



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

Biotechnology Risk Assessment Grants (BRAG) Research Program (FY 2023) RFA Technical Assistance Webinar

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Meeting Logistics

- This webinar will be recorded. Please be sure your microphone is muted.
- **Zoom Tech Support** = 1.888.799.0125, Option 2
- Throughout the presentation, you may type questions in the chat box.
- Slides and the recording from this conference will be posted to www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/biotechnology-programs/biotechnology-risk-assessment-research-grants-brag-program



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- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



BRAG Team

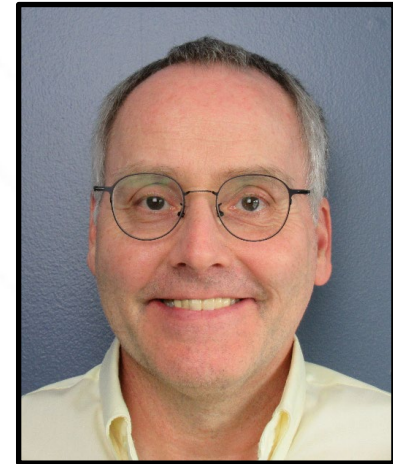
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Topics We Will Cover

- NIFA Overview (*5 min.*)
- Program Overview (*5 min.*)
- Request for Application (RFA) Details (*10 min.*)
- Proposal Evaluation Process (*5 min.*)
- Additional Information/Resources (*5 min.*)



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NIFA Overview

NIFA Overview

- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** is the extramural science-funding agency within USDA's Research, Education and Economics mission area.
- NIFA **invests in and supports** initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture.
- NIFA 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 Economy

Markets and Trade; Natural Resource
Economics; Small Business



Natural Resources

Forests; Grassland and Rangeland; Soil,
Water, and Air



Education

Minority Serving Institutions; Teaching
and Learning; Workforce Development



Environment

Climate Change; Ecosystems; Invasive
Pests and Diseases



Farming and Ranching

Agriculture Safety & Technology; Farmer
Education; Organic & Family Farms



Human Sciences

Community Vitality; Family Well-Being;
Youth



Food Science

Food Quality; Food Safety



Food and Nutrition Security

Nutrition; Obesity; Wellness



International

Global Engagement; Global
Food Security



Plants

Crop Production; Pest
Management; Plant
Breeding; Plant Health



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Program Overview

Purpose and Priorities

- **Purpose** of the BRAG program is to support the generation of new information that will assist federal regulatory agencies in making science-based decisions about the environmental effects of introducing genetically engineered (GE) organisms
- **Priorities** include 1) Management practices to minimize environmental risk of GE organisms; 2) Methods to monitor and understand the dispersal of GE organism; 3) Gene transfer between GE organisms and related wild and agricultural organisms; 4) Environmental effects of GE relative to non-GE organisms in the context of production systems; and 5) Other relevant research topics



Eligibility

- Public or private research or educational institutions or organizations
- Must meet all requirements discussed in the RFA



Application Submission & Award Limitations

- There is no limit on the number of applications that eligible institutions may submit to this program as a lead institution
- Duplicate submissions to the BRAG Program or any other NIFA program during the same fiscal year are not allowed
- Different submissions by the same PD to the BRAG program during the same fiscal year is allowed but discouraged



Project and Grant Types

Project Types

Research

Grant Types

Standard

Conferences



Cost Share or Matching

- No matching is required for BRAG program.
- Matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.



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Application Details and Documents



Application Changes from Prior Year

- Maximum award sizes for standard research grants are \$650,000 in FY 2023, up from \$500,000



Application Details

- RFA is available online at www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/biotechnology-risk-assessment-research-grants-program
- BRAG program page online at www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/biotechnology-programs/biotechnology-risk-assessment-research-grants-brag-program
- **Letter of Intent (LOI) Deadline:** 5 p.m. (Eastern) **December 1, 2022**
 - LOI encouraged, but not required; Submitted to summer.larose@usda.gov; RFA page 17
- **Application Deadline:** 5 p.m. (Eastern) **January 19, 2023**
 - Submitted through Grants.gov
- Total funding available in FY 2023: ~\$5,500,000 (estimated)
- Program Code: HX
- Maximum funding per award: \$650,000 (research); \$50,000 (conference)
- Recent success rate: 35-40% (likely to go down with increase in award size)

Key Documents

Key components of your application:

- Project Summary/Abstract
- Project Narrative
- Bibliography/Reference List
- Data Management Plan
- Other Documents (See RFA and [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#))

Project Narrative

RFA Page 19

- Project Narrative is **18 page limit** and will be strictly enforced.
 - 12 point Times New Roman font
 - Includes text, figures and tables
- Within 18 pages describe:
 - Introduction; Rationale & Significance, Objectives; Experimental Plan; COE (if applicable); Response to Previous Review (if applicable, one page limit does not count toward 18-pg limit)
 - Cooperation and institutional involvement
 - Project timeline
- Applications exceeding the page limit will be returned without review.

Data Management Plan

- Investigators must provide detailed (up to 2 pages) business and management plans including:
 - Expected data type
 - Data format
 - Data storage and preservation
 - Data sharing, protection and public access
 - Roles and responsibilities
- Please also review: nifa.usda.gov/dmp-guidance

Application Submission

RFA Page 17

- NIFA only accepts **electronic** submission of applications.
- NIFA Grants Application Guide available:
nifa.usda.gov/grants-application-guide
- Application documents **must be in Portable Document Format (PDF)** to be accepted by NIFA, including your narrative and budget justifications.
 - Grants.gov may allow other formats, but NIFA does ***not***
 - Do not use third-party PDF builders





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Proposal Evaluation Process

Evaluation Process

Proposals are assigned for review to at least 3 reviewers with expertise in the proposed topic.

Reviewers will produce individual reviews of each proposal, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses.

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.

Evaluation Criteria

- Scientific merit of the proposal
- Qualifications of proposed project personnel
- Adequacy of facilities to conduct proposed work
- Relevance of project to solving biotechnology regulatory uncertainty for US agriculture
- See RFA for more details on evaluation criteria and for criteria specific to conference proposals

Timeline of Competitive Programs

1-2 months

- Request for Application (RFA) release
- Proposal writing and planning
- **Proposals due**

2-3 months

- Proposal under peer review
- Proposal funding notifications

1-2 months

- Awards are finalized and made

On average, a competitive program takes about 3-5 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!



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Additional Information

Use CRIS to Find Funded Awards

The screenshot shows the home page of the Current Research Information System (CRIS) website. At the top left is the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture". A navigation bar contains links for "Home", "About CRIS", "Search Menu", "Reports", "Help", and "Contact Us". On the left side, there is a "Search CRIS" section with links for "Assisted Search", "Professional Search", and "Search Pending Projects", followed by an "Other Functions" section with links for "NIFA Admin Functions" and "Manual of Classification". The main content area features the heading "Current Research Information System" with a "More" link and a paragraph of introductory text. On the right side, there is a "What's New in CRIS ?" section with a list of topics including Avian Influenza, Biofuels/Bioenergy, Food Safety (Ala-Mic), Food Safety (Min-Wyo), Mad Cow/TSE/Rltd, Nanotechnology, Obesity/Weight Control, Soybean Rust, and Tribal Education. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a paragraph of instructions on how to use the website's navigation.

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Home About CRIS Search Menu Reports Help Contact Us

You are here: Home

Search CRIS

- ▶ Assisted Search
- ▶ Professional Search
- ▶ Search Pending Projects

Other Functions

- ▶ NIFA Admin Functions
- ▶ Manual of Classification

Current Research Information System More

Welcome to the Current Research Information System (CRIS) web site. The Current Research Information System (CRIS) provides documentation and reporting for ongoing agricultural, food science, human nutrition, and forestry research, education and extension activities for the United States Department of Agriculture; with a focus on the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant programs. Projects are conducted or sponsored by USDA research agencies, state agricultural experiment stations, land-grant universities, other cooperating state institutions, and participants in NIFA-administered grant programs, including Small Business Innovation Research and Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. The Planning, Accountability, & Reporting Staff office of NIFA is responsible for maintaining CRIS.

Use the top "navbar" to navigate through the CRIS web site, or click on the links in the left and right columns to search the CRIS database, to view the Manual of Classification, or to enter our Forms Assistance web site.

What's New in CRIS ?

- Avian Influenza
- Biofuels/Bioenergy
- Food Safety (Ala-Mic)
- Food Safety (Min-Wyo)
- Mad Cow/TSE/Rltd
- Nanotechnology
- Obesity/Weight Control
- Soybean Rust
- Tribal Education

[https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=\(GC=HX\)&format=WEBTITLESGIY](https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/0?path=fastlink1.txt&id=anon&pass=&search=(GC=HX)&format=WEBTITLESGIY)

Upcoming Events

- NIFA Events Calendar for upcoming deadlines, meetings and webinars: nifa.usda.gov/calendar
- Upcoming Request for Applications (RFA) release calendar: nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar

Grant Resources

- Funding Opportunities: nifa.usda.gov/grant-search
- Competitive Grants Flowchart: nifa.usda.gov/competitive-grants
- NIFA Grant Resources: nifa.usda.gov/grant-training
- NIFA Policy Guide: nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide
- Indirect Costs: nifa.usda.gov/indirect-costs
- A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov:
apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00249520-instructions.pdf
- Information on Awarded Grants: cris.nifa.usda.gov



Questions?

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