

nEXT Generation project

Project Work Groups & Membership Nominations

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Will the work groups use telephone conference services and Google hangouts to limit the need for face-to-face meetings and travel time?**

The executive sponsors of the *nEXT Generation* project are committed to finding the best venue to support the work groups and will provide access to and training for Wislines, Google hangouts, etc. The sponsors will also provide funding for travel if the work groups feel that an in-person meeting would be helpful to advance their work.

2. **Does the number of people that nominate an individual have any impact on the selection process?**

There is no formula to determine work group appointments. The project steering committee will recommend members and chairs of the work groups to the executive sponsors based on the needs of each work group, not the number of nominations any individual received.

3. **Can I nominate myself or someone else for more than one group?**

Yes. If you are interested in nominating yourself or others for multiple work groups, please select those work groups on the nomination form. Please share your preferences or rankings for particular work groups in the last box on the form, and provide context for why you or the nominee would be qualified for those work groups in the second-to-last box on the form.

4. **How much time are work group members expected to commit to the project per week?**

Each work group will determine how time commitments will structured based on the scope and timeline identified by the executive sponsors and project steering committee. For example, one group may commit an entire week to complete its work, while another group may elect to parse the work out over a few weeks. Though the progression of the project will determine the time commitment, the executive sponsors generally anticipate an average eight-hour-per-week time commitment.

5. **If selected for a work group, will I get the opportunity to work on the future organizational design and recommend changes?**

Work groups will initially focus on:

- Researching and analyzing a particular function across Cooperative Extension, county partners, tribal partners, UW institutions and clientele;
- Identifying the current structure and processes for a function;
- Assessing whether the current structure and processes for a function meet Cooperative Extension clients' needs; and

- Determining how a function could be more effectively and efficiently managed in the future.

At a later stage in the project, work groups will develop recommendations for how their particular functions could be managed in the future. The executive sponsors will need to reassess how the work groups are structured to determine if the scope, size and number of work groups is appropriate based on the findings from the current assessment and gap analysis. In all likelihood, the initial work groups will be asked to continue forward and develop future recommendations, but that will be determined later in the project.

6. **Are nominees allowed to nominate themselves for programming work groups outside of the program areas in which they work?**

Yes. The executive sponsors recognize the value in diverse perspectives and the overlap between program areas.

7. **What role do the program directors play in selecting the work group membership?**

The program directors may reach out to gauge your interests and to provide nominations to the project steering committee. You should still feel free to submit your own nomination(s) as well.

8. **Is there a work group that addresses interdisciplinary programming in the academic departments?**

Interdisciplinary programming will be addressed in the programming work groups. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to look holistically across all four programming work groups throughout the course of the project.

9. **Will the counties be responsible for funding work group-related travel?**

UW-Extension will cover the cost of all applicable travel expenses incurred by work group members in the course of their work on the nEXT Generation project.

10. **How will the work group chairs be selected?**

The project steering committee will recommend the work group chairs and members to the executive sponsors.