



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

Emergency Citrus Disease Research & Extension FY 2024 RFPA Technical Assistance Webinar

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Meeting Logistics

- 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/ECDRE and also on [NIFA YouTube Channel](#)



NIFA ECDRE Team



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- The USDA NAREEE Board: Kate Lewis
- The Citrus Disease Subcommittee: Industry Representatives



Topics We Will Cover

- NIFA Overview
- Program Overview
- Request for Pre-Applications (RPFA)
- ECDRE FY24 Priorities
- Pre-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 the USDA's Research, Education and Economics mission area. NIFA funding is appropriated by the Congress.
- 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



Animals

Animal Breeding; Animal Health;
Animal Production; Aquaculture



Advanced Technologies

Bioenergy; Biotechnology;
Nanotechnology



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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EMERGENCY CITRUS DISEASE RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ECDRE Purpose

The Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension (ECDRE) program, supports scientific research and extension activities, technical assistance, and development activities to combat citrus diseases and pests, both domestic and invasive, which pose imminent harm to the United States citrus production and threaten the future viability of the citrus industry.

ECDRE provides support for the dissemination and commercialization of relevant information, techniques, and technologies discovered pursuant to funded research and extension activities.

ECDRE Objectives

- Bring nation's top scientists together with citrus industry representatives to find scientifically sound solutions to the devastating citrus disease, Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease.
- Encourage research teams to bring knowledge together to find solutions to combat and prevent HLB infection.
- Transition from component-focused research to deploying research outcomes on farms.

FY24 ECDRE Pre-proposal Solicitation

The Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension (ECDRE) program, under Assistance Listing 10.309, is soliciting pre-proposals to develop effective tactics and strategies to control Huanglongbing (HLB) and its disease complex for financially sustainable citrus growing in the United States.

NIFA requests pre-applications for the ECDRE program to address priorities identified by the Citrus Disease Sub-committee (CDS) of the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board through projects that integrate research and extension activities and use systems-based, trans-disciplinary approaches to provide solutions to the U.S. citrus growers.

FY24 ECDRE Priorities

Priorities listed in order of importance:

1. Development of commercial citrus varieties (rootstocks and scions) for both fresh and processed markets, with genetic resistance or tolerance to HLB using traditional breeding techniques and/or gene editing.
2. Regional management or eradication of ACP on commercial citrus groves and residential plantings; management strategies should incorporate appropriate pesticide resistance management measures.
3. Optimized detection and surveillance programs for ACP and/or HLB. Detection and surveillance programs should incorporate all effective tools and tactics, including psyllid attractants, predictive models of psyllid movement and dispersal, etc.
4. A cure for HLB-infected trees and strategies for maintaining their productivity. Progress in this area can be made through the development of nutritional materials and their delivery, antimicrobials and their delivery, etc.
5. A delivery system for therapeutics, nutrition and other HLB solutions. Most therapies available are not adequately delivered via foliar application.

FY24 ECDRE Priorities – cont'd

6. Consolidation of screening efforts for intervention targets and reduction of candidate lists to include only those most worthy of advanced testing and commercialization.
7. A reliable technique for culturing CLas bacteria.
8. A better understanding of the HLB/vector/citrus pathosystem, including phloem biology, the movement of CLas and therapy into and through phloem, and the interaction of host, pathogen and vector (disease triangle).
9. Greater understanding of the ecology and interactions of the citrus production system and the citrus greening disease complex (HLB and ACP).

Eligibility

- Applications may only be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Cooperative Extension Services, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities
- No Duplicate or Multiple Submissions – duplicate or multiple submissions are not allowed. NIFA will disqualify both applications if an applicant submits duplicate or multiple submissions.



The Request for ECDRE Pre-Applications

ECDRE RFPA is available online at:

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/emergency-citrus-disease-research-extension-program-pre-application>

Or at [grant.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

<https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/352357>

Pre-application Deadline: **March 28, 2024**, 5pm EST submitted through Grants.gov

- Funding Opportunity Number: **USDA-NIFA-SCRI-010556**
- Program Code: ECDRE



Project and Grant Types

Project and Grant Types

- **Project type:** Integrated Research and Extension only.
- **Grant type:** Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP) and Standard Project (SP)

Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP)

- **Budget** - Up to \$15 million
- **Project Period:** Up to five years
- **Purpose:** To address national-scale efforts by coordinating research and extension efforts in one of the goals identified by the Citrus Disease Subcommittee
- **CAP applications should:**
 - Leverage existing citrus and HLB research investments
 - Coordinate efforts of multi-state/multi-institutional teams of biological, physical, and social scientists

CAP Applications should cont:

- Describe coherent and complementary integrated activities with the goal of developing a strategy or solution, preferably by the end of the project.
- Propose the formation of public-private consortia or other interdisciplinary groups to address one or more of the previous ECDRE research priorities (See RFPA)
- Support large-scale efforts for trials, demonstrations, coordinated testing across environments, and screening.
- Collaboration with cooperative extension and ongoing grower efforts is highly encouraged.
- Invited full CAP applications will include a business plan for deliverables, an advisory committee, and plans for documenting project impacts and communicating results to citrus producers and the public.

Standard Project (SP)

- **Budget** - Up to \$1,500,000
- **Project Period:** Up to three years
- **Purpose:** To support targeted problem-solving efforts that are narrower in scope than a Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP).
- These projects will be aimed at:
 - i. farm-level implementation or commercialization of proven solutions or
 - ii. examination of innovative ideas that will address one of the goals identified by the Citrus Disease Subcommittee.
- Applications should bring together research and extension components of the agricultural knowledge system around a problem area or activity.



Cost Share/Matching

The matching requirement for ECDRE awards has been waived for FY 2024 using authority granted by The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328, General Provision 744)

Indirect cost (IDC)

Maximum allowable IDC is 30% of Total Federal Funds Awarded



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**REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
DETAILS & DOCUMENTS**

Application Details

RFPA is available online at

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities/emergency-citrus-disease-research-extension-program-pre-application>

- Application Deadline: **5 p.m. (Eastern Time) March 28, 2024**
 - Submitted through www.Grants.gov
- Program Code: **ECDRE**
- Maximum funding per award: **up to \$15 M.**
- Grant Duration : **36-60 Months**
- Anticipated # of awards: **8-10**

Key Documents

Key components of your Application:

- Project Summary/Abstract
- Stakeholder Relevance Statement (SRS)
- Other Documents (See RFA and [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#))

A Stakeholder Relevance Statement (SRS) is required for all Pre-Apps

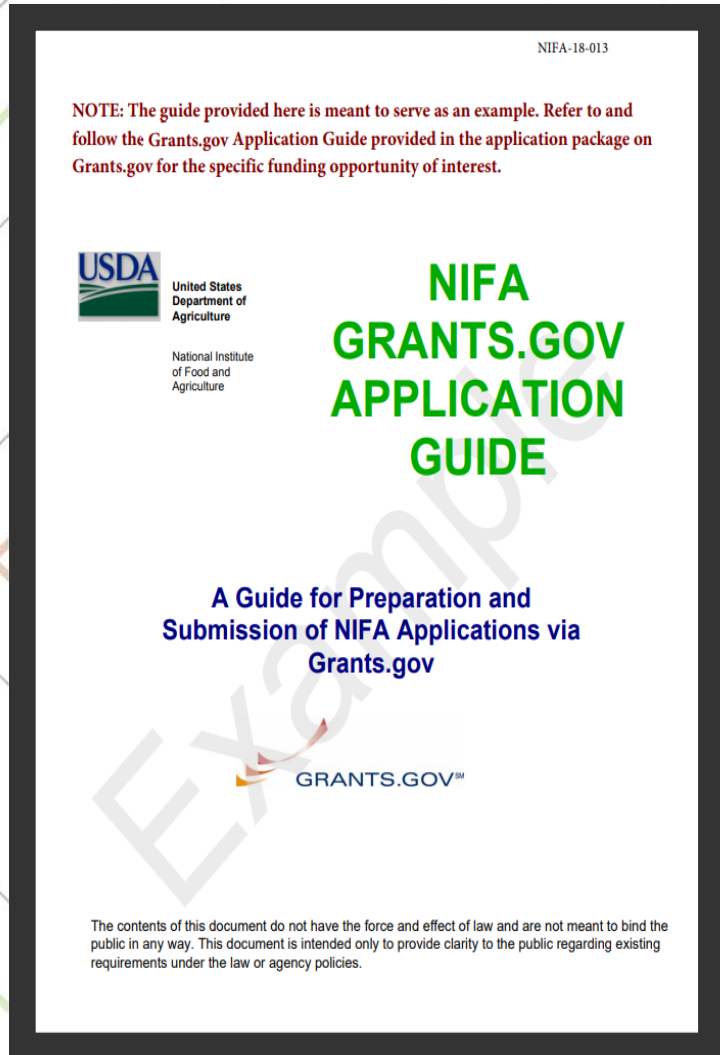
SRS formatting: 3 pages max with 1-inch margins, 12-point font and 1.5 line spacing throughout

1. Title of the project: (the title should be preceded by “SP:”, or “CAP:”, to indicate the type of project)
2. Budget: Estimated amount of funding to be requested (detailed budget is not necessary)
3. Significance and Benefit: a. Economic/environmental/social significance of the problem being addressed; b. Potential deliverables for the citrus industry at the end of project and specific milestones during the project; c. How information developed during project will be translated into actionable recommendations or products and delivered to end-users.

A Stakeholder Relevance Statement (SRS) is required for all Pre-Apps

SRS formatting: 3 pages max with 1-inch margins, 12-point font and 1.5 line spacing throughout

4. Stakeholder engagement: a. How stakeholders were engaged in defining the problem being addressed and determining project objectives; b. How stakeholders will continue to be engaged in project development and evaluation.
5. Project outline: (one-page maximum) a. List of project objectives; b. Outline of methodology to be used to achieve project goals.
6. Experience of Project Director (PD) and key co-investigators (maximum of six): Provide a description of the project team's experience working with the specific stakeholder community and with the problem that will be addressed by the project; a bio of up to 100 words can be included for each. You will be able to list additional co-investigators in the full application, if you are invited to submit one.



Application Submission

- 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



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PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS

ECDRE Two-Phase Review Process

- Citrus Disease Subcommittee (CDS) provides advice on priorities
- Request for Pre-applications issued
- Pre-applications submitted
- Relevancy review by the citrus industry panelists
- Applicants selected by the industry panel are invited to submit Full Applications
- Scientific Merit review by interdisciplinary scientific experts
- Both reviews integrated in ranking
- List of awards presented to Citrus Disease Subcommittee
- Awardee presentations and Subcommittee feedback

Evaluation Process

Pre-Proposals are assigned for review to at least 3 Industry relevancy panel members

Industry panel members will produce individual reviews of each Pre-proposal, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses.

These written reviews are used to begin panel discussions with other reviewers serving on the industry relevancy panel.

Through these discussions, panelists come to consensus on the final rating and ranking of pre-proposals.

- Pre-proposals to be invited to submit full proposals are determined

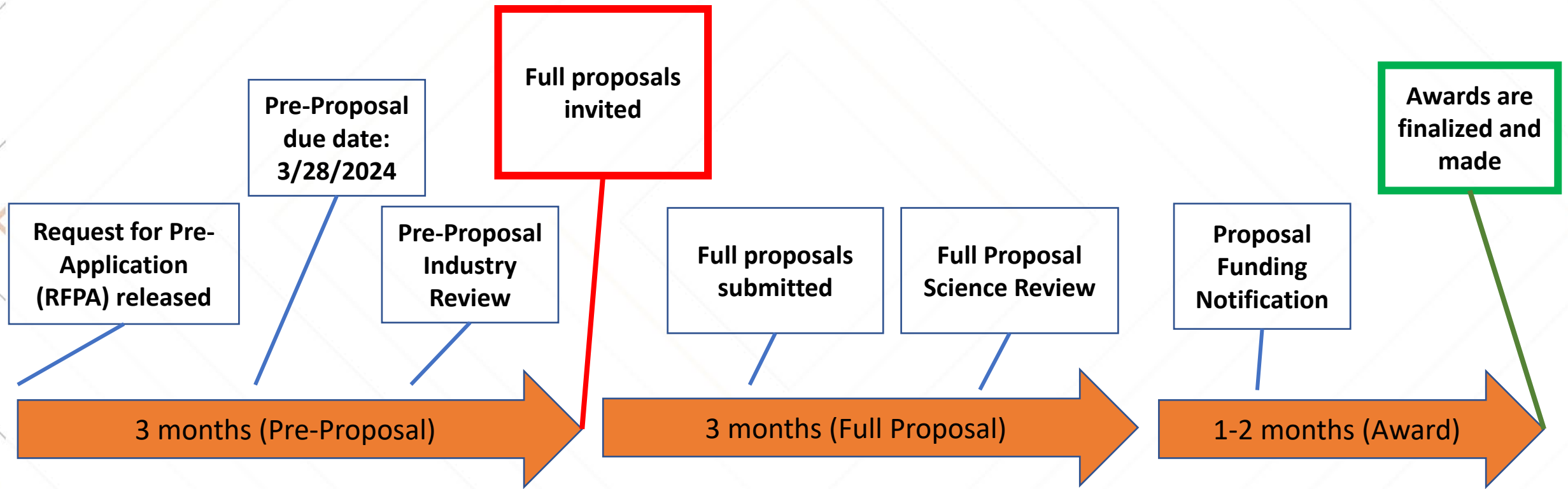
Review Criteria for Industry Relevance Review for all Projects

1. The issues/challenges addressed are relevant to the Citrus Disease Subcommittee (CDS) approved ranked research priorities.
2. The described research and extension approach will result in impacts/outcomes that are important to the target stakeholders.
3. Stakeholders are involved in identifying and developing project goals and objectives and will be involved during the project implementation.
4. Information developed by the project team will be delivered to stakeholders that will allow them to implement new and/or improved solutions to HLB by the end of project period.
5. Project team has members who have worked with the target stakeholders in the past and have experience with the described research and extension approach.

Successful ECDRE Pre-applications:

- Are targeted for a grower audience
- Easy to read and understand
- Are not duplicative with past HLB research
- Clear and feasible project objectives, timeline and deliverables
- Clearly show the participation of stakeholders in the development of the project goals and objectives
- Research results are useful and useable by project's end

Timeline of ECDRE





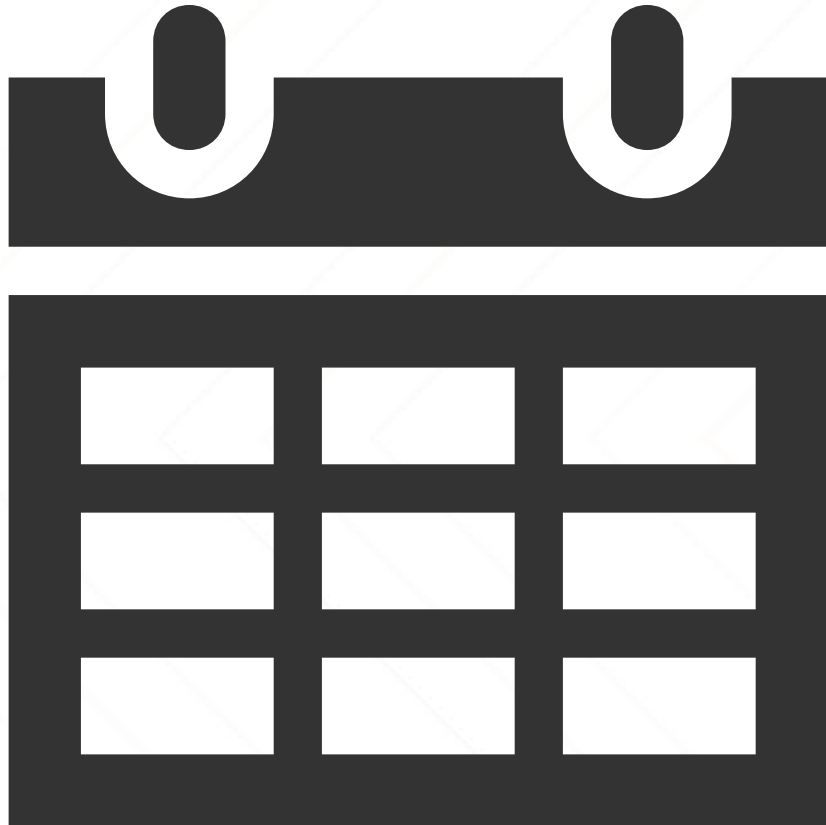
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



Use the Link Below to Find Recently Funded ECDRE Awards

<https://portal.nifa.usda.gov/enterprise-search/ss/1685>



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

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



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

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



Thank you!