

# 2025 Special Topic Request for Proposals



## Population Change



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The Center for Rural Pennsylvania is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency that serves as a resource for rural policy research within the Pennsylvania General Assembly. It was created in 1987 under Act 16, the Rural Revitalization Act, to promote and sustain the vitality of Pennsylvania's rural and small communities.

## 2025 SPECIAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Center welcomes proposals on the subject of population change in rural Pennsylvania. As noted in a [2023 report](#) by the Center and the Pennsylvania State Data Center, rural Pennsylvania's population will shrink by approximately 5.8% by 2050.

The Center is especially interested in research that addresses the four broad topics listed below. Where possible researchers should compare rural and urban counties, school districts, and/or municipalities.

1. Projected changes in the number of racial and ethnic minorities in Pennsylvania counties through 2050
2. School district enrollment forecasts through 2050
3. Alternative models of population forecasting in Pennsylvania counties
4. Tax base and tax revenue implications of population change for the Commonwealth, counties, school districts, and municipalities
5. Forecasting the number and characteristics of households in Pennsylvania

Proposals for awards of up to \$60,000 will be accepted.

### Eligibility

The Center's enabling legislation allows the Center to award grants to qualified faculty members of The Pennsylvania State University, the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) universities, and the regional campuses of the University of Pittsburgh. A qualified faculty member must serve as the project director. Partnerships with other academic institutions, community organizations, and public and private agencies are encouraged.

### 2025 Special Request for Proposals (RFP) Grant Application Process and Timeline

For the 2025 Special RFP, interested faculty should request a copy of the proposal form from the Assistant Director, Dr. Laura Dimino via email: [LDimino@rural.pa.gov](mailto:LDimino@rural.pa.gov).

The Center's 2025 Special RFP timeline is outlined on the **next page**:

<b>2025 Special RFP Grant Program Timeline</b>	<b>Date(s) or Deadline</b>
1. Request for Proposals is released	March 2024
2. Deadline for submission of proposals	<b>June 14, 2024</b>
3. Proposal discussions via Zoom with applicants	July 2024
4. Center’s Board of Directors selects the project for funding	August/September 2024
5. Work plan is finalized, Cooperative Agreement is issued and signed, and work begins	September/October 2024
6. Final report completed with data analysis and methodology completed	March/April 2025