

# Catalog *of* Federal Domestic Assistance

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United States Department of Agriculture  
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

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## **10.200 – Grants for Agricultural Research, Special Research Grants**

### **Authorization:**

Section 2 (c), Public Law 89-106, 7 U.S.C. 450i(c), as amended.

### **Objectives:**

To carry out research, to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the nation and to facilitate or expand on-going State-Federal food and agricultural research programs.

### **Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

### **Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved fundamental and applied research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences. Awards are generally limited to high priority problems of a regional or national scope. NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents.

Funds shall not be used for tuition remission.

Generally, Indirect Costs are generally not allowable for this program.

Please refer to RFA, Part IV.D. – Applications – Funding Restrictions for specific details.

However, the following programs are EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

- 1) Aquaculture Centers [7 U.S.C. 3322(d)]
- 2) Critical Agricultural Materials (Pub. L. 95-592)
- 3) Federal Administration – Research
- 4) Pest Management Alternatives (aka PMAP) and
- 5) Supplemental and Alternative Crops [7 U.S.C. 3319d (c)].

For the above-referenced five (5) EXCEPTIONS to the general rule, the following provisions are applicable:

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs for grants to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect

costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

The following Special Note is also applicable to the above-referenced five (5) exceptions to the Indirect Cost provisions:

**\*\*Special Note** – Use of Indirect Costs as In-Kind Matching Contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Special Research Grants: State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations and individuals having a demonstrable capacity to conduct research activities to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the United States.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

For Special Research Grants: State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations and individuals having a demonstrable capacity to conduct research activities to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the United States.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

Generally, NIFA does NOT require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

However, the Rangeland Research Program is an EXCEPTION to the general rule. The following represents pertinent information regarding the Rangeland Research Program [ 7 U.S.C. 3333(a)(1)]:

Pursuant to Section 1480 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 as amended [7 USC 3333(b)(1)], applicants are required to provide 50 percent matching funds from non-federal sources for all proposed Federal funds sought in the application. Non-federal matching contributions, such as cash and third party in kind, are accepted under this program as qualified by 7 USC 3015 and 7 USC 3019.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.202 – Cooperative Forestry Research**

**Authorization:**

Executive Order Public Law 87-778 (76 Stat. 806, 16 U.S.C. 582a, et seq.) signed into law on October 10, 1962 is also known as the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of this funding is to increase forestry research in the production, utilization, and protection of forestland; to train future forestry scientists; and to involve other disciplines in forestry research. Funding should also address the high priority issues described in the current M/S Strategic Plan: “Sustaining Healthy and Productive Forests: An Investment in America’s Competitive Position in the Global Marketplace”: (1) science of integration; (2) forest ecosystem services; (3) human attitudes and behaviors; (4) conflict, uncertainty, and decision-making; (5) technological advancements, productivity, and forest applications; and (6) urban ecosystems.

**Types of Assistance:**

FORMULA GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act (M/S) grant is used to assist all states in carrying out a program of state forestry research at state forestry schools and colleges and developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research, which should include: (1) ecological restoration; (2) catastrophe management; (3) valuing and trading ecological services; (4) energy conservation, biomass energy and bio-based materials development; (5) forest fragmentation; (6) carbon sequestration and climate change; and (7) ways of fostering healthy forests and a globally competitive forest resources sector. Additionally, M/S funds should be allocated to the following high priority issues: (1) science of integration (ecosystem or landscape approaches including interdisciplinary multi-state projects); (2) forest ecosystem services; (3) human attitudes and behaviors; (4) conflict, uncertainty, and decision-making; (5) technological advancements (biotechnology, nanotechnology and geospatial technology), productivity, and forest applications; and (6) urban ecosystems. Funding is provided to the States through a formula-based allocation process which depends on several factors. First, a base amount (approximately \$25,000) is allocated to each State; however, this base amount is excluded from the formula. The balance of funding to each State is determined through a ranking process and dependent upon the following three factors: (1) forty percent of the remaining balance is allocated based on the area of non-Federal commercial forest land; (2) forty percent is allocated based upon the volume of timber cut annually from stock; and (3) twenty percent is allocated based on the total expenditures for forestry research from non-Federal sources. Funds are then distributed to the eligible State-certified Institutions within the

State as determined by the Governor's designee. applications may be submitted by State-certified Schools of Forestry as stipulated in accordance with Section 2 of Public Law 87-788, McIntire-Stennis Act. Section 7412 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended Section 2 of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-1) to include the 1890 Land-grant Institutions and made this change effective October 1, 2008. (1) Approved NIFA M/S Projects, NIFA will fund the M/S Program for authorized activities. Funds must be expended on approved M/S projects. (2) Cost-Sharing and Matching funds are mandated in Section 4 of the McIntire-Stennis Act (16 U.S.C. 582a-3). 7 CFR 3015.50-56 prescribes the standards applicable to determining the allowability of cash and in-kind contributions for matching funds. Matching funds also must be expended on approved M/S projects. Formula grant recipients are to provide matching (as detailed in Part VIII.A.6 of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO)), either cash or in-kind, on a dollar-for-dollar basis (100 percent) on all Federal funds allotted. Eligible institutions located in insular areas (i.e., American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) are not required to match amounts at or below \$100,000, if the allocation is below \$200,000. (3) Waiver of Indirect Costs. Only applicable to Insular Areas (i.e., American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) for amounts at or below \$200,000. (4) Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission. In accordance with Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as an M/S formula grant or matching expenditure. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Funds are appropriated by Congress for distribution to State institutions certified as eligible by a State representative designated by the Governor of each State. Funds are apportioned among States by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with a National Advisory Council representing the State- certified forestry schools and other groups concerned with forestry research. This program is also available to Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and Micronesia.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Funds are appropriated by Congress for distribution to State institutions certified as eligible by a State representative designated by the Governor of each State. Funds are apportioned among States by the Secretary of Agriculture after consultation with a National Advisory Council representing the State- certified forestry schools and other groups concerned with forestry research. This program is also available in Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana, and Micronesia.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All Formula Grant Opportunities (FGOs) are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information:

[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

NIFA Applications (R&R Other Project Information - Section 4.4) requires a response to the question regarding "Actual or Potential Impact on the Environment." For this program the response is "No." Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the FGO. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov. Applicants are required to submit applications in response to both an interim FGO and a final FGO. The final FGO reflects the final formula allocations for the current fiscal year (FY).

**Award Procedure:**

Funding is provided to the States through a formula-based allocation process which depends on several factors. First, a base amount (approximately \$25,000) is allocated to each State; however, this base amount is excluded from the formula. The balance of funding to each State is determined through a ranking process and dependent upon the following three factors: (1) forty percent of the remaining balance is allocated based on the area of non-Federal commercial forest land ; (2) forty percent is allocated based upon the volume of timber cut annually from stock; and (3) twenty percent is allocated based on the total expenditures for forestry research from non-Federal sources. Funds are then distributed to the eligible State-certified Institutions within the State as determined by the Governor's designee. All individual MS projects, as well as the annual Programs of Research, are reviewed and approved by the National Program Leader (NPL). Funds are not released on a quarterly basis unless an annual Program of Research is approved by the NPL.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory Formula: Public Law 87-778. 76 Stat. 806, 16 U.S.C. 582a, et seq.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100.%. Funding is provided to the States through a formula-based allocation process which depends on several factors. First, a base amount (approximately \$25,000) is allocated to each State; however, this base amount is excluded from the formula. The balance of funding to each State is determined through a ranking process and dependent upon the following three factors: (1) forty percent of the remaining balance is allocated based on the area of non-Federal commercial forest land; (2) forty percent is allocated based upon the volume of timber cut annually from stock; and (3) twenty percent is allocated based on the total expenditures for forestry research from non-Federal sources. Funds are then distributed to the eligible State-certified Institutions within the State as determined by the Governor's designee. Formula grant recipients are to provide matching [as detailed in Part VIII.A.6 of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO)], either cash or in-kind, on a dollar-for-dollar basis (100 percent) on all Federal funds allotted. Eligible institutions located in insular areas (i.e., American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands) are not required to match amounts at or below \$100,000, if the allocation is below \$200,000.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

M/S funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year (FY) of appropriation; however funds may be carried forward one (1) additional fiscal year (FY). These carryover funds must be fully expended by September 30 of the following year. No prior approval to carryover these funds is required from NIFA. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: quarterly.

**10.203 - Payments to Agricultural Experiment Stations Under the Hatch Act**

**Authorization:**

Hatch Act of 1887, as amended; Public Law 84-352, 7 U.S.C. 361a-361i; Education Amendments of 1972, Section 506, Public Law 92-318; Public Law 93-471; Public Law 95-113; Education Amendments of 1980, Section 1361, Public Law 96-374, 7 U.S.C. 301; Public Law 97-98; Public Law 99-198; Public Law 101-624; Public Law 104-127; Public Law 105-185. Public Law 084-352; 7 U.S.C 361.

**Objectives:**

To support agricultural research at State Agricultural Experiment Stations. Its purpose is to promote efficient production, marketing, distribution, and utilization of products of the farm as essential to the health and welfare of people and to promote a sound prosperous agriculture and rural life. Up to 25 percent (25%) of funds to be used for integrated cooperative research and extension activities.

TWO (2) PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED UNDER CFDA 10.203. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research)

The Hatch Act of 1887 provides the basis for Federal funding for agricultural research activities at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas.

State Agricultural Experiment Stations are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the following formula: The previous year's base plus the current year increase as follows:

Three percent (3%) for Federal Administration,

Twenty percent (20%) equally,

Twenty-six percent (26%) in an amount which bears the same ratio to the total amount to be allotted as the rural population of the State bears to the total rural population of all the States as determined by the last preceding decennial census;

Twenty-six percent (26%) t in an amount which bears the same ratio to the total amount to be allotted as the farm population of the State bears to the total farm population of all the States as determined by the last preceding decennial census; and

Twenty-five percent (25%) for the Hatch Multistate Research Fund.

B. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research)

Not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total Hatch Act of 1887 funding is allotted to the States for cooperative research employing multidisciplinary approaches in which a State agricultural experiment station, working with another State agricultural experiment station, the Agricultural Research Service, or a college or university, cooperates to solve problems that concern more than one (1) State. These funds are designated as the “Multistate Research Fund, State Agricultural Experiment Stations.” Funds are allocated on a prorata basis and allocations are adjusted to support national and regional projects. These projects and their associated budgets are reviewed and approved annually.

**Types of Assistance:**

FORMULA GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

USES:

Money appropriated pursuant to this Act shall also be available, in addition to meeting expenses for research and investigations conducted under authority of Section 2, for printing and disseminating the results of such research, retirement of employees subject to the provisions of an Act approved March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 39), administrative planning and direction, and for the purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of buildings necessary for conducting research. The State Agricultural Experiment Stations are authorized to plan and conduct any research authorized under Section 2 of this Act in cooperation with each other and such other agencies and individuals as may contribute to the solution of the agricultural problems involved, and moneys appropriated pursuant to this Act shall be available for paying the necessary expenses of planning, coordinating, and conducting such cooperative research. Up to twenty-five percent (25%) of funds to be used for integrated cooperative research and extension activities.

A. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research)

This grant is used to support continuing agricultural research at institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act approved July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, as amended) (“1862 Land-Grant Institutions”), as well as State agricultural experiment stations. Funds appropriated under this section shall be used to conduct original and other researches, investigations, and experiments bearing directly on and contributing to the establishment and maintenance of a permanent and effective agricultural industry of the United States, including researches basic to the problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects, and such investigations as have for their purpose the development and improvement of the rural home and rural life and the maximum contribution by agriculture to the welfare of the consumer, as may be deemed advisable, having due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective States. Further, funds may be used printing and disseminating the results of such research, retirement of employees subject to the provisions of an Act approved March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 39), administrative planning and direction, and for the purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of

buildings necessary for conducting research.

B. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research)

In addition to the uses applicable to the Regular Research funds, Multistate Research funds must be used for cooperative research employing multidisciplinary approaches in which a State agricultural experiment station, working with another State agricultural experiment station, the Agricultural Research Service, or a college or university, cooperates to solve problems that concern more than one (1) State.

These funds are known as the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF). RESTRICTIONS:

1. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research)

i. Approved NIFA Hatch Projects

Hatch Federal funding must be used on approved Hatch projects including Hatch Multistate Research Fund (MRF) projects.

ii. Matching

Section 3(d)(1) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for agricultural research and for the establishment and maintenance of facilities for the performance of the research.” However, section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(4)) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year (FY) 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirement of paragraph (1), the insular areas of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than fifty percent (50%) of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of fifty percent (50%)] for any fiscal year (FY) if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year (FY).” Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act to subject the District of Columbia to the same matching requirements as the insular 1862 Land-Grant Institutions upon enactment (May 22, 2008).

NIFA may consider and approve matching waivers submitted by State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the Insular Areas and the District of Columbia.

iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Hatch formula grant

expenditures.

2. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research)

i. Approved NIFA Hatch MRF Projects

Hatch MRF Federal funding must be used on approved Hatch MRF projects.

ii. Matching

Section 3(d)(1) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for agricultural research and for the establishment and maintenance of facilities for the performance of the research.” However, section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(4)) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year (FY) 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirement of paragraph (1), the insular areas of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than fifty percent (50%) of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. ... The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of fifty percent (50%)] for any fiscal year (FY) if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year (FY).”

Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act to subject the District of Columbia to the same matching requirements as the insular 1862 Land-Grant Institutions upon enactment (May 22, 2008).

NIFA may consider and approve matching waivers submitted by State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the Insular Areas and the District of Columbia.

iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Hatch MRF formula grant expenditures.

Section 3(d)(1) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for agricultural research and for the

establishment and maintenance of facilities for the performance of the research.” However, section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 ( 7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(4)) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year (FY) 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirement of paragraph (1), the insular areas of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than fifty percent (50%) of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. ... The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of fifty percent (50%)] for any fiscal year (FY) if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year (FY).”

Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act to subject the District of Columbia to the same matching requirements as the insular 1862 Land-Grant Institutions upon enactment (May 22, 2008).

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

#### **A. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research)**

Hatch Act funds are provided for agricultural research on an annual basis to the State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES's) which were established under the direction of the college or university or agricultural departments of the college or university in each State in accordance with the act approved July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or such other substantially equivalent arrangements as any State shall determine.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project.

#### **B. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research)**

Hatch Act funds are provided for agricultural research on an annual basis to the State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES's) which were established under the direction of the college or university or agricultural departments of the college or university in each State in accordance with the act approved July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.); or such other substantially equivalent arrangements as any State shall determine.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Funds under the Hatch Act are allocated in accordance with the statutory formula stated in the Act to the State agricultural experiment stations of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Micronesia, and Northern Mariana Islands.

These institutions have been identified and declared eligible by their respective State legislatures.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All Formula Grant Opportunities (FGOs) are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to the Hatch as a "new" application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. As noted previously, these application packages complement, rather than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) system and the Current Research Information System (CRIS), and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.

Section 202 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) amended the Smith-Lever Act and the Hatch Act to require approved plans of work for agricultural extension and research activities at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions in order to receive Federal funding. Therefore, each 1862 Land-Grant Institution must submit both a 5-Year Plan of Work Update (i.e., submitted each year as an update) and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. Both reports were due by April 1.

Specific project details and pertinent information should be entered in the Current Research Information System (CRIS) as in prior years. CRIS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's documentation and reporting system for ongoing agricultural, food and nutrition, and forestry research and education. CRIS contains over 30,000 descriptions of current, publicly-supported research and education activities. This work is sponsored or conducted by the USDA research agencies, the State agricultural experiment stations, the State Land-Grant Institutions and universities, State schools of forestry, cooperating schools of veterinary medicine, and USDA grant recipients. See Part VI.C. of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO) for specific CRIS requirements. An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. State Five (5) year plans of work must be submitted to and approved by NIFA before funds are released. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the FGO. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov. Applicants are required to submit applications in response to both an interim FGO and a final FGO. The final FGO reflects the final formula allocations for the current fiscal year (FY).

### **Award Procedure:**

The Office of Planning and Accountability and CRIS Office will notify the OGFm Financial Operations Branch regarding each institution's compliance with the Plan of Work reporting requirements [i.e., Five (5) Year Plan of Work Update and an Annual Report of

Accomplishments and Results]. If all current program and administrative requirements have been met by the eligible institution, funding will continue to be released on a quarterly basis. The OGFM Financial Operations Branch will notify the institutions when all requirements have been met or approved.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

- 1) Statutory Formula: Title The Hatch Act of 1887, Public Law 084-352. 7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)  
Formula: Payments to States for fiscal year (FY) 1955 was a fixed base and sums appropriated in excess of 1955 level use the following fund allocation statistical factors: Twenty percent (20%) allotted equally to each State;
- 2) Not less than Fifty-two percent (52%) to States as follows: One-half (1/2) in an amount which bears the same ratio as the rural population of the State bears to the total rural population of all the States (and the source is the 1990 Decennial Census); and one-half (1/2) in an amount which bears the same ratio as the farm population of the State bears to the total farm population of all the States (and the source is the 1990 Decennial Census); and
- 3) At least Twenty-five percent (25%) to States for cooperative research in which two (2) or more State agricultural experiment stations are cooperating to solve problems of agriculture in more than one (1) State.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%.

- A. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research) (B) The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research)  
100 percent. However, the state agricultural experiment stations in the District of Columbia and the insular areas shall provide non-Federal matching funds equal to not less than 50% of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary of Agriculture. This requirement may be waived by the Secretary.
- B. The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research)  
Required Multistate Match amounts are disclosed in FGO.  
MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Hatch funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year (FY) of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to one (1) year after the end of the year for which they were appropriated. No prior approval is required to carry over funds for one (1) additional year; however, no additional carryover requests may be considered or approved, as no legislative authority to do so is provided. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: quarterly.

**10.205 – Payments to 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Tuskegee University**

**Authorization:**

Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), enacted as Title XIV of Public Law 95–113 (The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977) on Sept. 29, 1977 is also known as the Evans-Allen Research Program. This law provides the basis for Federal funding for agricultural research activities at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417–419, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 321–326 and 328), including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Amended by Public Law 95-547, Public Law 97-98, Public Law 99-198, Public Law 101-624, Public Law 104-127 and Public Law 105-185; 7 U.S.C 321-326 and 328.

**Objectives:**

To support continuing agricultural research at colleges eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 417-419), as amended; 7 U.S.C. 321-326 and 328), including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Its purpose is to promote efficient production, marketing, distribution and utilization of products of the farm as essential to the health and welfare of people and to promote a sounds prosperous agriculture and rural life.

**Types of Assistance:**

FORMULA GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

This grant is used to support continuing agricultural research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Funds appropriated under this section shall be used for expenses of conducting agricultural research, printing, disseminating the results of such research, contributing to the retirement of employees subject to the provisions of the Act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 39–40, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 331), administrative planning and direction, and purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of buildings necessary for conducting agricultural research. The eligible institutions are authorized to plan and conduct agricultural research in cooperation with each other and such agencies, institutions and individuals as may contribute to the solution to the solution of agricultural problems, and funds appropriated pursuant to section 1445 shall be available for paying the necessary expenses of planning, coordinating and conducting such cooperative research. RESTRICTIONS:

1. Approved NIFA Evans-Allen Research Projects  
NIFA will fund the Evans-Allen Research Program for authorized activities. Funds may be used on approved Evans-Allen Research Program projects.
2. Matching  
NARETPA section 1449 (7 U.S.C. 3222d) states that “the State shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources. Such matching funds shall be for an amount equal to not less than ... 100 percent of the formula [grant] funds to be distributed to the eligible institution for fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter. ... Notwithstanding [redistributing the funds], the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement ... above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State if the Secretary determines that the State will be unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement.”

7 CFR 3419.1 defines “matching funds” as “funds from non-Federal sources made

available by the State to the eligible institutions ... [for] programs or activities that fall within the purposes of agricultural research and cooperative extension under sections 1444 and 1445 of NARETPA ... or [for] qualifying educational activities. Matching funds means cash contributions and excludes in-kind matching contributions.” It defines “non-Federal sources” as “funds made available by the State to the eligible institution either through direct appropriation or under any authority (other than authority to charge tuition and fees paid by students) provided by a State to an eligible institution to raise revenue, such as gift acceptance authority or user fees.” Finally, it defines “qualifying educational activities” as “programs that address food and agricultural sciences components of an eligible institution.”

7 CFR 3419.6 states that “The required matching funds for the formula programs shall be used by an eligible institution for agricultural research and extension activities that have been approved in the plan of work required under sections 1444(d) and 1445(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977... or for .. qualifying education activities.”

Please note that while Federal funds must be expended on agricultural research, the matching funds may be used for agricultural research, agricultural extension, or qualifying educational activities. NIFA may consider and approve matching waivers above the 50 percent level.

3. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with NARETPA section 1473 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Evans-Allen Research Program formula grant expenditures.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by 1890 Land-Grant Universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by 1890 Land-Grant Universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All Formula Grant Opportunities (FGOs) are published on the Agency’s website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to the Hatch as a “new” application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. As noted previously, these application packages complement, rather

than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) system and the Current Research Information System (CRIS), and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.

Section 202 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) amended the Smith-Lever Act and the Hatch Act to require approved plans of work for agricultural extension and research activities at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions in order to receive Federal funding. Therefore, each 1862 Land-Grant Institution must submit both a Five (5) Year Plan of Work Update (i.e., submitted each year as an update) and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. Both reports were due by April 1.

Specific project details and pertinent information should be entered in the Current Research Information System (CRIS) as in prior years. CRIS is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's documentation and reporting system for ongoing agricultural, food and nutrition, and forestry research and education. CRIS contains over 30,000 descriptions of current, publicly-supported research and education activities. This work is sponsored or conducted by the USDA research agencies, the State agricultural experiment stations, the State Land-Grant Institutions and universities, State schools of forestry, cooperating schools of veterinary medicine, and USDA grant recipients. See Part VI.C. of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO) for specific CRIS requirements. An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the FGO.

Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov. Applicants are required to submit applications in response to both an interim FGO and a final FGO. The final FGO reflects the final formula allocations for the current fiscal year (FY).

#### **Award Procedure:**

The Office of Planning and Accountability and the OGF M Formula Grants Section will be reviewing submitted documents to determine if all program, financial, and administrative requirements have been met and are current. To receive an annual allotment of funds, each eligible institution or State must first submit a plan of work to NIFA for approval. During the grant period, the Office of Planning and Accountability will notify the OGF M Formula Grants Section and the institution regarding each institution's compliance with the Plan of Work reporting requirements (i.e., Five (5) Year Plan of Work Update and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results). If all current program and administrative requirements have been met by the eligible institution, funding will continue to be released on a quarterly basis. The OGF M Formula Grants Section will notify the institutions when all requirements have been met or approved. The Office of Planning and Accountability will notify the OGF M Formula Grants Section and the institution regarding each institution's compliance with the Plan of Work reporting requirements (i.e., Five (5) Year Plan of Work Update and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results). If all current program and administrative requirements have been met by the eligible institution, funding will continue to be released on a quarterly basis. The OGF M Formula Grants Section will notify the institutions when all requirements have been met

or approved.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory Formula: Title Evans-Allen Research, Public Law 95-113. 7 U.S.C. 321–326 and 328

The 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the following formula: Funds up to the total amount made available to all eligible institutions in the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, under section 2 of the Act of August 4, 1965 (79 Stat.431; 7 U.S.C. 450i), shall be allocated among the eligible institutions in the same proportion as funds made available under section 2 of the Act of August 4, 1965, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, are allocated among the eligible institutions. Of the funds in excess of that amount, 20 per cent shall be allotted among eligible institutions in equal proportions; 40 per cent shall be allotted among the eligible institutions in the proportion that the rural population of the State in which each eligible institution is located bears to the total rural population of all the States in which eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated; and the balance shall be allotted among the eligible institutions in the proportion that the farm population of the State in which each eligible institution is located bears to the total farm population of all the States in which the eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated. In computing the distribution of the allocated funds, the allotments to Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University shall be determined as if each institution were in a separate State.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%. NARETPA section 1449 (7 U.S.C. 3222d) states that “the State shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources. Such matching funds shall be for an amount equal to not less than ... 100 percent of the formula [grant] funds to be distributed to the eligible institution for fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter. ... Notwithstanding [redistributing the funds], the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement ... above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State if the Secretary determines that the State will be unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement.” MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Evans-Allen Research Program funds are fiscal year appropriated and expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to one additional year. Please note there is no limitation on the amount of Federal funds that may be carried over for this one additional fiscal year. No prior approval from NIFA is required. Since this limitation is legislatively mandated, NIFA is not authorized to grant any carryover requests beyond this one additional year. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: quarterly.

## **10.206 – Grants for Agricultural Research Competitive Research Grants**

**Authorization:**

Competitive, Special and Facilities Research Grant Act, Section 2(2)(b), [7 U.S.C. 450i];

7 U.S.C 450i.

**Objectives:**

To support research, education and extension grants that address key problems of national, regional and multistate importance in sustaining all components of agriculture (farming, ranching, forestry, aquaculture, rural communities, human nutrition and obesity, food and fiber processing, etc.) Providing this support to US agriculture requires that the NRI advance fundamental. Building on these discoveries will necessitate new efforts in education and extension that deliver science-based knowledge to people, allowing them to make informed practical decisions. All grants were awarded on a competitive basis.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

NIFA Competitive Programs Unit administers the NRI. The purpose of the NRI Competitive Grants Program was to support research grants and integrated research, extension, and education grants that address key problems of National, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture (farming, ranching, forestry including urban and agroforestry, aquaculture, rural communities, human nutrition, processing, etc.). Providing this support requires that NRI advances fundamental sciences in support of agriculture and coordinates opportunities to build on these discoveries. Building on these discoveries will necessitate new efforts in education and extension that deliver science-based knowledge to people, allowing them to make informed practical decisions. Hence, the NRI accepted applications for fundamental research, mission-linked research, and integrated research, extension, and education projects. However, applicants should know that the NRI utilized no more than twenty-two percent (22%) of available funds to support integrated projects and that these funds were not distributed uniformly, but targeted to specific priorities. Targeted priorities for integrated projects were clearly identified within the detailed descriptions of program offerings [see Part II, E of the Fiscal Year (FY) '08 Request for Applications (RFAs)]. Funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research spaces (including energy retrofitting); purchase or installations of fixed equipment in such spaces; or planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities. Fully discretionary.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

For research projects, the eligibility requirements for the NRI were as follows: except where otherwise prohibited by law, State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, and individuals were eligible to apply for and to receive a competitive grant. The Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) have some notable differences from these requirements. See Part II C, 2. of Fiscal Year (FY) '08 Requests for Applications (RFAs).

For integrated projects, the eligibility requirements for the NRI were as follows: except where

otherwise prohibited by law, State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, research foundations maintained by colleges or universities, private research organizations with established and demonstrated capacities to perform research or technology transfer, Federal research agencies, and national laboratories were eligible to apply for and receive a competitive grant. The bridge grants have some notable differences from these requirements. See Part II, C, 3(b) of Fiscal Year (FY) '08 RFAs for details.

Unsolicited applications were not considered and applications from scientists at non-United States organizations were not accepted. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations were necessary for the conduct of the project.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

For research grants eligibility includes State Agricultural Experiment Stations, U.S. colleges/universities, other U.S. research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, and individuals. For integrated research, education and extension grants eligibility includes State Agricultural Experiment Stations, U.S. colleges/universities, research foundations maintained by colleges or universities, private research organizations with established and demonstrated capacities to perform research or technology transfer, Federal research agencies and national laboratories. Proposals from scientists at non-U.S. organizations will not be considered for support.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs were published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov. This information collection is approved under OMB Control No. 0524-0039, "NIFA Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs."

**Award Procedure:**

Applications were subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with Section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who were specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications were judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. This information collection is approved under OMB Control No. 0524-0039, "NIFA Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs. Reviewers were selected based upon

training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Funds were awarded competitively. No formula grants were awarded under this authority.

For equipment grants – Unless criteria was met to qualify for waiver by the Secretary, matching shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the special research equipment or other equipment acquired using funds from the grant.

For applied research – if the grant was commodity-specific; and not of national scope, the grant recipient was required to match USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Normally, competitive research projects were supported for periods of up to four (4) years.

Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.207 – Animal Health and Disease Research**

**Authorization:**

Executive Order National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, Section 1433, Public Law 95-113, as amended; Section 1429, Public Law 97-98; Public Law 99-198; Public Law 101-624; Public Law 104-127; Public Law 105-185; Public Law 95-113.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of this funding is to increase animal health and disease research activities at accredited State veterinary schools or colleges or agricultural experiment stations that conduct animal health and disease research.

To support animal health and disease research at eligible Schools and Colleges of Veterinary

Medicine, and State Agricultural Experiment Stations whose purpose is to improve the health and productivity of food animals and horses through effective prevention, control or treatment of disease, reduction of losses from transportation and other hazards, and protect human health through control of animal diseases transmissible to people.

**Types of Assistance:**  
FORMULA GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) requests applications for the FY 2009 formula grants authorized under authorized under section 1433 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) for the Animal Health and Disease Research (AHDR) Program. These grants are used to assist all states in carrying out a program of research activities designed to (1) to meet expenses of conducting animal health and disease research, publishing and disseminating the results of such research, and contributing to the retirement of employees subject to the provisions of the Act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 39–40, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 331); (2) for administrative planning and direction; and (3) to purchase equipment and supplies necessary for conducting such research.

States are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the following formula: One half of the State allotment will be distributed among the States in the proportion that the value of and income to producers from domestic livestock, poultry, and commercial aquaculture species in each State bears to the total value of and income to producers from domestic livestock, poultry, and commercial aquaculture species in all the States, based on the most current inventory of all cattle, sheep, swine, horses, poultry, and commercial aquaculture species published by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The remainder of the State allotment will be distributed among the States in the proportion that the animal health and disease research capacity of the eligible institutions in each State bears to the total animal health and disease research capacity in all the States, as determined by NIFA.

Research on animal health and disease of food animals and horses conducted in eligible institutions under the following categories: (1) Infectious diseases; (2) internal and external parasites; (3) noninfectious diseases, toxins, poisons, transportation losses, predators and other hazards; (4) diseases and parasites of wildlife transmissible to food animals and horses; and (5) diseases and parasites of animals transmissible to people.

1. Approved NIFA AHDR Projects

AHDR Federal funding must be used on AHDR approved projects.

2. Matching

7 U.S.C. 3200 provides that “No funds in excess of \$100,000 shall be paid by the Federal Government to any State under this subchapter during any fiscal year in excess of the amount from non-Federal sources made available to and budgeted for expenditure by eligible institutions in the State during the same fiscal year for animal health and disease research. The Secretary is authorized to make such payments in excess of \$100,000 on the certificate of the appropriate official of the eligible institution having charge of the animal health and disease research for which such payments are to be made. If any

eligible institution certified for receipt of matching funds fails to make available and budget for expenditure for animal health and disease research in any fiscal year sums at least equal to the amount for which it is certified, the difference between the Federal matching funds available and the funds made available to and budgeted for expenditure by the eligible institution shall be reapportioned by the Secretary among other eligible institutions of the same State, if there are any which qualify therefore, and, if there are none, the Secretary shall reapportion such difference among the other States.”

3. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as AHDR formula grant expenditures.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Eligibility is restricted to the following public nonprofit institutions having demonstrable capacity in animal disease research: (1) Schools and Colleges of Veterinary Medicine; and (2) State Agricultural Experiment Stations. Funds are appropriated by Congress for distribution to States and eligible State institutions according to the statutory formula stated in the Act.

Applications may be submitted by accredited State veterinary schools or colleges or agricultural experiment stations that conduct animal health and disease research in accordance with NARETPA section 1433(c): Auburn University, Agricultural Experiment Station; Auburn University, School of Veterinary Medicine; Tuskegee University, School of Veterinary Medicine; University of Alaska, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Arizona, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Arkansas, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of California-Oakland, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of California-Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine; Colorado State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Connecticut-Storrs, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Delaware, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Florida, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Georgia, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Hawaii, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Idaho, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Illinois, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; Purdue University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; Iowa State University, Agricultural and Home Economics Experiment Station; Iowa State University, College of Veterinary Medicine; Kansas State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Kentucky, Agricultural Experiment Station; Louisiana State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; Louisiana State University, College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Maine, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Maryland, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Massachusetts, Agricultural Experiment Station; Tufts University, School of Veterinary Medicine; Michigan State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Minnesota, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of

Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine; Mississippi State University, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Missouri, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Missouri, College of Veterinary Medicine; Montana State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Nebraska, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Nevada, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of New Hampshire, Agricultural Experiment Station; Rutgers University, Agricultural Experiment Station; New Mexico State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; Cornell University, Agricultural Experiment Station; Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine; North Carolina State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine; North Dakota State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Research & Development Center; Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine; Oklahoma State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; Oregon State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; Pennsylvania State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Pennsylvania, College of Veterinary Medicine; University of Puerto Rico, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Rhode Island, Agricultural Experiment Station; Clemson University, Agricultural Experiment Station; South Dakota State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Tennessee, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Tennessee, College of Veterinary Medicine; Texas A&M University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; Utah State University, Agricultural Experiment Station; University of Vermont, Agricultural Experiment Station; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; Washington State University, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; West Virginia University, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station; University of Wisconsin, Agricultural Experiment Station and College of Veterinary Medicine; and University of Wyoming, Agricultural Experiment Station.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project or activity.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Eligibility is restricted to the following public nonprofit institutions having demonstrable capacity in animal disease research: (1) Schools and Colleges of Veterinary Medicine; and (2) State Agricultural Experiment Stations. Funds are appropriated by Congress for distribution to States and eligible State institutions according to the statutory formula stated in the Act.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All Formula Grant Opportunities (FGOs) are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the FGO. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov. Applicants are required to submit applications in response to both an interim FGO and a final FGO. The final FGO reflects the final formula allocations for the current fiscal year (FY).

**Award Procedure:**

Fund will be released on a quarterly basis to the institutions. See Appendix A of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO) for the specific allocation.

AHDR funds must be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; no waiver requests may be considered and approved as no carryover authority is provided in the authorizing legislation.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: 7 U.S.C. 3200 provides that “No funds in excess of \$100,000 shall be paid by the Federal Government to any State under this subchapter during any fiscal year in excess of the amount from non-Federal sources made available to and budgeted for expenditure by eligible institutions in the State during the same fiscal year for animal health and disease research. The Secretary is authorized to make such payments in excess of \$100,000 on the certificate of the appropriate official of the eligible institution having charge of the animal health and disease research for which such payments are to be made. If any eligible institution certified for receipt of matching funds fails to make available and budget for expenditure for animal health and disease research in any fiscal year sums at least equal to the amount for which it is certified, the difference between the Federal matching funds available and the funds made available to and budgeted for expenditure by the eligible institution shall be reapportioned by the Secretary among other eligible institutions of the same State, if there are any which qualify therefore, and, if there are none, the Secretary shall reapportion such difference among the other States.” MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

AHDR funds must be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; no waiver requests may be considered and approved as no carryover authority is provided in the authorizing legislation. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: quarterly.

## **10.210 – Food and Agricultural Sciences National Needs Graduate Fellowship Grants**

**Authorization:**

Section 7106 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 (Public Law 110-246) amends the legislative authority for this program contained in Section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (99 Stat. 1548; 7 U.S.C. 3152) to include the University of the District of Columbia as an eligible applicant; 7 U.S.C 3152.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of the NNF Grants Program is to train students for Master's and/or doctoral degrees and provide additional postdoctoral training for Fellows who have completed their doctoral degrees at colleges and universities that have demonstrable teaching and research competencies in the food and agricultural sciences. Fellowships and IRTA awards are specifically intended to support traineeship programs that encourage outstanding students to pursue and complete their degrees or obtain postdoctoral training in areas where there is a national need for the development of scientific and professional expertise in the food and agricultural sciences. Fellowships and IRTA awards invest in graduate training and relevant international experiential learning for a cadre of diverse individuals who demonstrate their potential to successfully complete graduate degree programs in disciplines relevant to the mission of the USDA.

**Types of Assistance:****PROJECT GRANTS****Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Competitive annual grants providing for a limited number of graduate stipends are awarded to selected U.S. institutions of higher education so as to distribute support for graduate study to promising food and agricultural scientists and professionals. Individuals selected initially by the institution must enroll in a program leading to a graduate, master's or doctoral degree in one of the targeted national needs areas of the food and agricultural sciences. Such persons may not have been enrolled previously in the program at the same degree level. Current fellows are eligible to receive supplemental grants of \$3,000 to cover travel and living expenses for special international study or thesis/dissertation research experiences. Funding for the supplemental grants will be awarded on a competitive basis using no-year funds drawn from expired fellowship grants with unspent funds remaining as set forth in the annual program guidelines. No indirect cost allowed. Institutional allowance in lieu of indirect cost. NNF stipend funds for fellowship must be used to: (1) support the same Fellow at the Master's degree level who maintains satisfactory progress and is eligible to receive grant support for a maximum of twenty-four (24) months during a thirty-month period, and/or (2) support the same Fellow at the doctoral degree level who maintains satisfactory progress and is eligible to receive grant support for a maximum of thirty-six (36) months within a forty-two-month period. Institutions must use a minimum stipend of \$18,500 per year for Master's Fellows and \$24,500 per year for Doctoral Fellows.

If funds remain as a result of USDA Fellows completing their studies early (less than twenty-four months for a Master's degree or less than thirty-six months for a doctoral degree) or Fellowships being terminated prematurely, such funds may be used, within the time remaining on the award, to support: (1) pursuit of a doctoral degree in a TESA in the food and agricultural sciences by a Master's degree level Fellow at the grantee institution, or (2) a Replacement Fellow. The tenure of such a Replacement Fellow is limited to whatever time is remaining on the grant before it expires; however, an institution may not appoint a Replacement Fellow unless there is time for the student to complete at least one semester/quarter of study before the expiration date of the grant.

Replacement Fellows must meet all of the eligibility criteria and other requirements established

for Fellow selection and are subject to the same provisions as other Fellows during their tenure in the program. Replacement Fellows are entitled, during their tenure, to the same benefits that other Fellows receive from the grant award and National Needs Graduate and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants Program. Institutions may, but are not required to, continue a Replacement Fellow's tuition and other benefits beyond the expiration date of the grant using institutional or other funds. A Fellow may not be simultaneously supported under multiple National Needs Graduate and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants Program awards.

Remaining funds cannot be used to increase annual Fellowship stipends provided to existing Fellows. If less than one semester/quarter remains on the award, the grantee must refund unexpended monies to NIFA. Such funds cannot be used to increase the annual stipend amounts for current USDA Graduate Fellows.

Should a USDA Fellow require additional time beyond the grant period to complete his or her degree, it is expected that the grantee will consider alternatives to continue supporting the Fellow through other means.

Tuition and fees are the responsibility of the Fellow unless an institution elects to use its cost-of-education institutional allowance for this purpose or elects to pay such costs out of non-USDA monies. No dependency allowances are provided to any USDA Graduate Fellows. Stipend payments and special international study or thesis/dissertation research travel allowances may be made to Fellows by the institution, in accordance with standard institutional procedures for graduate fellowships and assistantships.

When grants are for IRTAs that will be used by To-Be-Recruited Fellows: The IRTA funds for To-Be-Recruited fellows will be withheld until the Project Director has submitted, to the NNF Program Office, all of the required documentation for eligibility of the Graduate Fellow for the IRTA as well as the required specifics outlined in the RFA for the IRTA. The information must be submitted for approval, no less than 150 days prior to the use of the IRTA funds (see PART IV, B, 3, b, Section 1). This requirement will become a condition of the award. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Proposals may be submitted by all U.S. colleges and universities that confer a master's or doctoral degree in at least one area of the food and agricultural sciences targeted for national needs fellowships. As defined in Section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3103), the terms "college" and "university" mean "an educational institution in any State which: (a) Admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate; (b) is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; (c) provides an educational program for which a bachelor's degree or any other higher degree is awarded; (d) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and (e) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association." Eligibility also applies to research foundations maintained by eligible colleges or universities.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Funds awarded in this program are used to support the training of graduate students to obtain either a master's or doctoral degree in one of the targeted specializations of the food and agricultural sciences.

**Application and Award Process****Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

An Environmental Impact statement (EIS) (actual or potential) is not required for this program. However the NIFA Application (R&R Other Project Information Part 4.4) requires a statement to that effect. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Grants cover a five (5) year period; however, fellows are supported for three (3) years for a doctoral degree or two (2) years for a masters during that five (5) year period. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.212 – Small Business Innovation Research**

**Authorization:**

This program solicitation is issued pursuant to the Small Business Innovation Development Act of 1982, Public Law 97-219, as amended (15 U.S.C. 638) and Section 630 of the Act making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development and Related Agencies' programs for fiscal year ending September 30, 1987, and for other purposes, as made applicable by Section 101(a) of Public Law 99-591, 100 Stat. 3341.

**Objectives:**

To stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting Federal research and development needs, increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts, and foster and encourage participation, by women-owned and socially disadvantaged small business firms in technological innovation.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The selected areas for research are Forests and Related Resources; Plant Production and Protection-Biology; Animal Production and Protection; Soil and Water Resources; Food Science and Nutrition; Rural and Community Development; Aquaculture; Industrial Applications; Marketing and Trade; Wildlife; Animal Manure Management, Small and Mid-size Farms, Plant Production and Protection-Engineering. The Small Business Innovation Research Program is carried out in three separate phases: Phase I projects are supported to determine the scientific or technical feasibility of ideas submitted by proposes on the selected research areas; Phase II awards are made to firms with approaches that appear sufficiently promising as a result of Phase I studies. Only those small businesses previously receiving Phase I awards in either of the two

preceding fiscal years are eligible to submit Phase II proposals. Phase II projects are limited to \$350,000 for a period normally not to exceed 24 months; Phase III is to be conducted by the small business concern (including joint ventures and limited partnerships), and will be non-SBIR funded through the exercising of a follow-on funding commitment. The purpose of Phase III is to stimulate technological innovation and the national return on investment from research through the pursuit of commercialization objectives resulting from the USDA-supported work carried out in Phases I and II. Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved fundamental and applied research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Applicant Eligibility (1) is organized for profit, with a place of business located in the United States, which operates primarily within the United States, or which makes a significant contribution to the United States economy through the payment of taxes or use of American products, materials or labor; (2) is in the legal form of an individual proprietorship, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, joint venture, association, trust or cooperative, except that where the form is a joint venture, there can be no more than 49 percent participation by foreign business entities in the joint venture; (3) is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in, the United States, except in the case of a joint venture, where each entity in the venture must be 51 percent owned and controlled by one or more individuals who are citizens of, or permanent resident aliens in the United States; and (4) has, including its affiliates, not more than 500 employees. The term "affiliates" is defined in greater detail in 13 CFR 121.103. The term "number of employees" is defined in 13 CFR 121.106.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Small businesses.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

#### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with Section 103

of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application. Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under this authority. NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Phase I grants are normally limited to 8 months. Phase II grants are normally limited to 2 years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.215 – Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education**

**Authorization:**

Section 1619-1624 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (FACTA), Public Law 101-624 (7 U.S.C. 5801), 7 U.S.C 5801; Section 1622 of FACTA (7 U.S.C. 5812), and for selected national projects, 7 U.S.C 5812.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SARE) program is to encourage research designed to increase our knowledge concerning agricultural production systems that: (1) maintain and enhance the quality and productivity of the soil; (2) conserve soil, water, energy, natural resources, and fish and wildlife habitat; (3) maintain and enhance the quality of surface and ground water; (4) protect the health and safety of persons involved in the food and farm system; (5) promote the well being of animals; and (6) increase employment opportunities in agriculture (section 1619-1624 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade

Act of 1990 (FACTA), Public Law 101-624 (7 U.S.C. 5801). This request for applications (RFA) is for the regional SARE host institutions to apply for funds to carry out the regional SARE programs under the direction of the SARE Regional Administrative Councils (section 1622 of FACTA (7 U.S.C. 5812)), and for selected national projects. Most SARE competitive grants are made by the SARE regions as subawards. Typically, approximately 85% of the award to a SARE regional host institution is used for subawards. Individuals and organizations interested in applying for SARE competitive grants should NOT respond to this funding opportunity; rather they should apply to the appropriate SARE regional program. (See <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/fo/sustainableagricultureresearchandeducation.cfm>).

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved fundamental and applied research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences. Funds shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents.

Section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 3319), prohibits indirect costs.

Funds shall not be used for tuition remission.

Funds shall not be used for fixed equipment. Fully discretionary.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Land-grant colleges or universities, other universities, State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, nonprofit organizations, and individuals with demonstrable expertise, or Federal or State governmental entities.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Land-grant colleges or universities, other universities, State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, nonprofit organizations, and individuals with demonstrable expertise, or Federal or State governmental entities.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the

Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Regional technical committees will review, rank and prioritize proposals received from public and private organizations and make recommendations for funding to the regional administrative councils. Regional administrative councils will approve proposals for funding and associated plans of work and submit them to USDA. Research and education subcommittee on sustainable agriculture will review plans of work and the Department will give final approval.

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e]. NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under this authority.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this authority may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.216 – 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants**

**Authorization:**

Authority for this program is contained in section 1417 (b)(4) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (NARETPA) [7 U.S.C. 3152(b)(4)]

(b)(4)), 7 U.S.C 3152(b)(4).

**Objectives:**

To build the research and teaching capacities of the 1890 land-grant institutions and Tuskegee University through cooperative programs with Federal and nonfederal entities.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

For teaching grants, funds may be used in the following targeted areas:

- 1) Curricula design and materials development;
- 2) faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching;
- 3) instruction delivery systems;
- 4) scientific instrumentation for teaching;
- 5) student experiential learning; and
- 6) student recruitment and retention.

For research grants, funds may be used to address high- priority research initiatives in areas where there is a present or anticipated need for increased capabilities and in which it is feasible for applicants to develop programs recognized for their excellence.

Research areas include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Studies and experimentation in food and agricultural sciences;

- 2) centralized research support systems; and
- 3) technology delivery systems. With prior approval, in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, or repairs are incidental to the major purpose for which a grant is issued.

Indirect Costs: Not to exceed 22% of Federal Funds awarded. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

The 1890 land-grant institutions and Tuskegee University. The 1890 land-Grant Institutions are: Alabama A&M University; Alcorn State University; University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff; Delaware State University; Florida A&M University; Fort Valley State University; Kentucky State University; Lincoln University (MO); Langston University; University of Maryland-Eastern Shore; North Carolina A&T State University; Prairie View A&M University; South Carolina State University; Southern University and A&M College; Tennessee State University; Virginia State University; and West Virginia State College.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

The seventeen 1890 land-grant institutions and Tuskegee University, non-1890 academic institutions, private industry, and the Department of Agriculture.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

#### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with Section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose

applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application. Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Grants are awarded for a one (1) to three (3) year period and may receive no-cost extensions of time as appropriate up to maximum of five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.217 – Higher Education Challenge Grants**

**Authorization:**

National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, Section 1405, 7 U.S.C 3121, 1417(b)(1); 7 U.S.C 3152(b)(1).

**Objectives:**

To increase institutional capacities to respond to State, regional, national, or international educational needs by strengthening college and university teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Funds may be used only in targeted areas, e.g., curricula design and materials development, faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching, instruction delivery systems, scientific instrumentation for teaching, student experiential learning, and student recruitment and retention, as cited in the annual program announcement in the Federal Register. student tuition remission, room and board, fees or other financial assistance (scholarships, fellowships, etc.). Also, funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct buildings or facilities (i.e., greenhouses, laboratories, or other structures). Promotional items (e.g., T-shirts and other give-a-ways) and food functions (e.g., cookouts or other social meal gatherings) are considered ‘entertainment’ expenses, and are also not allowed under this grants program. Federal Cost Principles governing this grant program state that items not eligible for Federal funding may also not be used as an applicant’s contribution toward meeting matching requirements.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution’s official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardees' indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

All U.S. public and private nonprofit colleges and universities offering a baccalaureate or first professional degree in at least one discipline or area of the food and agricultural sciences.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

All U.S. colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to teach the food and agricultural sciences.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Formal proposals should be submitted to the Proposal Services Unit, NIFA, as outlined in the solicitation of applications. Application procedures are contained in the program regulations and required forms are contained in the Grant Application Kit. This program is subject to the regulatory provisions of USDA, 7 CFR Part 3015, et seq., and all successor regulations.

### **Award Procedure:**

Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

### **Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%. A grant recipient is required to match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources. Matching funds are not required to come in any particular amount from any one source. However, all matching funds pledged in this application must be accompanied by documentation. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

### **Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Grants are awarded for a one (1) to three (3) year period and may receive no-cost extensions as appropriate up to a maximum of five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.219 – Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research**

### **Authorization:**

Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Section 1668, 7 U.S.C 7901; Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, Section 7210, Public Law 101-171, 7 U.S.C 5921.

### **Objectives:**

The purpose of the BRAG program is to assist Federal regulatory agencies in making science-based decisions about the effects of introducing into the environment genetically engineered organisms, including plants, microorganisms (including fungi, bacteria, and viruses), arthropods,

fish, birds, mammals and other animals excluding humans. Investigations of effects on both managed and natural environments are relevant. The BRAG program accomplishes its purpose by providing Federal regulatory agencies with scientific information relevant to regulatory considerations derived from the risk assessment research that the program funds.

**Types of Assistance:**  
PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved research objectives. Funds may not be used for purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents. The use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed under this program. With prior approval, and in accordance with the cost principles set forth in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-21, (codified at 2 CFR 220), some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, renovations, or repairs are essential to achieving the major purpose of the project. Grant funds may not be used for endowment investing. Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded. \*\*Special Note on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Any public or private research or educational institution or organization.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Any public or private research or educational institution or organization.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application. Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

### **Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.  
MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this authority may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.220 – Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program**

**Authorization:**

Legislative authority for this program is contained in section 1417 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (99 Stat. 1548; 7 U.S.C. 3152). USDA/NIFA administers this federal assistance grant program to support food and agricultural sciences baccalaureate and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (D.V.M.) degree training of the next generation of scientists, policy makers, and educators in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. USDA initiated the Higher Education Multicultural Scholars Program in FY 1994. This program, functioning collaboratively with eligible higher education institutions, is developing intellectual capital to secure the preeminence of U.S. food and agricultural systems; 7 U.S.C 3152.

**Objectives:**

To increase the ethnic and cultural diversity of the food and agricultural scientific and professional work force, and to advance the educational achievement of minority Americans, by providing grants to colleges and universities that have a demonstrable capacity to attract, educate, and graduate minority students for careers as agriscience and agribusiness professionals, and have unique capabilities for achieving the objective of full representation of minority groups in the fields of agriculture, natural resources, forestry, veterinary medicine, home economics, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agricultural system.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Competitive annual grants to selected U.S. institutions of higher education provide for a limited number of four-year undergraduate scholarships to support minority students pursuing baccalaureate degrees in the food and agricultural sciences. Institutions also receive an annual cost-of-education allowance for each scholar supported by a grant. The scholars are selected by the institutions and students must apply for the scholarships through procedures established by the individual institutions. No scholarship grants are made directly to students and students cannot apply directly to USDA for scholarships. Scholarship monies may be used for tuition, fees, room, board, and other educational expenses as announced in a Federal Register notice inviting applications for new awards. The institutional cost-of-education allowance may be used by the selected institutions to defray program expenses including, but not limited to, travel and publications costs incurred for student recruitment, and salaries of project personnel. Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 3152(b), no indirect costs may be recovered under the MSP Program. Funds are restricted to the clearly designated uses found within this RFA.

For Award Category No. 2 Proposals, the budget sharing criteria are: (i) no single institution may receive more than forty percent (40%) and (ii) any institution may not receive less than fifteen percent (15%) of the requested funding for the baccalaureate and/or D.V.M. degree level training project (see Part II, C).

When grant is for SEL that will be used by To-Be-Recruited Scholars: The SEL funds for To-Be-Recruited Scholars will be withheld until the Project Director has submitted, to the MSP Grants Program Office, all of the required documentation for eligibility of the MSP/SEL Scholar(s) for the SEL as well as the required specifics outlined in the RFA for the SEL. The information must be submitted for approval, no less than 150 days prior to the use of the SEL funds (see Part IV, B., 3, b, Section 1).

Indirect cost is not allowable. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Proposals may be submitted by all U.S. colleges and universities with baccalaureate or higher degree programs in agriculture, natural resources, forestry, veterinary medicine, home economics, and disciplines closely allied to the food and agricultural system, including land-grant colleges and universities, colleges and universities having significant minority enrollments and a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences, and other colleges and universities having a demonstrable capacity to carry out the teaching of food and agricultural sciences.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Funds awarded under this program are used to support full-time undergraduate students pursuing a baccalaureate degree in an area of the food and agricultural sciences or a closely allied field. Persons eligible to receive scholarships under this program are students who either are enrolled or have been accepted as full-time baccalaureate or DVM degree candidates, and who are members of groups traditionally under-represented in food and agricultural scientific and professional fields.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Grants are awarded for a five (5) year period; however, scholars are supported for four (4) years during that five (5) year period. One (1) year of the grant period is available for student recruitment and for short interruptions of a scholar's educational advancement due to personal circumstances or emergencies. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.221 – Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants**

**Authorization:**

Authority for the Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants (TCEG) program is contained in the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note) as amended by the

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 note). Appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (hereinafter referred to as 1994 Institutions) for Education capacity building and funds are to be distributed equally among institutions that meet eligibility requirements; 7 U.S.C 301 note.

**Objectives:**

This grants program is designed to promote and strengthen higher education instruction in the food and agricultural sciences at the 33 Tribal Colleges designated as 1994 Land-Grant Institutions in the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, as amended. Plans of Work should focus on undergraduate and/or graduate studies in the food and agricultural sciences in one or more of the following areas: Curricula Design and Materials Development, Faculty Development and Preparation for Teaching, Instruction Delivery Systems, Student Experiential Learning, Equipment and Instrumentation for Teaching, or Student Recruitment and Retention.

The purpose of the TCEG Program is to provide funding to enhance educational opportunities for Native Americans in the food and agricultural sciences. The TCEG program is intended to strengthen institutional capacity to deliver relevant formal education opportunities. The TCEG is intended to be a component of the applicant 1994 institution's land grant roadmap or strategic planning process. To the extent practicable, priorities should reflect the following national critical needs areas:

1. Sustainable energy
2. Global food security and hunger
3. Climate change
4. Nutrition and preventing childhood obesity
5. Food safety
6. Sustainable rural economies

Awards are made upon approval of each institution's application for a grant that relate to an institution's long-range goals. As indicated in Part 1, C. of the RFA, an application may address one (1) or more of the following program areas:

1. Curricula Design and Materials Development
2. Faculty Development and Preparation for Teaching
3. Instruction Delivery Systems
4. Student Experiential Learning
5. Equipment and Instrumentation for Teaching
6. Student Recruitment and Retention

Recognizing that strengthening instructional programs is a long-term ongoing process, the TCEG program is interested in funding subsequent phases of previously funded projects in order to strengthen institutional capacity, and institutions are encouraged to build on a theme over several grant awards to reach institutional long-range goals.

**Types of Assistance:**  
PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The Tribal College Equity Program (TCEG) provides funds to enhance educational opportunities for Native Americans by strengthening instructional programs in the food and agricultural sciences at the thirty four (34) tribal colleges designated as the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (hereinafter referred to as 1994 Institutions).

Under this authority, appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (hereinafter referred to as 1994 Institutions) for Education capacity building and funds are to be distributed equally among institutions that meet eligibility requirements. Funding Restrictions:

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award.

Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

Indirect costs for the Equity program are not required and a 1994 institution may take less than the allowable amount or forego indirect costs altogether - adjust budgets accordingly.

Neither research nor extension projects are supported under the TCEG Program.

The use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed under this program. With prior approval, and in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, renovations, or repairs are essential to achieving the major purpose of the project.

Grant funds may not be used for endowment investing.

**Special Notices:**

1. NIFA will withhold all funds for a TCEG award to an applicant requesting indirect costs if the applicant has not negotiated an indirect cost rate with its cognizant federal agency.
2. If a grantee is in the process of negotiating an indirect cost rate with its federal agency, NIFA will withhold all funds from that grantee until the indirect cost rate has been established.
3. If an institution's indirect cost rate has expired or will expire in the near future, a clear statement on renegotiation efforts must be included in the application. (See Part IV, B.5. of the RFA - Budget Justification.)
4. It is incumbent on all applicants to have a current indirect cost rate or begin negotiations to establish an indirect cost rate prior to the TCEG submission deadline. Because it may take several months to obtain an indirect cost rate, applicants needing an indirect cost rate are encouraged to start work on establishing these rates well in advance of submitting a TCEG application.
5. In lieu of requesting indirect costs (if the applicant does not have a negotiated rate), an

applicant may prepare a budget in which all charges in the budget are included as direct costs.

NIFA does not require matching support for this program. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by any of the Tribal colleges and universities designated as 1994 Land-Grant Institutions under the Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, as amended. This Act, as amended in Section 533(a), requires that each 1994 Land-Grant Institution be accredited or making progress towards accreditation and be recognized as a legal entity. If accreditation is being sought, a college must demonstrate its progress towards accreditation by a letter from a nationally recognized accreditation agency affirming receipt of application for an accreditation site visit or other such documentation.

An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in NIFA returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of project goals and objectives.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

The 1994 Institutions--Bay Mills Community College, Black feet Community College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Cheyenne River Community College, Dine Community College, D-Q University, Dull knife Memorial College, Fond Du Lac Community College, Fort Belknap Community College, Fort Berthold Community College, Fort Peck Community College, LacCourte Orielles Ojibwa Community College, Little Big Horn Community College, Nebraska Indian Community College, Northwest Indian College, Oglala Lakota College, Salish Kootenai College, Sinte Gleska University, Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, Sitting Bull College, Stone child Community College, Turtle Mountain Community College, United Tribes Technical College, Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, Institute of American Indian Arts, Crown point Institute of Technology, Haskell Indian Nations University, Leech Lake Tribal College, College of the Menominee Nation; and Little Priest Tribal College.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All Requests for Applications (RFAs) are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-

110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications were subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who were specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications were judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. This information collection is approved under OMB Control No. 0524-0039, "NIFA Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs.

Reviewers were selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

This program has no matching requirements. There is no statutory formula for this program. However, appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (hereinafter referred to as 1994 Institutions) for Education capacity building and funds are to be distributed equally among institutions that meet eligibility requirements. Equity Funds for ineligible 1994 institutions or of those who fail to apply by the application submission date will be redistributed equally among the remaining eligible 1994 institutions.

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Under this RFA, only new applications for four-year continuation awards may be submitted to the TCEG Program. These are project applications not previously submitted to TCEG. All new applications will be reviewed by a review panel using the process and criteria described in Part V of the RFA – Application Review Requirements. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.222 – Tribal Colleges Endowment Program**

**Authorization:**

Title V, Part C of the Improving America’s Schools Act of 1994, Public law 103-382 (October 20, 1994), 7 U.S.C. 301 note, as amended; Public Law 105-185, cited as “Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994,” (hereafter referred to as the Act) provides that certain tribal colleges, designated as “1994 Land-Grant Institutions,” (hereafter referred to as LGIs) receive various benefits., 7 U.S.C 301 note.

**Objectives:**

To enhance educational opportunities at the thirty-four (34) Land Grant Institutions by strengthening their teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences in targeted need areas.

The legislation designates that the interest from the endowment funds benefit the 1994 land-Grant institutions by supporting teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences in the target areas of:

- 1) Curricula design and instructional materials
- 2) Faculty development and preparation for teaching
- 3) Instruction delivery systems
- 4) Student experiential learning
- 5) Equipment & instrumentation for teaching
- 6) Student recruitment and retention

Additionally, endowment funds released on or after October 1, 2001, also may be used for facility renovation, repair, construction and maintenance to support teaching programs in the food and agriculture sciences in addition to the above six (6) areas, to support the land-grant mission.

**Types of Assistance:**

FORMULA GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund benefits the 1994 land-grant institutions by promoting capacity development in teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences. The Tribal Colleges Endowment Fund, as a teaching capacity development program, is a companion

program of the Tribal Colleges Equity Grants Program. It differs primarily from the Equity Grants Program in two (2) respects, namely:

1. Endowment funds may be escrowed indefinitely and used for major obligations relating to the allowable activities.
2. As of October 1, 2001, Endowment funds also may be used for facility renovation, repair, construction, and maintenance in support of and in addition to the six (6) targeted areas of support listed below.

Interest distribution from an endowed corpus based on a formula specific to this legislation.

The legislation designates that the interest from the endowment funds benefit the 1994 land-Grant institutions by supporting teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences in the target areas of:

1. Curricula design and instructional materials
2. Faculty development and preparation for teaching
3. Instruction delivery systems
4. Student experiential learning
5. Equipment & instrumentation for teaching
6. Student recruitment and retention

Additionally, endowment funds released on or after October 1, 2001, also may be used for facility renovation, repair, construction and maintenance to support teaching programs in the food and agriculture sciences in addition to the above six (6) areas, to support the land-grant mission. Interest distribution from an endowed corpus based on a formula specific to this legislation.

Distribution funds received prior to October, 2001 may not be used for new construction.

Institutions that intend to use their Endowment Funds for new construction should submit their plans to USDA, NIFA, National Program Leader, and the Multicultural Alliances for approval. Institutions that list plans for new construction in their Planning Document will be sent specific guidelines.

Section 7402 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Pub. L. 110-246), amends Section 534(a)(3) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note: Public Law 103-382) to require that all eligible recipients of the 1994 Institutions Endowment Fund meet certain accreditation requirements in order to receive interest distributions from that fund. Those LGIs that do not meet these requirements will have their share of funds redistributed to those 1994 institutions which meet accreditation requirements.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Eligibility is defined by legislation. An institution must be an accredited 1994 Land Grant Institution with current accreditation from a recognized accreditation organization.

Section 7402 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Pub. L. 110-246), amends Section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note: Public Law 103-382) by adding at the end the following: “(34) Ilisagvik College.”

The complete listing of 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (LGIs) is as follows:

Bay Mills Community College, Blackfeet Community College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, College of the Menominee Nation, D-Q University, Dine’ College, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Fort Belknap College, Fort Berthold Community College, Fort Peck Community College, Haskell Indian Nations University, Ilisagvik College , Institute of American Indian Arts, Leech Lake Tribal College, Little Big Horn College, Little Priest Tribal College, Navajo Technical College, Nebraska Indian Community College, Northwest Indian College, Oglala Lakota College, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Salish Kootenai College, Si Tanka University, Sinte Gleska University, Sisseton Wahpeton College, Sitting Bull College, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Stone Child College, Tohono O’odham Community College, Turtle Mountain Community College, United Tribes Technical College, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and White Earth Tribal and Community College.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Eligibility is defined by legislation. An institution must be an accredited 1994 Land Grant Institution with current accreditation from a recognized accreditation organization.

Section 7402 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Pub. L. 110-246), amends Section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note: Public Law 103-382) by adding at the end the following: “(34) Ilisagvik College.”

The complete listing of 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (LGIs) is as follows:

Bay Mills Community College, Blackfeet Community College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Chief Dull Knife College, College of the Menominee Nation, D-Q University, Dine’ College, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Fort Belknap College, Fort Berthold Community College, Fort Peck Community College, Haskell Indian Nations University, Ilisagvik College , Institute of American Indian Arts, Leech Lake Tribal College, Little Big Horn College, Little Priest Tribal College, Navajo Technical College, Nebraska Indian Community College, Northwest Indian College, Oglala Lakota College, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College, Salish Kootenai College, Si Tanka University, Sinte Gleska University, Sisseton Wahpeton College, Sitting Bull College, Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Stone Child College, Tohono O’odham Community College, Turtle Mountain Community College, United Tribes Technical College, Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, and White Earth Tribal and Community College.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. There is no application process. Please refer to Award Procedure for specific details.

**Award Procedure:**

On the termination of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Agriculture withdraws the earned interest from the Endowment fund and distributes it to the 1994s on a pro rata basis. The pro rata basis formula is as follows: 60 percent is based on the Indian student count for each institution; 40 percent is distributed in equal shares.

Interest distributions are made on an annual basis.

The interest earned from the endowment corpus is distributed to each 1994 Institution based on a 60-40 percentage formula:

- 60 percent (60%) is based on the number of American Indian students enrolled (based on the annual Student Indian Count as defined in Section 390(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act) will be furnished to the agency by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium - AIHEC) and
- 40 percent (40%) on an equal base formula.

The computation is made by NIFA and a letter of notification is sent to each 1994 institution President.

The Endowment Interest distribution is available to the 1994 Institutions to be drawn down at their discretion through the electronic payment systems of either the Department of Health and Human Services (PMS) or through the Treasury ASAP system.

Upon notification of their annual distribution, 1994s are required to submit a Planning Document (subject to approval) on how their Endowment funds will be spent.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory Formula: Title Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, Public Law 103-382. Title V, Part C of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, Public law 103-382 (October 20, 1994), 7 U.S.C. 301 note, as amended; Public Law 105-185, cited as "Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994," (hereafter referred to as the Act) provides that certain tribal colleges, designated as "1994 Land-Grant Institutions," (hereafter referred to as LGIs) receive various benefits.

This program has no matching requirements. NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing

support for this program.  
MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Interest distributions are made on an annual basis.  
The Endowment Interest distribution is “no-year” funds and can be used or held indefinitely.  
Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.223 – Hispanic Serving Institutions Education Grants**

**Authorization:**

This program is administered under the provisions of section 1455 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3241) pursuant to section 815 of Public Law 104-127 and Public Law 110-246. Section 1455 of NARETPA, as reauthorized by section 7128 of Public Law 110-246, provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to make competitive grants (or grants without regard to any requirement for competition) to Hispanic-Serving Institutions for the purpose of promoting and strengthening the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs; 7 U.S.C 3241.

**Objectives:**

The objective of this program is to promote and strengthen the ability of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to carry out higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences. These programs aim to attract outstanding students and produce graduates capable of enhancing the Nation's food and agricultural scientific and professional work force. Grants under this program will be awarded to: (1) support the activities of consortia of Hispanic-Serving Institutions to enhance educational equity for underrepresented students; (2) strengthen institutional educational capacities including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, in order to respond to identified State, regional, national, or international educational needs in the food and agricultural sciences; (3) attract and support undergraduate and graduate students from underrepresented groups in order to prepare them for careers related to the food, agricultural, and natural resource systems of the United States, beginning with the mentoring of students at the high school level and continuing with the provision of financial support for students through their attainment of a doctoral degree; and (4) facilitate cooperative initiatives between two or more Hispanic-Serving Institutions, or between Hispanic-Serving Institutions and units of State government or the private sector, to maximize the development and use of resources, such as faculty, facilities, and equipment, to improve food and agricultural sciences teaching programs.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Funds may be used to support one or more of the following target areas or additional target areas as identified in the annual program announcement: Curricula design; materials development;

library resources; faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching; instruction delivery systems; scientific instrumentation for teaching; student experiential learning; and student recruitment and retention.

1. Award Limitations

For FY 2009, a lead institution may receive up to two awards. Institutions could serve as collaborators in many applications and awards.

2. Funding Limitations

Please see Part II, C.3., Award Size, for maximum budget requests for regular or collaboration project applications. For FY 2009, there is no limitation on the amount of funding a single awardee may receive either as a lead institution, a cooperating institution, a subawardee or any combination thereof. The lead institution on a Collaboration Project must retain at least 25 percent and no more than 75 percent of the funds awarded.

3. Use of Funds for Facilities

Under the Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program, the use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed. With prior approval, in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, renovations, or repairs are incidental to the major purpose for which a grant is issued.

4. Indirect Costs

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Hispanic serving institutions are eligible to receive funds under this program. "Hispanic serving institutions" means an institution of higher education which, at the time of application, has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students, and which (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such certificate; (2) is a public or other nonprofit institutions accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting body; and (3) is legally authorized to provide a program of education beyond the secondary level for which a 2-year associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree is awarded. Applications may be submitted by, and awards may only be made to, public or other non-profit Hispanic-Serving Institutions as defined in the definitions section of this solicitation. For the purposes of this program, the individual branches of a State university system or public system of higher education that are separately accredited as degree granting institutions are treated as separate institutions eligible for awards. Accreditation must be by an agency or association recognized by the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education. Institutions also must be legally authorized to offer at least a two-year program of study creditable toward an associate's or bachelor's degree. Separate branches or campuses of a college or university that are not individually accredited as degree granting institutions are not treated as separate institutions. To be eligible for competitive consideration for an award under this program, a Hispanic-Serving Institution must at the time of application: (1) certify that it has an enrollment of undergraduate full-time equivalent students that is at least 25 percent Hispanic students; and (2) provide assurances that not less than 50 percent of the institution's Hispanic students are low-income individuals as defined in the definitions section of this solicitation.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Hispanic serving institutions, as identified above, are eligible to receive funds under this program.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.225 – Community Food Projects**

**Authorization:**

The Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program (CFPCGP) legislative authority is located in Section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2034), as amended by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and Section 4402 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 (Pub. L. 110-246), which authorizes a program of federal grants to establish and carry out Community Food Projects; 7 U.S.C 2034.

**Objectives:**

To support the development of community food projects designed to meet the food needs of low-income people; increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for their own needs; and promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues.

**Types of Assistance:**  
PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Community food projects are intended to take a comprehensive approach to developing long-term solutions that help to ensure food security in communities by linking the food sector to community development, economic opportunity, and environmental enhancement.

Comprehensive solutions may include elements such as: (1) Improved access to high quality, affordable food among low-income households; (2) support for local food systems, from urban gardening to local farms that provide high quality fresh food, ideally with minimal adverse environmental impact; and (3) expanded economic opportunities for community residents through local business or other economic development, improved employment opportunities, job training, youth apprenticeship, school-to-work transition, and the like. Any solution proposed must tie into community food needs. Successful applicants must provide matching funds, either in cash or in-kind amounting to at least 50 percent of the total cost of the project during the term of the grant award.

1. Construction and Renovation:

With prior approval, and in accordance with applicable Federal cost principles, grant funds may be used to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility, or to acquire land; and for improvements, alterations, renovations, or repairs to land or buildings, necessary to carry out a funded project under this program. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that such expenditures are essential to achieving the major purpose for which the grant request is made.

2. Indirect Costs:

Full Negotiated Rate.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Proposals may be submitted by private nonprofit entities. Because projects must promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues, applicants are encouraged to seek and create partnership among public, private nonprofit and private for-profit organizations or firms. To be further eligible for a grant, a private nonprofit applicant must meet three mandatory requirements: 1. Have experience in the area of: (a) community food work, particularly concerning small and medium-sized farms, including the provision of food to people in low-income communities and the development of new markets in low-income communities for agricultural producers; or (b) job training and business development activities in low-income communities; 2. demonstrate competency to implement a project, provide fiscal accountability and oversight, collect data, and prepare reports and other appropriate documentation; and 3. demonstrate a willingness to share information with researchers, practitioners, and other interested parties.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Low income people.

**Credentials/Documentation:**

A Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number must be obtained - A DUNS number is a unique number that identifies an organization. It has been adopted by the Federal government to help track how Federal grant money is distributed. If your organization does not have a DUNS number, call the special Dun & Bradstreet hotline at 1-866-705-5711 to receive one free of charge. You will receive a DUNS number within several days of your request. Please note, individual proprietorships (i.e. farmers, ranchers) can request and receive a DUNS number, but must register with Grants.gov as an organization, not as an individual.

Registration with Central Contractor Registry (CCR) is required - The CCR is the central government repository for organizations working with the Federal government. If your organization is not already registered, identify the primary contact who should register your organization. When your organization registers with CCR, it will be required to designate an e-Business Point of Contact (e-Business POC). The e-Business POC authorizes individuals to submit grant applications on behalf of the organization and creates a special password called a Marketing Partner ID Number (M-PIN) to verify individuals authorized to submit grant applications for the organization. Visit the CCR Web site at <http://www.ccr.gov> to begin this process. It may take several days to collect the information needed for your organization's registration. The CCR Assistance Center can be reached at 888-227-2423. This information collection is approved under OMB Control No. 0524-0039, "NIFA Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs."

Applicants must furnish the information required in the request for applications (RFAs). Successful applicants recommended for funding must furnish the information and assurances requested during the award documentation process. These include, but are not limited to the following:

Organizational Management Information - Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis, as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. NIFA will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information). This information collection is approved under OMB Circular Control No. 0524-0026, "Assurance of Compliance with the Department of Agriculture Regulations Assuring Civil Rights, Compliance and Organization Information." This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-87.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-110. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%. Successful CFP applicants and PP award applicants MUST provide matching on a dollar-for-dollar basis (100%) for all federal funds awarded.

Matching funds are not required for T & TA grants.

The legislation establishing the FSLC requires that as a condition to receiving a grant from NIFA, the NGO must contribute in-kind resources toward implementing the grant. To comply

with this provision, NIFA has determined that applicants must provide at least 25 percent of total project resources on an in-kind basis during the term of the grant award. The Federal share of FSLC costs can be no more than 75 percent of total project costs.

CFP, PP and FSCL grantees may provide matching funds through cash and/or in-kind contributions, including third-party in-kind contributions fairly evaluated, including facilities. The non-federal share of the funding may come from state government, local government, other non-profit entities, or private sources. Examples of qualifying matching contributions may include direct costs such as: rent for office space used exclusively for the funded project; duplication or postage costs; and staff time from an entity other than the applicant for job training or nutrition education.

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTES:**

1. Use of Indirect Costs as In-Kind Matching Contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent.
2. MATCHING FUNDS ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (T&TA) GRANTS.  
MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.226 – Secondary and Two-Year Postsecondary Agriculture Education Challenge Grants**

**Authorization:**

Section 1405 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 3121) designates the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the lead Federal agency for agriculture research, extension and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences. Section 7109 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) amends the authority for this program contained in section 1417(j) of the National

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(j)). In accordance with the statutory authority, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of Agriculture (USDA), who has delegated the authority to the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will award grants to: (a) promote and strengthen secondary and 2-year postsecondary agriscience and agribusiness education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom, in order to help ensure the existence in the United States of a qualified workforce to serve the food and agricultural sciences system; and (b) promote complementary and synergistic linkages among secondary, 2-year postsecondary, and higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences in order to attain excellence in education and to encourage more young Americans to pursue and complete a baccalaureate or higher degree in the food and agricultural sciences., 7 U.S.C 3121; Section 1405 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended, (7 U.S.C. 3121) designates the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the lead Federal agency for agriculture research, extension and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences. Section 7109 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) amends the authority for this program contained in section 1417(j) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3152(j)); 7 U.S.C 3152 (j).

**Objectives:**

The purpose of the Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge (SPECAs) Grants Program is to: enhance curricula in agricultural education; increase faculty teaching competencies; interest young people in pursuing higher education in order to prepare for scientific and professional careers in the food and agricultural sciences; promote the incorporation of agriscience and agribusiness subject matter into other instructional programs, particularly classes in science, business, and consumer education; facilitate joint initiatives by the grant recipient with other secondary schools, institutions of higher education that award an associate's degree, institutions of higher education that award a bachelor's degree, and nonprofit organizations supporting agriscience and agribusiness education, to maximize the development and use of resources, such as faculty, facilities, and equipment, to improve agriscience and agribusiness education; support other initiatives designed to meet local, State, regional, or national needs related to promoting excellence in agriscience and agribusiness education; and support current Agriculture in the Classroom programs for grades K-12.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Funds may be used only in targeted areas, e.g., curricula design and materials development, promotion of teaching competencies, promotion of agriscience and agribusiness career information, instruction delivery systems, student experiential learning, and educational activities that increase the diversity of students pursuing degrees in agriscience and agribusiness. NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Tuition remission not allowed.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246), amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Public secondary schools or public or private nonprofit junior and community colleges.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Public secondary schools or public or private nonprofit junior and community colleges.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via

Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%. A grant recipient is required to match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar (100%) basis from non-Federal sources. Matching funds are not required to come in any particular amount from any one source. However, all matching funds pledged in this application must be accompanied by documentation. See Part IV, B.5. SF 424 (R&R) Budget Fed and Non-Fed, Field K-Budget Justification, for additional details.

**\*\*Note #2** – Use of Indirect Costs as In-Kind Matching Contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardees' indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request

11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this authority may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.227 – 1994 Institutions Research Program**

**Authorization:**

Section 1405 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), as amended (7 U.S.C. 3121), designates the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) as the lead Federal Agency for agricultural research, extension, and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences. Authority for this program is contained in the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), as amended by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7601 note). In accordance with the statutory authority, subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary of Agriculture may award competitive grants, as defined in section 536 of the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), to assist the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions in conducting agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, national or multi-state significance; 7 U.S.C 301 note.

**Objectives:**

The Tribal Colleges Research Grants Program (TCRGP) (aka 1994 Institutions Research Program) is a competitive grants program supporting fundamental and/ or applied agricultural research projects that address high priority concerns of tribal, national or multi-state significance. The program funds investigative and analytical studies and experimentation in the food and agricultural sciences (as defined in section 1404 of the NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3103) and Part VIII, E. of this RFA). TCRGP seeks to advance the body of knowledge in the basic and applied natural and social sciences within the food and agricultural sciences.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS (Cooperative Agreements)

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

This research grants program is authorized to conduct agricultural research that addresses high priority concerns of tribal, national or multi-State significance. NIFA has determined that grant funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore,

when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Bay Mills Community College, Blackfeet Community College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Cheyenne River Community College, Dine Community College, D-Q University, Dullknife Memorial College, Fond Du Lac Community College, Fort Belknap Community College, Fort Berthold Community College, Fort Peck Community College, LacCourte Orielles Ojibwa Community College, Little Big Horn Community College, Nebraska Indian Community College, Northwest Indian College, Oglala Lakota College, Salish Kootenai College, Sinte Gleska University, Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, Sitting Bull College, Stonechild Community College, Turtle Mountain Community College, United Tribes Technical College, Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, Institute of American Indian Arts, Crownpoint Institute of Technology, Haskell Indian National University, Leech Lake Tribal College, College of the Menominee Nation, and Little Priest Tribal College.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Bay Mills Community College, Blackfeet Community College, Cankdeska Cikana Community College, Cheyenne River Community College, Dine Community College, D-Q University, Dullknife Memorial College, Fond Du Lac Community College, Fort Belknap Community College, Fort Berthold Community College, Fort Peck Community College, LacCourte Oriellese Ojibwa Community College, Little Big Horn Community College, Nebraska Indian Community College, Northwest Indian College, Oglala Lakota College, Salish Kootenai College, Sinte Gleska University, Sisseton Wahpeton Community College, Sitting Bull College, Stonechild Community College, Turtle Mountain Community College, United Tribes Technical College, Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute, Institute of American Indian Arts, Crownpoint Institute of Technology, Haskell Indian Nations University, Leech Lake Tribal College, College of the

Menominee Nation, and Little Priest Tribal College.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

#### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

Funds are awarded competitively.

No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e]. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.228 – Alaska Native Serving and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions  
Education Grants**

**Authorization:**

This program is administered under the provisions of section 759 of Public Law 106-78 (7 U.S.C. 3242) which was amended and redesignated as section 1419B of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act (NARETPA) of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3155). As legislatively reauthorized in the Public Law 110-246, the purpose of this program continues to promote and strengthen the ability of eligible Alaska Native-Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs within a broadly defined area of food and agricultural sciences and related disciplines. In FY 2009, the Secretary will make competitive grant awards to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions in Alaska and in Hawaii, with funds awarded equally to each of the states of Alaska and Hawaii; 7 U.S.C 3242.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of this program is to promote and strengthen the ability of Alaska Native-Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-Serving (ANNH) Institutions to carry out education, applied research, and related community development programs. NIFA intends this program to address educational needs, as determined by each institution, within a broadly defined area of food and agricultural sciences and related disciplines.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Funds may be used to enhance educational equity for under-represented students in order to prepare them for careers related to the food, agricultural, and natural resource systems of the United States; to strengthen institutional educational capacities, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, in order to respond to identified educational needs in the food and agricultural

sciences; and to facilitate activities and cooperative initiatives between AN/NH Serving Institutions, or between AN/NH Serving Institutions and units of State government or the private sector, to maximize the development and use of resources, faculty, facilities, and equipment, to improve food and agricultural sciences teaching programs. The use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed under this program. With prior approval, and in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, renovations, or repairs are essential to achieving the major purpose of the project.

Grant funds may not be used for endowment investing.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Individual public or private, non-profit Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions of higher education that meet the definitions of Alaska Native-Serving Institution or Native Hawaiian Serving Institution established in Title III, Part A of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1059d.) are eligible institutions under this program.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

### **Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e]. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

### **10.303 – Integrated Programs**

**Authorization:**

Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7626), as reauthorized by Section 7306 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Public Law 110-246), authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a competitive grants program that provides funding for integrated, multifunctional agricultural research, extension, and education activities. Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this program, the Secretary may award grants to colleges and universities [as defined by section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3103)], as amended, on a competitive basis for projects that address priorities in United States agriculture and involve integrated research, education, and extension activities, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB). Section 7129 of the FCEA amended section 406(b) of AREERA (7 U.S.C. 7626(b)), adding Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities (HSACUs) as eligible entities for competitive funds awarded under this authority (see Part III.B. of RFA for more information); 7 U.S.C 7626; Section 2(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 89–106, as amended; Public Law 89-106.

**Objectives:**

**GENERAL:**

NIFA Integrated Programs provide support for integrated research, education, and extension activities. Integrated, multi-functional projects are particularly effective in addressing important agricultural issues through the conduct of problem-focused research that is combined with education and extension of knowledge to those in need of solutions. These activities address critical national, regional, and multi-state agricultural issues, priorities, or problems. Integrated Programs hold the greatest potential to produce and disseminate knowledge and technology directly to end users while providing for educational opportunities to assure agricultural expertise in future generations. See individual program Requests for Applications for additional information about the topics.

**SEVERAL PROGRAMS ARE FUNDED UNDER CFDA 10.303. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ARE AS FOLLOWS:**

#### Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program: National Integrated Water Quality Program

The goal of the National Integrated Water Quality Program is to improve the quality of our Nation's surface water and groundwater resources through research, education, and extension activities. Projects funded through this program will facilitate achieving this goal by advancing and disseminating the knowledge base available to agricultural and rural communities. Funded projects should lead to science-based decision-making and management practices that improve the quality of the Nation's surface water and groundwater resources in agricultural and rural watersheds. See RFA for priority areas.

#### Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program: National Integrated Food Safety Initiative

The purpose of the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative is to support food safety projects that demonstrate an integrated approach to solving problems in applied food safety research, education, or extension. Various models for integration of applied research, education, and extension will be considered for funding. Applications describing multi-state, multi-institutional, multidisciplinary, and multifunctional activities (and combinations thereof) are encouraged. Applicants are strongly encouraged to address at least two of the three functional areas of research, education, and extension (i.e., research and extension, research and education, or extension and education).

#### Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program: Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers

The goal of the Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers (IPM Centers) is to promote the development and implementation of IPM by facilitating collaboration across states, disciplines, and purposes. IPM Centers will establish and maintain information networks, build partnerships to address pest management challenges and opportunities, evaluate the impact of IPM implementation, communicate positive outcomes to key stakeholders, and manage funding resources effectively. Successful applicants to this program will demonstrate the capacity and commitment necessary to advance the goals of the National Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management ([www.ipmcenters.org/IPMRoadMap.pdf](http://www.ipmcenters.org/IPMRoadMap.pdf)), and evaluate the progress of this advancement. The IPM Roadmap addresses pest management needs for production agriculture, natural resources and recreational environments, and residential and public areas.

#### Integrated Pest Management: Crops at Risk Program

The goal of the CAR program is to enhance the development and implementation of innovative, ecologically based sustainable IPM system(s). Preferably, this should involve a diversity of tactics and approaches for a single or specific food or fiber commodity in commercial production for pre- and/or post-harvest system(s). The program addresses either a major acreage or high value crop commodity such as key fruits and vegetables. The primary emphasis is on crop productivity and profitability, while addressing critical environmental quality and human health issues. The CAR program will fund integrated multifunctional/multidisciplinary research, education, and extension projects for crops with high priority IPM needs as identified by stakeholders.

### Integrated Pest Management: Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program

The goal of the Risk Avoidance and Mitigation (RAMP) program is to enhance the development and implementation of innovative, ecologically based sustainable IPM strategies and system(s) for (a) multi-crop food and fiber production systems; (b) an area-wide or a landscape scale agroecosystem; or (c) a documented pesticide impact on water, human or environmental health. RAMP applications may address major acreage agricultural production systems, high value crops such as key fruit and vegetable systems, or other agroecosystems. The primary emphasis of the application should be on productivity and profitability while addressing critical environmental quality and human health issues. The intent of RAMP is to fund medium-term projects that emphasize systems approaches.

### Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program: Integrated Pest Management: Methyl Bromide Transitions Program

The goal of the Methyl Bromide Transitions (MBT) program is to support the discovery and implementation of practical pest management alternatives to methyl bromide uses or minimize methyl bromide emissions for which the United States is requesting critical use exemptions. The program is focused on integrated commercial or field scale research that targets short- to medium-term solutions.

### Integrated Organic Program

The purpose of the Integrated Organic Program is to solve critical organic agriculture issues, priorities, or problems through the integration of research, education, and extension activities. The Organic Transitions Program (ORG) funds the development and implementation of research, extension, and higher education programs to improve the competitiveness of organic producers and producers who are adopting organic practices. Funding opportunities for the ORG Program is included in the same Request for Applications (RFA) as the Organic Research and Extension Initiative (OREI).

**PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT FUND START UP BUSINESSES.**

### Types of Assistance: PROJECT GRANTS

### Uses and Use Restrictions:

This research, education, and extension competitive grants program provides funding for integrated, multi-functional agricultural research, extension, and education activities which addresses priorities in United States agriculture. THE FOLLOWING USES AND RESTRICTIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO:

- 1) Critical Issues (FDC 37610) and
- 2) Regional Rural Development Centers (FDC 51150) (Section 2(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 89-106, as amended):

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved integrated research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences, in the broadest sense.

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents.

Tuition remission is not allowable.

Indirect costs are not allowable.

THE FOLLOWING USES AND RESTRICTIONS ARE APPLICABLE TO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS WHICH ARE AUTHORIZED UNDER (Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7626):

- 1) Water Quality (FDC 51130)
- 2) Food Safety (FDC 51110)
- 3) Regional Pest Management Centers (FDC 51120)
- 4) Crops at Risk (FDC 51100)
- 5) Risk Mitigation Program (FDC 51101)
- 6) Methyl Bromide Transition Program (FDC 51102) and
- 7) Organic Transition - Risk Assessment (FDC 51106)

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved integrated research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences.

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded. If no rate has been established the applicant may indicate "None—will negotiate" and a reasonable dollar amount for indirect costs may be requested, which will be subject to approval by USDA. In the latter case, if a proposal is recommended for funding, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted prior to award to support the amount of indirect costs requested. NIFA will request an indirect cost rate proposal and provide instructions, as necessary. An applicant may elect not to charge indirect costs and, instead, use all grant funds for direct costs. If indirect costs are not charged, the phrase "None requested"

should be written in this space.

The maximum allowed indirect cost of 22 percent may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award, or the maximum allowed indirect cost of 22 percent may be claimed as matching contributions (if no indirect costs are requested). However, the maximum allowed indirect cost of 22 percent may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award and as matching contributions. (Note: An awardee may, as an example, request 11 percent of indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as matching contributions. Or, an awardee may request any other, similar percentage combination that, when combined, does not exceed the 22 percent maximum indirect cost allowed.) Nevertheless, the total combined percent of requested and contributed matching indirect costs cannot exceed 22%.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research and extension institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the United States.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research and extension institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, private organizations or corporations, and individuals to facilitate or expand promising breakthroughs in areas of the food and agricultural sciences of importance to the United States.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the

Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. GENERAL RULES:

- a) Funds are awarded competitively.
- b) No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research,

Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

**SPECIFIC PROVISIONS:**

Regarding Critical Issues and Regional Rural Development Centers (Section 2(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 89-106, as amended):

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for the above-referenced programs.

However, the provisions indicated below are applicable to the following programs which are authorized under Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7626):

- 1) Water Quality
- 2) Food Safety
- 3) Regional Pest Management Centers
- 4) Crops at Risk
- 5) Risk Mitigation
- 6) Methyl Bromide Transition and
- 7) Organic Transition - Risk Assessment

Funds are awarded competitively.

No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

If a grant provides a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, and not of national scope, the grant recipient is required to match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions. (See Part IV, B., 6. of the RFA for details.)

NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if NIFA determines that:

1. the results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or
2. the project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Regarding the Critical Issues and Regional Rural Development Centers (Section 2(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 89-106, as amended) , normally, competitive research projects will be supported for periods of up to three (3) years.

**10.304 – Homeland Security Agricultural**

**Authorization:**

National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), Section 1472, 7 U.S.C. 3318; 7 U.S.C 3318.

**Objectives:**

To provide funding to protect the food supply and agricultural production. This is accomplished by providing federal assistance, through existing cooperative agreements, to four (4) national agricultural homeland security networks: the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN), the National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN), the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), and the Pest Information Platform for Education and Extension (ipmPIPE).

**Types of Assistance:**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

These funds are subject to the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 1301 requiring their use only for the purpose for which they were appropriated. Funding is limited to support for the four (4) aforementioned agrosecurity networks. Indirect costs are not allowable costs under this program, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Further, costs that are a part of an institution's indirect cost pool (e.g., administrative or clerical salaries) may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable. Fully discretionary.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

In accordance with section 1472(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, (NARETPA) applicant may be: State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or education institutions and organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, individuals, and any other contractor or recipient, either foreign or domestic, to further research, extension, or teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences of the Department of Agriculture.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

In accordance with section 1472(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, (NARETPA) applicant may be: State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or education institutions and organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, individuals, and any other contractor or recipient, either foreign or domestic, to further research, extension, or teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences of the Department of Agriculture.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information:

[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) solicits proposals to fund existing and new cooperative agreements through a request for application process. An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2002, a panel of USDA scientists knowledgeable in the Nation's plant and animal disease diagnostic capability, recommended to the Secretary a plan of initiating a comprehensive national network of laboratories for the rapid detection and diagnosis of plant and animal diseases. The institutions selected by the panel for initial inclusion in the network were recommended using the following criteria:

- 1) Existing scientific capacity;
- 2) Existing laboratory capacity which could be modified to meet Biosafety Level 3 requirements;
- 3) Both animal and plant diagnostic capabilities;
- 4) Geographical location meeting one or more of the following requirements: located in an area with a high risk of disease/pest incursions; located in an area with high concentration of vulnerable agricultural activity; complements or supplements regional Federal laboratory activity or is in an area not effectively served by an existing Federal facility;
- 5) State-of-the-art communication and information technology systems. Must be capable of managing secure communications with other laboratories and central reporting unit; and
- 6) An effective outreach/extension system.

These recommendations were utilized to select the original cooperative agreement recipients and are annually evaluated by USDA/NIFA in network planning.

Proposals are subject to a merit review process conducted by NIFA staff members.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively.

No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a Cooperative Agreement under this authority may not exceed five (5) years.  
Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.305 – International Science and Education Grants**

**Authorization:**

Section 229 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) amended Section 1459 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. Section 3292b) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to colleges and universities in order to strengthen United States economic competitiveness and to promote international market development.

Section 7141 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8701 note) authorized the International Science and Education Competitive Grants Program (ISE); 7 U.S.C 3292b.

**Objectives:**

The purpose of ISE is to support the internationalization of food, agriculture and related programs at U.S. universities and colleges. It is intended that ISE will improve the ability of American students, business people, and community members to compete more effectively in the global world of agriculture. ISE projects are to strengthen the global competence and competitiveness of American colleges, universities and businesses in the food, agriculture, and related sectors. In addition, ISE projects must be directed to agricultural research, extension, and/or teaching activities that enhance the capabilities of American colleges and universities to conduct international collaborative research, extension and teaching. Our success in the global arena will increasingly require U.S. colleges and universities to produce graduates who can operate competently in domestic and international settings. Through their outreach efforts, universities and colleges also play a critical role in helping U.S. producers successfully operate in foreign markets.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Funded projects will respond to specific needs and strengths of the university or college that will enable it to strengthen the global competence of students, faculty and staff in agriculture and related areas and enhance business performance in international agriculture and related sectors through extension, research and/or teaching programs. Each institution may submit no more than two proposals as the lead institution. No institution acting as the principal or lead institution will receive more than one grant during the current competition. Therefore, institutions are encouraged to establish on-campus quality control mechanisms to ensure that only the highest quality proposals are submitted for consideration.

Program funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning,

repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities (i.e., greenhouses, laboratories, or other structures).

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by colleges and universities and defined in section 1404 of NARETPA. The terms college and university mean an educational institution in any State which (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation from a school providing secondary education, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate; (2) is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; (3) provides an education program for which a bachelor's degree or any other higher degree is awarded; (4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and (5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Colleges and universities; public or other nonprofit institutions.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information:

[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively.

No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this authority may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.306 – Biodiesel**

**Authorization:**

Section 9006 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), amended the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) to re-establish the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program which requires that the Secretary make competitive grants to eligible entities to educate governmental and private entities that operate vehicle fleets, other interested entities (as determined by the Secretary), and the public about the benefits of biodiesel fuel use. The Secretary delegated this authority to the Chief Economist, who in turn delegated this authority to the Director of the Office of Energy Policy and New Uses (OGFMNU). OGFNU has joined with NIFA for assistance in administering Biodiesel Education under the authorities found in the Economy Act (31 U.S.C. 1535) and Section 1472 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3318). Specific Biodiesel Education administrative provisions are found in 7 CFR 2903; 7 U.S.C. 3318.

**Objectives:**

The goals of the Biodiesel Fuel Education Program as originally established in Section 9004 of the Farm Security Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8104) were to stimulate biodiesel consumption and to stimulate the development of a biodiesel infrastructure. The information and outreach activities to raise awareness of the benefits of biodiesel fuel use complemented the incentives provided by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct) (Public Law 109-58), and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140). As a result of increased awareness and consumption of biodiesel over the past 5 years, the FY 2008 Biodiesel Education program will focus on educational programs which will support advances in infrastructure, technology transfer, fuel quality, fuel safety and increasing feedstock production.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

This funding is used for education and outreach activities. Program funds may not be used for renovation or refurbishment or research space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition or construction of buildings or facilities. Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved research and extension objectives. Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents.

When preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to

their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate. If no rate has been established the applicant may indicate "None—will negotiate" and a reasonable dollar amount for indirect costs may be requested, which will be subject to approval by USDA. In the latter case, if a proposal is recommended for funding, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted prior to award to support the amount of indirect costs requested. NIFA will request an indirect cost rate proposal and provide instructions, as necessary.

An applicant may elect not to charge indirect costs and, instead, use all grant funds for direct costs. If indirect costs are not charged, the phrase "None requested" should be written in this space. Grantees electing this alternative will not be allowed to charge, as direct costs, indirect costs that otherwise would be in the grantee's indirect cost pool under the applicable Office of Management and Budget cost principles. Grantees who request no indirect costs will not be permitted to revise their budgets at a later date to charge indirect costs to grant funds.

No other indirect cost recovery caps apply to these funds.

Funds made available under Biodiesel Education shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Eligibility is restricted to nonprofit organizations or institution of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Nonprofit organizations or institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

#### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103

of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively.

No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this authority may not exceed five (5) years.

Same level of funding for five years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.307 – Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative**

**Authorization:**

Section 7206 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) amended section

1672B of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade (FACT) Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925b) amending and re-authorizing the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI). The FACT Act, as amended, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture, in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB), to make competitive grants to support research and extension activities regarding organically grown and processed agricultural commodities for eight legislatively-defined goals. See RFA Part I.B. for further general information and specific details. , 7 U.S.C 5925b.

**Objectives:**

Facilitate the development of organic agriculture production, breeding, and processing methods. Functionally identify soil microbial communities and ways to manage microbial dynamics to enhance nutrient cycling and disease suppression; Develop systemic approaches to weed, insect and disease management; Prevent, control, and treat internal and external parasites in various livestock species; and Breed crops for disease and insect resistance, good yield in a biologically diverse system, compatibility with intercrops, good response to organic fertility sources, horizontal resistance (traits determined by multiple genes). Evaluate the potential economic benefits to producers and processors who use organic methods. Analyze potential economic costs, returns and risks of organic production systems; Use environmental valuation tools to quantify externalities of producing food, and compare externalities of producing organic and conventional food; - Analyze price and market structures, including ability of small, medium-, and large-scale growers to access different markets, in order to frame policies that minimize concentration within the industry; and Analyze marketing channels to document how organic food is distributed, what share of the organic food dollar is returned to the farmer, and the implications of large-scale manufacturers entering the organic market. Explore international trade opportunities for organically grown and processed agricultural commodities. Compare compatibility of certification standards used in different parts of the world, with the ultimate goal of harmonization and reciprocity; Undertake marketing studies of international consumer demand for U.S. produced organic goods; and Perform Welfare analyses (quantified gains and losses for producers and consumers) of trade policies affecting international competitiveness, including implementation of the National Organic Program, domestic support programs such as the Conservation Security Act, country of origin labeling, GMO labeling, etc. Determine desirable traits for organic commodities. Examine relationships between nutrients in the soil and nutrients in the food grown on that soil, including long-term soil nutrient and crop nutrient profiles under conventional and organic management; Perform comparisons of nutrient levels between organic and conventional crops and relationship, if any, between taste and nutrient profile; Investigate the role of post-harvest handling and treatment in the maintenance of quality in fresh market organic products; and Determine the reasons for consumer preferences for organic goods. Identify marketing and policy constraints on the expansion of organic agriculture. Analyze opportunities and constraints to organic agriculture resulting from provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002; Investigate specific barriers to markets, such as scale-based regulations that restrict family farm access to processors and/or markets; Study negative lender perception of organic farming and ways to change this; and Analyze regulatory barriers, such as lack of access to Federal farm programs, and developing solutions to these challenges. Conduct advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation of, experimentation with, and innovation for working organic farms, including research relating to production and marketing and to socioeconomic conditions. (Note: Many topics from other

goal areas can be conducted on working farms.) Develop rigorous on-farm systems research designs; and Conduct long-term, interdisciplinary systems research.

**Types of Assistance:**  
PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The Integrated Organic Program is particularly interested in proposed projects that emphasize research and outreach that assist farmers and ranchers with whole farm planning and ecosystem integration. Projects should plan to deliver applied production information to producers. Fieldwork for both program areas must be done on certified organic land or on land in transition to organic certification, as appropriate to project goals and objectives. Refer to the USDA National Organic Program (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>) for organic production standards. NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act amended section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), increasing the limit on recovery of indirect costs from 19 percent to 22 percent of total Federal funds provided under the award. Therefore, the recovery of indirect costs on awards made by NIFA under this program area may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution's negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardee's indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories,

private organizations or corporations, and individuals. For both ORG and OREI, all award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

State agricultural experiment stations, all colleges and universities, other research institutions and organizations, Federal agencies, national laboratories, private organizations or corporations, and individuals.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and

female representation and an equitable age distribution; and

- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%. Funds are awarded competitively.

No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

Cost Sharing or Matching:

- 1) General Requirement

The Secretary shall require the recipient of a grant under this section to provide funds or in-kind support from non-Federal sources in an amount at least equal to the amount provided by the Federal Government.

See R&R Budget section regarding matching funds Part IV, B, 6 of this RFA for more details.

- 2) Waiver

NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement specified in the above paragraph for a grant if NIFA determines that:

- a) the results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or
- b) the project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this authority may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.308 – Resident Instruction Grants for Insular Area Activities**

**Authorization:**

This program is administered under the provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Section 7501 of Public Law 107-171) as reauthorized in Section 7143 of Public Law 110-246, which amended the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) by providing for a program of resident instruction grants for insular areas (7 U.S.C. 3363). Funds are available for a program of competitive grants, with funds to be awarded to one or more individual, eligible institutions of higher education in Insular Areas (Insular Area Institutions) or consortia of such eligible institutions, to carry out teaching and education programs in the food and agricultural sciences; 7 U.S.C 3363.

### **Objectives:**

In General. -The Secretary of Agriculture shall make competitive grants to eligible institutions to;

- 1) strengthen institutional educational capacities, including libraries, curriculum, faculty, scientific instrumentation, instruction delivery systems, and student recruitment and retention, in order to respond to identified State, regional, national, or international education needs in the food and agricultural sciences;
- 2) attract and support undergraduate and graduate students in order to educate them in identified areas of national need in the food and agriculture sciences;
- 3) facilitate cooperative initiatives between two or more insular area eligible institutions, or between those institutions and units of State Government or organizations in the private sector, to maximize the development and use of resources such as faculty, facilities, and equipment to improve food and agricultural sciences teaching programs; and
- 4) conduct undergraduate scholarship programs to assist in meeting national needs for training food and agricultural scientists.

### **Types of Assistance:**

#### **PROJECT GRANTS**

### **Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The purpose of the Resident Instruction Grants Program for Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas (RIIA) is to promote and strengthen the ability of Insular Area Institutions to carry out teaching and education programs within the broadly defined food and agricultural sciences-related disciplines. Food and agricultural sciences include programs in agriculture, food and fiber, renewable energy and natural resources, forestry, aquaculture, veterinary medicine, family and consumer sciences, home economics, nutrition and dietetics, rural human ecology, rural economic and community development, and other higher education activities and fields of study related to the production, processing, marketing, distribution, conservation, utilization, consumption, research, and development of food and agriculturally-related products and services. Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved fundamental and applied research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences. Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents. The use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed under this program. With prior approval, and in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, renovations, or repairs are essential to achieving the major purpose of the project. Grant funds may not be used for endowment investing. Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal

funds awarded. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that each eligible institution, prior to receiving grant funds under subsection (a), shall have a significant demonstrable commitment to higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences and to each specific subject area for which grant funds under this section are to be used. (2) The Secretary of Agriculture may require that any grant awarded under this section contain provisions that require funds to be targeted to meet the needs identified in section 1402.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

The Secretary of Agriculture shall ensure that each eligible institution, prior to receiving grant funds under subsection (a), shall have a significant demonstrable commitment to higher education programs in the food and agricultural sciences and to each specific subject area for which grant funds under this section are to be used. (2) The Secretary of Agriculture may require that any grant awarded under this section contain provisions that require funds to be targeted to meet the needs identified in section 1402.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research,

- education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
  - c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
  - d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
  - e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
  - f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

This program has no matching requirements. Funds are awarded competitively.

No formula grants are awarded under Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3319e].

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.309 – Specialty Crop Research Initiative**

**Authorization:**

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) is authorized by Section 7311 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, which added section 412 to the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA). Section 412 of AREERA establishes a specialty crop research and extension initiative to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by developing and disseminating science-based tools to address needs of specific crops and their regions.

**Objectives:**

The Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) was established to solve critical industry issues through research and extension activities. SCRI will give priority to projects that are multistate, multi-institutional, or trans-disciplinary; and include explicit mechanisms to communicate results to producers and the public. Projects must address at least one of five focus areas: research in

plant breeding, genetics, and genomics to improve crop characteristics; efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators; efforts to improve production efficiency, productivity, and profitability over the long term; new innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening; and methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production and processing of specialty crops including fresh produce.

**Types of Assistance:**  
**PROJECT GRANTS**

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved research and extension objectives.

Funds shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents. **INDIRECT COSTS:**

Not to exceed 22% of Federal Funds awarded.

Applicants may use both the unrecovered indirect costs associated with the Federal Budget and the unrecovered indirect costs associated with the Non-Federal Budget to meet their matching requirements. Indirect costs may not be recovered on third-party matching contributions.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State agricultural experiment stations, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State agricultural experiment stations, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Notice of Intent to Submit an Application: Prospective applicants are asked to email a notification of intent to submit an application. The notification of intent to submit is not required and does not enter into the review of a subsequent application. The information it contains will

be used to help program staff plan the review and estimate the potential review workload. This email should include the following information:

- 1) Descriptive (draft) title of proposed research;
- 2) Name of the Project Director and applicant name if applicable;
- 3) Names of other potential co-Project Directors and their affiliations, if applicable;
- 4) Focus area(s) addressed, (see Part I(B) for specific details);
- 5) Likely type of proposal (Coordinated Agricultural Projects, Standard Research and Extension Projects, Regional Partnerships for Innovation Projects, eXtension Projects, and Research and Extension Planning Projects); and
- 6) Subject line of email should read: SCRI – Intent to Submit. Emails should be sent to [scri@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:scri@nifa.usda.gov). All RFAs are published on the Agency’s website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit

organizations) and geographic locations;

- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%. Applicants may use both the unrecovered indirect costs associated with the Federal Budget and the unrecovered indirect costs associated with the Non-Federal Budget to meet their matching requirements. Indirect costs may not be recovered on third-party matching contributions.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this program may not exceed ten (10) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.310 – Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)**

**Authorization:**

Competitive, Special and Facilities Research Grant Act, Section 2(2)(b), [7 U.S.C. 450i]; 7 U.S.C 450i.

**Objectives:**

To establish a new competitive grant program to provide funding for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education to address food and agricultural sciences.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved fundamental and applied research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences. The competitive grants program shall address the following areas:

- A. Plant health and production and plant products;
- B. Animal health and production and animal products;
- C. Food safety, nutrition, and health;
- D. Renewable energy, natural resources, and environment;
- E. Agriculture systems and technology; and
- F. Agriculture economics and rural communities.

Funds shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees). Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents. Funds shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees). Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

This initiative supports integrated and non-integrated programs. Please refer to Part III, A of the current Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Request for Applications for the complete eligibility requirements.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

This initiative supports integrated and non-integrated programs. Please refer to Part III, A of the current Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Request for Applications (RFA) for the complete eligibility requirements.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov. This information collection is approved under OMB Control No. 0524-0039, "NIFA Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs."

#### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. This information collection is approved under OMB Control No. 0524-0039, "NIFA Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs."

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension,

or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 50%. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under this authority.

For equipment grants – Unless criteria is met to qualify for waiver by the Secretary, matching shall not exceed 50 percent of the cost of the special research equipment or other equipment acquired using funds from the grant.

For applied research – if the grant is commodity-specific; and not of national scope, the grant recipient is required to match USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions.

This program does not have MOE requirements.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this program may not exceed ten (10) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.311 – Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program**

**Authorization:**

Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, [7 U.S.C. 3319f];  
7 U.S.C 3319f.

**Objectives:**

To support the nation's beginning farmers and ranchers by making competitive grants to new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives

that address the needs of beginning farmers and ranchers.

**Types of Assistance:**

**PROJECT GRANTS**

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Competitive grants are made to support:

- A. mentoring, apprenticeships, and internships;
- B. resources and referral;
- C. assisting beginning farmers or ranchers in acquiring land from retiring farmers and ranchers;
- D. innovative farm and ranch transfer strategies;
- E. entrepreneurship and business training;
- F. model land leasing contracts;
- G. financial management training;
- H. whole farm planning;
- I. conservation assistance;
- J. risk management education;
- K. diversification and marketing strategies;
- L. curriculum development;
- M. understanding the impact of concentration and globalization;
- N. basic livestock and crop farming practices;
- O. the acquisition and management of agricultural credit;
- P. environmental compliance;
- Q. information processing; and
- R. other similar subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers.

In addition, cooperative agreements may be awarded to establish Education Teams:

1. In General:  
In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall establish beginning farmer and rancher education teams to develop curricula and conduct educational programs and workshops for beginning farmers or ranchers in diverse geographical areas of the United States.
2. Curriculum:  
In promoting the development of curricula, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, include modules tailored to specific audiences of beginning farmers or ranchers, based on crop or regional diversity.
3. Composition:  
In establishing an education team for a specific program or workshop, the Secretary shall,

to the maximum extent practicable:

- a. obtain the short-term services of specialists with knowledge and expertise in programs serving beginning farmers or ranchers; and
- b. use officers and employees of the Department with direct experience in programs of the Department that may be taught as part of the curriculum for the program or workshop.

4. Cooperation:

a. In General:

In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall cooperate, to the maximum extent practicable, with:

- i. State cooperative extension services;
- ii. Federal and State agencies;
- iii. community-based and nongovernmental organizations;
- iv. colleges and universities (including an institution awarding an associate's degree) or foundations maintained by a college or university; and
- v. other appropriate partners, as determined by the Secretary.

b. Cooperative Agreement:

Notwithstanding chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may enter into a cooperative agreement to reflect the terms of any cooperation under subparagraph (a).

An award also may be made to establish a Curriculum and Training Clearinghouse.

The Secretary shall establish an online clearinghouse that makes available to beginning farmers or ranchers education curricula and training materials and programs, which may include online courses for direct use by beginning farmers or ranchers.

Set-Aside:

Not less than 25 percent of funds used to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year shall be used to support programs and services that address the needs of:

- A. limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined by the Secretary);
- B. socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)); and
- C. farmworkers desiring to become farmers or ranchers.

Set-Aside:

Not less than 25 percent of funds used to carry out this subsection for a fiscal year shall be used to support programs and services that address the needs of:

- A. limited resource beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined by the Secretary);
- B. socially disadvantaged beginning farmers or ranchers (as defined in section 355(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2003(e)); and

C. farmworkers desiring to become farmers or ranchers.

**Prohibition:**

A grant made under this subsection may not be used for the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

The recipient must be a collaborative, State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include: state cooperative extension service; community-based and nongovernmental organization; college or university (including institutions awarding associate degrees); or any other appropriate partner. Others may be eligible to apply. Please refer to Part III of the current BFRDP Request for Applications for complete eligibility requirements.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

The recipient must be a collaborative, State, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, which may include: state cooperative extension service; community-based and nongovernmental organization; college or university (including institutions awarding associate degrees); or any other appropriate partner. Others may be eligible to apply. Please refer to Part III of the current BFRDP Request for Applications for complete eligibility requirements.

### **Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension,

or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria:

In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall evaluate:

- A. relevancy;
- B. technical merit;
- C. achievability;
- D. the expertise and track record of 1 or more applicants;
- E. the adequacy of plans for the participatory evaluation process, outcome-based reporting, and the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience; and
- F. other appropriate factors, as determined by the Secretary.

Regional Balance:

In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, ensure geographical diversity.

Priority:

In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to partnerships and collaborations that are led by or include nongovernmental and community based organizations with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 25%. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under Section 7405 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, [7 U.S.C. 3319f].

To be eligible to receive a grant under this program, a recipient must provide a match in the form of cash or in-kind contributions in an amount equal to 25 percent of the funds provided by the grant.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.312 – Biomass Research and Development Initiative Competitive Grants Program (BRDI)**

**Authorization:**

Collaboration between Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Agriculture (USDA) on a Biomass Research and Development Initiative is directed under various statutory authorities, primarily the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Public Law 110-426) and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005)(Public Law 109-58; Section 941). USDA's authorization appears in Section 9008 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Public Law 110-426) which replaced section 9008 of the Farm Security, and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) (Public Law 107-171) [7 U.S.C. 8108]; thereby amending section 307 of the Biomass Research and Development Act of 2000 (BRDA) (7 U.S.C. 7624 note, and 7 U.S.C. 8101 note; Public Law 106-224). Pursuant to Executive Order 13134, BRDA can be found at (7 U.S.C .8601 et seq). BRDA authorizes the Biomass Research and Development; Public Law 109-58, 7 U.S.C 8606.

**Objectives:**

To carry out research on and development and demonstration of (A) biofuels and biobased products; and (B) the methods, practices, and technologies, for the production of biofuels and biobased products.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved research and extension objectives. Funds shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees).

Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents. Indirect costs may not exceed 22% of Federal Funds Awarded.

**Matching Requirements:**

20% for Research and Development Projects/50% for Demonstration and Commercial Projects. Fully discretionary.

## Eligibility Requirements

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Eligible entities include:

- A. an institution of higher education;
- B. a National Laboratory;
- C. a Federal research agency;
- D. a State research agency;
- E. a private sector entity;
- F. a nonprofit organization; or
- G. a consortium of 2 or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Eligible entities include:

- A. an institution of higher education;
- B. a National Laboratory;
- C. a Federal research agency;
- D. a State research agency;
- E. a private sector entity;
- F. a nonprofit organization; or
- G. a consortium of 2 or more entities described in subparagraphs (A) through (F).

## Application and Award Process

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information:

[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov. This information collection is approved under OMB Control No. 0524-0039, "NIFA Application Kit for Research and Extension Programs."

### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered

by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under this authority.

The minimum required recipient cost share must be at least 20% of the total allowable costs for Research and Development (R&D) projects and 50% of the total allowable costs for Demonstration projects.

Applicant cost share must come from non-Federal sources unless otherwise allowed by law.

No blending of R&D and Demonstration or associated cost share will be permitted. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of a competitive grant under this authority may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.313 – Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program**

**Authorization:**

National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NAREPTA), Section 1415A [7 U.S.C. 3151a].

**Objectives:**

The program responds to the current shortage of large animal veterinarians in rural areas by encouraging veterinarians, through loan repayment, to provide veterinary service in designated

shortage areas.

To carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which the Secretary shall pay specified amounts of the principal and interest of qualifying educational loans of the veterinarians.

**Types of Assistance:**

**DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR SPECIFIED USE**

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

- 1) **SERVICE IN SHORTAGE SITUATIONS.** The Secretary shall carry out a program of entering into agreements with veterinarians under which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a period of time as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations. For each year of such service under an agreement under this paragraph, the Secretary shall pay an amount, as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, of the principal and interest of qualifying educational loans of the veterinarians.
- 2) **SERVICE TO FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.**
  - a. **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into agreements of 1 year duration with veterinarians who have agreements pursuant to paragraph (1) for such veterinarians to provide services to the Federal Government in emergency situations, as determined by the Secretary, under terms and conditions specified in the agreement. Pursuant to an agreement under this paragraph, the Secretary shall pay an amount, in addition to the amount paid pursuant to the agreement in paragraph (1), as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, of the principal and interest of qualifying educational loans of the veterinarians.
  - b. **REQUIREMENTS.**—Agreements entered into under this paragraph shall include the following:
    - i. A veterinarian shall not be required to serve more than 60 working days per year of the agreement.
    - ii. A veterinarian who provides service pursuant to the agreement shall receive a salary commensurate with the duties and shall be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses as appropriate for the duration of the service.

None of the funds appropriated to the Secretary under subsection (f) may be used to carry out section 5379 of title 5, United States Code. None of the funds appropriated to the Secretary under subsection (f) may be used to carry out section 5379 of title 5, United States Code. Fully discretionary. Agreements with veterinarians under which the Secretary shall pay specified amounts of the principal and interest of qualifying educational loans of the veterinarians.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

The Secretary may enter into agreements with veterinarians under which the veterinarians agree

to provide, for a period of time as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

The Secretary may enter into agreements with veterinarians under which the veterinarians agree to provide, for a period of time as determined by the Secretary and specified in the agreement, veterinary services in veterinarian shortage situations.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-110. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per the VMLRP website at [www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp). Qualified individuals interested in participating in the VMLRP should visit the VMLRP website for all application forms and requirements. The application will be evaluated by a peer review panel, convened for this purpose by the NIFA. In selecting applicants for participation in the VMLRP, the panel will consider eligibility status, quality of the applicant, and the applicant's career plan focus. All selections are subject to final approval by the VMLRP manager. The NIFA will notify the State Animal Health Official and the applicant of the outcome of the review.

**Award Procedure:**

Once the applicant is selected to participate in the VMLRP, the applicant and the NIFA Director (or Secretary of Agriculture) will sign a written binding contract stating the terms and conditions for participating in the VMLRP. The effective date of the contract will be the date it is signed by the NIFA Director, or the date employment/service begins at an NIFA-designated veterinary shortage area, whichever is later.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching requirements are not applicable to this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The VMLRP will pay equal quarterly payments to the lenders. Each payment will be made shortly after the end of each full quarter of satisfactory service. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: quarterly.

**10.314 – New ERA Rural Technology Competitive Grants Program**

**Authorization:**

Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977; 7 U.S.C 3319e.

**Objectives:**

To establish a competitive grants program to provide funding for technology development, applied research, and training to aid in the development of an agriculture-based renewable energy workforce.

**Types of Assistance:**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS (DISCRETIONARY GRANTS); PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

In General:

In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall establish a program to make grant funds available for approved technology development, applied research, and training to aid in the development of an agriculture-based renewable energy workforce. Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct the program. The initiative shall support the following fields:

- A. bioenergy;
- B. pulp and paper manufacturing; and
- C. agriculture-based renewable energy resources.

Grant Priority:

In providing grants under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to eligible entities working in partnership;

- 1) to improve information-sharing capacity; and
- 2) to maximize the ability to meet the following requirements for funding delineated in A), B) and C) of Applicant Eligibility.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by either: (1) public or private nonprofit community colleges, or (2) advanced technological centers. Must see RFA (Part III.A) for specific eligibility requirements.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by either: (1) public or private nonprofit community colleges, or (2) advanced technological centers. Must see RFA (Part III.A) for specific eligibility requirements.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required

for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. 091 Preapplication Coordination:

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information:

[http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application. Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

Priority: In providing grants under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to eligible entities: (1) to improve information-sharing capacity; and (2) to maximize the ability to meet the requirements as delineated in (A), (B) and (C) of Section :081 above.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may

not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

### **10.315 – Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers Training Coordination Program (TAAF)**

#### **Authorization:**

Subtitle C of Title 1 of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-210), amended the Trade Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-618) establishing the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Farmers (TAAF) program. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) (Public Law 111-5) reauthorizes and amends the TAAF Program to provide both technical assistance and cash benefits to eligible producers of raw agricultural commodities and fishermen impacted by increased imports contributing to a specific decrease in the national average price, or quantity of production, or value of production of, or cash receipts for the agricultural commodity or fishery products compared to the average of the three (3) preceding marketing years. ARRA amendments to the TAAF program add certain classes of fisherman, increase the reporting requirements and overall transparency of the program, clarify eligibility determinations and associated processes, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the applicants and the Federal partners; Public Law 107-210.

#### **Objectives:**

The purpose of the TAAF program is to provide U.S. agricultural producers whose commodities have been certified as affected by imports, and who have been approved through individual application, with the knowledge, skills and tools needed to make adjustments to their operations, business plans, marketing plans for their operations, with the goal of enhancing farm profitability and ability to adjust to imports. Producers of commodities certified by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) and who meet the eligibility requirements by USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) are eligible for TAAF program participation.

#### **Types of Assistance:**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

#### **Uses and Use Restrictions:**

General Uses:

Through this RFA NIFA requests applications for the TAAF Training Coordination Program to establish a National TAAF Training Coordination Center responsible for the development and delivery of training and technical assistance to TAAF-eligible producers for business planning, diversification of enterprises, marketing, and other beneficial subjects as needed to aid producers in adjusting to the impact of imported commodities. The National TAAF Training Coordination Center will design and administer the training requirements of TAAF, develop communications regarding TAAF training and technical assistance, and comply with reporting requirements as described under Part I(B) and in Part VI(D). The successful National TAAF Training Coordination Program applicant will enter into a cooperative agreement with NIFA for establishment of the National TAAF Training Coordination Center to coordinate and implement the training and technical assistance component of the TAAF program under section 296(b) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2401e). Please be advised that the following components of the TAAF program will be administered by FAS/FSA: certification of agricultural commodities

eligibility certifications, approval of applications for cash benefits, and payments to implement business plans.

FAS, NIFA, FSA, and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will all be involved in the TAAF outreach effort. FAS has established a website for TAAF which is now linked to USDA, FSA, NIFA, AMS websites and can be found at: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/ITP/TAA/taa.asp>. Implementing regulations governing the TAAF program (including specific requirements for the provision of training and technical assistance) are expected to be published shortly in the Federal Register (as a Final Rule).

Applicants to the National TAAF Training Coordination Program must show their capacity to provide TAAF program coordination and training as described below:

1. Coordination of TAAF

- a. Awardee will establish a National TAAF Training Coordination Center The National TAAF Training Coordination Center will:
  - i. Develop rapid response implementation procedures for TAAF training and associated reporting activities;
  - ii. Contract with or make grants to state Cooperative Extension services or other qualified provider(s) to deliver TAAF training and technical assistance to TAAF-eligible producers;
  - iii. Conduct regional training workshops for TAAF trainers on existing or emerging TAAF topics;
  - iv. Develop a National and regional outreach and communication plan in concert with relevant agencies of the Department of Agriculture to promote the TAAF program;
  - v. Provide effective TAAF communication at intra- and inter-regional and National levels, including use of media outlets and the distribution of TAAF materials;
  - vi. Provide a National “one-stop” source of TAAF information (National TAAF Training Coordination Center website).
  - vii. Coordinate with and report to NIFA, and report training activities and performance measures into associated ARRA data management systems (as described in Part VI. (D));

2. Training and Technical Assistance for TAAF

- a. Provide Initial Technical Assistance Training that will:
  - i. Help TAAF-eligible producers improve their yield and marketing of certified agricultural commodities; and/or
  - ii. Enhance the feasibility and desirability of initiating production of one or more alternative agricultural commodities in exchange for agricultural commodities certified as eligible for TAAF.

- b. Provide Intensive Technical Assistance Training that includes:
- i. A series of courses to further assist TAAF-eligible producers in improving their competitiveness producing certified agricultural commodities with respect to which the producer was certified under this chapter; or one or more alternative agricultural commodities;
  - ii. Assistance to TAAF-eligible producers with developing an initial business plan based on the initial technical assistance training that can be approved in accordance with the requirements that will be set out in 7 CFR 1580.32. An approved plan must reflect the skills gained by the producer through the intensive technical assistance courses, and demonstrate how the producer will apply those skills to make adjustments to its business and marketing plans and operations with the goal of enhancing its farm profitability and ability to adjust to imports; and
  - iii. Assistance in developing a long-term business adjustment plan that meets regulatory requirements and includes steps to materially contribute to the economic adjustment of producers to changing market conditions, while taking into consideration the interests of the workers employed by the producer and demonstrating that the producer will have sufficient resources to implement the business plan. Indirect costs may not exceed ten percent (10%) of the total Federal funds provided under this award (TFFA). The recovery of indirect costs on the cooperative agreement made by NIFA under this program, as well as subawards may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 10 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

NIFA has determined that funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by organizations and institutions that are part of the Land Grant system and/or State Cooperative Extension services.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by organizations and institutions that are part of the Land Grant system and/or State Cooperative Extension services.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is

required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application. Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program, and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Three (3) year project period. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.316 – Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center (HUFED)**

**Authorization:**

Section 25 of the Food Stamp Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 2034), as amended by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and Section 4402 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of

2008 (Public Law 110-246), Section (h) (9) (A); 7 U.S.C 2034.

**Objectives:**

To establish a competitive grants program to support a Healthy Urban Food Enterprise Development Center to increase access to healthy affordable foods, including locally produced agricultural products, to underserved communities. The purpose of the Center is to increase access to healthy affordable foods, including locally produced agricultural products, to underserved communities.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The Secretary shall offer to provide a grant to a nonprofit organization to establish and support a healthy urban food enterprise development center to carry out the purpose described in the Objectives section.

Assistance will be provided to support a community food project. The term ‘community food project’ means a community-based project that;

- A. requires a 1-time contribution of Federal assistance to become self-sustaining; and H. R. 6124-247
- B. is designed;
  - a. to meet the food needs of low-income individuals;
  - b. to increase the self-reliance of communities in providing for the food needs of the communities; and
  - c. to promote comprehensive responses to local food, farm, and nutrition issues; or
  - d. to meet specific State, local, or neighborhood food and agricultural needs, including needs relating to;
    - i. infrastructure improvement and development;
    - ii. planning for long-term solutions; or
    - iii. the creation of innovative marketing activities that mutually benefit agricultural producers and low-income consumers.

The term ‘Center’ means the healthy urban food enterprise development center established under the Objectives section.

The term ‘underserved community’ means a community (including an urban or rural community or an Indian tribe) that, as determined by the Secretary, has;

- A. limited access to affordable, healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables;
- B. a high incidence of a diet-related disease (including obesity) as compared to the national average;

- C. a high rate of hunger or food insecurity; or
- D. severe or persistent poverty.

**ACTIVITIES:**

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND INFORMATION:**

The Center shall collect, develop, and provide technical assistance and information to small and medium-sized agricultural producers, food wholesalers and retailers, schools, and other individuals and entities regarding best practices and the availability of assistance for aggregating, storing, H. R. 6124—248 processing, and marketing locally produced agricultural products and increasing the availability of such products in underserved communities.

**AUTHORITY TO SUBGRANT:**

The Center may provide subgrants to eligible entities;

- i. to carry out feasibility studies to establish businesses for the purpose described in the Objectives section; and
- ii. to establish and otherwise assist enterprises that process, distribute, aggregate, store, and market healthy affordable foods.

**Grant Priority:**

In providing technical assistance and grants under the “Activities” section above, the Center shall give priority to applications that include projects;

- A. to benefit underserved communities; and
- B. to develop market opportunities for small and mid-sized farm and ranch operations.

**LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

Not more than 10 percent of the total amount allocated for this subsection in a given fiscal year may be used for administrative expenses.

Indirect Costs: Fully negotiated rate.

**\*\*Special Note** on Indirect Costs as in-kind matching contributions. Indirect costs may be claimed under the Federal portion of the award budget or, alternatively, indirect costs may be claimed as a matching contribution (if no indirect costs are requested under the Federal portion of the award budget). However, unless explicitly authorized in the RFA, indirect costs may not be claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution, unless the total claimed on both the Federal portion of the award budget and as a matching contribution does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. An awardee may split the allocation between the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget only if the total amount of indirect costs charged to the project does not exceed the maximum allowed indirect costs or the institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate, whichever is less. For example, if an awardees' indirect costs are capped at 22 percent pursuant to section 1462(a) of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), the awardee may request 11 percent of the indirect costs on both the Federal portion of the award and as a matching contribution. Or, the awardee may request any similar percentage that, when combined, does not exceed the maximum indirect cost rate of 22 percent. Fully discretionary.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for and receive awards under the HUFED Center authority (7 U.S.C. 2034 (h)(2)).

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for and receive awards under the HUFED Center authority (7 U.S.C. 2034 (h)(2)).

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

Priority:

In providing technical assistance and grants under Section :070 - Activities, the Center shall give priority to applications that include projects;

- A. to benefit underserved communities; and
- B. to develop market opportunities for small and mid-sized farm and ranch operations.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

This program has no matching requirements.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three (3) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.317 – Food Aid Nutrition Enhancement Program**

**Authorization:**

Subtitle K of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319e).

**Objectives:**

To develop and field test new food products designed to improve the nutritional delivery of humanitarian food assistance provided through the McGovern Dole (section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1)) and the Food for Peace title II (7 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) programs.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS (DISCRETIONARY)

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The Secretary may award competitive grants for collaborative projects that are mutually beneficial to the United States and other countries and encourage private sector involvement.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

To receive funding under this section, an entity shall be;

1) State agricultural experiment stations; (2) colleges and universities; (3) university research foundations; (4) other research institutions and organizations; (5) Federal agencies, (6) national laboratories; (7) private organizations or corporations; (8) individuals who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents; and (9) any group consisting of 2 or more entities identified in (1) through (8) (as defined in section 1472(c) of NARETPA). Eligible institutions do not include foreign and international organizations.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

To receive funding under this section, an entity shall be;

1) State agricultural experiment stations; (2) colleges and universities; (3) university research foundations; (4) other research institutions and organizations; (5) Federal agencies, (6) national laboratories; (7) private organizations or corporations; (8) individuals who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents; and (9) any group consisting of 2 or more entities identified in (1) through (8) (as defined in section 1472(c) of NARETPA). Eligible institutions do not include foreign and international organizations.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory formulas are not applicable to this program.

Matching requirements are not applicable to this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: lump sum.

**10.318 – Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields STEM program**

**Authorization:**

Section 7204 of the Food Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Public Law 110-246) amends section 1672 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (FACT) (7 U.S.C. 5925) to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive grants to support research and extension activities. The Secretary shall make these grants in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education, and Economics Advisory Board.

**Objectives:**

The Women and Minorities (WAMS) in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fields program was authorized to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary. The goal of the WAMS program is to develop and implement robust partnerships to increase the representation, participation, and entrepreneurship of women in STEM careers, thereby contributing to national economic prosperity. The purpose of the grant program is to support projects that: Provide STEM knowledge, skills and competency to Women and Minorities from Rural Areas with successful placement (a) in the workforce in STEM fields, or (b) as innovators and entrepreneurs adding value to the STEM fields in areas that have relevancy to the USDA Secretary's priorities.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved fundamental and applied research and extension grants to increase participation by women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, with priority given to eligible institutions that carry out continuing programs funded by the Secretary. Funds shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees). Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents.

Indirect Costs:

Not to exceed 22 percent of Federal Funds awarded. Fully discretionary.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

State agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; Federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations or corporations; individuals; or any group consisting of 2 or more of these entities.

#### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

State agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; Federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations or corporations; individuals; or any group consisting of 2 or more of these entities.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp).

Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

#### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

#### **Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 100%. Grant recipients are required to match the USDA funds awarded on dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and in-kind contributions.

NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if NIFA determines that:

- a. the results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or
- b. the project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement. MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants under this program may not exceed 5 years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.319 – Farm Business Management and Benchmarking Competitive Grants Program**

**Authorization:**

Section 1672D of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5925f).

**Objectives:**

To establish a competitive research and extension grants program for the purpose of: (1) improving the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers; and (2) establishing and maintaining a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS (COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS)

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

In general:

The Secretary may make competitive research and extension grants for the purpose of:

1. improving the farm management knowledge and skills of agricultural producers; and
2. establishing and maintaining a national, publicly available farm financial management database to support improved farm management.

Selection criteria:

In allocating funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary may give priority to grants that:

1. demonstrate an ability to work directly with agricultural producers;
2. collaborate with farm management and producer associations;

3. address the farm management needs of a variety of crops and regions of the United States; and
4. use and support the national farm financial management database.

**Administration:**

Paragraphs (4), (7), (8), and (11)(B) of subsection (b) of section 450i of this title shall apply with respect to the making of grants under this section.

**Authorization of appropriations:**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section. NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by qualified public and private entities. Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 450i(7), this includes:

- A. State agricultural experiment stations;
- B. colleges and universities;
- C. university research foundations;
- D. other research institutions and organizations;
- E. Federal agencies;
- F. national laboratories;
- G. private organizations or corporations;
- H. individuals; or
- I. any group consisting of 2 or more of the entities described in subparagraphs A. through H.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Applications may be submitted by qualified public and private entities. Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 450i(7), this includes:

- A. State agricultural experiment stations;

- B. colleges and universities;
- C. university research foundations;
- D. other research institutions and organizations;
- E. Federal agencies;
- F. national laboratories;
- G. private organizations or corporations;
- H. individuals; or
- I. any group consisting of 2 or more of the entities described in subparagraphs A. through H.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

### **Application and Award Process**

#### **Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372. An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

#### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

#### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) the level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research,

- education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
  - c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
  - d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
  - e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
  - f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.320 – Sun Grant Program**

**Authorization:**

The Sun Grant Program, was originally established in section 778 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-199), which amended the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8101 et seq.) adding section 9011, entitled the “Sun Grant Research Initiative Act of 2003.” Section 7526 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8114) establishes the Sun Grant Program, replacing the “Sun Grant Research Initiative Act of 2003.” Authority for the Sun Grant Program is delegated to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture in title 7 Part 2.66 subpart (a) section (153) of the Code of Federal Regulations.

**Objectives:**

This program responds to the need to enhance national energy security with biobased energy technology; promote diversification and environmental sustainability through biobased technology; promote economic diversification in the rural U.S. through biobased technology; and enhance the efficiency of biobased technology research and development (R&D) through collaborations among USDA; Department of Energy (DOE); and Land Grant Institutions.

Grants will be awarded to the sun grant centers and subcenter for the purposes of carrying out a competitive grants program and to conduct multi-institutional and multistate research, extension, and education programs on technology development; and integrated research, extension, and education programs on technology implementation.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS (COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS)

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The Sun Grant Program was established to:

- 1) Enhance national energy security with biobased energy tech;
- 2) Promote diversification and environmental sustainability through biobased tech;
- 3) Promote economic diversification in the rural US through biobased technology; and
- 4) Enhance the efficiency of biobased technology R&D through collaborations among the United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, and Land Grant Institutions.

A Sun Grant Center or Subcenter shall use 75 percent of the funds to provide competitive grants to entities that are;

- i. eligible to receive grants under subsection (b)(7) of the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act (7 U.S.C. 450i(b)(7)); and
- ii. located in the region covered by the Sun Grant Center or Subcenter. Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved research and extension objectives. Funds shall not be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility (including site grading and improvement, and architect fees). Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents. Fully discretionary.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Only the Sun Grant Centers and Subcenter as specifically designated in 7 U.S.C. 8114 are eligible to apply for funding under this program.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Only the Sun Grant Centers and Subcenter as specifically designated in 7 U.S.C. 8114 are eligible to apply for funding under this program.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Preapplication coordination is not applicable.

### **Award Procedure:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov. Proposals submitted by Sun Grant Centers or the Subcenter are reviewed by a panel of qualified NIFA scientists and appropriate persons in accordance with the provisions of 7 U.S.C. 8114. Proposals are funded to the extent permitted by available funds on the basis of merit and compliance with provisions found in applicable legislation and regulations. Competitive grant applications awarded by the Sun Grant Centers or the Subcenter are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA. Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application. Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the solicitation available from the Sun Grant Centers or the Subcenter.

### **Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

Matching Requirements: Percent: 20%. Funds allocated for competitive grants must be matched in an amount of 20 percent from non-Federal sources by all subawardees. Matching requirements do not apply to fundamental research. Additionally, the Sun Grant Center or Subcenter may reduce or eliminate the requirement for non-Federal funds for applied research if the Sun Grant Center or Subcenter determines that the reduction is necessary and appropriate pursuant to specific guidance issued by NIFA. Specific matching provisions are announced in the request for applications or guidelines for each fiscal year.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed 5 years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.322 – Distance Education Grants for Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas**

**Authorization:**

7 U.S.C. 3362.

**Objectives:**

To strengthen the capacity of Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas to carry out resident instruction, curriculum, and teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences through distance education technology.

**Types of Assistance:**

PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The purpose of Distance Education Grants for Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas is to strengthen the capacity of Institutions of Higher Education in Insular Areas to carry out resident instruction, curriculum, and teaching programs in the food and agricultural sciences through distance education technology. Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved fundamental and applied research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences. The use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility is not allowed under this program. With prior approval, and in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, some grant funds may be used for minor alterations, renovations, or repairs deemed necessary to retrofit existing teaching or research spaces in order to carry out a funded project. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that the alterations, renovations, or repairs are essential to achieving the major purpose of the project. Grant funds may not be used for endowment investing. Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

Individual land-grant colleges and universities, and other institutions that have secured land-grant status through Federal legislation, and which are located in Insular Areas are automatically eligible for awards under the DEG grants program, either as direct applicants or as parties to a consortium agreement.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Individual land-grant colleges and universities, and other institutions that have secured land-grant status through Federal legislation, and which are located in Insular Areas are automatically eligible for awards under the DEG grants program, either as direct applicants or as parties to a consortium agreement.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements.

MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive project grants and/or cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed five (5) years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.324 – Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Project (AAEP)**

**Authorization:**

Section 632(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151), 22 U.S.C 2151; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-117), Public Law 111-117; Economy Act (31 U.S.C.1535); 31 U.S.C 1535.

**Objectives:**

To provide professional development training for Afghanistan’s agricultural extension staff, designed to facilitate the delivery of a more effective, demand-driven extension service to producers and other rural clientele in selected areas of the country.

**Types of Assistance:**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS (DISCRETIONARY GRANTS)

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The purpose of the Afghanistan Agricultural Extension Project (AAEP) is to assist Afghanistan to:

- deliver a more effective, demand-driven extension service to producers and other rural clientele in selected areas of the country;
- focus on professional development training for extension staff in order to increase extension’s ability to meet farmers’ needs and to ultimately build public confidence;
- develop a cadre of extension staff with the technical expertise and appropriate methodologies to effectively extend information and knowledge;
- increase public accessibility to, and use of, government extension services;
- develop extension training modules and educational materials based on high-priority needs;
- prepare future extension personnel;
- encourage a pluralistic approach to extension that responds to farmers’ needs for research-based technologies that is built upon the innovations of Afghanistan farmers; and
- promote coordination among the various entities providing extension-related services. Grant funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education,

or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Grant funds may not be used to support the salaries of U.S. government employees.

The purchase of equipment is limited to that which is required for training, teaching, extension demonstration, and other relevant project activities.

Indirect Costs:

Consortiums submitting a project proposal shall limit indirect costs to ten percent (10%) of the total federal funds requested. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Only land-grant institutions are eligible to receive AAEP awards. Eligible land-grant institutions include all 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions. All consortia members must be land-grant institutions.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Only land-grant institutions are eligible to receive AAEP awards. Eligible land-grant institutions include all 1862, 1890, and 1994 land-grant institutions. All consortia members must be land-grant institutions.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA. Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

### **Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the

individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;

- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the Request for Applications (RFA).

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria. However, the lead and consortium institutions are encouraged to contribute resources to the accomplishment of project objectives. Institutions are further encouraged to cost share the difference between their negotiated indirect cost rate agreement and the limited ten percent (10%) recoverable rate for this project. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under this authority.

This program does not have MOE requirements.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed three years. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

## **10.325 – People’s Garden Grant Program**

**Authorization:**

National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act, Public Law 95-113, 7 U.S.C 3318 (b); National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act, Public Law 95-113, 7 U.S.C 3318 (c).

**Objectives:**

To facilitate the creation of produce, recreation, and/or wildlife gardens in urban and rural areas, which will provide opportunities for science-based non-formal education.

**Types of Assistance:**

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

### **Uses and Use Restrictions:**

The purpose of the People's Garden Grant Program (PGGP) is to:

- Create People's Gardens that will improve food access and serve as science-based educational sites for the community.
- Establish new gardens, revitalize and repurpose moribund local community gardens.
- Develop locally sponsored, self-sufficient gardens nationwide.
- Meet the initial program implementation needs. NIFA has determined that PGGP award funds may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities. PGGP award funds may not be used to support the salaries of U.S. government employees. The purchase of equipment is limited to that which is required for training, teaching, extension demonstration, and other relevant project activities.

Indirect Costs:

The lead and consortium institutions are expected to contribute resources to the accomplishment of project objectives and are encouraged to cost share in order to maximize programmatic impact by limiting indirect cost to ten percent (10%) of total federal funds awarded. Fully discretionary.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Eligibility:**

Eligible applicants are State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or education institutions and organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, non-profit organizations, individuals, and any other contractor or recipient.

### **Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Eligible applicants are State agricultural experiment stations, State cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or education institutions and organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, non-profit organizations, individuals, and any other contractor or recipient.

## **Application and Award Process**

### **Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is not applicable. Environmental impact information is not required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

### **Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the RFA.

Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Each application will be evaluated in a 2-part process. First, each application will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, applications that meet these requirements will be technically evaluated by a review panel.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements. NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria. However, the lead and consortium institutions are expected to contribute resources to the accomplishment of project objectives and are encouraged to cost share in order to maximize programmatic impact by limiting indirect cost to ten percent (10%) of total federal funds awarded. Funds are awarded competitively. No formula grants are awarded under this authority. This program does not have MOE requirements.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

The term of competitive cooperative agreements under this program may not exceed two years.

Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.

**10.443 – Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers**

**Authorization:**

Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, Section 2501, Public Law 101-624; 7 U.S.C 2279.

**Objectives:**

The objective of the Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers (OASDFR) program is to provide outreach, training, education, assistance, and technical

assistance to encourage and assist socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in owning and operating farms, ranches and non-industrial forest lands. The intent of the competitive grant program (2501 program) is to communicate in a linguistically appropriate manner, to current and prospective socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and forest landowners about participating equitably in the full range of agricultural programs offered by the Department.

**Types of Assistance:**  
PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

To provide outreach, training, education, assistance, and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers on agricultural programs, emphasizing assistance that leads to participation in the full range of agriculture programs offered by the Department.

**Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

As determined in 7 U.S.C. 2279, eligibility is defined as follows: 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State College, Indian Tribal Community Colleges, Alaska Native Cooperative Colleges, Hispanic-serving post-secondary educational institutions, other accredited post-secondary educational institutions, and Indian tribes providing agricultural education or other agriculturally-related services to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in their region, and community-based organizations that: (1) have demonstrated experience in providing agricultural education or other agriculturally related services to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in their region; (2) provides documentary evidence of its past experience in working with socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers during the 2 years preceding its application for assistance; and (3) does not engage in activities prohibited under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Also eligible are organizations or institutions that received funding under 7 U.S.C. 2279(a) before January 1, 1996, but only with respect to projects that the Secretary considers are similar to projects previously carried out by the organization or institution under such subsection.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

A farmer, rancher, or forest landowner who is a member of one or more of the following groups whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Groups include, but are not limited to, African-Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. The Secretary of Agriculture will determine on a case-by-case basis whether additional groups qualify under this definition, either at the Secretary's initiative or in response to a written request with supporting explanation.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

Preapplication coordination is required. Environmental impact information is not required for

this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

OMB Circular No. A-102 applies to this program. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Formal proposals should be submitted as outlined in the request for applications or request for proposals. Funding opportunities will be announced on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are reviewed and evaluated by the OASDFR Program staff members with the assistance and advice of a review panel of appropriate persons that are specialists who are qualified by training and experience in the fields covered by the applications. Applications are ranked and recommended in order of merit and funded to the extent permitted by available funds. Final approval for those applications selected will be made by Assistant Secretary for Departmental Management, or appropriately redelegated.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

This program has no statutory formula.

This program has no matching requirements.

This program does not have MOE requirements.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

Grants can be awarded from one to five years, as stipulated by requests for applications and requests for proposals, announced on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). See the following for information on how assistance is awarded/released: Grant payments will be administered through either the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Payment Management System or the U.S. Department of Treasury ASAP System. Recipient drawdown procedures are to comply with 7 CFR 3019.22 and 7 CFR 3016.21.

## **10.500 – Cooperative Extension Service**

**Authorization:**

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

(1) Numerous Programs are funded under CFDA 10.500.

(2) Listed below are several programs, which are indicative of the types of projects currently funded under CFDA 10.500. However, the listing is not exhaustive.

1. SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):
  - a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)  
Sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act provide funding for agricultural extension programs at 1862 Land-grant universities.
  - b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs – (FORMULA)  
Sections 3(b)(1) and 8 of the Smith-Lever Act provide the basis of funding special

needs agricultural extension programs at 1862 Land-grant institutions.

- c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)  
Section 7129 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA), re- authorizes Section 3(b) & (c) of the Smith–Lever Act, allowing the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), to conduct competitive grant programs to State Extension Services at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions to support innovative, education-based approaches to addressing emergency preparedness and specific responses related to natural and man-made disasters.
- d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement)  
(FORMULA)  
Funds available for distribution under the Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and (c), statutory formula.
- e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement)  
(FORMULA)  
Federal funds are available for distribution under the Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and (c), statutory formula.
- f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act  
Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC  
Sections 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act provides, in pertinent part, that “In the administration of the Act of August 30,1890 (7 U.S.C. 321-326, 328) (known as the Second Morrill Act), the University [of the District of Columbia] shall be considered to be a university established for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301-305, 307, 308) (known as the First Morrill Act); and the term "State", is used in the laws and provisions of law listed in the preceding, paragraphs of this section shall include the District of Columbia. In the administration of the Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 341-346, 347a-349) (known as the Smith-Lever Act) the University [of the District of Columbia] shall be considered to be a university established for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301- 305, 307,308); and the term "State" as used in such Act of May 8, 1949, shall include the District of Columbia, except that the District of Columbia shall not be eligible to receive any sums appropriated under section 3 of such Act. In lieu of an authorization of appropriations for the District of Columbia under section 3 of such Act of May 8, 1914, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to provide cooperative agricultural extension work in the District of Columbia under such Act. Any reference in such Act (other than section 3 thereof) to funds appropriated under such Act shall in the case of the District of Columbia be considered a reference to funds appropriated under this subsection.”  
Therefore, this grant funds the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and subjects relating

thereto to persons not attending the University of the District of Columbia, and imparting information on those subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise and for the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the subjects.

Section 7417 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-234) amended section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act to eliminate any matching requirement for the extension formula funds provided to the University of the District of Columbia, effective October 1, 2008.

2. Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)

Section 1444 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act Of 1977 (NARETPA), enacted as Title XIV of Public Law 95-113 (The Food and Agriculture Act of 1977) on Sept. 29, 1977, is also known as the Section 1444 Program. This law provides the basis for Federal funding for agricultural extension activities at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

3. SMITH-LEVER 3(d):

a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)

Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may fund extension work in the several States, Territories, and possessions. Section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (as amended) (7 U.S.C. 3175) provides the statutory formula for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). This program supports Federal funding for extension activities associated with disseminating the results of food and nutrition research performed or funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enable low-income individuals and families to engage in nutritionally sound food purchase and preparation practices. Funding extends to EFNEP at State land-grant colleges established under the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862, as amended, and the Morrill Act of August 30, 1890, as amended, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Section 7116 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) amended Section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175) to accomplish various goals as indicated in Part I.A. of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO).

b. Youth at Risk

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

c. Improve Rural Quality of Life Represents a new program; pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

d. Farm Safety

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

e. New Technologies at Ag Extension

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

- f. Pest Management  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
4. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

**OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:**

- a. Renewable Resources Extension Act (FORMULA)  
The Renewable Resources Extension Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-306, 92 Stat. 349, 16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) provides for an expanded and comprehensive extension program for forest and rangeland renewable resources. The majority of the appropriated funds are distributed to eligible institutions based on a formula that considers the geographic extent, ecosystem productivity, economic contribution, and population for each state.  
Since FY 2002, a small amount of these funds have been used to fund National Focus Fund Projects which have served to expand comprehensive extension programs for forest and rangeland renewable resources on a national, regional, or multi-institutional scale through better program coordination, innovative technologies, and extension models that can be easily duplicated.
- b. Rural Health and Safety  
The authority for this program is under Section 502 (i) of Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2662). The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-8) appropriates funds under Division A, Title I. The Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Program addresses the Individual and Family Health Education component of the authorization.
- c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions  
This program is authorized under Section 534(b) of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 201 note), as amended by the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7601). This section amends Section 3 of the Act of May 8, 1914 (Smith-Lever Act) (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), as amended. Under this authority, appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (hereinafter referred to as 1994 institutions) for Extension work and funds are to be distributed on the basis of a competitive application process.
- d. Grants to Youth Serving Institutions

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the National 4-H Council (4-H Council), and the National FFA Organization (FFA). Section 7309 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 reauthorized 7 U.S.C. 7630, which was also amended to provide additional flexibility in content delivery to each organization receiving funds and to allow recipients to redistribute all or part of the funds to individual councils or local chapters without further need of approval from the Secretary. In FY 2009, Terms and Conditions of these awards should facilitate the redistribution without further need of approval. The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-8) appropriates funds under Division A, Title I “for grants to youth organizations pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 7630.”

- e. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)  
Title VI Section 604 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7642) states that -The Secretary of Agriculture shall continue operation of the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database program (referred to in this section as the “FARAD program”) through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with appropriate colleges or universities.
- f. Federal Administration  
DIRECT APPROPRIATION  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. 1890 Facilities (Section 1447) (FORMULA)

Pursuant to the authority contained in Section 1447 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) [7 U.S.C. 3222b], and reauthorized by Section 7123 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) (Pub. L. 110-246) grants will be awarded under the Facilities Grants Program to the 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 appropriates funds under Division A, Title I; 7 U.S.C 341-349.

**Objectives:**

GENERAL: [As reflected in Part I,B. of the Request for Applications (RFA) or Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO)]

- 1. 3b & c Formula Funds
  - a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)  
These funds are used by institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act of Congress approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled “An Act donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts” (Twelfth Statutes at Large, page five hundred and three) (“1862 Land-grant Institutions”), for the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home

economics, and rural energy, and subjects relating thereto to persons not attending or resident in 1862 Land-grant Institutions in the several communities, and imparting information on those subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise and for the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the subjects.

The purpose of this funding is to conduct agricultural extension work.

- b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs – (FORMULA)

The purpose of this funding is to increase the level of agricultural extension work. These funds are used to support extension activities identified in the eligible institution's approved 5-Year Plan of Work. Special Needs funds are allocated to a State Cooperative Extension Service to fulfill a purpose or overcome a condition peculiar to the State, as compared to the country as a whole, or for a purpose not normally a part of the continuing extension program.

- c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)

Funds support innovative extension education approaches to addressing risks, hazards and disasters. The Cooperative Extension Service (CES) has an important role in reducing the impact of disasters through extension education. The Extension Special Needs program sponsors targeted projects that enable CES to assist in preparing for, providing an educational response to, and recovering from disasters. Education programming funded by this program will help communities, families and individuals become more self-sustaining by strengthening and increasing their resiliency to disaster. Some types of hazards and disaster related events funded in previous years include uncertainties caused by losses of economic infrastructure, severe weather or other natural disasters, security breaches, human disease, or high consequence animal diseases and plant pests. There has been an increase in public awareness regarding the number and severity of disaster type critical incidents involving earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, wildfire, drought, contagious disease, and terrorist events. The National Academy of Sciences Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction of the National Science and Technology Council have acknowledged the many effective roles that the Cooperative Extension System (CES) has played in disaster preparedness, response and remediation.

Within the states and territories, the CES has repeatedly served as the trusted community organization that has helped to enable families, communities, and businesses to successfully prepare for, respond to and cope with disaster losses and critical incidents. Once a disaster has occurred, the local extension outreach includes: 1) Communicating practical science-based risk information, 2) Developing relevant educational experiences and programs, 3) Working with individuals and communities to open new communication channels, and 4) Mitigating losses and facilitating recovery. Never was this more evident than after hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005 and during the 2008 Midwestern Summer flooding. During and after these incidents, local Extension agents served as a critical communication node throughout affected urban and rural areas, particularly when traditional communication systems were temporarily

overwhelmed or destroyed.

The Extension Special Needs RFA encourages proposals that specifically address one or more of the following six key target areas:

- i. Education and Technical assistance through inter-disciplinary and multi-state disaster training programs and demonstration projects for problem solving, especially those which build upon already existing strengths, contribute to or expand the EDEN and/or eXtension educational materials related to disaster preparation, mitigation, response and recovery;
- ii. Collaboration with Federal, state and local agencies and other disaster relief organizations to support education and service activities that enhance recovery of impacted rural communities, schools, businesses and agricultural-based activities;
- iii. Long range family, community and regional planning projects that will enhance implementation of programs that serve public needs in preparation for, during and after emergency situations within impacted States and across impacted regions;
- iv. Communication delivery of key information that meets end-users' needs in a timely fashion with consideration of potentially limited communication channels due to disaster situations;
- v. Dissemination of credible, science-based information that is reliable and easily accessible even if electronic access is compromised; and
- vi. Integrated Research and Extension Planning Projects (up to \$15,000) are intended to provide assistance to applicants in bringing together teams for the development of highly competitive grant proposals where extension personnel would apply for large grants (in excess of \$250,000) from other grant programs (e.g., the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and etc...) and lead nationally important disaster prevention, protection and mitigation projects.

Fundable projects should support education and extension activities which:

- i. Reduce risk through planning, disaster preparedness and emergency response by improving communication between the public, community leaders, state and Federal agencies;
- ii. Develop strategies and educational materials and/or programming in the area of emergency planning, infrastructure design and disaster recovery operation;
- iii. Develop community networks that provide real-time disaster education information; and/or
- iv. Develop or expand educational materials regarding disaster issues suitable for use and distribution by the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) or the eXtension Community of Practice working with disaster planning.

- d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
Formula grants authorized under the CSRS Retirement Contributions Program. These grants are used to defray the CSRS Retirement costs to the 1862 land-grant institutions for the former Schedule A Appointments who conduct agricultural extension work.
  - e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
These grants are used to defray the FERS Retirement costs to the 1862 land-grant institutions for the former Schedule A Appointments who conduct agricultural extension work.
  - f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC  
These funds are used by the University of the District of Columbia for the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and subjects relating thereto to persons not attending the University of the District of Columbia, and imparting information on those subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise and for the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the subjects.
2. Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)  
The purpose of this funding is to support agricultural and forestry extension activities at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.
3. SMITH-LEVER 3(d):
- a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)  
These grants are used to assist all States in carrying out a program of extension activities designed to employ and train professional and paraprofessional aides to engage in direct nutrition education of low-income families and in other appropriate nutrition education programs.
  - b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - d. Farm Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - e. New Technologies at Ag Extension  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - f. Pest Management

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

- g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- k. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

#### 4. OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- a. Renewable Resources Extension Act  
The purpose of the grant program is to provide funds for projects that:
  - i. Have national or regional relevancy;
  - ii. Develop new and innovative projects that can be replicated at other institutions; or
  - iii. Develop a strategic framework for the nationwide forest and rangeland resources extension program.  
NFF priorities are those that have been identified in the FY 2005-2009 RREA Strategic Plan:  
[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/nre/in\\_focus/forests\\_if\\_rrea.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/forests_if_rrea.html).
- b. Rural Health and Safety  
As specified in 7 U.S.C. 2662, grants will be made to establish the Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Programs carried out by the eligible organizations in rural areas. The assistance provided by these programs, to the extent practicable, shall be coordinated with and delivered in cooperation with similar services or assistance by other Federal Agencies or programs for rural residents.
- c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions  
This program provides funding to (1) increase Extension program capacity at 1994 institutions; and (2) address special needs, take advantage of important opportunities, and/or demonstrate long-term sustained benefits of Extension projects at 1994 institutions. In FY 2009, funded projects will support one or more of the six NIFA Strategic Goals (see Part VIII, E., Definitions) outlined in the NIFA Strategic Plan for FY 2007-2012:
  - i. Enhance international competitiveness of American agriculture;
  - ii. Enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of rural and farm economies;
  - iii. Support increased economic opportunities and improved quality of life in

- rural America;
  - iv. Enhance protection and safety of the Nation's agriculture and food supply;
  - v. Improve the Nation's nutrition and health; and
  - vi. Protect and enhance the Nation's natural resource base and environment.
- d. **Grants to Youth Serving Institutions**  
 As specified in 7 U.S.C. 7630, grants will be made to establish pilot projects to expand the youth development programs carried out by the eligible organizations in rural areas or small towns.  
 Broad Purposes:
  - i. Support and enhance the goals, objectives, and priorities of the eligible youth organizations;
  - ii. Support programs which address issues and needs of rural youth;
  - iii. Involve youth in design and implementation of their educational activities;
  - iv. Increase knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary for rural youth to live productive, contributing, and fulfilling lives; and
  - v. Increase economic opportunities and sustainability and improve quality of life in rural communities through enhanced human, social, civic, natural, financial, cultural, and built capital.
- e. **Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)**  
 The purpose of the FARAD is to provide livestock producers, extension specialists, scientists, and veterinarians with up to date information to prevent drug, pesticide and environmental contaminant residues in food animal products.
- f. **Federal Administration**  
 Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. **1890 Facilities (Section 1447)**  
 The 1890 Facilities Grants Program provides funds for the acquisition and improvement of agricultural and food sciences facilities and equipment, including libraries, so that the 1890 land-grant institutions, Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, may participate fully in the production of human capital in the food and agricultural sciences.

**Types of Assistance:**

FORMULA GRANTS; PROJECT GRANTS

**Uses and Use Restrictions:**

(See RFA or FGO – Executive Summary and Part I.A. – Background)

Other:

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved integrated research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences, in the broadest sense.

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or

installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents.

Tuition remission is not allowable.

Indirect costs are not allowable.

Other – Detailed Info – USES ONLY

1. SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):

a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)

Sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act provide funding for agricultural extension programs at 1862 Land-grant universities.

These funds are used by institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act of Congress approved July second, eighteen hundred and sixty-two, entitled “An Act donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts” (Twelfth Statutes at Large, page five hundred and three) (“1862 Land-grant Institutions”), for the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and subjects relating thereto to persons not attending or resident in 1862 Land-grant Institutions in the several communities, and imparting information on those subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise and for the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the subjects.

b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs (FORMULA)

These funds are used to support extension activities identified in the eligible institution’s approved 5-Year Plan of Work. Special Needs funds are allocated to a State Cooperative Extension Service to fulfill a purpose or overcome a condition peculiar to the State, as compared to the country as a whole, or for a purpose not normally a part of the continuing extension program.

Funds are allocated under this program to a State Cooperative Extension Service to fulfill a purpose or overcome a condition peculiar to the State, as compared to the country as a whole, or for a purpose not normally a part of the continuing extension program.

c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)

There has been an increase in public awareness regarding the number and severity of disaster type critical incidents involving earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, wildfire, drought, contagious disease, and terrorist events. The National Academy of Sciences Committee on Environment and Natural Resources and the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction of the National Science and Technology Council have acknowledged the many effective roles that the Cooperative Extension System (CES) has played in disaster preparedness, response and remediation.

Within the states and territories, the CES has repeatedly served as the trusted community organization that has helped to enable families, communities, and businesses to successfully prepare for, respond to and cope with disaster losses and critical incidents. Once a disaster has occurred, the local extension outreach includes: 1) Communicating practical science-based risk information, 2) Developing relevant educational experiences and programs, 3) Working with individuals and communities to open new communication channels, and 4) Mitigating losses and facilitating recovery. Never was this more evident than after hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in 2005 and during the 2008 Midwestern Summer flooding. During and after these incidents, local Extension agents served as a critical communication node throughout affected urban and rural areas, particularly when traditional communication systems were temporarily overwhelmed or destroyed.

The Extension Special Needs RFA encourages proposals that specifically address one or more of the following six key target areas:

- i. Education and Technical assistance through inter-disciplinary and multi-state disaster training programs and demonstration projects for problem solving, especially those which build upon already existing strengths, contribute to or expand the EDEN and/or eXtension educational materials related to disaster preparation, mitigation, response and recovery;
- ii. Collaboration with Federal, state and local agencies and other disaster relief organizations to support education and service activities that enhance recovery of impacted rural communities, schools, businesses and agricultural-based activities;
- iii. Long range family, community and regional planning projects that will enhance implementation of programs that serve public needs in preparation for, during and after emergency situations within impacted States and across impacted regions;
- iv. Communication delivery of key information that meets end-users' needs in a timely fashion with consideration of potentially limited communication channels due to disaster situations;
- v. Dissemination of credible, science-based information that is reliable and easily accessible even if electronic access is compromised; and
- vi. Integrated Research and Extension Planning Projects (up to \$15,000) are intended to provide assistance to applicants in bringing together teams for the development of highly competitive grant proposals where extension personnel would apply for large grants (in excess of \$250,000) from other grant programs (e.g., the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative and etc...) and lead nationally important disaster prevention, protection and mitigation projects.

Fundable projects should support education and extension activities which:

- i. Reduce risk through planning, disaster preparedness and emergency response by improving communication between the public, community

leaders, state and Federal agencies;

- ii. Develop strategies and educational materials and/or programming in the area of emergency planning, infrastructure design and disaster recovery operation;
- iii. Develop community networks that provide real-time disaster education information; and/or
- iv. Develop or expand educational materials regarding disaster issues suitable for use and distribution by the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) or the eXtension Community of Practice working with disaster planning.

d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)

These grants are used to defray the CSRS Retirement costs to the 1862 land-grant institutions for the former Schedule A Appointments who conduct agricultural extension work.

Funds are provided for the retirement costs of the former Schedule A Appointments at the 1862 land-grant institutions. These funds are allocated based on each institution's relative share of the total payments to OPM during the previous year.

The separate allocation of funds for this purpose is being phased out over a 10-year period, beginning in FY 2007. The amount available for this program is reduced each fiscal year by \$1,473,658 and the same amount is added to the funds available for distribution under the Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and (c), statutory formula.

The Schedule A 213.3113 (a) (1) was issued by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to employ individuals in the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) as a joint appointment between USDA and the land grant institution. The official title of Schedule A appointees includes the title Agent (e.g., Agent/Cooperative Extension Director; Agent/Cooperative Extension Educator) as by law only agents with a Schedule A appointment were eligible to participate in the Federal benefit plan(s).

Employment is dependent upon an individual's appointment in the CES at the university. The appointment must be a regular position with at least 50 percent of the staff's time dedicated to extension projects, and the appointee must work and be paid over a 12-month period.

Agents in the Cooperative Extension program are not classified under the General Schedule (GS) classification system or any other Federal pay system. The positions are classified by the employing land grant institution, and the salary is established according to policies and procedures at the institution.

The OPM has the authority and responsibility for issuing rules and regulations covering Schedule A appointments and resulting benefits. OPM has delegated to the USDA the responsibility for overseeing and managing Cooperative Extension Schedule A appointments and the accompanying Federal benefits, (e.g., retirement and insurance plans). The Human Resources Division

(HRD)/Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Team within Administrative and Financial Management (AFM) of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) carries out this function for USDA.

Effective January 31, 2003, the authority to grant Schedule A Excepted Appointments to CES employees was terminated. Public Law 107-171, Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, dated May 13, 2002, Section 7220, terminated the Schedule A appointing authority used by USDA to grant a companion Federal appointment and Federal benefits to state/university employees of the Cooperative Extension Service. The law allowed the CES Federal appointees that were employed on the day before the date of the enactment of the Act, (i.e., May 12, 2002) to: a) continue to accrue Federal creditable service for retirement; and b) participate in the following benefits as long as the employees continued their employment with the Cooperative Extension Service:

- i. the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB);
- ii. the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FELGI);
- iii. the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS);
- iv. the Federal Employee Retirement System (CSRS);
- v. the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP); and
- vi. the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP).

The Federal Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP) is the only Federal program that will not continue as it is not a program that the dual appointee was vested in. Claims already on file with the Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Workers Compensation Office will continue to be processed by the DOL. Using a formula based in the prior year's injury or illness claims, NIFA will pay these claims on behalf of each institution and charge that institution by reducing its annual retirement allocation by the amount remitted. If the amount of claims paid exceeds the institution's annual retirement allocation, NIFA will bill the institution for any OWCP costs in excess of the annual retirement allocation. Changes and new features for the current Federal Benefits programs such as FEHB, FELGI, TSP and FLTCIP will be offered to the CES organizations and employees that are eligible to participate in the affected program(s). However, former Federal appointees cannot participate in new Federal benefit programs that were not in effect as of May 12, 2002.

Effective January 31, 2003, CES can no longer grant Schedule A Federal appointments to new employees because they no longer have a Federal appointment authority available to make new Federal appointments. Former CES Schedule A appointees may be reappointed to another CES organization and continue their benefits as long as they do not have a break in service.

- e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement) (FORMULA)

Federal funds are provided for the retirement costs of the former Schedule A Appointments at the 1862 land-grant institutions. These funds are allocated to the

1862 land-grant institutions with former Schedule A Appointments based on each institution's relative share of the total payments to OPM during the previous year. The separate allocation of funds for this purpose is being phased out over a 10-year period, beginning in FY 2008. The amount available for this program is reduced each year by \$376,826 and this same amount is added to the funds available for distribution under the Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and (c), statutory formula.

The Schedule A 213.3113 (a) (1) was issued by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to employ individuals in the Cooperative Extension Service (CES) as a joint appointment between USDA and the land-grant institution. The official title of Schedule A appointees includes the title Agent (e.g., Agent/Cooperative Extension Director; Agent/Cooperative Extension Educator) as by law only agents with a Schedule A appointment were eligible to participate in the Federal benefit plan(s).

Employment is dependent upon an individual's appointment in the CES at the university. The appointment must be a regular position with at least 50 percent of the staff's time dedicated to extension projects, and the appointee must work and be paid over a 12 month period.

Agents in the Cooperative Extension program are not classified under the General Schedule (GS) classification system or any other Federal pay system. The positions are classified by the employing land-grant institution, and the salary is established according to policies and procedures at the institution.

The OPM has the authority and responsibility for issuing rules and regulations covering Schedule A appointments and resulting benefits. OPM has delegated to the USDA the responsibility for overseeing and managing Cooperative Extension Schedule A appointments and the accompanying Federal benefits, (e.g., retirement and insurance plans). The Human Resources Division (HRD)/Cooperative Extension Service (CES) Team with Administrative and Financial Management (AFM) of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) carries out this function for USDA.

Effective January 31, 2003, the authority to grant Schedule A Excepted Appointments to CES employees was terminated. Public Law 107-171, Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, dated May 13, 2002, Section 7220, terminated the Schedule A appointing authority used by USDA to grant a companion Federal appointment and Federal benefits to state/university employees of the Cooperative Extension Service. The law allowed the CES Federal appointees that were employed on the day before the date of the enactment of the Act, (i.e., May 12, 2002), to: a) continue to accrue Federal creditable service for retirement; and b) participate in the following benefits as long as the employees continued their employment with the Cooperative Extension Service:

- i. The Federal Employees Health Benefits Program (FEHB);
- ii. The Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance Program (FEGLI);
- iii. The Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS);

- iv. The Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS);
- v. The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP); and
- vi. The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP).

The Federal Office of Workers Compensation Program (OWCP) is the only Federal program that will not continue as it is not a program that the dual appointee was vested in. Claims already on file with the Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Workers Compensation Office will continue to be processed by the DOL. Using a formula based in the prior year's injury or illness claims, NIFA will pay these claims on behalf of each institution and charge that institution by reducing its annual retirement allocation by the amount remitted. If the amount of claims paid exceeds the institution's annual retirement allocation, NIFA will bill the institution for any OWCP costs in excess of the annual retirement allocation.

Changes and new features for the current Federal Benefits programs such as FEHB, FELGI, TSP and FLTCIP will be offered to the CES organizations and employees that are eligible to participate in the affected program(s). However, former Federal appointees cannot participate in new Federal benefit programs that were not in effect as of May 12, 2002. Effective January 31, 2003, CES can no longer grant Schedule A Federal appointments to new employees because they no longer have a Federal appointment authority available to make new Federal appointments. Former CES Schedule A appointees may be reappointed to another CES organization and continue their benefits as long as they do not have a break in service.

- f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC  
These funds are used by the University of the District of Columbia for the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and subjects relating thereto to persons not attending the University of the District of Columbia, and imparting information on those subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise and for the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the subjects. Sections 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act provides, in pertinent part, that "In the administration of the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321-326, 328) (known as the Second Morrill Act), the University [of the District of Columbia] shall be considered to be a university established for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301-305, 307, 308) (known as the First Morrill Act); and the term "State," is used in the laws and provisions of law listed in the preceding, paragraphs of this section shall include the District of Columbia. In the administration of the Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 341-346, 347a-349) (known as the Smith-Lever Act) the University [of the District of Columbia] shall be considered to be a university established for the

benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts in accordance with the provisions of the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301- 305, 307,308); and ... the term "State" as used in such Act of May 8, 1949, shall include the District of Columbia, except that the District of Columbia shall not be eligible to receive any sums appropriated under section 3 of such Act. In lieu of an authorization of appropriations for the District of Columbia under section 3 of such Act of May 8, 1914, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to provide cooperative agricultural extension work in the District of Columbia under such Act. Any reference in such Act (other than section 3 thereof) to funds appropriated under such Act shall in the case of the District of Columbia be considered a reference to funds appropriated under this subsection.”

Therefore, this grant funds the development of practical applications of research knowledge and giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture, uses of solar energy with respect to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and subjects relating thereto to persons not attending the University of the District of Columbia, and imparting information on those subjects through demonstrations, publications, and otherwise and for the necessary printing and distribution of information in connection with the subjects.

Section 7417 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-234) amended section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act to eliminate any matching requirement for the extension formula funds provided to the University of the District of Columbia, effective October 1, 2008.

2. Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)

Funds appropriated under this section shall be used for expenses of conducting extension programs and activities, and for contributing to the retirement of employees subject to the provisions of the Act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 30–40, as amended; 7 U.S.C. 331). No portion of the funds allocated under this grant will be applied, directly or indirectly, to the purchase, erection, preservation, or repair of any building or buildings, or the purchase or rental of land, or in college course teaching, lectures in college, or any other purpose not specified in NARETPA section 1444.

3. SMITH-LEVER 3(d):

a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)

Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act provides that the Secretary of Agriculture may fund extension work in the several States, Territories, and possessions.

Section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (as amended) (7 U.S.C. 3175) provides the statutory formula for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). This program supports Federal funding for extension activities associated with disseminating the results of food and nutrition research performed or funded by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture to enable low-income individuals and families to engage in nutritionally sound food purchase and preparation practices. Funding

extends to EFNEP at State land-grant colleges established under the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862, as amended, and the Morrill Act of August 30, 1890, as amended, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

- b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - d. Farm Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - e. New Technologies at Ag Extension)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - f. Pest Management  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - k. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
4. OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:
- a. Renewable Resources Extension Act  
Renewable Resources Extension Act-National Focus Fund Projects provide for expanded and comprehensive extension programs for forest and rangeland renewable resources programs at a national, regional, or multi-institutional level. Since FY 2002, a small amount of these funds have been used to fund National Focus Fund Projects which have served to expand comprehensive extension programs for forest and rangeland renewable resources on a national, regional, or multi-institutional scale through better program coordination, innovative technologies, and extension models that can be easily duplicated.
  - b. Rural Health and Safety  
The Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program is designed to meet national goals for addressing the health and access needs of rural Americans. Rural Health and Safety Education Programs will focus on issues related to aging in one or more of three areas: 1) population aging in rural areas; 2) eldercare or care giving and its impact on rural and farm families; and/or 3) related issues of rural health care to provide older individuals and families with:

- i. Information as to the value of good health in an era of population aging;
  - ii. Information to increase the older adult individual or family's motivation take more responsibility for their own health;
  - iii. Access by older adults to health promotion and educational activities;
  - iv. Trained health and allied health professionals or paraprofessionals committed to rural health and care of aging population; and
  - v. Training for volunteers and health services providers concerning health promotion and health care services for rural older adult populations, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services.
- c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions  
The Tribal Colleges Extension Program (TCEP) provides funding for the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions to conduct non-formal education and outreach activities to help meet the needs of the Native American people. Appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions for Extension work and funds are to be distributed on the basis of a competitive application process.
- d. Grants to Youth Serving Institutions  
The Rural Youth Development Grants (RYD) Program supports the expansion of effective, high quality youth development programs for youth in rural areas and small towns. The overarching theme of this grant program is "Youth Build Strong Rural Communities." The sub-theme is "Rural youth learn and apply leadership, citizenship, and life skills to improve their own lives and the communities in which they live." This philosophy undergirds the program design and methodologies of this grant program.
- e. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)  
No specific information provided.
- f. Federal Administration (DIRECT APPROPRIATION)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. 1890 Facilities (Section 1447)  
Facilities awards will be made for the acquisition and improvement of agricultural and food sciences facilities and equipment, including libraries, so that the 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University may participate fully in the production of human capital in the food and agricultural sciences. Priorities for the eligible institutions are set in the facilities plan that is submitted to NIFA for review and approval.

**RESTRICTIONS (ONLY):**

See RFA or FGO: Part IV.E. – Funding Restrictions and Part III.B. – Cost-Sharing and Matching.)

**Other**

Grant funds must be used for allowable costs necessary to conduct approved integrated research, extension and education objectives to address food and agricultural sciences, in the broadest sense.

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the

renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Funds may not be used for any purposes other than those approved in the grant award documents.

Tuition remission is not allowable.

Indirect costs are not allowable.

Other – Detailed Info –RESTRICTIONS ONLY

1. SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):

a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)  
Funding Restrictions

i. Program and Extension Activities

Smith-Lever Act sections 3(b) and 3(c) Federal funding must be used for extension programs and activities identified in the institution's approved 5-Year Plan of Work.

ii. Matching

Section 3(e)(1) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. §343(e)(1))states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, "no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooperative extension work." However, section 3(e)(4) of the Smith-Lever Act (& U.S.C. §343(e)(4)) provides that "Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirement of paragraph (1), the insular areas of [American Samoa,] the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, [Micronesia, the Northern Mariana Islands,] and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section..... The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year."

NIFA may consider and approve matching waivers submitted by Insular 1862 Land-grant Institutions (American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands).

iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act formula grant expenditures.

iv. Other Restrictions

No portion of these funds may be applied, directly or indirectly, to the

purchase, erection, preservation, or repair of any building or buildings, or the purchase or rental of land, or in college-course teaching, lectures in college, or any other purpose not specified in this Act.

b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs (FORMULA)

Funding Restrictions

i. Approved NIFA Special Needs Projects

Special Needs Federal funding must be used on extension activities identified in the institution's approved 5-Year Plan of Work.

ii. Matching

The Special Needs program requires that Federal funds be fully matched (i.e., 100 percent) by 1862 Land-grant Institutions.

iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. §3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Special Needs formula grant expenditures.

iv. Other Restrictions

No portion of Federal funds allotted under Special Needs grant may be applied, directly or indirectly, to the purchase, erection, preservation, or repair of any building or buildings, or the purchase or rental of land, or in college-course teaching, lectures in college, or any other purpose not specified in the Smith-Lever Act.

c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)

Funding Restrictions

Indirect costs and tuition remission are not allowable and no funds will be approved for these purposes. Costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)

Funding Restrictions

i. Approved NIFA CSRS Retirement Contributions Program Costs

NIFA CSRS retirement allocations must be used to support CSRS retirement costs for former Schedule A Appointments.

ii. Matching

Section 3(e)(1) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. §343(e)(1) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, "no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooperative extension work." However, section 3(e)(4) of the Smith-Lever Act (U.S.C. §343(e)(4) provides that "Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds

requirements of paragraph (1), the insular areas of [American Samoa,] the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, [Micronesia, the Northern Marianas Islands,] and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.”

NIFA may consider and approve matching waivers submitted by 1862 land-grant Institutions in insular areas.

Please note that these matching funds may be used for any extension activity identified in the state plan of work.

iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. §3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as CSRS retirement contribution formula grant expenditures.

e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement) (FORMULA)

Funding Restrictions

i. Approved NIFA FERS Retirement Contributions Programs

NIFA FERS retirement allocations must be used to support FERS retirement costs for former Schedule A Appointments.

ii. Matching

Section 3(e)(1) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. §343(e)(1) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooperative extension work.” However, section 3(e)(4) of the Smith-Lever Act (U.S.C. §343(e)(4) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirements of paragraph (1), the insular areas of [American Samoa,] the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, [Micronesia, the Northern Marianas Islands,] and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.”

NIFA may consider and approve matching waivers submitted by 1862 land-grant Institutions in insular areas.

Please note that these matching funds may be used for any extension

activity identified in the state plan of work.

iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. §3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as FERS retirement contribution formula grant expenditures.

f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC Funding Restrictions

i. Approved NIFA DCPPERA Projects

DCPPERA Federal funding must be used to support extension activities identified in the approved 5-Year Plan of Work.

ii. Matching

There is no matching requirement for these funds.

iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as DCPPERA formula grant expenditures.

iv. Other Restrictions

No portion of these funds may be applied, directly or indirectly, to the purchase, erection, preservation, or repair of any building or buildings, or the purchase or rental of land, or in college-course teaching, lectures in college, or any other purpose not specified in this Act.

2. Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA) Funding Restrictions

a. Approved NIFA Section 1444 Projects

Section 1444 Program funding must be used to support agricultural extension activities identified in the approved 5-Year Plan of Work.

b. Matching

NARETPA section 1449 (7 U.S.C. 3222d) states that “the State shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources. Such matching funds shall be for an amount equal to not less than ... 100 percent of the formula [grant] funds to be distributed to the eligible institution for fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter. ... Notwithstanding [redistributing the funds], the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement ... above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State if the Secretary determines that the State will be unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement.”

7 CFR 3419.1 defines “matching funds” as “funds from non-Federal sources made available by the State to the eligible institutions ... [for] programs or activities that fall within the purposes of agricultural research and cooperative extension under sections 1444 and 1445 of NARETPA ... or [for] qualifying

educational activities. Matching funds means cash contributions and excludes in-kind matching contributions.” It defines “non-Federal sources” as “funds made available by the State to the eligible institution either through direct appropriation or under any authority (other than authority to charge tuition and fees paid by students) provided by a State to an eligible institution to raise revenue, such as gift acceptance authority or user fees.” Finally, it defines “qualifying educational activities” as “programs that address food and agricultural sciences components of an eligible institution.”

7 CFR 3419.6 states that “The required matching funds for the formula programs shall be used by an eligible institution for agricultural research and extension activities that have been approved in the plan of work required under sections 1444(d) and 1445(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 or for qualifying education activities.”

Please note that while Federal funds must be expended on agricultural extension, the matching funds may be used for agricultural research, agricultural extension, or qualifying educational activities. NIFA may consider and approve matching waivers above the 50 percent level. See Part IV.B.6. for additional information.

- c. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission  
In accordance with NARETPA section 1473, indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Section 1444 Program formula grant expenditures.
3. SMITH-LEVER 3(d):
- a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)  
Funding Restrictions
    - i. Approved NIFA EFNEP Projects  
EFNEP Federal funding must be used on NIFA approved EFNEP projects.
    - ii. Matching  
There is no cost-sharing or matching requirement for this program.
    - iii. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission  
In accordance with section 1473 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as EFNEP formula grant expenditures.
  - b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - d. Farm Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - e. New Technologies at Ag Extension  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - f. Pest Management

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

- g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- k. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

#### 4. OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- a. Renewable Resources Extension Act  
The majority of the appropriated funds are distributed to eligible institutions based on a formula that considers the geographic extent, ecosystem productivity, economic contribution, and population for each state.  
Since FY 2002, a small amount of these funds have been used to fund National Focus Fund Projects.  
NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.  
Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act amended section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), increasing the limit on recovery of indirect costs from 20 percent to 22 percent of total Federal funds provided under the award. Therefore, the recovery of indirect costs on awards made by NIFA under this program area may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.
- b. Rural Health and Safety  
The Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program provides funds to meet national goals for addressing the health and access needs of rural Americans.  
NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.  
NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.  
Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act amended section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), increasing the limit on recovery of indirect costs from 20 percent to 22 percent of total Federal funds provided under the award. Therefore, the

recovery of indirect costs on awards made by NIFA under this program area may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions

Appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions for Extension work and funds are to be distributed on the basis of a competitive application process.

NIFA does not require matching support for this program, and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

Under the TCEP, the use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility, or to acquire land, is not allowed. With prior approval, in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, grant funds may be used to purchase equipment, or for improvements, alterations, renovations, or repairs to land, buildings, or equipment, deemed necessary to retrofit existing spaces and resources in order to carry out a funded project under this grant. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that such expenditures are incidental to the major purpose for which the grant request is made and no more than twenty-five percent of the project budget may be used to purchase equipment. Any equipment purchased with Federal funds is the property of the grantee or the subgrantee, as appropriate.

Indirect costs are unallowable costs, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

d. Grants to Youth Serving Institutions

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the National 4-H Council (4-H Council), and the National FFA Organization (FFA). Section 7309 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 reauthorized 7 U.S.C. 7630, which was also amended to provide additional flexibility in content delivery to each organization receiving funds and to allow recipients to redistribute all or part of the funds to individual councils or local chapters without further need of approval from the Secretary. In FY 2009, Terms and Conditions of these awards should facilitate the redistribution without further need of approval. The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-8) appropriates funds under Division A, Title I "for grants to youth organizations pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 7630."

There are no matching requirements associated with the Rural Youth Development program, and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of facility space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7

U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded. If no rate has been established the applicant may indicate "None—will negotiate" and a reasonable dollar amount for indirect costs may be requested, which will be subject to approval by USDA. In the latter case, if a proposal is recommended for funding, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted prior to award to support the amount of indirect costs requested. NIFA will request an indirect cost rate proposal and provide instructions, as necessary. An applicant may elect not to charge indirect costs and, instead, use all grant funds for direct costs. If indirect costs are not charged, the phrase "None requested" should be written in this space.

- e. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)  
Pursuant to Sec. 604 of the Agricultural research extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 [7 USC 7642(d)], applicants requesting recovery of indirect costs should limit their requests to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect costs rate or the equivalent of 19 percent of total Federal funds awarded.
- f. Federal Administration (DIRECT APPROPRIATION)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. 1890 Facilities (Section 1447)  
In Fiscal Year (FY) '09 NIFA assessed four percent (4%) of the appropriated amount for Federal Administration, distributed sixty percent (60%) of the balance equally, and distributed the remaining forty percent (40%) based on the formula found in Section 1444 of NAREPTA of 1977, as amended (Pub. L. No. 95-113). Within each institution, the research, teaching and extension programs must each receive at least 20 percent of the annual allocation. The remaining 40 percent may be allocated based on institutional needs for research, teaching, or extension. No more than 60 percent of the total allocation should be directed to research, teaching, or extension. However, if there are unique situations in your institution which warrant a deviation from these guidelines, we will consider requests for reallocation. Such reallocations must be justified by the submission of a situation statement which describes the research, teaching, and extension facilities needs in your institution and how previously available Federal funds were utilized. NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria. The obligation and expenditure of funds awarded under these grants are limited to equipment, land, buildings and other related costs which are or will be used in the administration and conduct of approved research, teaching and extension activities. In accordance with NAREPTA Section 1447 (e), funds provided for this program may not be used for the payment of any overhead costs of the eligible institutions. Some funds are Fully Discretionary. Some funds are Mandatory.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

**Applicant Eligibility:**

1. SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):

- a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)

Applications may be submitted by the following 1862 Land-grant Institutions: Auburn University, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, American Samoa Community College, University of Arizona, University of Arkansas, University of California, Colorado State University, University of Connecticut, University of Delaware, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Guam, University of Hawaii, University of Idaho, University of Illinois, Purdue University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, University of Kentucky, Louisiana State University, University of Maine, University of Maryland-College Park, University of Massachusetts, Michigan State University, College of Micronesia, University of Minnesota, Mississippi State University, University of Missouri, Montana State University, University of Nebraska, University of Nevada-Reno, University of New Hampshire, Rutgers University, New Mexico State University, Cornell University, North Carolina State University, North Dakota State University, Northern Marianas College, Ohio State University, Oklahoma State University, Oregon State University, Pennsylvania State University, University of Puerto Rico, University of Rhode Island, Clemson University, South Dakota State University, University of Tennessee, Texas A & M University, Utah State University, University of Vermont, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, University of the Virgin Islands, Washington State University, West Virginia University, University of Wisconsin, and University of Wyoming.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project.

- b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs – (FORMULA)

Applications may be submitted by the following 1862 Land-grant Institutions: University of Alaska-Fairbanks, University of Arizona, Colorado State University, University of Idaho, Kansas State University, Montana State University, University of Nebraska, University of Nevada-Reno, New Mexico State University, North Dakota State University, Oregon State University, South Dakota State University, Texas A & M University, Utah State University, University of Vermont, and University of Wyoming.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project.

- c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)

Applications may be submitted with the approval of Extension Directors of 1862 Land-grant Institutions in the 50 states, American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Marianas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will

result in NIFA not accepting the application or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

- d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
Applications may be submitted by 1862 land-grant institutions that are making payments to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management for CSRS retirement costs for the former Schedule A Appointments. See Appendix A for the list of eligible institutions.
  - e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
Applications may be submitted by 1862 land-grant institutions that are making payments to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management for FERS retirement costs for the former Schedule A Appointments. See Appendix A of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO) for the list of eligible institutions.
  - f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC  
The University of the District of Columbia, as the 1862 Land-Grant Institution, is the only applicant eligible for funding under the DCPPERA.  
The award recipient may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project.
2. Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)
    - a. Eligible Applicants;  
Applications may be submitted by 1890 Land-Grant Universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, that conduct agricultural extension activities in accordance with NARETPA section 1444(a)(1): Alabama A&M University; Tuskegee University; University of Arkansas - Pine Bluff; Delaware State University; Florida A&M University; Fort Valley State University; Kentucky State University; Southern University; University of Maryland – Eastern Shore; Alcorn State University; Lincoln University; North Carolina A & T State University; Langston University; South Carolina State University; Tennessee State University; Prairie View A&M University; Virginia State University; and West Virginia State University.  
Institutions may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project or activity.
  3. SMITH-LEVER 3(d):
    - a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)  
Applications may be submitted by State colleges and universities in accordance with Section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act: Auburn University; Alabama A & M University; Tuskegee University; University of Alaska; American Samoa Community College; University of Arizona; University of Arkansas; University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff; University of California; Colorado State University;

University of Connecticut; University of Delaware; Delaware State University; University of the District of Columbia; University of Florida; Florida A & M University; University of Georgia; Fort Valley State University; University of Guam; University of Hawaii; University of Idaho; University of Illinois; Purdue University; Iowa State University; Kansas State University; University of Kentucky; Kentucky State University; Louisiana State University; Southern University; University of Maine; University of Maryland (College Park); University of Maryland (Eastern Shore); University of Massachusetts; Michigan State University; College of Micronesia; University of Minnesota; Mississippi State University; Alcorn State University; University of Missouri; Lincoln University; Montana State University; University of Nebraska; University of Nevada; University of New Hampshire; Rutgers University; New Mexico State University; Cornell University; North Carolina State University; North Carolina A & T University; North Dakota State University; Northern Marianas College; Ohio State University; Oklahoma State University; Langston University; Oregon State University; Pennsylvania State University; University of Puerto Rico; University of Rhode Island; Clemson University; South Carolina State University; South Dakota State University; University of Tennessee; Tennessee State University; Texas A&M University; Prairie View A & M University; Utah State University; University of Vermont; University of the Virgin Islands; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Virginia State University; Washington State University; West Virginia University; West Virginia State University; University of Wisconsin; and University of Wyoming.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply for funding provided that such arrangements are necessary to complete the project.

- b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- d. Farm Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- e. New Technologies at Ag Extension  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- f. Pest Management  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- j. EIPM Support

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

- k. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

#### 4. OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- a. Renewable Resources Extension Act  
Applications may be submitted by 1862 and 1890 land-grant institutions. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will preclude NIFA from making an award.
- b. Rural Health and Safety  
Land-grant colleges and universities that are eligible to receive funds under the Act of July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), and the Act of August 30, 1890 (7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.), including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University and the University of the District of Columbia.  
Applications may be submitted by any of the Tribal colleges and universities designated as 1994 Land-Grant Institutions under the Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, as amended.  
Award recipients may subaward to other organizations provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the application deadline will disqualify an applicant from consideration and will result in NIFA returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from reviewing the application and making an award.
- c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions  
Applications may be submitted by any of the Tribal colleges and universities designated as 1994 Land-Grant Institutions under the Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994, as amended.  
Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of project goals and objectives. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in NIFA returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.
- d. Grants to Youth Serving Institutions  
Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. Section 7630, only the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the National 4-H Council, the Boy Scouts of America, and the National FFA Organization are eligible to apply. NIFA will accept only one application from each organization. The application must be developed and submitted by the national office of each respective organization. Rural Youth Development awards will be distributed to each of the four (4) eligible organizations that submits an application in accordance with RFA requirements, if the application is found to be worthy of support through the peer review process. The amount awarded to each organization will be determined based on review and recommendations of a peer

review panel.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project.

If an applicant fails to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of the application deadline, the application will be at risk of being excluded from NIFA review and will preclude NIFA from making an award.

- e. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)  
The Secretary shall offer to enter into a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with 1 or more appropriate colleges and universities to operate the FARAD program.
- f. Federal Administration (DIRECT APPROPRIATION)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. 1890 Facilities (Section 1447)  
Eligible applicants under this RFA are the 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. They are: Alabama A&M University, Tuskegee University, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Delaware State University, Florida A&M University, Fort Valley State University, Kentucky State University, Southern University, University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, Lincoln University, Alcorn State University, North Carolina A&T State University, Langston University, South Carolina State University, Tennessee State University, Prairie View A&M University, Virginia State University, and West Virginia State University.

**Beneficiary Eligibility:**

Extension Programs at the State and county level are available to the general public.

**Application and Award Process**

**Preapplication Coordination:**

All RFAs are published on the Agency's website and Grants.gov. Applicants must complete the Grants.gov registration process. Please see the following Grants.gov link for more information: [http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get\\_registered.jsp](http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp). This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**SPECIFIC DETAILS:**

1. SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):

- a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)  
Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to the Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-grant Institutions program as a "new" application on the www.grants.gov website. As noted (in the FGO), these application packages complement, rather than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) system, and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.  
Section 202 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act

of 1998 (AREERA) amended the Smith-Lever Act and the Hatch Act to require approved plans of work for agricultural extension and research activities at 1862 Land-grant Institutions in order to receive Federal funding. Therefore, each 1862 Land-grant Institution must submit both a 5-Year Plan of Work Update (i.e., submitted each year as an update) and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. Both reports were due by April 1.

- b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs – (FORMULA)  
Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to Special Needs Program as a “new” application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. As noted (in the FGO), these application packages complement, rather than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) system, and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.  
Section 202 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) amended the Smith-Lever Act and the Hatch Act to require approved plans of work for agricultural extension and research activities at 1862 Land-grant Institutions in order to receive Federal funding. Therefore, each 1862 Land-grant Institution must submit both a 5-Year Plan of Work Update (i.e., submitted each year as an update) and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. Both reports were due by April 1.
- c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)  
Pertinent info to be determined at a later date.
- d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to the CSRS Retirement Contributions Program as a “new” application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. As noted (in the FGO), these application packages complement, rather than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) System, and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.
- e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to the FERS Retirement Contributions Program as a “new” application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. As noted previously, these application packages complement, rather than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) System, and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.
- f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC  
Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to the DCPPERA program as a “new” application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. As noted in the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO), these application packages complement, rather than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) system, and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.  
Section 105 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act

of 1998 (AREERA) amended the Smith-Lever Act and the Hatch Act to require an approved Plan of Work for extension and research activities at 1862 Land-grant Institutions in order to receive Federal funding. As stated in the Preface to the Federal Register Notice at 71 FR 4107, “Although the District of Columbia receives extension funds under the District of Columbia Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act, Public Law 93–471, as opposed to the Smith-Lever Act, NIFA has determined that it should be subject to the POW requirements imposed under these guidelines except where expressly excluded.” Therefore, the University of the District of Columbia must submit both a 5-Year Plan of Work Update (i.e., submitted as an annual update) and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. Both reports were due April 1.

2. Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)  
Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to the Section 1444 Program as a “new” application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. These application packages complement, rather than duplicate, the information collected via the Plan of Work (POW) system, and together satisfy all legislative and regulatory pre-award requirements.  
Section 225 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) amended NARETPA to require an approved Plan of Work for agricultural extension and research activities at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions in order to receive Federal funding. Therefore, each 1890 land-grant institution, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, must submit both a 5-Year Plan of Work Update and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. Both reports are due April 1.
3. SMITH-LEVER 3(d):
  - a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)  
No Standard Form (SF) 424-A, Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs, and no Budget Narrative Attachment Form are required for either the initial or the final submissions in FY 2009. However, the EFNEP-specific forms will be required.  
Initial Submission:  
Pre-award form submissions must be submitted to EFNEP as a “new” application on the [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) website. The SF-424M Application Package should include:  
Application for Federal Assistance (Standard Form (SF) 424M (Mandatory))  
NIFA Supplemental Information Form  
Key Contacts Form
  - b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - d. Farm Safety

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

- e. New Technologies at Ag Extension  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - f. Pest Management  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - k. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
4. OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:
- a. Renewable Resources Extension Act  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - b. Rural Health and Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - d. Grants to Youth Serving Institutions  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - e. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - f. Federal Administration (DIRECT APPROPRIATION)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - g. 1890 Facilities (Section 1447)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date. An environmental impact statement is required for this program. This program is excluded from coverage under E.O. 12372.

**Application Procedures:**

This program is excluded from coverage under OMB Circular No. A-102. OMB Circular No. A-110 applies to this program. Applications should be submitted as outlined in the Request for Applications (RFA) or Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO). Applications must follow the instructions provided per Grants.Gov and in the Agency guide to submitting applications via Grants.gov.

**Award Procedure:**

Applications are subjected to a system of peer and merit review in accordance with section 103 of the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 1613) by a panel of qualified scientists and other appropriate persons who are specialists in the field covered by the proposal. Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in the RFA.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

Evaluation Criteria will be delineated in the RFA or FGO.

SPECIFIC DETAILS:

- 1) SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):
  - a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)  
Further information will be provided at a later date.
  - b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs – (FORMULA)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

- f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- 2) Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)  
The Office of Planning and Accountability will notify the OGFM Formula Grants Section and the institution regarding each institution's compliance with the Plan of Work reporting requirements (i.e., Five (5) Year Plan of Work Update and an Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results). If all current program and administrative requirements have been met by the eligible institution, funding will continue to be released on a quarterly basis. The OGFM Formula Grants Section will notify the institutions when all requirements have been met or approved.
- 3) SMITH-LEVER 3(d):
  - a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - d. Farm Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - e. New Technologies at Ag Extension  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - f. Pest Management  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - k. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- 4) OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:
  - a. Renewable Resources Extension Act  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
  - b. Rural Health and Safety

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

- c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- d. Grants to Youth Serving Institutions  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- e. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- f. Federal Administration  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. 1890 Facilities (Section 1447)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

**Formula and Matching Requirements:**

Statutory Formula: Title Various. Several Formula programs are represented under CFDA 10.500. Specific details will be forthcoming at a future date.

Matching Requirements: (See RFA or FGO - Part I.A – Legislative Authority & Background; Part III.B – Cost Sharing or Matching and/or Part IV.D – Funding Restrictions)

1) SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):

- a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)  
States are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the following formula: Out of each annual allocation, each State will be entitled to receive a sum of money equal to the sums available from Federal cooperative extension funds for the fiscal year 1962, and subject to the same requirements as to furnishing of equivalent sums by the State, except that amounts heretofore made available to the Secretary for allotment on the basis of special needs shall continue available for use on the same basis. Further, the University of Guam and the University of the Virgin Islands will receive \$100,000 each in addition to the sums appropriated for the several States of the United States and Puerto Rico under the provisions of sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act. Of the remainder so appropriated for each fiscal year 20 per cent will be paid to the several States in equal proportions, 40 per cent will be paid to the several States in the proportion that the rural population of each bears to the total rural population of the several States as determined by the census, and the balance will be paid to the several States in the proportion that the farm population of each bears to the total farm population of the several States as determined by the census. Any appropriation made under sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act will be allotted in the first and succeeding years on the basis of the decennial census current at the time the appropriation is first made, and as to any increase, on the basis of decennial census current at the time such increase is first appropriated.  
Cost Sharing or Matching  
Section 3(e)(1) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. §343(e)(1)) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under

subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooperative extension work.” However, section 3(e)(4) of the Smith-Lever Act (U.S.C. §343(e)(4)) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirement of paragraph (1), the insular areas of [American Samoa,] the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, [Micronesia, the Northern Marianas Islands,] and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section.... The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.”

b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs – (FORMULA)

Funds will be distributed to the institutions on a quarterly basis. See Appendix A of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO) for the specific allocation.

Cost Sharing or Matching

1862 Land-grant Institutions in the 50 States must match 100 percent of the Special Needs funds they receive with funds from non-Federal sources such as State or county appropriations. The matching must be in the form of cash.

Matching funds must be used for extension activities approved in the eligible institution’s 5-Year Plan of Work.

c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)

Cost Sharing or Matching

Pursuant to rules and policies governing Section 3(b) & (c) of the Smith–Lever Act, as amended through Public Law 107-293, no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooperative extension work.

- i. To comply with the matching requirements of the Special Needs Program, applicants are required to provide 100 percent matching funds from non-federal sources for all proposed federal funds sought in the application. In-kind and third party contributions are not allowed for the Smith-Lever Special Needs program. Grant awards cannot be issued until ALL required matching has been documented and verified.
- ii. Matching Alternative – Extension Directors may certify an offset of guaranteed non-Federal funds to your application. The signed certification of offset must be scanned and included as a PDF attachment (see Part IV.,B.,2.,c.,(1) for specific instructions).
- iii. Matching Exception.— Insular Areas: In lieu of the matching funds requirement, the insular areas of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50

percent of the grants awarded. The Secretary may waive this matching fund requirement for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year. Insular applicants may submit a waiver request as a PDF attachment to the application (see Part IV.,B.,2.,c.,(2) for specific instructions).

For all projects:

Matching: Applications shall include written verification of commitments of matching support from non-federal sources. Written verification means: The sources and the amount of all matching support from outside the applicant organization should be summarized on a separate page and placed in the application as a part of the Budget

Justification attachment (see Field K on the Form SF 424 (R&R) Budget). Include the matching amount, the budget category for the match, and detail how the matching support, from each source, will be used (e.g., salary and position supported). Additionally, all pledge agreements must be included as a PDF attachment in Field K as well.

The value of applicant contributions to the project shall be established in accordance with the applicable cost principles. Applicants should refer to OMB Circulars A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions; A-87, Cost Principles for State, Local, and Tribal Governments; 2 CFR Part 215, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations (OMB Circular A-110); for further guidance and other requirements relating to allowable costs.

d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)

Federal funding is distributed according to an administrative formula described in the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO). See Appendix A of the FGO for specific allocations.

NIFA CSRS retirement allocations must be used to support CSRS retirement costs for former Schedule A Appointments.

Cost Sharing or Matching

Section 3(e)(1) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. §343(e)(1) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooperative extension work.” However, section 3(e)(4) of the Smith-Lever Act (U.S.C. §343(e)(4) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirements of paragraph (1), the insular areas of [American Samoa,] the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, [Micronesia, the Northern Marianas Islands,] and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary

determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.”

e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement)  
(FORMULA)

Federal funds are distributed according to an administrative formula described in the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO). See Appendix A of the FGO for specific allocations.

Cost Sharing or Matching

Section 3(e)(1) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. §343(e)(1) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-Federal funds for cooperative extension work.” However, section 3(e)(4) of the Smith-Lever Act (U.S.C. §343(e)(4) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirements of paragraph (1), the insular areas of [American Samoa,] the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, [Micronesia, the Northern Marianas Islands,] and the Virgin Islands of the United States shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.”

f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act  
Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC

There is no matching requirement for these funds.

2) Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)

The 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University, are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the following formula: Any funds annually appropriated under NARETPA section 1444 up to the amount appropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, pursuant to section 3(d) of the Act of May 8, 1914, as amended, for eligible institutions, will be allocated among the eligible institutions in the same proportion as funds appropriated under section 3(d) of the Act of May 8, 1914, as amended, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1978, are allocated among the eligible institutions. Of the funds in excess of that amount, 20 per cent will be allotted among the eligible institutions in equal proportions; 40 per cent will be allotted among the eligible institutions in the proportion that the rural population of the State in which each eligible institution is located bears to the total rural population of all the States in which eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated; and the balance will be allotted among the eligible institutions in the proportion that the farm population of the State in which each eligible institution is located bears to the total farm population of all the States in which the eligible institutions are located, as determined by the last preceding decennial census

current at the time each such additional sum is first appropriated. For purposes of computing the distribution, the allotments to Tuskegee University and Alabama A&M University will be determined as if each institution were in a separate State.

#### Cost Sharing or Matching

NARETPA section 1449 (7 U.S.C. 3222d) states that “the State shall provide matching funds from non-Federal sources. Such matching funds shall be for an amount equal to not less than 100 percent of the formula [grant] funds to be distributed to the eligible institution for fiscal year 2007 and each fiscal year thereafter. ... Notwithstanding [redistributing the funds], the Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement ... above the 50 percent level for any fiscal year for an eligible institution of a State if the Secretary determines that the State will be unlikely to satisfy the matching requirement.”

7 CFR 3419.1 defines “matching funds” as “funds from non-Federal sources made available by the State to the eligible institutions ... [for] programs or activities that fall within the purposes of agricultural research and cooperative extension under sections 1444 and 1445 of NARETPA ...or [for] qualifying educational activities. Matching funds means cash contributions and excludes in-kind matching contributions.” It defines “non-Federal sources” as “funds made available by the State to the eligible institution either through direct appropriation or under any authority (other than authority to charge tuition and fees paid by students) provided by a State to an eligible institution to raise revenue, such as gift acceptance authority or user fees.” Finally, it defines “qualifying educational activities” as “programs that address food and agricultural sciences components of an eligible institution.”

7 CFR 3419.6 states that “The required matching funds for the formula programs shall be used by an eligible institution for agricultural research and extension activities that have been approved in the plan of work required under sections 1444(d) and 1445(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 or for qualifying education activities.”

### 3) SMITH-LEVER 3(d):

#### a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) – (FORMULA)

Section 7116 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (FCEA) amended Section 1425 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3175) to accomplish the following: Notwithstanding section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914 (7 U.S.C. 343(d)) for administration, technical, and other services for coordinating the extension work of the Department and the several States, Territories, and possessions the remainder shall be allocated among the States as follows:

- i. 1862 Institutions shall receive a base in an amount equaling their FY 1981 allocation.
- ii. Four percent (4%) shall be available for administrative expenses.
- iii. \$100,000 will be distributed to each 1862 and 1890 Land-Grant Institution including the University of the District of Columbia.
- iv. For fiscal year (FY) 2009 – 10 percent of funds appropriated for EFNEP

in excess of funds appropriated in FY 2007 will be allocated to the 1890 Institutions in an amount that bearing the same ratio to the population living at or below 125 percent of the poverty level (as prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget and as adjusted pursuant to section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.9902(2))) in the State where the 1890 Institution is located; bears to the total population living at or below 125 percent of the poverty level in all States where 1890 Institutions are located; as determined by the most recent decennial census at the time when the appropriated amount first exceeds levels appropriated for EFNEP in FY 2007. This FY 2009 rate of 10 percent is to increase by 1 percentage point annually until FY 2014 – maxing out at 15 percent and remaining at that level for every year thereafter.

- v. The remainder will be allocated to each 1862 Land-Grant Institutions in an amount that bears the same ratio to the total amount allocated as the population living at or below 125 percent of the poverty level in the State; bears to the total population living at or below 125 percent of poverty level in all States; as determined by the most recent decennial census at the time at which each such additional amount is first appropriated.

Cost Sharing or Matching

There is no cost-sharing or matching requirement for these funds.

- b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- d. Farm Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- e. New Technologies at Ag Extension  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- f. Pest Management  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- k. EIPM Coordination

Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

4) OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

a. Renewable Resources Extension Act

The majority of the appropriated funds are distributed to eligible institutions based on a formula that considers the geographic extent, ecosystem productivity, economic contribution, and population for each state.

Since FY 2002, a small amount of these funds have been used to fund National Focus Fund Projects.

NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act amended section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), increasing the limit on recovery of indirect costs from 20 percent to 22 percent of total Federal funds provided under the award. Therefore, the recovery of indirect costs on awards made by NIFA under this program area may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

b. Rural Health and Safety

The Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive Grants Program provides funds to meet national goals for addressing the health and access needs of rural Americans.

NIFA does not require matching or cost sharing support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act amended section 1462 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310), increasing the limit on recovery of indirect costs from 20 percent to 22 percent of total Federal funds provided under the award. Therefore, the recovery of indirect costs on awards made by NIFA under this program area may not exceed the lesser of the institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded.

c. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions

Appropriated funds are to be awarded to the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions for Extension work and funds are to be distributed on the basis of a competitive application process.

NIFA does not require matching support for this program, and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

Under the TCEP, the use of grant funds to plan, acquire, or construct a building or facility, or to acquire land, is not allowed. With prior approval, in accordance with the cost principles set forth in OMB Circular No. A-21, grant funds may be used

to purchase equipment, or for improvements, alterations, renovations, or repairs to land, buildings, or equipment, deemed necessary to retrofit existing spaces and resources in order to carry out a funded project under this grant. However, requests to use grant funds for such purposes must demonstrate that such expenditures are incidental to the major purpose for which the grant request is made and no more than twenty-five percent of the project budget may be used to purchase equipment. Any equipment purchased with Federal funds is the property of the grantee or the subgrantee, as appropriate.

Indirect costs are unallowable costs, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

d. Grants to Youth Serving Institutions

Title IV of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7630) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the National 4-H Council (4-H Council), and the National FFA Organization (FFA). Section 7309 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 reauthorized 7 U.S.C. 7630, which was also amended to provide additional flexibility in content delivery to each organization receiving funds and to allow recipients to redistribute all or part of the funds to individual councils or local chapters without further need of approval from the Secretary. In FY 2009, Terms and Conditions of these awards should facilitate the redistribution without further need of approval. The Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (Pub. L. 111-8) appropriates funds under Division A, Title I "for grants to youth organizations pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 7630."

There are no matching requirements associated with the Rural Youth Development program, and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

NIFA has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of facility space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Section 7132 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, amended the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3310(a)), limiting indirect costs to 22 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 22 percent of total Federal funds awarded. If no rate has been established the applicant may indicate "None—will negotiate" and a reasonable dollar amount for indirect costs may be requested, which will be subject to approval by USDA. In the latter case, if a proposal is recommended for funding, an indirect cost rate proposal must be submitted prior to award to support the amount of indirect costs requested. NIFA will request an indirect cost rate proposal and provide instructions, as necessary. An applicant may elect not to charge indirect costs and, instead, use all grant funds for direct costs. If indirect costs are not charged, the phrase "None

requested" should be written in this space.

- e. Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)  
Pursuant to Sec. 604 of the Agricultural research extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 [7 USC 7642(d)], applicants requesting recovery of indirect costs should limit their requests to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect costs rate or the equivalent of 19 percent of total Federal funds awarded.
- f. Federal Administration (DIRECT APPROPRIATION)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. 1890 Facilities (Section 1447)  
NIFA assessed four percent (4%) of the appropriated amount for Federal Administration, distributed sixty percent (60%) of the balance equally, and distributed the remaining forty percent (40%) based on the formula found in Section 1444 of NAREPTA of 1977, as amended (Pub. L. No. 95-113).  
Within each institution, the research, teaching and extension programs must each receive at least 20 percent of the annual allocation. The remaining 40 percent may be allocated based on institutional needs for research, teaching, or extension. No more than 60 percent of the total allocation should be directed to research, teaching, or extension. However, if there are unique situations in your institution which warrant a deviation from these guidelines, we will consider requests for reallocation. Such reallocations must be justified by the submission of a situation statement which describes the research, teaching, and extension facilities needs in your institution and how previously available Federal funds were utilized.  
NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.  
The obligation and expenditure of funds awarded under these grants are limited to equipment, land, buildings and other related costs which are or will be used in the administration and conduct of approved research, teaching and extension activities. In accordance with NARETPA Section 1447 (e), funds provided for this program may not be used for the payment of any overhead costs of the eligible institutions.  
MOE requirements are not applicable to this program.

**Length and Time Phasing of Assistance:**

(See RFA or FGO: Part II.A. – Available Funding; also can be posted in other sections of the RFA/FGO)

- 1. SMITH-LEVER 3(b) & (c):
  - a. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (aka 3b & c Formula Funds) (FORMULA)  
Funds will be distributed to the institutions on a quarterly basis. See Appendix A of the Formula Grant Opportunity (FGO) for the specific allocation.  
  
Funds appropriated under sections 3(b) and 3(c) of the Smith-Lever Act are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to four years after the end of the year for which they were appropriated.

- b. Cooperative Extension Programs at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions (Special Needs) aka ESPN Special Needs – (FORMULA)  
Special Needs funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to four years after the end of the year for which they were appropriated.
  - c. Smith-Lever Special Needs Program (aka ESPN Special Needs Projects)  
Special Needs projects have typically ranged from \$30,000 to \$120,000 in award size, however, the amount requested may vary depending on the urgency of the need(s) needs being addressed by the proposed project. Special Needs Program encourages applications that specifically address one or more of the following six key target areas:
    - i. Education and Technical assistance applications may be for project periods of up to 5 years;
    - ii. Collaboration applications may be for project periods of up to 5 years;
    - iii. Long range family, community and regional planning applications may be for project periods of up to 5 years;
    - iv. Communication delivery applications may be for project periods of up to 5 years;
    - v. Dissemination of credible, science-based information applications may be for project periods of up to 5 years; and
    - vi. Integrated Research and Extension Planning Projects applications may be for project periods of up to 1 year with proposed budgets not to exceed \$15,000 per proposal.
  - d. CSRS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET CSRS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
CSRS Retirement Contributions Program funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation: however, funds allocated may be carried over for up to four years from the year end for which they were appropriated.
  - e. FERS Retirement Contributions Program (aka ERET FERS Retirement) (FORMULA)  
FERS Retirement Contributions Program funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation: however, funds allocated may be carried over for up to four years from the year end for which they were appropriated.
  - f. District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act Program (Cooperative Extension Programs) aka EUDC  
DCPPERA funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however funds may be carried over for up to four (4) years after the end of the year for which they were appropriated.
2. Agricultural Extension at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University (Section 1444) (FORMULA)  
Section 1444 Program funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, no more than 20 per cent of the funds received by an institution

in any fiscal year may be carried forward to the succeeding fiscal year. No prior approval from NIFA is required. Since these limitations are legislatively mandated, NIFA is not authorized to approve any carryover requests beyond the 20 percent and one-year limitations.

3. SMITH-LEVER 3(d):

- a. Expanded Food and Nutrition (EFNEP) (ENUT Nutrition Education) (FORMULA)  
EFNEP funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however funds may be carried over for up to four (4) years after the end of the year for which they were appropriated.
- b. Youth at Risk  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- c. Improve Rural Quality of Life  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- d. Farm Safety  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- e. New Technologies at Ag Extension  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- f. Pest Management  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. Sustainable Agriculture (SARE-PD)  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- h. Federally Recognized Tribes  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- i. Youth Farm Safety Education & Certification  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- j. EIPM Support  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- k. EIPM Coordination  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.

4. OTHER EXTENSION ACTIVITIES:

- a. Renewable Resources Extension Act  
The project period ranges from 18-24 months, and may be extended by NIFA without additional financial support for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project. In no case shall the total project period exceed five years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.
- b. Rural Health and Safety

The project period shall not exceed 1 year. Project period may be extended by NIFA without additional financial support for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project. In no case shall the total project period exceed five years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.

- c. **Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions**  
Continuation grants to “Increase Extension Program Capacity” may be funded for up to four years for competitively-selected proposals, one from each eligible institution. Applicants may request up to \$85,000 for each year of funding requested. Funding is awarded on an annual basis (within that specified time period) and subject to the availability of annual appropriations and satisfactory progress of the project.  
All 1994 Institutions are invited to submit applications under the “Extension Special Emphasis Project” type. There is no limit to the number of applications a 1994 Institution, or a consortium of 1994 Institutions, may submit under the Extension Special Emphasis Project type. Each application submitted by a single institution or multiple institutions may request up to \$100,000. The project period may not exceed three years. These will not be awarded as continuation grants.
- d. **Grants to Youth Serving Institutions**  
A proposal may request a grant for a duration of 18 months. The project period may be extended by NIFA without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed five years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.
- e. **Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program (FARAD)**  
The term of the contract, grant or cooperative agreement shall be three (3) years, with options to extend the term triennially.
- f. **Federal Administration (DIRECT APPROPRIATION)**  
Pertinent details will be provided at a future date.
- g. **1890 Facilities (Section 1447)**  
This RFA is for renewal applications only. Eligible applicants must submit a renewal application. This is a project application that requests additional funding to continue the project that was approved in an original or amended award. Applicants should request funding for an additional year at the amount for their eligible organization.  
Section 1447 of NARETPA of 1977 [7 U.S.C. 3222b] designates distribution of these funds. The program was reauthorized through FY 2012 by Section 7123 of FCEA (Pub. L. 110-246). Future funding will be strictly subject to new appropriations. Method of awarding/releasing assistance: by letter of credit.