



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE, AND ENVIRONMENT  
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY  
YOUTH, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY  
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# NIFA

## National Needs Fellowship Fiscal Year 2022

(Food and Agriculture Sciences National Needs  
Graduate and Postgraduate Fellowship Grants  
Program)

INVESTING IN SCIENCE | SECURING OUR FUTURE | [WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV)

USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER, EMPLOYER, AND LENDER





# National Needs Fellowship (NNF) Program Contacts

- Dr Ray Ali – National Program Leader
- Dr Erika Kraus – Program Specialist
  
- NNF email: [nnf@usda.gov](mailto:nnf@usda.gov)

**Fiscal Year 2022 NNF Application Deadline:**

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 5pm Eastern**





# Presentation Topics

- NNF Program Overview
- NNF Request for Applications (RFA)
- Proposal Evaluation Process
- Data Gateway
- NIFA Overview





# NNF Program Overview



# NNF Purpose and Priorities - RFA p. 6

- Provides funding to faculty to recruit and train new master's and doctoral students
- Proposed projects must address how the graduate program will meet a designated national need area within the food and agriculture sciences (Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas)
- NNF Program awards are intended to
  - support graduate programs that engage outstanding students
  - Increase the number, quality, and diversity of students in food and agriculture sciences
- **Currently not offering Postdoctoral Fellowships in this program**



# NNF Targeted Expertise Shortage Areas (TESAs) – RFA pp. 9-10

- a) Animal Production
- b) Plant Production
- c) Forest Resources
- d) Agricultural Education and Communications
- e) Agricultural Management and Economics
- f) Food Science, Human Nutrition and Human Sciences
- g) Agriculture Biosecurity
- h) Data Science





# NNF Applicant Eligibility – RFA p. 14

- Land-grant institutions
- Colleges and universities having student populations with significant portions from people of underrepresented communities
- Colleges and universities having demonstrable capacity to train students in food and agriculture sciences
- Research foundations maintained by eligible college or institution





# Recruited students' eligibility – RFA p. 9

- Grantee institutions develop the selection criteria, AND
- Citizens or nationals of the USA as determined with federal law
- Have a strong interest in a TESA degree, are preparing for a career as a food and agriculture or natural resources professional, are registered as full-time students
- Have not completed more than one semester or equivalent hours of full-time study (as defined by institution) in the same academic program at the same degree level





# International Study or Thesis/Dissertation Research Travel Allowances (IRTAs) – RFA p. 9

- Must request within the application,
- Funds intended for conducting research at alternate locations or outside the United States





# Application Submissions and Award Limitations – RFA p. 12

- Grant package on grants.gov
  - Part IV B of the RFA instructs how to complete forms found in the grants.gov package (SF424, R&R, etc.)
- Institutions are limited to a maximum of \$525,000 of awards per competition
  - Each application, in any combination of Grant Category Types, may not exceed \$262,500
  - One application per TESA
- Institutions may submit multiple applications
  - (duplicate/multiple submissions not allowed from the same project director)



# Project and Grant Types – RFA p. 11-12

- Project types: Education/Teaching projects
  - Single function education
  - Increasing graduates with necessary technical skills for entry-level positions in food, agriculture, natural resources and human sciences
  - Improving technical competencies needed for workforce to ensure US agriculture remains globally competitive
  - Enhancing diversity of the workforce
- Grant types:
  - Standard grant, Category 1: Master's level training
  - Standard grant, Category 2: Doctoral level training
  - Standard grant, Category 3: IRTA





# Budget Categories, or the way funds can be used – RFA p. 27

- No matching requirements (p. 15)
- No indirect costs (IDC) (p. 28)
- Funds restricted to:
  - Student stipends (as specified per student)
  - Cost of education allowances
  - IRTA funds



# Content and Form of the Application – RFA

## p. 16

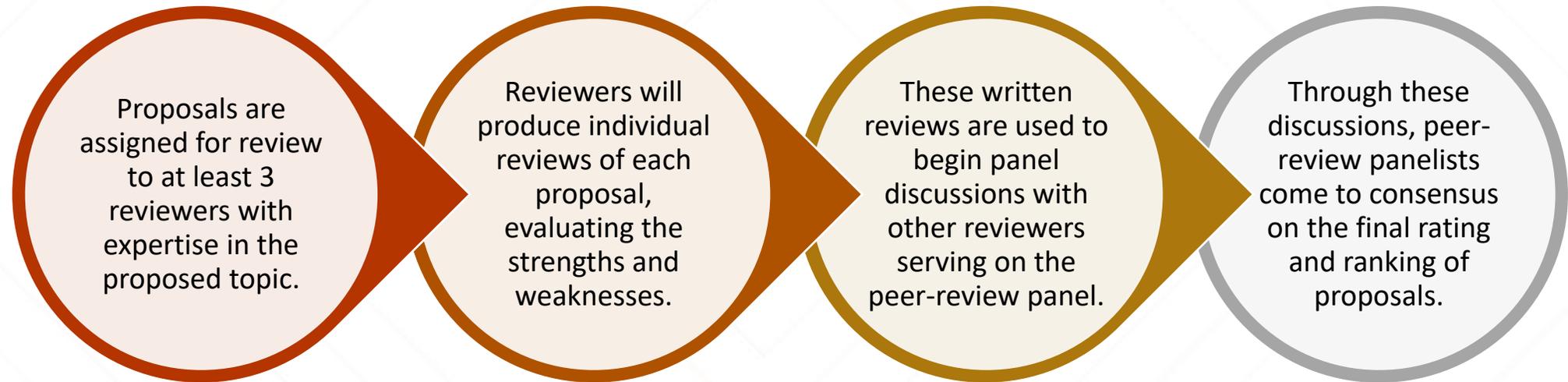
- Explicit instructions in Part IV B detail completion of:
  - Standard form 424 (SF-424) found in the grants.gov application package
  - Research and Related (R&R) forms found in grants.gov application package
  - Information requested in the application’s project summary, narrative, data management plan, and other components of the application.
- See the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for more information.





# Proposal Evaluation Process

# Evaluation Process – RFA p. 30





# Evaluation Criteria – RFA p. 31

- Reviews are based on the following points:
  - Potential for Advancing the Quality of Education
  - Proposed Approach
  - Institutional Commitment and Resources
  - Key Personnel
  - Broader Context Impacts



# Evaluation Criteria – RFA p. 31

- Funding preferences for applications that propose to:
  - Establish innovative and evidence- based frameworks for graduate training
  - Establish master’s or doctoral degree programs
  - Increase multicultural diversity of scientific and professional expertise
  - Partner with teaching/research/ extension or across colleges/institutions or public/private sectors
  - Develop performance measures for evaluating overall effectiveness of graduate training
  - Provide leadership skills opportunities



# Estimated Timeline of Competitive Programs



On average, a competitive program takes about six months from the proposal due date to an award being made to an institution.

**We will keep you updated as much as possible. We appreciate your patience!**



# NIFA Data Gateway

- Previously funded NNF Program projects: [CRIS report of abstracts](#)





# NIFA Overview





# National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

- Extramural science-funding agency within USDA's Research, Education, and Economics mission area
- **Invests in and supports** initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture
- Provides **funding and strategic leadership** for programs that ensure groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice



# Topics Covered by NIFA Programs



## Advanced Technologies

- [Bioenergy](#)
- [Biotechnology](#)
- [Nanotechnology](#)



## Animals

- [Animal Breeding](#)
- [Animal Health](#)
- [Animal Production](#)
- [Aquaculture](#)



## Business and Economics

- [Markets and Trade](#)
- [Natural Resource Economics](#)
- [Small Business](#)
- [StrikeForce](#)



## Education

- [Learning and Engagement](#)
- [Minority Serving Institutions](#)
- [Workforce Development](#)



## Environment

- [Climate Change](#)
- [Ecosystems](#)
- [Invasive Pests and Diseases](#)



## Farming and Ranching

- [Agricultural Safety](#)
- [Agriculture Technology](#)
- [Farmer Education](#)
- [Organic Agriculture](#)
- [Small and Family Farms](#)
- [Sustainable Agriculture](#)



## Food Science

- [Food Quality](#)
- [Food Safety](#)



## Health

- [Nutrition](#)
- [Obesity](#)
- [Wellness](#)



## Human Sciences

- [Community Vitality](#)
- [Family Well-Being](#)
- [Youth](#)



## International

- [Global Food Security](#)



## Natural Resources

- [Air](#)
- [Forests](#)
- [Grasslands and Rangelands](#)
- [Soil](#)
- [Water](#)



## Plants

- [Crop Production](#)
- [Nematology](#)
- [Pest Management](#)
- [Plant Breeding](#)
- [Plant Health](#)





# Related education programs

- Multicultural Scholars Program (MSP)
  - <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/higher-education-multicultural-scholars-program-msp>
- Predoctoral Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships
  - <https://nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/afri-education-workforce-development>





# USDA Non-Discrimination Statement

<https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement>

- In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.
- Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.
- To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

