



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

## Research Facilities Act Program RFA Announcement and 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 <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/research-facilities-act-program-rfap>



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

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# Introductions



**Solomon Haile, PhD**

**National Program Leader**

**Institute of Youth, Family, and Community**

**[solomon.haile@usda.gov](mailto:solomon.haile@usda.gov)**



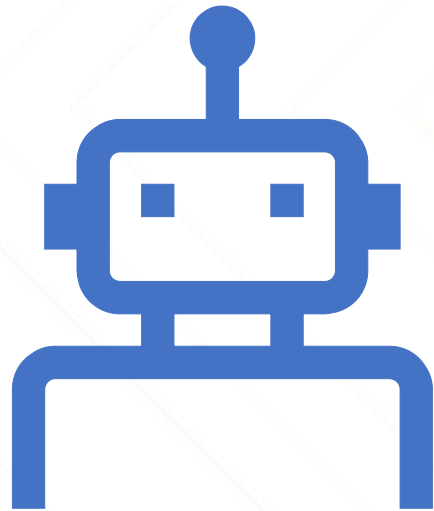
**Cierra Campbell, M.Sc.**

**Program Specialist**

**Institute of Youth, Family, and Community**

**[cierra.campbell@usda.gov](mailto:cierra.campbell@usda.gov)**

# Topics We Will Cover



- NIFA Overview
- Research Facilities Act 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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# Research Facilities Act Program Overview



# Purpose

RFA Page 6

RFAP is designed to provide financial assistance to qualifying institutions for **the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities to conduct research in the fields of food and agricultural sciences** (as defined in 7 U.S.C. 3103, see Appendix III for definition).

The amount available for support of this program in fiscal year (FY) 2023 is approximately \$1,900,000.



# Activities and Deliverables



## Activities may include but are not limited to:

- Assessing sites and infrastructure
- Planning and conceptual designing for the new, restored, or renovated facility or site
- Developing schematics and construction drawings for the new, restored, or renovated facility or site
- Constructing, restoring, or renovating of facility or site
- Purchasing and installing related permanently affixed equipment for research monitoring and protecting specimens and samples
- Purchasing and installing critical building systems, such as electrical, climate control, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management

## Deliverables may include:

- Documents determining the feasibility of the planned agricultural research facilities or sites
- Completed design and construction, restoration, or renovation drawings
- Completed construction, restoration, or renovation
- Completed installation of critical building systems

RFA Page 6-7

# Agricultural research facilities requirements

## Non-Federal share

- The proposal must include at least a 50% non-Federal share of the cost of the facility, paid in cash.

## Nonduplication of facilities

- The proposal demonstrates how the agricultural research facility would complement and not duplicate existing facilities in the State and region.

## National research priorities

- Proposal shall demonstrate how agricultural research facility would serve national research policies and priorities set forth in 7.U.S.C. 3101, as well as national or multistate needs.

## Long-term support

- The proposal must demonstrate the recipient entity's ability and commitment to support the long-term operating and maintenance costs of the agricultural research facility and its programs.





# Eligibility

RFA Page 11

- 1994 Institutions
- State Agricultural Experiment Stations
- 1862 Land-Grant Universities
- Accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or State Agricultural Experiment Station that conducts animal health and disease research in accordance with section with section 1433(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195)
- 1890 Land-grant Universities
- Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities as defined in 7 U.S.C. 3103
- Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA) - Institutions satisfying the eligibility requirements for NLGCA designation at
- Insular Area Institutions-Institution of higher education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1995 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a))
- Institutions eligible for "McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act" (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.)
- Other entities eligible to receive funds under a capacity and infrastructure program (as defined in section 6971(f)(1)(C)). See Appendix IV under capacity and infrastructure programs

# Application Submission & Award Limitations

RFA Page 9



An eligible institution may **not submit more than one application** to this program as a lead institution.



This includes applications from subordinate units under a parent institution. **No more than one award** will be made per lead institution.



Prospective applicants/project directors are advised to contact their institutional office of research regarding processes used to select proposals for submission.

# Matching Requirements

RFA Page 11



In order to receive federal matching funds, recipients must raise and certify funding from non-federal third-party sources.



Applicants are not required to have all funds raised at the time of application



# Project Grant Types

RFA Page 9

## Project Type

Research Facilities

## Grant Types

Standard



# Funding Levels

RFA Page 9

Title	Level I	Level II	Level III
Maximum NIFA Award	\$75,000	\$150,000	\$500,000
Minimum Required Third Party Nonfederal gifts (1:1 match ratio for grant requests)	\$75,000	\$150,000	\$500,000
Minimum Total Project Costs	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$1000,000
Project Duration	24 Months	36 Months	48 Months
Anticipated number of awards	5	4	2

# Developing Your Application



Involve the whole team in the planning and grant writing process.



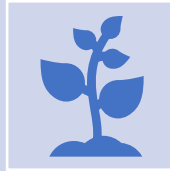
Include detailed information about long-term strategic planning, fundraising efforts, and how the outcomes and deliverables will benefit your institution, Food and Agricultural Sciences research, and/or the public.



If it is a part of a larger project, think about which part might be the most appropriate for RFAP support.



# Important Considerations: Significance



How will your project promote or Advance Food and Agricultural Sciences research?



Who is your audience, and how will they benefit from the outcomes of the project over the long-term?



If your organization has a range of research programs or functions, what specific Food and Agricultural Sciences research activities will be supported through your proposed project?

# Important Considerations: Project Scope



Is your project part of a larger initiative? If so, which specific activities will be supported through this grant and matching funds?



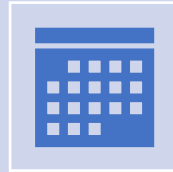
How does your proposed project align with institutional strategic plans and long-term goals?



What are the deliverables and/or outcomes of the project?



# Important Considerations: Project Timeline



Do the dates on your workplan, budget, and period of performance align?



Have you allowed sufficient time for fundraising, project planning, and compliance with any applicable federal, state, or local regulations?

# Project Timelines



**Fundraising Period:** The period months prior to the application deadline (July 7, 2023) through the final certification deadline within the period of performance, in which recipients may raise and certify funds to receive RFAP matching funds. Any other restricted costs/activities



**Period of Performance:** The period in which the project work is being performed and allowable costs may be incurred and charged to the award.



The workplan included with your application should reflect plans for both fundraising and project activities.

# Important Considerations: Fundraising Capacity

- Does your application include a detailed plan for raising the required match?
- Who will be responsible for fundraising?





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# Application Details and Documents





# Application Details

RFA Page 8

- RFA is available online at <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/research-facilities-act-program-rfap>
- **Program Code Name:** Research Facilities Act Program
- **Program Code:** RFAP
- **ALN:** 10.246
- **Project Type:** Facilities Project
- **Grant Type:** Standard Grant
- **Application Deadline:** 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) July 7, 2023  
[Submitted through Grants.gov]
- **Grant Duration:** 24 - 48 Months
- **Anticipated # of Awards:** 11
- **Maximum Award Amount:** Level I—\$75,000; Level II—\$150,000; Level III—\$500,000
- **Max. # of Awards Per Institution:** 1
- **Total Funding Per Institution:** Up to \$500,000



# Preparing Your Application

Application Forms and Attachments	File Name	Designation	Page limit
SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet	N/A	Required	N/A
SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form	N/A	Required	N/A
R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded).	N/A	Required	N/A
R&R Personal Data	N/A	Recommended	N/A
SF-424C (Budget Information for Construction Projects)	N/A	Required	N/A
Attachment 1: Project Summary	summary.pdf	N/A	250 words
Attachment 2: Narrative	narrative.pdf	Required	15 pages (mandatory)
Attachment 3: Budget justification	justification.pdf	Required	N/A
Attachment 4: Project plan	projectplan.pdf	Required	3 pages (suggested)
Attachment 5: Institutional profile	profile.pdf	Required	2 pages (suggested)
Attachment 6: Biographical sketch (BS); Current and Pending Support for key personnel	keypersonnel.pdf	Required	2 pages per BS (suggested)
Attachment 7. Letters of commitment or support	letters.pdf	Required	N/A
Attachment 8: Planning and design documents	design.pdf	Recommended	10 pages (suggested)
Attachment 9: Site conditions	site.pdf	Conditionally required.	N/A
Attachment 10: Additional supporting documentation	documentation.pdf	Recommended	10 pages (suggested)

# National policy requirements : *specific to construction, renovation, and ground-disturbance*

Davis-Bacon Act and related labor requirements

Build America, Buy America

Executive Order 11246 ("Equal Employment Opportunity")

The Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. § 4151 et seq.)

Section 106 of the national Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 300101, et seq.)

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. § 4321, et seq.)

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. § 3001, et seq., and 43 CFR Part 10)

Other relevant requirements

# Application Submission

RFA Page 12

- 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





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# Proposal Evaluation Process



# Evaluation Process

RFA Page 22

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

RFA Page  
17, 22-23

Project Narrative Section	Review Criteria
Introduction	(1) Agricultural research facility significance and target audience
Significance and target audience	(1) Agricultural research facility significance and target audience
Long-term impact and institutional commitment	(2) Long-term impact and institutional commitment
Project Planning and Activities	(3) Project feasibility
Financial capacity and fundraising	(4) Fundraising plans
Project Team	(5) Project key personnel and team
Deliverables, outcomes, and sustainability	(6) Project outcomes and their sustainability

# 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**



# 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 after this session?

## **Solomon Haile**

*National Program Leader*

*Institute of Youth, Family, and Community*

[solomon.haile@usda.gov](mailto:solomon.haile@usda.gov)

## **Cierra Campbell**

*Program Specialist*

*Institute of Youth, Family, and Community*

[cierra.campbell@usda.gov](mailto:cierra.campbell@usda.gov)