




Experiment Station  
Committee on Organization  
and Policy (ESCOP)

**TO:** NRSP8 Administrative Advisors – Archie Clutter (Lead AA), John Kirby, Steve Lommel, Noelle Cockett

**FROM:** Doug Buhler, Chair NRSP RC 

**DATE:** June 18, 2021

**RE:** Response to NRSP8's Midterm Review

**CC:** NRSP RC; Regional EDs

The NRSP RC (National Research Support Project Review Committee) met via Zoom on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, to evaluate the midterm review materials provided by NRSP8. The NRSP-RC commends NRSP8 for excellent, productive work as a long-standing NRSP. This project covers extensive breadth and has developed numerous shared resources for its membership. However, the midterm materials did not include a specific plan for transitioning off OTT NRSP funds, as was requested in 2018 (see attached message from previous NRSP-RC Chair Fred Servello to Eric Young, previous NRSP8 lead AA), when the project was last renewed. Please develop this transition plan now and send to the NRSP-RC no later than 8/1/2021. This material will be required for continued funding of NRSP8 through its scheduled expiration on 9/30/2023.

As the next renewal cycle approaches (proposal, budget, and peer reviews due January 15, 2023), be sure to clearly state which type of NRSP project the team is applying for, either the Capacity or Emerging Innovation NRSP model. For Capacity, the application must include compelling rationale(s) not limited to: meritorious performance, highly leveraged and diversified funding, on-going need within the scientific community, and significant stakeholder support. As mentioned above, the project team must identify strategies to eliminate or minimize OTT MRF. If the Capacity model is requested, the NRSP-RC also recommends inclusion of an impact analysis to formally showcase NRSP8's value to industry partners.

If NRSP8's planned future work is significantly different than previous project activities, then the Emerging Innovation NRSP model may be more fitting. The business plan for the Emerging Innovation type must then include strategy for transitioning completely off OTT MRF by the end of the second cycle.

Finally, regardless of the NRSP model chosen, the NRSP-RC recommends including a broader communication plan that illustrates relevance to other stakeholder groups, such as Extension.

Please be sure to refer to the updated NRSP Guidelines here for more detailed information and instructions:  
<http://escop.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NRSP-GUIDELINES-NRSP-RC-Two-Track-FINAL-20200824.pdf>