



Eastern District Innovative Grant Program

Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Application Form

Completed application form should not exceed (3) pages, using a minimum font size of 11 point, retain form formatting, and no less than 1-inch margins. Submit completed application electronically to karen.smiley@ces.uwex.edu, and fax signature page (if electronic signature not available), by **noon on Friday, April 18, 2008**.

Project must be completed by December 31, 2008, unless prior approval received for extended timeline.

1. Project Title: Assessing People's Perceptions and Awareness of Medication Disposal Issues in Calumet, Outagamie, and Waupaca Counties

2. Funding Requested: \$4,439

3. Project Lead/Grant Applicant (Name & County): Mary Kohrell, Calumet County Community Development Educator

a) Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable)

- Marilyn Herman, UWEX Waupaca County Family Living Educator
- Steve Brachman, UWEX Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center
- Bret Shaw, UWEX Environmental Resource Center & UW Madison Dept of Life Sciences
- Jim Janke, UW River Falls Survey Research Center

4. Signature:  **Grant Applicant/Lead**

5. Project Description

- a) Situation Statement (Describe how this relates to the UWEX strategic plan and/or your plan of work), and outline the following criteria that relate to your project.
- i) Fosters teamwork and collaboration with other agencies, campuses, or colleagues
 - ii) Incorporates the use of other funders
 - iii) Includes a new program direction that may be replicated
 - iv) Focuses on reaching new audiences
 - v) Exposes potential employees to UWEX
- b) Project Objectives/Expected Outcomes (include plan for sharing results with colleagues)
- c) Project Timeline (include planned responses/activities)
- d) Evaluation Plan

a) Situation Statement:

Leftover medications are an increasingly important topic for two primary reasons: (1) national and state research indicates that certain improperly disposed leftover medications are causing water quality concerns that negatively impact aquatic life and may impact human health; and (2) national and state research shows that human health and safety impacts from medications are growing, including teen and elderly prescription drug abuse and identity theft.

Concerns with leftover medications are prominent among many Wisconsin stakeholder groups, including water quality researchers, law enforcement personnel, aging and human services providers, schools, public health agencies, health care providers, environmental agencies, drinking water and wastewater treatment facilities. UW Extension and the University of Wisconsin are in a position to provide leadership and educational resources to assist these varied stakeholders address their concerns, helping them develop research-based solutions for managing leftover medications that are appropriate to local situations.

Water quality and human health/safety issues associated with leftover medications are of significant concern in the target project area of Calumet, Outagamie, and Waupaca Counties. They have been addressed with assistance and educational resources provided through several collaborative efforts among UW Extension faculty including Calumet County CRD Educator Mary Kohrell and Waupaca County Family Living Educator Marilyn Herman; the multi-county Aging and Disability Resource Center, and a number of other UW, county, and local agencies. These programs have been well-received and are transforming the way organizations and people think about and manage leftover medications. However, there are some research components missing that hinder UW Extension's ability to take this project to the next level, resulting in more fundamental system changes. The time is right to conduct research on individual behaviors and practices regarding leftover medications to assess what people understand about this issue to inform subsequent educational materials and programs developed on this topic.

This research will achieve the District Resource Management Team's objectives of **fostering teamwork** by building stronger working relationships within UW Extension's CNRED and Family Living Program areas (Mary Kohrell, Marilyn Herman, and Karen Dickrell); by building organizational capacity across UW Extension (Steve Brachman), UW Madison (Bret Shaw), and UW River Falls (Jim Janke); and by expanding on relationships with the aforementioned external stakeholder groups. While various UWEX faculty have individual relationships with a number of these stakeholders, rarely is there a focused project that brings many of these various partners together for a common goal like this project does. This project incorporates **other funders**. Approximately half of the research for this project was recently funded by US EPA in a grant received by Steve Brachman. Due to the substantial interest in this topic across Wisconsin, the results of this research will be used to develop educational materials that will almost certainly **be replicated**.

b) Project Objectives/Expected Outcomes

Outcome: Project team members and other partners will learn about the public's perceptions about leftover medication management and handling practices; and the public's awareness of water quality and human health/safety concerns concerning leftover medications.

Objectives: (1) Conduct a random mail survey of residents in Calumet, Outagamie, and Waupaca Counties to ascertain people's in-home practices and educational needs regarding medications;

(2) Utilize survey results to inform stakeholder groups about educational materials and resources to be developed

c) Project Timeline

- May - Initial project team meeting to discuss survey development; draft survey is completed; survey review by project team; Beta testing of survey; obtain randomly generated mailing lists

- June – July – survey mailed to the public; survey responses received, data entry, reminders mailed to survey non-respondents
- August – final survey responses received and compiled; initial report generation
- September – data/results reviewed by survey team; final survey report generated
- October – project team shares survey results with broader stakeholder group to plan appropriate educational responses

d) Evaluation Plan

The results of this project will be evaluated on the following criteria: (1) the number of completed written surveys received (n=500); (2) the survey is completed by the deadline; and (3) whether the survey results will be used by the project team to make recommendations about educational resources to be developed in the target project area and beyond.

6. Detailed budget breakdown (specifying the amount and purpose of funds requested from District Resource Management funds, and clarifying the source and amounts from other funds):

This project request is \$4,439. All of the funds for this project will go toward purchasing research and survey support from the UW River Falls Survey Research Center, with Jim Janke (former CNRED Educator in St. Croix County) as the project manager. Funding will cover a 4-page survey plus cover letter sent to 1150 households in Calumet, Outagamie, and Waupaca Counties (from the approximately 100,000 households in the three counties). The project would include an initial mailing, a reminder postcard, a follow-up to non-respondents, data entry, tabulation, and summary.

Staff*:	\$2,442
Printing and Supplies:	\$ 713
Postage:	\$1,284
Total:	\$4,439

* Staff refers to a current student hourly employee at UW-River Falls. Payment would be made to UW-River Falls to pay for this person’s time and fringe benefits.

Project collaborators Herman, Brachman, and Shaw will contribute their time to the project to assure the survey instrument meets project needs, and to utilize survey results with project partners to develop appropriate educational responses.

An additional \$4,500 in grant funding has already been secured by SHWEC from the US EPA to conduct another component of research for this project, also in conjunction with UW River Falls. Specifically, a variety of leftover medication collection methodologies in Winnebago and Waukesha Counties will be assessed to evaluate their effectiveness and people’s perceptions about this issue.

7. If you have received Resource Management funds for a similar/related project, in the past, include the following information:

- Briefly describe your past experiences with resource management grants – project focus, funding received, project collaborators
- How is this project proposal new or different?

No funds have been requested by members of this team for this or any similar project.