



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

## Supplemental and Alternative Crops (SAC) FY 2023 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://nifa.usda.gov/program/##>



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

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# Topics We Will Cover

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

- The Supplemental and Alternative Crops (SAC) program supports projects that lead to expanded adaptation and increased acreage in the United States of canola grown for oil and industrial hemp grown for value added products
- These crops are important to U.S. agriculture in that they can provide new and profitable cropping options in response to low commodity prices and changes in consumer demand for new agricultural-based products.
- The purpose of this integrated research and extension program is to adapt these multiple-purpose crops to diverse growing regions in the United States, so that domestic canola oil and industrial hemp production can be significantly increased and be profitable nationwide.

## Eligibility

- Colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of NARETPA, [7 U.S.C. 3103](#)),
- Other Federal agencies
- Private sector entities

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project.

# Project and Grant Types

## Project Types

- Research
- Education
- Extension
- Integrated

## Grant Types

- Standard
- Strengthening
- Collaborators
- Conferences



## Project and Grant Type Description

- Only projects that integrate research and extension will be considered.
- All SAC grants are Standard.
- Project duration is 24 – 48 months.
  - Project periods may be extended but may not exceed five years total.

# Project and Grant Type Description

## For Canola, NIFA will recognize two types of projects:

### 1. Regional Integrated Research and Extension Projects (RIREP)

- **North Central:** Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Eastern Montana
  - **Great Plains:** Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming
  - **Pacific Northwest:** Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Western Montana
- Established canola industry associations are found in these three regions.
  - Projects applying for these regions should lead to results that can increase acres planted and improve profitability for canola growers
  - Program preference is to fund at least one canola project per region to maximize impacts for canola growers in those regions when applications are deemed meritorious, and funding allows
  - Each regional project should have at least two states participating from within the same region

# Project and Grant Type Description

**For Canola, NIFA will recognize two types of projects:**

## **2. Projects in Other States**

- There is strong potential for canola production to expand into states other than those where canola has traditionally been grown.
- Projects in these states should lead to results that will help expand the range of profitable canola production

## Project and Grant Type Description

**For Industrial Hemp, NIFA will recognize one type of project: Integrated Research and Extension (IREP).**

- The geographic region information specified for canola does not apply
- Hemp proposals with collaborations across multiple states are encouraged but does not have to be specific for any given region



## Cost Share or Matching

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



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# Application Details and Documents

# Application Details

- RFA is available online at <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/supplemental-alternative-crops>
- **Application Deadline:** 5 p.m. (EST) April 27, 2023
  - Submitted through Grants.gov
- Total funding available in FY2023: \$938,000
- Program Code: HW
- Maximum funding per award: \$250,000 per year

# Key Documents

RFA Page # 14 - 15

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](#))



## Application Details (contd.)

- Project Narrative is **22 page limit** and will be strictly enforced.
  - **1.5 spacing**
  - 12 point Times New Roman font
  - Includes text, figures and tables
    - Tables may be single spaced
- Within **22** pages describe:
  - List of headings of information required in narrative
  - Impact on research, training infrastructure or Extension to achieve its goals
  - Cooperation and institutional involvement
  - Project timeline
- Applications exceeding the page limitation will be returned without review.

# Data Management Plan

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- 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/resource/data-management-plan-nifa-funded-research-projects](https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/data-management-plan-nifa-funded-research-projects)

# Application Submission

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- 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

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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

1. Design (60%)
2. Outreach plan (20%)
3. An interdisciplinary and industry-engaged approach (5%)
4. RFA alignment (5%)
5. Appropriateness of budget (5%)
6. Suitability and feasibility of the Data Management Plan (5%)

# 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.

- <https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/106333/crisassist.txt>

# 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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