Webinar 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 nifa.usda.gov/program/##

Non-Discrimination Statement

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

- In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

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

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Topics We Will Cover

- NIFA Overview *(5 min.)*

- Program Overview *(10 min.)*

- Request for Applications (RFA) Details *(10 min.)*

- Proposal Evaluation Process *(10 min.)*

- Additional Information/Resources *(10 min.)*

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 to 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

Purpose and Priorities of the VSGP

- To develop, implement, and sustain food and fiber animal veterinary services and relieve veterinarian shortage situations in the U.S., including Insular Areas
  - Complements the VMLRP to address designated veterinary shortages
  - FY2024 veterinary shortage areas: www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp-map

- Two program areas
  - Rural Practice Enhancement (RPE)
    - For private veterinary clinics providing services in designated veterinary shortage areas
  - Education, Extension and Training (EET)
    - For accredited schools and organizations to support education and extension activities that will enable veterinarians, veterinary students, veterinary technicians and veterinary technician students to gain specialized food animal skills and practices

RPE Eligibility

- For-profit or non-profit entity in a current VMLRP Shortage Area
  - Veterinary clinic or hospital located in the U.S. or Insular Area
  - Provides mixed/large animal veterinary services in a rural area
- Clinic or hospital that employs a current VMLRP awardee
  - Has a current service agreement at the time of the application
  - Reference to the single shortage area to which they are obligated to serve
- RPE awards are made to clinics, not individuals.
  - Only a clinic (even if solo practitioner) may apply for and be awarded an RPE grant.
- Shortage situations must qualify as rural
  - All VMLRP Type II shortage situations are rural
  - For VMLRP Type I shortage situations, use the USDA Rural Development's Business Program's Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) map

RPE Funds Can be Used to….

- Equip a veterinary clinic
  - Equipment to provide veterinary care for agricultural animals
  - Examples: vehicle, restraints, diagnostic and therapeutic tools

- Reasonable costs for operating eligible veterinary practice
  - Overhead: salary and benefits, DVMs and support personnel, rent, fuel, utilities, maintenance contracts, supplies, software, consultants
  - Overhead costs cannot exceed 50% of the total budget

- Establish mobile or support haul-in veterinary facilities

- Support exposure of students in grades 11 and 12 to opportunities in food and fiber animal medicine and herd health management

EET Eligibility

- State, regional, or national organization supporting food animal veterinary programs.

- Allied or professional food animal veterinary organization recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association

- College or school of veterinary medicine accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association

- University research foundation or veterinary medical foundations

- Department of veterinary science or department of comparative medicine accredited by the U.S. Department of Education

- State agricultural experiment station or Research Farm (1890 institutions)

- State, local, or tribal government agency

EET Emphasis on Educational Content

RFA Page 10

- Veterinary practice enhancement techniques and strategies that benefit the health of agricultural animals

- Best practices for delivering quality food and agricultural animal veterinary services in rural areas

- Veterinary approaches to foster food safety, epidemiology, or veterinary public health

- Practice management and business planning and development skills

- Career opportunities in food animal medicine.

EET Funds Can be Used to…

- Allow veterinary students, veterinary interns, externs, residents, and veterinary technician students to cover expenses of attending training programs in food safety, public health, or food animal medicine.

- Modify a course(s) of accredited veterinary education programs, including updating course materials for in-person or remote learning; and faculty recruitment and retention for such a course.

- Support training of veterinary residents, interns and externships carried out in coordination with accredited colleges of veterinary medicine.

- Provide continuing education and extension, including virtual and other formats for distance-based education, for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and other health professionals needed to strengthen veterinary programs and enhance food safety.

- Expose students in grades 11 and 12 to education and career opportunities in food animal medicine.

RPE or EET Funds Cannot be Used to...

RFA

- Construct or renovate practices or facilities
  - Acquire, expand, remodel or alter an existing facility

- Conduct research
  - Funding for research in agricultural animal health is available through the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative:

    www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agriculture-food-research-initiative-afri

- Establish new (not AVMA-Accredited) Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Technician programs or curriculums

Application Submission & Award Limitations

- Eligible clinics may not submit more than 1 application to this program

- Eligible Institutions may submit more than one *application,* but they must be from separate Departments
  - Institutional applicants should work with Office of Research/Sponsored Programs regarding their institution's process to select proposals for submission.

- Limit of 1 *award* per institution per fiscal year.

Cost Share or Matching

RFA Page 14

- No matching is required.

- Matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

Application Details and Documents

Application Details

- **RFA is available at**
  - www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-01/FY24-VSGP-RFA-P.pdf
- **Application Deadline**: March 21, 2024 at 5 p.m. Eastern Time
- **Application is free**
- **Obtain Unique Entity Identification Number**: SAM.gov
  - There is no fee to obtain this number.
- **Submit** through **Grants.gov**
  - Support: **800-518-4726** or **support@grants.gov**
- **Program Code**: VSGPR and VSGPE
- **Total funding** available in FY 2024: $3,822,070
  - Range of funding per award:
    - RPE: $75,000 - $125,000
    - EET: $75,000 - $250,000

Key Forms and Documents

- Grants.gov: Mandatory Forms (7)
  - Forms include SF-424, Budget, Key Person Profile, Performance site
- Project Summary/Abstract
- Project Narrative
- Veterinary Shortage Area Information (RPE only)
- Budget Justification
- Data Management Plan
- Other Documents
  - RFA page 21 and NIFA Grants Application Guide
  - Resubmitted Application (one page required) RFA page 21 for guideline

RPE Key Document Specifications

- See RFA Table 6 on page 16 for Key Instructions
  - Attachments must be in pdf format

- Project Narrative
  - Written text: Up to 7 pages, 1.5 spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font
  - Figures and tables: Up to 2 additional pages, 1-inch margins
    - Tables may be single spaced, 11-point font

- Within 7-page Narrative describe:
  - Problem Identification / Introduction / Background
  - Objectives / Approach
  - Anticipated Results
  - Timeline

- **Page limits, margins, spacing and font size are strictly enforced**
  - Applications exceeding the page limit will be returned without review

EET Key Document Specifications

- See RFA Table 6 on page 16 for Key Instructions
  - Attachments must be in pdf format

- Project Narrative
  - Written text: Up to 12 pages, 1.5 spaced, 1-inch margins, 12-point font
  - Figures and tables: Up to 3 additional pages, 1-inch margins
    - Tables may be single spaced, 11-point font

- Within 12-page Narrative describe:
  - Problem Identification and Significance / Background
  - Objectives / Methods
  - Evaluation Plan
  - Management and Collaboration Plan
  - Timeline

- **Page limits, margins, spacing and font size are strictly enforced**
  - Applications exceeding the page limit will be returned without review
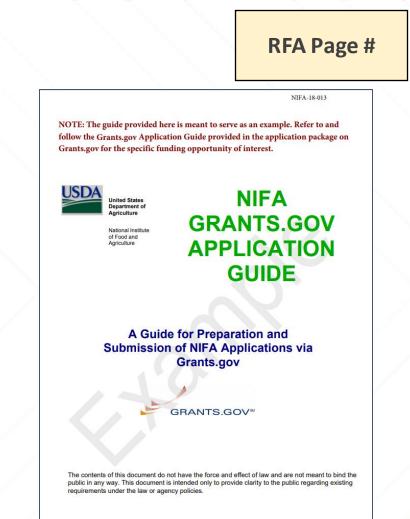
EET and RPE: Data Management Plan

RFA Page 23

- 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

Application Submission

RFA Page #

- NIFA only accepts **electronic** submission of applications.

- NIFA Grants Application Guide available: 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

NIFA-18-013

NOTE: The guide provided here is meant to serve as an example. Refer to and follow the Grants.gov Application Guide provided in the application package on Grants.gov for the specific funding opportunity of interest.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

**NIFA
GRANTS.GOV
APPLICATION
GUIDE**

A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov

GRANTS.GOV℠

The contents of this document do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way. This document is intended only to provide clarity to the public regarding existing requirements under the law or agency policies.

Proposal Evaluation Process

Evaluation Process

RFA Page 26

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.

RPE Evaluation Criteria

- Expertise and Experience (30%)
  - Demonstration of knowledge, skills, abilities and experience of key personnel
  - Related to shortage area and needs and resources

- Technical Merit (70%)
  - Clarity of objectives, activities and outcomes
  - Clarity of practice operations
  - Value of equipment, overhead, facilities to mitigate the shortage
  - Content and delivery of approach
  - Adequacy of activities to meet needs
  - Likelihood to achieve outcomes
  - Reasonableness of budget

EET Evaluation Criteria

- Technical Merit (50%)
  - Clarity of objectives, activities and outcomes
  - Conceptual adequacy to meet needs of target audience and mitigate shortages
  - Expected outputs and outcomes
  - Adequacy of evaluation plan and communication of results
  - Sustainability of project beyond life of the grant
  - Compliance with targets
  - Reasonableness of budget

- Achievability (20%)
  - Probability of success

- Expertise, Experience and Institutional Resources (10%)
  - Includes consultants, collaborators, facilities equipment

Timeline of Competitive Programs

2 months	2-3 months	1-2 months

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

- Proposal under peer review
- Proposal funding notifications

- Awards are finalized and made

On average, a competitive program takes about <u>6 months</u> from the proposal due date to an award being finalized.
We will keep you updated as much as possible. We appreciate your patience!

Upcoming Events

- NIFA Events Calendar for upcoming deadlines, meetings and webinars: nifa.usda.gov/events

- Upcoming Request for Applications (RFA) release calendar: nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar

Grant Resources

- Funding Opportunities: nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities

- 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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