



REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Bioproduct Pilot Program

FUNDING YEAR: Fiscal Year 2023
APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 31, 2022
ANTICIPATED FUNDING: Up to \$10,000,000
AWARD RANGE: \$2,000,000 - \$5,000,000
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER: USDA-NIFA-BPP-009262
ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER: 10.236
LETTER OF INTENT DEADLINE: Not Required

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing: The Bioproduct Pilot Program (BPP) is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.236.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	5:00 P.M. Eastern, August 31, 2022 [<i>Ref to Part I § C of this RFA</i>]
Letter of Intent:	Not Required
Applicant Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice <i>(NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month)</i>

Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA). NIFA recognizes research, education, and extension efforts will have the greatest impacts when programs are grounded in DEIA. NIFA is committed to enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of programs and encourages individuals, institutions, and organizations from underserved communities to apply to funding opportunities as lead, co-lead, or subaward recipient(s), and to engage as leaders in the peer panel review process to support the development of strong networks and collaborations. NIFA encourages applications that engage diverse communities and have broad impacts through research, education, extension, and integrated activities to address current and future challenges.

Stakeholder Input. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks comments on all request for applications (RFAs) so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments, to the extent possible when developing RFAs and use comments to help meet the requirements of [Section 103\(c\)\(2\) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 \(7 U.S.C. 7613\(c\)\(2\)\)](#). Public comments were solicited through a Virtual Stakeholder Listening Session on April 28, 2022, to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to provide input to assist NIFA in the development of a Request for Applications. In addition, written comments were invited to be sent to the NIFA BPP team until May 5, 2022. Within 6 months of the publication date of this RFA, applicants may submit written comments to Policy@usda.gov (email is for comments only). Please use the following subject line: Response to the Bioproduct Pilot Program RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bioproduct Pilot Program is a competitive grant program that will support research activities related to studying the benefits of using materials derived from covered agricultural commodities in the production of construction and consumer products. Anticipated activities include technoeconomic and life-cycle analyses relative to incumbent products; environmental and waste management implications; and product development and scale-up.

This notice identifies the objectives for BPP projects, deadlines, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for BPP grants. This RFA solicits Research Project types only.

The amount available for the Bioproduct Pilot Program in FY2022 is up to \$5,000,000 and in FY2023 is up to \$5,000,000. All awards will be awarded in FY2023.

This RFA is being released prior to the passage of a full appropriations act for FY2023. Enactment of additional continuing resolutions or a full appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program.

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PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

[Section 70501](#) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. No. 117-58 ([7 U.S.C. 7624](#)) authorizes the Secretary to partner with not less than one qualified institution to study the benefits of using materials derived from covered agricultural commodities in the production of construction products and consumer products.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The Bioproduct Pilot Program, under assistance listing 10.236, will advance development of cost-competitive bioproducts with environmental benefits compared to incumbent products. The program seeks projects that will study the benefits of using materials derived from covered agricultural commodities for production of construction and consumer products (IMPORTANT: see Definitions in Appendix III). Applications must address all the following priorities:

- (1) Bioproduct development and production scale-up.
- (2) Cost savings relative to other commonly used materials;
- (3) Greenhouse gas emission reductions and other environmental and climate benefits relative to other commonly used materials;
- (4) Landfill quantity and waste management cost reductions, including life-cycle and longevity-extending or longevity-reducing characteristics relative to other commonly used materials;

In addition to the priorities above, applicants are highly encouraged to include the following:

- (5) A technoeconomic analysis (TEA), including baseline data that helps prioritize project activities. The TEA should compare the biobased product of interest to incumbent products on the market, including product specifications and pricing;
- (6) Analyses of environmental benefits (such as greenhouse gas emissions, waste management benefits, and other relevant benefits) must include baseline data that will help prioritize project activities.
- (7) Analyses should compare the biobased product of interest to an incumbent product on the market, including product specifications. Quantification of benefits should be measured using standards that are transparent, rigorous, and industrially relevant (such as American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) standards, widely adopted life cycle analysis (LCA) methodologies, and/or Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs));
- (8) A justification of the industrial relevance of the chosen scale for scale-up activities;
- (9) A discussion of the market impact and expected path to market for bioproducts advanced by a potential award;

- (10) Industry partners for critical commercialization steps, including discussion of how USDA funding will be leveraged with private sector resources.

Made in America. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (“IIJA”), Pub. L. No. 117-58, includes the Build America, Buy America Act (§§ 70901-52) that strengthens Made in America Laws and will bolster America’s industrial base, protect national security, and support high-paying jobs. The aim is to increase reliance on domestic supply chains and manufactured products.

Global Engagement. NIFA supports global engagement that advances U.S. agricultural goals. NIFA recognizes that collaboration with international partners may be necessary to attain the agency's goals for U.S. agriculture, promote global competence of our nation’s future agricultural workforce, and promote safe and nutritious food security in a growing world. Therefore, although application to this RFA is limited to eligible U.S. institutions, applicants may collaborate with international partners, to include subcontracts to international partners or other institutions. **Applications must clearly demonstrate benefits to the U.S.**

Partnerships. NIFA highly encourages applicants to form collaborations with private industry, federal research laboratories, and/or academic institutions including 1862 Land-Grant-Universities (LGUs), 1890 LGUs, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), 1994 Tribal LGUs, and Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) to accomplish the objectives of the BPP. The Secretary has designated BPP as a covered program in the Justice40 Initiative, which includes the goal to enhance economic development in historically underserved communities.

USDA Strategic Plan FY 2022-2026. The Bioproduct Pilot Program is aligned with the following strategic goals:

- Goal 1:** Combat Climate Change to Support America’s Working Lands, Natural Resources
- Goal 2:** Ensure America’s Agricultural System is Equitable, Resilient, and Prosperous
- Goal 3:** Foster an Equitable and Competitive Marketplace for All Agricultural Producers
- Goal 5:** Expand Opportunities for Economic Development and Improve Quality of Life in Rural and Tribal Communities

C. Other Information

1. Biofuel as a primary focus for this program is not appropriate.

Table 2: Program Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	BPP
Program Code Name:	Bioproduct Pilot Program
Assistance Listing Number	10.236
Project Type:	Research only
Grant Type:	Standard
Application Deadline	August 31, 2022
Grant Duration:	24-36 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	2-5
Maximum Award Amount:	Up to \$5,000,000
Minimum Award Amount	\$2,000,000

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

This RFA is being released prior to the passage of a full appropriations act for FY 2023. Enactment of additional continuing resolutions or a full appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program. The anticipated amount available for the Bioproduct Pilot Program in FY2022 is up to \$5,000,000, and FY2023 is up to \$5,000,000. All awards will be awarded in FY 2023. Funding will be issued as competitive awards. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. The [Automated Standard Application for Payments](#), operated by the Department of Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this RFA.

B. Application Restrictions

NIFA will evaluate applications using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this RFA. Applications for FY2022 and FY2023 are limited to the following application types:

1. *New application*: New applications will be evaluated using the criteria described in [Part V](#) of this RFA and are subject to the due dates herein (see [Appendix III](#) for definition).

C. Project and Grant Types

The following describes the types of *projects* or *grants* that are eligible for funding:

1. Project Types. Applicants must propose Research Projects only.
2. Grant Types. Only Standard grants are applicable.

D. Ethical Conduct of Funded Projects

In accordance with sections [2, 3, and 8 of 2 CFR Part 422](#), institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients must, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and documentation to support the conduct of the training. See [Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research](#) for further information.

PART III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the Bioproduct Pilot Program must meet all the requirements discussed in this RFA. Failure to meet the eligibility criteria by the application deadline may result in exclusion from consideration or preclude NIFA from making an award. For those new to Federal financial assistance, NIFA's [Grants Overview](#) provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

Qualified institutions are bioproduct research facilities that meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) is funded, in part, by a State;
- (2) **is located within a reasonable distance, not to exceed 3 miles, of the primary residence hall of an institution of higher education.** An institution of higher education is defined in Section 1001(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 1001\(a\)](#)).
- (3) provides students opportunities to engage in research activities; and
- (4) provides opportunities for an institution of higher education to collaborate with private enterprise.

The **Statement of Eligibility**, not to exceed 1 page, must be included as **Appendix 1** in the Project Narrative (See Part IV. B. Formatting and Part V. B. of this RFA).

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions. Duplicate or multiple submissions are not allowed. NIFA will disqualify both applications if an applicant submits duplicate or multiple submissions. For those new to Federal financial assistance, NIFA's [Grants Overview](#) provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No Match Required - The Bioproduct Pilot Program has **NO** matching requirement. NIFA will not factor matching resources into the review process as an evaluation criterion.

PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

A. Method of Application

Applicants must apply to this RFA electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this RFA and additional resources are available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [Grants 101](#). **Table 3** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part III** of the NIFA Grants [Application Guide](#) contains detailed information regarding the [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) registration process. For assistance with [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), see **Table 4**. The NIFA Grants Application Guide is contained in the specific funding opportunity package or a sample of the guide can be found [here](#). When applying for a NIFA award, it is important to reference the version of the guide that is included in the specific funding opportunity application package.

Table 3. Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	<i>New Users</i> to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application (Register Here).
Step Two: Download Adobe	Download and Install Adobe Reader (see Adobe Software Compatibility for basic system requirements).
Step Three: Find Application	Using this funding opportunity number USDA-NIFA-BPP-009262 , search for application here: Opportunity Package .
Step Four: Assess Readiness	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization’s readiness to submit an electronic application.

Table 4: Help and Resources

Grants.gov Support	NIFA Support
Self-service customer-based online support: https://www.grants.gov/support.html Telephone support: 800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035 Email support: support@grants.gov Customer service business hours 24/7, except federal holidays .	Email: grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov Business hours: Monday thru Friday, 7a.m. – 5p.m. ET, except federal holidays

B. Content and Form of the Application

The application guide is part of the corresponding application package for this RFA. The RFA overrides the application guide if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. NIFA will accept subsequent submissions to an application until the application deadline. However, applicants that do not meet the application requirements, to include partial applications, risk being excluded from NIFA’s review. NIFA will assign a proposal number to all applications that meet the requirements of this RFA. Applicants must refer to the proposal number when corresponding with NIFA. **Table 5** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 5: Key Application Instructions

Instructions	References (All references are to the Application Guide)
Attachments must be in a portable document format (PDF) format.	Part IV
Check the manifest of submitted files to verify attachments are in the correct format.	Part IV
Conduct an administrative review of the application before submission.	Part IV
Follow the submission instructions.	Part V
Provide an accurate email address, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R.	Part V
Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for technical support and keep a record of the correspondence.	N/A
Contact NIFA if applicant does not receive correspondence from NIFA regarding an application within 15 days of the application deadline.	N/A

SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet. See **Part V** of the [Application Guide](#) for the required certifications and assurances.

SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s). See **Part V** of the **Application Guide**.

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V** of the **Application Guide**.

Formatting: Pages should have 1 inch margins and use 1.5 line spacing. The font should be Times New Roman. The font size should be no smaller than 11 points. Figures and tables may use single-spaced text.

1. Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract. The one page summary does not count toward the page limit of the narrative. The descriptive title should be a brief, clear, and specific designation of the proposed project. List the names and affiliated organizations of all

Project Directors/co-PDs. The summary should be a self-contained, specific description of the activity to be undertaken and should include: overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives; plans to accomplish project goal(s); and relevance of the project to the goals of the program. The PS must show how the project goals align with the priorities of the Bioproduct Pilot Program.

2. Field 8. Project Narrative (PN). The PN must not exceed 25 pages of written text and up to 4 additional pages for figures and tables. The page limits ensure fair and equitable competition. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. The **Statement of Eligibility, not to exceed one page**, must be included as Appendix 1. Appendix 1 will not count toward the page limit. Do not add additional appendices to circumvent the page limit. The PN must include all the following:
 - a. Introduction
 - b. Rational and significance
 - c. Objectives
 - d. Approach
 - e. Project timeline
 - f. Cooperation and institutional involvement
 - g. Alignment with the Justice40 Initiative, including a description of the historically underserved communities that are projected to benefit from the proposed work. Refer to OMB memo M-21-28 § I for guidance to specifically define disadvantaged communities (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>).
 - h. Data management plan (DMP)
 - i. Logic model
 - j. Summary of previous work

3. Field 9. Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Narrative.

4. Field 12. Add Other Attachments. See **Part V** of the Application Guide.

R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded). See **Part V** of the [Application Guide](#) for profile requirements, details about the biographical sketch, and suggested support templates.

R&R Personal Data. This information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award (see **Part V** of the [Application Guide](#)).

R&R Budget. See **Part V** of the [Application Guide](#).

1. Indirect costs (IDC) – See [Part IV § C](#) of this RFA for funding restrictions regarding indirect cost, and **Part V** of the [Application Guide](#) for additional information.

Data Management Plan (DMP). A DMP is required for this program. Applicants should clearly articulate how the project director (PD) and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project. The DMP will be considered during the merit review process (see [Part V § B](#) of this RFA, [NIFA's Data Management Plan](#)).

Form. See **Part V** of the [Application Guide](#).

1. Field 2. Program to which the applicant is applying. Enter the program name (Bioproduct Pilot Program) and the program code (“BPP”). Accurate entry is critical.

2. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List. See **Part V** of the Application Guide.

Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants. This is required for corporate applicants. See **Part VI § 2** of the **Application Guide** for a description of the term, “corporation.”

C. Funding Restrictions

Indirect Cost (IDC) not to exceed 30 percent of Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA) of the recipient. Section 1462(a) and (c) of the [National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 \(NARETPA\), 7 U.S.C. 3310](#), limits IDC for the overall award to 30 percent of Total Federal Funds Awarded (TFFA) under a research, education, or extension grant. The maximum IDC rate allowed under the award is determined by calculating the amount of IDC using:

1. the sum of an institution’s negotiated indirect cost rate and the indirect cost rate charged by sub-awardees, if any; or
2. 30 percent of TFFA.

The maximum allowable IDC rate under the award, including the IDC charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, is the lesser of the two rates.

If the result of number one is the lesser of the two rates, the grant recipient is allowed to charge the negotiated IDC rate on the prime award and the sub-award(s), if any. Any sub-awards would be subject to the sub-awardee’s negotiated IDC rate. The sub-awardee may charge its negotiated IDC rate on its portion of the award, provided the sum of the IDC rate charged under the award by the prime awardee and the sub-awardee(s) does not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

If the result of number two is the lesser of the two rates, then the maximum IDC rate allowed for the overall award, including any sub-award(s), is limited to 30 percent of the TFFA. That is, the IDC of the prime awardee plus the sum of the IDC charged by the sub-awardee(s), if any, may not exceed 30 percent of the TFFA.

In the event of an award, the prime awardee is responsible for ensuring the maximum indirect cost allowed for the award is not exceeded when combining IDC for the Federal portion (i.e., prime and sub-awardee(s)) and any applicable cost-sharing (see [7 CFR 3430.52\(b\)](#)). Amounts exceeding the maximum allowable IDC are considered unallowable. See sections [408](#) and [410](#) of [2 CFR 200](#).

Successful applicants must not use grant funds awarded under the authority of this RFA to renovate or refurbish research, education, or extension space; purchase or install fixed equipment in such space; or to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct buildings or facilities.

PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. Evaluation Process

NIFA evaluates each application in a two-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements set forth in this RFA. Second, a scientific peer-review process will be used to technically evaluate applications that have met the administrative requirements using a review panel (see [NIFA Peer Review Process](#)).

Scientific Peer Review Process:

NIFA selects reviewers for the review panel based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

1. 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.
2. the need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields.
3. the need to include other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, researchers, public health practitioners, educators, consumers, and commercial evaluators) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs.
4. the need to include experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations.
5. the need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
6. the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

After each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible program staff of NIFA will recommend that your project is either approved for support from currently available funds or declined.

NIFA reserves the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., reductions in the scope of work, funding level, period, or method of support) prior to recommending any project for funding.

After the review process has been completed, NIFA sends copies of reviews, *not* including the identity of reviewers, and a summary (if applicable) of the review panel comments to the PD.

Conflicts of interest. NIFA takes extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may influence the review or evaluation (see [NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications](#)).

B. Evaluation Criteria

NIFA will use the following criteria to evaluate this RFA:

Administrative Review: NIFA will conduct an administrative review to ensure eligibility. Applications must include a **Statement of Eligibility** not to exceed 1 page, as **Appendix 1** in the Project Narrative, that affirms that the primary institution meets the eligibility requirements listed in Part III. A. of this RFA.

Peer-review Panel. A reviewer's written evaluation entails two levels of assessment. First, the reviewer summarizes how well the application addressed each evaluation criterion. After the application has been assessed for strengths and weaknesses of each criterion, the reviewer then evaluates the overall likelihood that the project will have significant outcomes, including positive outcomes in historically underserved communities. These written reviews are used to begin panel discussions with other reviewers serving on the peer review panel. Through these discussions, peer review panelists come to consensus on the final rating and ranking of proposals. A complete description of NIFA's peer review process can be found at the [NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications](#) page.

Detailed evaluation criteria for each project types, grant types, are outlined in the Evaluation Criteria. We will use the appropriate evaluation criteria to review applications submitted in response to this RFA. Please note: NIFA is only accepting Research applications for this funding opportunity.

The Bioproduct Pilot Program evaluation criteria are listed below and in priority order of importance:

(1) Rationale and Significance

This criterion is used to assess the likelihood that the project will advance the development of cost-competitive construction and/or consumer bioproducts with environmental benefits compared to incumbent products as outlined in Part I. B. (Purpose and Priorities) of this RFA. Applicants must integrate product development and scale-up of bioproducts with technoeconomic analyses, life cycle greenhouse gas analyses, and waste management cost and quantity reductions. The application of these resources should lead to data-driven solutions to increase the cost-competitiveness and environmental benefits of bioproducts over incumbent products currently used in the marketplace.

(2) Objectives and Approach

Evaluation factors include assessment of the research approach and other related implementation approaches to address principal objectives. The extent the proposal considers the potential costs of a proposed solution and describe how it can be scaled to be sustainable in the short term and long term will be considered in developing the objectives and approach. Project feasibility and probability of success will be evaluated.

(3) Project Assessment

This criterion relates to projects performance monitoring and performance outcomes. Elements include the soundness of the proposed research methodology, performance monitoring, plan of

operation, logic model, expected products and results, metrics/targets for expected solutions or improvements, the potential for positive economic impacts in historically underserved communities, and results dissemination plan.

(4) Institutional Capacity, Division of Labor and Management Plan

This criterion relates to the collaborating organizations capability to perform the project and to the degree to which key personnel have expertise and management plan in place to successfully carry out the proposed work. The degree to which stakeholders are involved in project development, implementation, and evaluation is also considered. Letters of Support from key project partners and stakeholders are encouraged.

(5) Budget Justification

This criterion relates to how well the total budget supports the project and is cost effective. Elements considered include the necessity and reasonableness of costs to carry out project activities and achieve project objectives; the appropriateness of budget allocations between the applicant and any collaborating institution(s); the adequacy of time committed to the project by key project personnel; and the degree to which the project maximizes the use of resources, optimizes research and educational value for the dollar, achieves economies of scale, and focuses expertise and activity

C. Organizational Management Information

Applicants must submit specific management information relating to an applicant prior to an award and update the information as needed. Applicants may only have to update their information if they had previously provided the information under this or another NIFA program. NIFA provides the requisite forms during the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible for award under this program, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual, or a determination that an applicant is not responsible).

D. Application Disposition

Applicants may withdraw at any time before NIFA makes a final funding decision. NIFA will retain all applications, including withdrawn applications and unfunded applications.

PART VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds authorized, the NIFA awarding official will make grants to responsible and eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, regulations, terms and conditions of the award, applicable federal cost principles, USDA assistance regulations, and [NIFA General Awards Administration Provisions, 7 CFR Part 3430, subparts A through E](#).

Award Notice. The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information as described in [2 CFR 200.211](#) (see [NIFA's Terms and Conditions](#)).

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications and the projects outlined in this RFA (some are listed here: [Federal Regulations](#)). Unless specifically noted by statute or award-specific requirements, [NIFA Policy Guide](#) applies to all NIFA awards.

C. Reporting Requirements

In addition to the standard NIFA post-award annual reports, the IIJA has additional reporting requirements. Additional requirements on expected performance goals, indicators and targets may be required as a condition of award. **The BPP program is a covered program of the Justice40 Initiative (section 223 of Executive Order 14008 - <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/02/01/2021-02177/tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad>).**

PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget

Delegation of fiscal responsibility. Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

Changes in Budget or Project Plans. In accordance with [2 CFR 200.308](#), awardees must request prior approval from NIFA for the following program or budget-related reasons (the awardee is subject to the terms and conditions identified in the award):

1. Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program without prior written approval (even if there is no associated budget revision requiring).
2. Change in a key person specified in the application or the federal award.
3. Disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project.
4. Inclusion of costs that require prior approval in accordance with [2 CFR 200 Subpart E \(Cost Principles\)](#), or [45 CFR Part 75 Appendix IX, \(Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Awards and Contracts with Hospitals\)](#), or [48 CFR](#), unless waived by the federal awarding agency,
5. [48 CFR Part 31, Contract Cost Principles and Procedures](#);
6. Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense ([2 CFR 200.456 Participant support costs](#));
7. Sub-awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a federal award, including fixed amount sub-awards (see [2 CFR 200.333, Fixed Amount Sub-awards](#)), unless described in the application and funded in the approved federal awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services.
8. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-federal entity; and
9. The need for additional federal funds to complete the project.

B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of NIFA transaction records, which are available to the public. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, applicants should clearly mark any information within the application they wish to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary. NIFA will retain a copy of an application that does not result in an award for three years. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An applicant may withdraw at any time prior to the final action thereon.

C. Regulatory Information

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 ([44 U.S.C. Chapter 35](#)), the collection of information requirements contained in this notice have been approved under [OMB Document No. 0524-0039](#).

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT

Program Contacts

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816-708-5199

For administrative questions related to;

1. Grants.gov, see Part IV of this RFA
2. Other RFA or application questions, please email grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov
3. Awards under this RFA, please email awards@usda.gov

U.S. Postal Mailing Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 419205, MS 10000

Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

Courier/Package Delivery Address:

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture

2312 East Bannister Road, MS 10000

Kansas City, MO 64141-3061

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – AFRI

Authorized Representative – AR

Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 – AREERA

Assistance Listing- Formerly Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

Bioproduct Pilot Program - BPP

Coordinated Agricultural Project – CAP

Centers of Excellence – COE

Data Management Plan – DMP

Fiscal Year – Fiscal Year (FY starts on October 1)

National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA

Request for Application – RFA

Research, Education, and Economics – REE

United States Department of Agriculture – USDA

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

Refer to [7 CFR 3430 Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions](#) for additional definitions.

Definitions

Construction product:

Any article, or component part thereof, produced or distributed for use during the construction, maintenance, or preservation of a highway, road, street, bridge, building, dam, port, or airport construction project.

Consumer product:

(A) Any article, or component part thereof, produced or distributed (i) for sale to a consumer for use in or around a permanent or temporary household or residence, a school, in recreation, or otherwise; or (ii) for the personal use, consumption or enjoyment of a consumer in or around a permanent or temporary household or residence, a school, in recreation, or otherwise; and

(B) Any product or product category described in subparagraphs (A) through (I) of section 3(a)(5) of the Consumer Product Safety Act ([15 U.S.C. 2052\(a\)\(5\)](#)).

Covered agricultural commodity:

Any agricultural commodity, food, feed, fiber, livestock, oil, or a derivative thereof, that the Secretary determines to have been used in the production of materials that have demonstrated market viability and benefits (as described in Part I. B. Purpose and Priorities of this RFA) as of the date of enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. For purposes of clarity, forest and crop residues and agricultural/food byproducts or wastes are considered Covered Agricultural Commodities.

Historically underserved communities:

Disadvantaged community as described in OMB memo M-21-28 to implement the goals of the Justice40 Initiative utilizing existing data sources and indices that are currently used by programs serving low income, vulnerable, and underserved communities (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/M-21-28.pdf>):

(A) Community – Community is defined as “either a group of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another, or a geographically dispersed set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions.”

(B) Disadvantaged – Agencies should consider appropriate data, indices, and screening tools to determine whether a specific community is disadvantaged based on a combination of variables that may include, but are not limited to, the following: Low income, high and/or persistent poverty; High unemployment and underemployment; Racial and ethnic residential segregation, particularly where the segregation stems from discrimination by government entities; Linguistic isolation; High housing cost burden and substandard housing; Distressed neighborhoods; High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access; Disproportionate environmental stressor burden and high cumulative impacts; Limited water and sanitation access and affordability; Disproportionate impacts from climate change; High energy cost burden and low energy access; Jobs lost through the energy transition; Access to healthcare.

Matching:

The process through which a grant recipient match awarded USDA funds with cash and in-kind contributions on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The matching funds must derive from non-Federal sources. Matching funds are **NOT** required for this program.

New Application:

An application not previously submitted to a program.

Secretary:

The Secretary of Agriculture