

Project Abstract Summary

This Project Abstract Summary form must be submitted or the application will be considered incomplete. Ensure the Project Abstract field succinctly describes the project in plain language that the public can understand and use without the full proposal. Use 4,000 characters or less. Do not include personally identifiable, sensitive or proprietary information. Refer to Agency instructions for any additional Project Abstract field requirements. If the application is funded, your project abstract information (as submitted) will be made available to public websites and/or databases including USAspending.gov.

* Funding Opportunity Number

F-FWS-WSFR-23-003

CFDA(s)

15.628

* Applicant Name

International Hunter Education Association - United States Of America (IHEA-USA)

* Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project

When to Leave the Nest – Retention without Support After Mentoring

* Project Abstract

Each year, approximately 600,000 people graduate from hunter education programs. Though only 5% never intended to hunt, nearly 40 percent will never purchase a license (SAF/IHEA 2021). This supports statements that the ORAM model's 'Decision to Continue' stage is a critical point. This project will build on recent SAF/IHEA hunter education research and WMI mentoring research to scientifically identify how states and NGOs' mentoring programs can convert a higher percentage of graduates into confident, independent hunters and consistent license buyers. Targeted insights include identifying the factors and barriers causing new hunters to hesitate and what they need to overcome these barriers. Up to four states in each AFWA region will be recruited to identify new hunters who: 1) enrolled in mentoring programs, 2) continued with or without additional mentoring support, and 3) had benefited from multiple types of mentoring opportunities before gaining confidence to continue independently. These states will be engaged to help identify topics and points to explore. To maximize states' use, results will be presented in a succinct, visual format and shared directly with each state, via IHEA and R3 Community websites and webinars, and at regional and national R3 meetings. The final deliverable will help states convert thousands of mentoring and hunter education graduates into independent hunters and consistent license buyers.