

GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS OF COLLABORATION – “LOC”

Letters of Collaboration (a/k/a letter of commitment or letter of support), referred to as a **LOC**, are limited to stating the intent to collaborate and are not to contain endorsements or evaluation of the proposed project. Adhering to the guidelines described below and the template for developing a LOC should meet your needs to serve as a collaborator, and ensure a quick signature by your Research Leader. No additional promises or statements are needed. For further guidance, refer to [ARS P&P 321.1 - Requirements for Seeking and Accepting Incoming Research Agreements](#).

All LOCs must –

- ... stick to the template content
- ... be drafted by the ARS scientist
- ... be on Location letterhead
- ... include the Area grants email address
- ... be signed by your Research Leader
- ... include the ARIS Incoming Funds Record (IFR) number, if one is required

Letter of Collaboration	... when ARS will receive subaward funding	... when “no funds to ARS”
ARS scientist must include a brief description of their collaborative work on the proposed project.	Can use the ARIS objective(s) as the brief description.	Can use the ARIS objective(s) as the brief description, if the IFR was required.
Enclosures	The ARS scientist scope of work/project narrative, budget & budget justification are generally an enclosure to the LOC.	There are usually no attachments.
IFR log number	include at bottom of the letter	Include at the bottom of the letter, <i>if</i> there was an IFR
		The Area may deem the involvement important enough that a Non-Funded Cooperative Agreement be established with the Prime applicant.

The LOC must NOT contain–

- ... any ARS dollar amount, *unless it is specifically requested by the applicant entity.*
- ... statements regarding negotiations of subawards, since the LOC is only associated with pre-award, not a subaward
- ... “This is important research and meets the Agency’s overall mission needs.” which is unnecessary.
- ... the Authorized Departmental Officer’s name and email and phone. This is pre-award and any award notifications would go to the Area grants email address, where the PA would appropriately forward to respective GMS, etc.

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Standard body of the LOC –

The USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) agrees to participate as a collaborator on your proposed research project.

The ARS portion of the work will be under the primary direction of Dr. [insert ARS Principal Investigator name] and will [type brief description ARS PI's involvement here].

The proposed collaboration has been reviewed and approved by the appropriate personnel at the ARS. If your proposal entitled [insert the official proposal title], is selected for funding by the [insert name of funding entity], it is the Agency's intent to collaborate with each other and/or commit resources as described above [*if ARS is subrecipient then include* “and found in our proposal documents”].

Notices of Award or questions should be emailed to grants.mwa@ars.usda.gov

We appreciate the opportunity for this collaboration.

Sincerely,

RESEARCH LEADER NAME

Research Leader
Authorized Representative

Enclosure (if applicable)
IFR Log # _____