

FACT SHEET

FROM LEARNING TO LEADING: CULTIVATING THE NEXT GENERATION OF DIVERSE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONALS (NEXTGEN) PROGRAM



The NEXTGEN Program represents one part in a series of efforts led by USDA to achieve equitable participation of farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in USDA programs and services. These efforts include an array of targeted technical assistance and outreach activities; meaningful, sustained engagement with diverse stakeholders to inform USDA policies and programs; and supporting and preparing diverse students for future careers in agriculture with an emphasis on federal sector employment. This program is supported by funds provided through the American Rescue Plan Act and is one of the competitive grants programs managed by USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). *(Students celebrating Education by AdobeStock)*

GOAL OF THE NEXTGEN PROGRAM

Enable institutions eligible under Section 1006 of the American Rescue Plan Act, as amended by Section. 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act to engage, recruit, retain, train, and support students to help build and sustain the next generation of the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences (FANH) workforce including the future USDA workforce.

What type of projects and activities are supported?

- **Student Scholarship Projects:** provide student financial support and other support services that enable the institution to recruit, retain, expand career awareness across the diverse sectors of FANH sciences, including allied disciplines, and increase graduation rates of students. Financial support may include, but it is not limited to tuition, fees, books and other necessary materials or supplies, room and board, and other participant support costs such as transportation, off-campus housing allowances, childcare, etc.
- **Experiential Learning Projects:** support paid domestic or international experiential learning opportunities for students to promote a better awareness and understanding of the careers across the agricultural enterprise, including those at USDA, while developing their professional skills and training.
- **Outreach and Engagement Projects:** engage youth and other community of learners to build awareness of the range of agriculture-related career opportunities in FANH and at USDA as well as understanding of processes and pathways to Federal employment. Applicants are strongly encouraged to plan targeted outreach to and recruitment of individuals from underserved communities.

What is the maximum budget and program requirements for each proposal?

Grant Type	Budget request total, not per year	Partnership Requirements	Project Type Requirements
Tier 1	Up to \$20 Million	Lead applicant and at least two other eligible institutions across a minimum of two states, territories, and/or tribal nations	Must integrate the three project types
Tier 2	Up to \$10 Million	Lead applicant and at least one other eligible institution within or outside their home State, territory and/or tribal nation	Must integrate at least two of the three project types
Tier 3	Up to \$5 Million	Single Institution, no partnership required, but encouraged	Must integrate at least two of the three project types

WEBINAR AND APPLICATION INFORMATION

We are hosting an **informational Webinar on September 7 at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time**. Please register for this event at: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/nextgen-program-overview-webinar>



What are the due dates and who can apply?

- Program Code: NEXTG
- **Notice of intent: recommended, but not required, due September 16, 2022**
- **Application deadline: October 25, 2022** (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
- Grant Duration: 60 months
- Cost Sharing or Matching: No match required for this program
- Program eligibility, as described on Part III § A of the RFA:
 - 1890 Land-grant Institutions (Historically Black Land-grant Universities)
 - 1994 Land-grant Institutions (Tribal Colleges and Universities)
 - Alaska Native-serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian-serving Institutions
 - Hispanic-serving Institutions (Certified Hispanic-serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities)
 - Insular Area institutions of Higher Education located in the U.S. territories.

Note: An eligible institution may not submit more than three applications to this program as a lead institution, regardless of funding tier selected.

Where can I find Application Resources?



- Request for Applications contains full information on program requirements, eligibility, and application process: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/learning-leading-cultivating-next-generation-diverse-food-agriculture>
- Application Resources and FAQs: **Notice of intent instructions**, FAQs and Webinar Recording: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/nextgen-request-application-resources>



If I have questions, who can I contact?

Please submit questions to: NIFA.workforce@usda.gov

- Ahlshia Shipley, Capacity Program Leader
- Carlos Ortiz, National Program Leader, K-14 Education and Workforce Development
- Erin Riley, National Program Leader, 1994 Land-grant Institutions
- Irma Lawrence, National Program Leader, Hispanic-Serving, Alaska-Serving, Native Hawaiian-Serving and Insular Areas
- Manoharan Muthusamy, National Program Leader, 1890 Land-grant Institutions