



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

## Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs Phase II (FY2023) RFA Announcement and Technical Assistance Webinar

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

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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 Q&A box.
- Slides and the recording from this conference will be posted to [www.nifa.usda.gov/sbirsttr-fy23-phase-ii-rfa-technical-assistance-webinar](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/sbirsttr-fy23-phase-ii-rfa-technical-assistance-webinar)



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[www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement](http://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement)

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

# Introductions

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# Topics We Will Cover

- NIFA Overview
- Program Overview
- Request for Application (RFA) Details
- Proposal Evaluation Process
- Additional Information/Resources



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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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# Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs Overview

# Purpose and Priorities

RFA Page # 7

To stimulate technological innovation and increase private sector commercialization among small business concerns and enable them to undertake and to obtain the benefits of research and development in order to maintain and strengthen the competitive free enterprise system and the national economy.

- Transforming scientific discovery and innovation for both social and economic benefit
- Emphasizing private sector commercialization

# Eligibility

- Only previous SBIR/STTR Phase I awardees who have not previously applied for Phase II are eligible to apply through this RFA
- Each applicant must qualify as a small business concern (SBC) through registration with the SBA for R/R&D purposes at the time of award
- An SBIR/STTR awardee must be
  - Small business
  - a for-profit entity
  - Independent business within the United States

# Project and Grant Types

RFA Page # 15

## Project Types

Research

## Grant Types

Standard

# Cost Sharing or Matching

RFA Page # 19

- No matching is required
- Matching resources will not be factored into the review process as an evaluation criteria



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# Application Details and Documents

# Application Changes from Prior Year

- First year STTR included in the USDA SBIR program
- Minor but impactful changes in formatting
  - Project narrative
  - Commercialization plan



# Application Details

RFA Page # 1

- RFA is available online at:

[www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/small-business-innovation-research-small-business-technology-0](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/small-business-innovation-research-small-business-technology-0)

- **Application Deadline:** 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) Tuesday, March 28, 2023
  - Submitted through Grants.gov
- Total funding available for FY2023
  - SBIR: \$19,500,000
  - STTR: \$2,812,000
- Program Code: 8.1/8.2/8.3/8.4/8.5/8.6/8.7/8.8/8.12/8.13
- Maximum funding per award: \$650,000 (including TABA)



# Key Documents

RFA Page # 22, 23, 24, 25

## Key components of your Application:

- Project Summary/Abstract
- Project Narrative
- Bibliography/Reference List
- Facilities & Other Resources
- Equipment Documentation
- Commercialization Plan
- Other Documents (See RFA and [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#))

## Application Details (contd.)

- **Project Narrative:** 20-page limit and will be strictly enforced.
  - 1.5 line spacing and at least 1-inch margins
  - 12-point Times New Roman font
  - Includes text, figures and tables
    - Tables and figures: no smaller than 11-point Times New Roman
    - Tables may be single spaced
- **Commercialization Plan:** Not to exceed 10 pages
  - 1.5 line spacing and at least 1-inch margins
  - 12-point Times New Roman
  - Tables and figures: no smaller than 11-point Times New Roman
- Applications exceeding the page limits will be returned without review.

# Application Submission

RFA Page # 21

- NIFA only accepts **electronic** submission of applications.
- NIFA Grants Application Guide available:  
[nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-grantsgov-application-guide](https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-grantsgov-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



# Application Submission Check

RFA Page # 34

Applications will be excluded from the competitive review process for the following reasons (list is not all inclusive):

- Projects that seek funding solely for product development where no research is involved;
- Budget requests that exceed the ceiling of \$600,000 or \$650,000 including TABA;
- Summary/Abstract exceeds one page and/or is not in PDF format;
- Project Narrative exceeds 20 pages of written text and/or is not in PDF format
- Application is submitted after the 5:00 p.m. Eastern deadline.



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# Proposal Evaluation Process

# Initial Screening Criteria

RFA Page # 37

- The proposing firm must qualify as a small business concern
- The application must meet application content and format requirements
- The proposed budget must be within the dollar ceiling identified in the RFA
- The proposed Phase II research must fall within the topic area that the project was originally funded under Phase I
- An application must contain adequate scientific/technical and market opportunity information that clearly states the project plan and objectives

# Evaluation Criteria

RFA Page # 38, 39

1. Degree to Which Phase I Objectives were Met and Technical Feasibility Established
2. Phase II Scientific and Technical Feasibility
3. Commercial Potential
4. Importance of the Problem
5. Investigator and Resource Qualifications
6. Budget
7. Duplication

Additional factors: CRADA

# Evaluation Process

RFA Page # 36

Proposals are assigned for review to at least 3 technical and 2 commercial reviewers with expertise in the proposed topic.

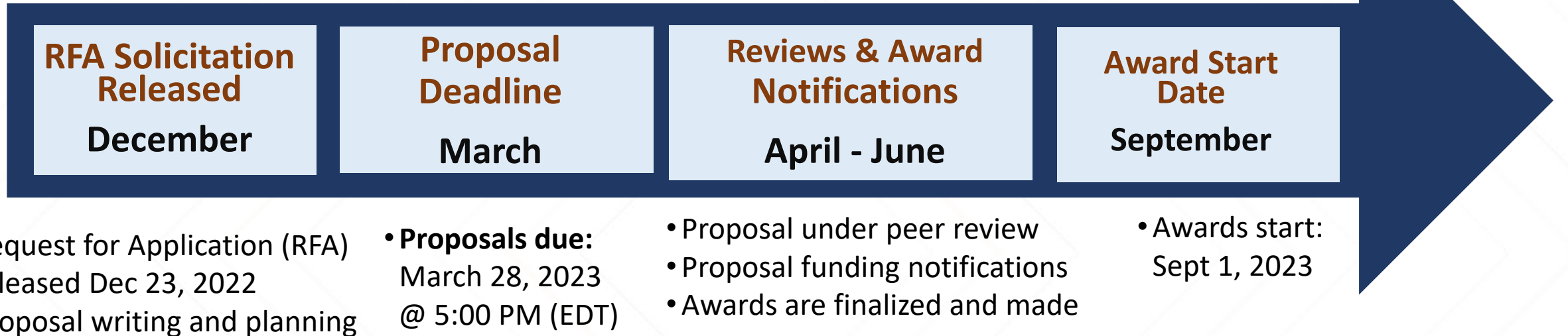
Reviewers will produce individual reviews of each proposal, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses.

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.



# Timeline of Competitive Programs



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



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

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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/RItd
- Nanotechnology
- Obesity/Weight Control
- Soybean Rust
- Tribal Education

CRIS is located at:  
[cris.nifa.usda.gov/](http://cris.nifa.usda.gov/)

Funded SBIR/STTR awards — broken out by topic area, phase and year — are located on the NIFA website:

- [www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/small-business-innovation-research-technology-transfer-programs-sbirsttr/sbir-topic-areas](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/small-business-innovation-research-technology-transfer-programs-sbirsttr/sbir-topic-areas)

# Upcoming Events

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

# Grant Resources

- Funding Opportunities: [nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities](https://nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities)
- Competitive Grants Flowchart: [nifa.usda.gov/competitive-grants](https://nifa.usda.gov/competitive-grants)
- NIFA Grant Resources: [nifa.usda.gov/grant-training](https://nifa.usda.gov/grant-training)
- NIFA Policy Guide: [nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide](https://nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide)
- Indirect Costs: [nifa.usda.gov/indirect-costs](https://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](https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00249520-instructions.pdf)
- Information on Awarded Grants: [cris.nifa.usda.gov](https://cris.nifa.usda.gov)



# Questions?

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# Thank You

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