Facilities & Administrative Costs) that sponsoring universities deduct from grants, gifts, contracts, and fees (charged for manual sales or workshop revenues that a PSEP receives or generates.) It was decided that a comprehensive survey would be done to give the team the answers needed to make decisions about how much and by what mechanisms funds could be directed to PSEPs. Thostenson noted that a paper explaining FAC had been developed and was available at <http://psep.us>.

State Funding Workgroup – discussed 1) how some states currently support PSEP through directed laws or regulations and memorandums of understanding between the State Lead Agency for regulating pesticides and the university PSEP, and 2) how national and state level industry trade groups could provide support for state law changes to get additional funding for PSEP. The group will develop a step by step approach on how to implement laws and policies at the state level to support PSEP.

Federal Funding Workgroup – discussed 1) the need for PSEPs to be able to describe good impacts to decision makers at the state and federal level, 2) the ability to direct federal pesticide fines or settlements towards PSEP, and 3) how to incorporate PSEP into USDA-NIFA's programs that support Integrated Pest Management. Several members volunteered to explore what can and cannot be done by USDA-NIFA or EPA to cap or limit FAC.

Black gave a summary of the history of PSEP. PSEP were conceived by USDA in the 1960's with the intention that each state have a full-time Pesticide Coordinator to focus on pesticide safety, financed equally by the state and USDA. By the late 1970's EPA took over the funding of the federal share, with the money still distributed to PSEP by USDA. The distribution formula beginning in the 1970's used multiple demographic data (applicator numbers and farms) to allocate about \$1.5 million dollars annually. In 2008, as a consequence of an injection of \$500,000 from the Pesticide Registration Improvement Act (PRIA), EPA revised and simplified the formula to account for a base of \$15,000 per state and the balance by a formula that only considered applicator numbers. Unfortunately, the funds allocated to PSEP did not keep up with inflation and real reductions in discretionary funds. Thus the current scheme simply sends about \$10,000 to each state annually, only from the \$500,000 PRIA source.

Further discussion considered the different support levels needed in different states and brainstormed a variety of different funding considerations and scenarios. Fleeson encouraged the work groups to focus on these issues and develop concrete proposals. The next team call will be **March 1, 11:00 a.m. ET**.