



AREERA State Plans of Work

This Plan of Work (POW) newsletter provides an update on the FY12 POW reporting submissions, recent FY11 report and data publications, and the National Outcomes & Indicators. Also included is a reminder of information resources for POW users and a new, recurring newsletter section called "What's Next?" which lists upcoming items of interest to the POW community that will be discussed in upcoming newsletters and web conferences.

FY12 POW Submission Deadline & Update on Changes in the POW Software

Some POW users may have noticed that the usual April 1 due date for submission of the 2013 Plans and 2011 Annual Reports falls on a Sunday. Thus, the due date for this reporting cycle has been changed to Monday, April 2. Other changes in the software have recently been made according to the recommendations made by the Panel of Experts that convened in May 2010. The two main changes users will see in the software right now are in the 2013 Plans: Evaluation sections for Planned Programs are now mandatory but more flexible in nature, and targets for Standard Outputs and State Defined Outputs have been removed. A [guidance document](#) on our website provides more details regarding these changes. In particular, the document explains what NIFA expects from the states in the newly mandatory Evaluation section

FY2011 Reporting Summary and Financial Data Published

A [summary](#) of the FY2011 reporting cycle for POW has been published on our [website](#) under "Summaries & Statistical Analyses." This is the

first report since the POW system has gone electronic that gives an analysis of compliance rates of the states and NIFA in submitting their Plans/ARs and reviews on time. The report also analyzes the Planned Programs submitted in the 2012 POWs and takes a look at the effects had by the mandatory inclusion of the NIFA Priority Areas as Planned Programs. Also included are summary charts and graphs of the total 2010 expenditures as documented in the 85 Annual Reports received from the states. However, for more detailed information on expenditures regarding your particular state or region, or for particular portfolios or knowledge areas, please consult the Leadership Management Dashboard (LMD) through the NIFA Reporting Portal. The 2010 Expenditure data was uploaded to the LMD as of December 2011 and is available for public viewing.

Update on the National Outcomes & Indicators

As previously discussed in newsletters, states will report on the [National Outcomes & Indicators](#) *voluntarily* once they are loaded into the software. NIFA aims to have the software ready to accept this data for the FY2013 reporting cycle, which is when states will submit their 2012 Annual Reports. NIFA wishes to stress that states or institutions *will not be penalized* if they do not have their data ready for that particular reporting cycle. As we move forward with this new aspect of the POW reporting system, please be assured that there will be additional training resources posted on our website, as well as newsletter updates and detailed training presentations given during Reporting Web Conferences.

NIFA and our partners, particularly those in Extension, recognize that the National Outcomes & Indicators, as they currently stand, do not address certain key areas that are a vital part of the formula fund story in the POW: 4H, Youth, and Family & Consumer Science programs. NIFA National Program Leaders in these areas have been in contact with key stakeholders to help develop national outcomes and indicators that will help NIFA report more accurately on the work being done in these areas. The next newsletter will have more detailed information regarding the ongoing development of these indicators, including a general timeline of when our state partners can expect to see some examples of these 4H, Youth, and Family & Consumer Science National Outcomes & Indicators.

Accessing & Searching POW Information

All accepted Plans of Work and Annual Reports are accessible on the Research, Education & Economics Information System website for [2007 - Current](#) and [2006 & Prior](#). However many questions have come in lately regarding “searching” these documents rather than simply obtaining PDFs. If the information you would like to search is related to funding or outcomes, the Leadership Management Dashboard (LMD; available through the NIFA Reporting Portal) is the best resource to utilize. Contact Katelyn Sellers in the PARS office (contact information below), and she can help guide your query in the LMD. Katelyn is also able to produce spreadsheets that narrow down data from one or more POWs in order to focus your search efforts and direct your attention to specific POWs and/or Planned Programs in specific states. If you do not already have access to the LMD, you must log onto the NIFA Reporting Portal with your POW credentials and click the link for the LMD to request access.

*** What’s Next? ***

The “What’s Next” section of the newsletter is a new section designed to give a brief, “sneak peek” at upcoming initiatives for the POW reporting process and things to look out for in upcoming newsletters and web conferences. The following bullets summarize “what’s next” for POW items that NIFA and its state partners should know about.

- A few more changes are currently being made to the POW software and are on track to be completed in January 2012. The changes are by recommendation from the Panel of Experts (see page 1), and guidance will be released in the next few weeks.
- 4H, Youth, and Family & Consumer Science stakeholders (NIFA NPLs & Extension partners) are in the process of developing national outcomes and indicators similar to those we already have for the 5 Priority Area. Absolutely no action is required from the states at this juncture. More information is forthcoming.
- The PARS office is working on new documentation and a possible training activity (specific type to be determined) to help our partners understand the interconnectivity of various systems used by NIFA and how they can better utilize them (POW, CRIS, NIMSS, LMD, REEIS).

Contact & Resource Information

Past newsletters can be found at:

http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reporting/planrept/pow_newsletters.html.

Visit our website homepage at:

<http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/reporting/planrept/plansofwork.html>

For more information on the Plan of Work, e-mail the POW Staff at pow@nifa.usda.gov, or call Katelyn Sellers, 202-401-5482.