

## **Request for Research Assessments on the Role of Beef and Adolescent Nutrition**

On behalf of The Beef Checkoff, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) is conducting a request for proposals for existing research assessment on the role of beef and/or beef's nutrients in adolescent growth, development (including brain, cognitive, social, psychological development), health, and wellness. The adolescent years are a time of transformational change and increasing independence, and adolescents' nutrient needs set the stage for optimal health and reduced chronic disease risk during adulthood. During this stage of life, adolescents are growing at a rapid pace, and a healthy, balanced dietary pattern provides the building blocks needed for optimal growth and development. Yet, according to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, adolescents are falling short on consuming numerous essential nutrients needed to build strong minds and strong bodies.

We are interested in assessments of existing research (e.g., evidence scans, rapid reviews, scoping reviews, existing data analysis/modeling, gap analysis, white papers) and narrative reviews on exploratory research questions related to the topic. These evidence-based summaries will be focused on a research question or topic relevant to beef's role in adolescent health and nutrition. These summaries may serve as background and justification for future Beef Checkoff funded research studies.

**For a background of the currently available research on beef's role in adolescent health and nutrition, please see research brief available [here](#).**

### **Timing and Budget considerations:**

These are short-term projects (i.e., 2 months or less) with funding of up to \$20,000 for stipends to conduct reviews between March - July 2024.

A final statement outlining all project expenditures from the institution's business office is required after completion of the project. Funds cannot be spent beyond the project end date established in the project contract. Deliverable (i.e. evidence-based summary of assessment) will be due on or before the project end date established in the contract.

### **Important Dates for Existing Research Assessment:**

- Proposal Submission Date: **February 6, 2024, at 11:59pm MDT via the [BeefGrants portal](#)**  
PIs with proposals selected for funding will be notified by **March 15, 2024**.

### **Existing Research Assessment Proposal Outline**

The following fields will be required in BeefGrants. Word counts apply for some fields.

- Applicant Information (Applicant will be required to select if applying as an independent contractor [consulting services] or via their institution).
  - Organization information
  - CV of relevant work (limit to 2 pages)
- Application Summary
  - Scientific Project Title
  - Technical Areas of Research (please select Human Nutrition)
  - Consideration addressed in proposal
- Project Overview
  - Estimated total cost of research
  - Proposed start and end date
- Project Details
  - Project background (maximum of 500 words)
  - Objectives & hypothesis
  - Proposed methodology
  - Proposed benefit to the beef industry
- Detailed Budget Table
- Other Sources of Support/Co-funding (optional)
- Supporting Documents (optional)

### **Submission Instructions:**

NCBA, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, has moved to an online portal, [BeefGrants](#), for managing the grants process and to facilitate the submission and review of grant materials. All portal users will need to set up an account. For more information on using BeefGrants, [click here](#).

### **Review Criteria:**

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of independent industry experts and will be evaluated for: clearly defined research question, sound methods, uniqueness and relevance to better understand the role of beef and beef's nutrients in adolescent nutrition.

### **Disclaimer:**

We are aware that academic institutions have financial obligations for administering the research grants awarded to their faculty members. However, overhead costs, principal investigator salaries, tuition and equipment purchases will not be considered as part of the funds made available for this research.

**Questions related to this RFP should be directed to Clara Lau**  
**([beefnutritionfp@beef.org](mailto:beefnutritionfp@beef.org))**