

GENERAL QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS (RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM)?

- The **A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS (aka RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM or A1712 PROGRAM)** is a crosscutting AFRI program designed to rapidly deploy strategies and fill knowledge and information gaps to protect the Nation's food and agricultural supply chains, from production through consumption, during and after weather-related disasters.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE A GENERAL QUESTION ABOUT THE RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM?

- General questions can be sent to our team's email:
 - afri-rapidresponse@usda.gov.

WHAT GRANT TYPES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM?

- The **RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM** has 3 different grant types:
 - 1. Standard Grants
 - 2. Strengthening Standard Grants (FASE)
 - 3. Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) Grant

WHAT GRANT TYPE IS BEST FOR ME?

- The Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) grant will support a large-scale, multi-million-dollar project that promotes collaboration, open communication, and the exchange of information; reduce duplication of effort; and coordinate activities among individuals, institutions, states, and regions. The CAP grant is for applicants who have capacity to manage an

extension-focused subaward program. Applicants should be able to promptly accept and review proposals, award projects for rapid initiation at subaward institutions, and provide post-award management including project oversight and reporting. The CAP award is for \$3,000,000, and the project duration is 24 months.

- The Standard Grants and Strengthening Standard Grants (FASE) are for applicants who intend to design and implement extension, or integrated (research and extension) projects directly related to recent extreme weather events or disasters. Standard and Strengthening Standard awards are for no more than \$300,000 per project, and project duration is 12 months. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

WHAT PROJECT TYPES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM Standard and Strengthening Standard Grants (FASE)?

- The **RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM** Standard and Strengthening Standard Grants (FASE) must address one or more of the following emphasis areas:
 - Agroecosystem Resilience
 - Agricultural Commodity and Nutrition Security
 - Health, Well-being, and Safety

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM STANDARD AND STRENGTHENING STANDARDS GRANTS?

- This program area priority seeks applications that focus on the following:
 - Critical and urgent solutions in rapid response to disaster impacts on the Nation's food and agricultural systems.
 - Supporting or adding value to existing educational materials regarding extreme weather, disasters, and naturally occurring hazards.

- Integrating youth and adult volunteer development aspects by leveraging existing extension networks and outreach programs, including 4-H and positive youth development efforts.
- Clearly describing short-term deliverables (within 3 months of award receipt)
- Clearly defining the geographic scope of the project as related to the extreme weather event or disaster.
- *Please refer to the A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS crosscutting program section in the AFRI RFA for additional information on this priority area.*

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM AREA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER COORDINATED AGRICULTURE PROJECT (CAP) GRANT?

- Applications should focus on critical and urgent solutions in rapid response to extreme weather and disaster impacts on the Nation’s food and agricultural systems.
- Applicants need to have the ability to promptly accept and review proposals, award projects for rapid initiation at subaward institutions, and provide post-award management including project oversight and reporting
- In a project management plan, applicants must describe management of the grant program and how they will collaborate with the Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN) (if applicable).
- Applicants must begin their title as “Extension CAP: [full title...]”.
- *Please refer to the **A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS** crosscutting program section in the AFRI RFA for additional information on this priority area.*

HOW DOES THE RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER CAP GRANT DIFFER FROM THE STANDARD AND STRENGTHENING STANDARD GRANTS (FASE)?

- The Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) Grant for Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agriculture Systems falls under the Extension CAP grant type. This CAP grant is designed to coordinate a national, “real-time” extension response grant program. It is for extension-only projects and has an award duration of 24 months.
- The CAP grant is one award for \$3,000,000.
- Institutions that apply for CAP grants must have the institutional capacity to manage an extension-focused subaward program. Applicants should be able to promptly accept and review proposals, award projects for rapid initiation at subaward institutions, and provide post-award management including project oversight and reporting.

WHAT IS A FASE GRANT?

- [Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement \(FASE\) grants](#) help institutions develop competitive projects and attract new scientists and educators to careers in high-priority areas of national need agriculture, food, and environmental sciences.
- FASE Grants have additional eligibility requirements; please refer to Part II § C.2 of the AFRI RFA for requirements specific to FASE Grant applications.

WHAT ARE THE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO THE RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM?

- Please refer to Part III § A of **the AFRI RFA of the A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS** crosscutting AFRI program, which addresses applicant eligibility.

IS THE A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS EXCLUSIVELY FOCUSED ON WEATHER RELATED EVENTS/DISASTERS?

- Yes. Therefore, this priority area is for addressing extreme weather events exacerbated by a changing climate. It is not for events or incidents stemming from geologic events like earthquakes or volcanic eruptions or non-weather events related structural failures like levee breaches that subsequently flood communities.

WILL APPLICATIONS ON EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS THAT ARE NOT DISASTERS BE ACCEPTED?

- Yes. The applicant must provide justification for why this in an urgent priority. A disaster declaration is not required to apply.

WHAT CAN I USE THIS MONEY FOR?

- Information about allowable costs for NIFA awards can be found in section VI of the [NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide \(NIFA-21-002\)](#).

CAN I RESUBMIT A PROPOSAL THAT WAS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING?

- If you applied for an **A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS** grant and were denied, we strongly encourage you to apply again. Your new submission should be a proposal that addresses a recent extreme weather event or disaster and that has significant changes to allow for a different outcome.

DROUGHT IS LISTED IN THE RFA AS AN ELIGIBLE EXTREME WEATHER EVENT OR DISASTER. WHEN IS IT ACCEPTABLE TO SUBMIT A LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) FOR DROUGHT?

- According to [USGS](#), the beginning of a drought can be difficult to determine and several weeks, months, or even years might pass before people know that a drought is occurring. Therefore, the 14-day window between the

extreme weather event or disaster and the LOI deadline is flexible for drought. It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor conditions, identify the extreme weather event or disaster, and explain its impacts in a compelling LOI.

IS THIS A DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM?

- No. The Rapid Response to Extreme Weather program is not a disaster assistance program. It is a grant program that supports critical post-disaster extension and research activities. For individuals looking for USDA disaster assistance programs, visit farmers.gov for more information.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT A WEATHER-RELATED DISASTER HAS OCCURRED AND WHEN SHOULD I SUBMIT AN LOI?

- Extreme weather events and disasters cause disruptions in food and agricultural systems. LOI submissions and invited proposals must directly address effects associated with extreme weather events or disasters that have occurred. Applicants may use data and/or information from National Weather Service, Farm Service Agency, FEMA, and other sources to justify a direct need for rapid response activities. It is the applicant's responsibility to monitor conditions, identify the extreme weather event or disaster, and explain its impacts. *USDA NIFA will not monitor extreme weather events and disasters or announce an open call for LOI submissions.*

LETTER OF INTENT QUESTIONS

IS A LETTER OF INTENT REQUIRED FOR A CAP GRANT APPLICATION?

- No.

IS A LETTER OF INTENT REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A FULL APPLICATION?

- Yes, a Letter of Intent (LOI) must be submitted within 14 calendar days after an extreme weather event or disaster; a response with a decision from NIFA will be sent within 14 calendar days after submission.

- o LOIs are REQUIRED ONLY for Standard Grants and Strengthening Standard Grants applications. LOIs will be accepted on a continuous basis.
- o LOIs must follow the instructions in Part IV, A of the **A1712 RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS ACROSS FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS** RFA and be emailed to afri-rapidresponse@usda.gov

WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN A LETTER OR INTENT AND WHAT ARE THE FORMATTING GUIDELINES?

- o For detailed guidance on LOI submission, please refer to the AFRI RFA RESOURCES PAGE (“AFRI Letter of Intent Instructions” in the attachments list).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM AWARD AMOUNT FOR THE STANDARD AND STRENGTHENING STANDARD GRANT; CAP GRANT?

- o Standard and Strengthening standard grant
 - Including indirect costs: \$300,000
- o Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) grant
 - Including indirect costs: \$3,000,000. NIFA anticipates making up to one CAP award for the FY2022 for this priority area.

WHAT IS THE GRANT DURATION FOR THE STANDARD AND STRENGTHENING GRANTS?

- o 12 months

WHAT IS THE GRANT DURATION FOR THE CAP GRANT?

- o 24 Months

WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR RAPID RESPONSE TO EXTREME WEATHER PROGRAM APPLICATIONS?

- o For Standard Grants and Strengthening Standard Grants, the application deadline is within 21 calendar days after LOI decision response.
- o For the CAP Grant, always refer to the current RFA for the application deadline.

WHAT CAN I DO TO FACILITATE A SMOOTH AWARDS PROCESS IF MY APPLICATION IS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING?

- o Make sure to have an updated current and pending forms and conflict-of-interest forms in your grant application and be prepared to quickly respond to information inquiries from NIFA staff.