



# Prioritizing Nutrition Security: NIFA Elevates Youth and Families



# NIFA Nutrition Security Team

## Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment (IBCE)

- Amber Campbell (Economic Recovery Team Liaison)
- Daniel (Patrick) Cassidy
- Hannah Moshay
- Eric Norland (Climate Team Liaison)
- Megan O'Rourke (Climate Team Liaison)

## Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition (IFSN)

- Mark Carter
- Helen Chipman
- Sheila Fleischhacker (Team Lead)
- Lisa Jahns
- Lydia Kaume
- Mallory Koenings
- Stephanie Morriss (Data Analyst, Web Liaison)
- Suzanne Stuka (DIE Team Liaison)
- Shoushan Zeng

## Office of the Director

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- Joshua Stull

## Institute of Food Production and Sustainability (IFPS)

- Amrit Bart
- Lelan Dixon
- Danielle Farley
- Vijay Nandula (Food Loss & Waste Liaison)
- Vance Owens
- Desiree Rucker
- Ann Stapleton

## Institute of Youth, Family, and Community (IYFC)

- Amber Gellert
- Cassandra Huey (Executive Secretary)
- Crystal Kale
- Irma Lawrence
- Erin Riley
- Ara Staab

## Office of Communications

- Giselle Caceres



# NIFA Nutrition Security Webinar Series – Webinar 1

## Focus: An Overview of Current NIFA Activities & Aims

### Speakers:

- Dr. Carrie Castille, Director's Welcome
- Dr. Helen Chipman, EFNEP
- Dr. Carinthia Cherry, EFNEP
- Dr. Mallory Koenings, GusNIP & AFRI 1344
- Dr. Lydia Kaume, CFP
- Dr. Lisa Jahns, FASLP
- Dr. Sheila Fleischhacker, Moderator
- Giselle Caceres, Communications Liaison



# NIFA Nutrition Security Relevant Programs

## Primary:

- Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
- Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP)
- Food and Agriculture Service-Learning Program (FASLP)
- Community Food Projects
- Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program, priority area, A1344 Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases

## Additional:

- AFRI priority areas A1641 Economics, Markets, and Trade & A1103 Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products
- Federally-Recognized Tribes Extension Program (FRTEP)
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program (HSI)
- Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Program
- Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)
- Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AgVets)
- Master Gardener, Master Health & Master Food Preserver Programs
- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
- 4-H Youth Development Program
- Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR)
- CYFAR 4-H Military Partnership Professional Development & Technical Assistance (CMPC-PDTA)
- 1890 Land-Grant Institution Programs
- National Center for Home Preservation
- New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE)
- Regional Rural Development
- Rural Health & Safety Education

# NIFA Elevates Youth and Families – Featured Programs

- **4 H and Positive Youth Development**
- **Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR)**
- **Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AgVets)**
- **New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE)**
- **Regional Rural Development Centers**
- **Rural Health & Safety Education Comprehensive Grants Program (RHSE)**



# NIFA Elevates Youth and Families – Panelists

- **Brent Elrod, MTL, National Science Liaison and Acting Division Director of Youth and 4-H**
- **Keith Harris, PhD, National Program Leader and Acting Division Director of Family and Consumer Sciences**
- **Keesha Corbin, MPH, Program Specialist, Division of Youth and 4-H**
- **Crystal Kyle, PhD, Biologist Science Specialist, Division of Family & Consumer Sciences**
- **Christopher Petty, MS, Program Specialist, Division of Youth and 4-H**
- **Jeff Sallee, PhD, National Program Leader, Division of Youth and 4-H**
- **Jessica Turner, PhD, Biological Science Specialist, Institute of Youth, Family, and Community**
- **Sydney Turner, BA, Program Specialist, Division of Family and Consumer Sciences**
- **Bonita Williams, PhD, National Program Leader, Division of Youth and 4-H**





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# **4-H and Positive Youth Development**

**Brent Elrod**

Acting Division Director, Youth and 4-H

National Science Liaison – 4-H and Community Development



**WE'RE GROWING!**



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[4-H Team | National Institute of Food and Agriculture](#)



**Division of Youth and 4-H Staff (L>R): Brent Elrod, Maurice Smith, Bonita Williams, Jeff Sallee, Christopher Petty, Keesha Corbin, Katherine Nace. Not pictured: Alyssa Engeman**





## So Why NIFA?

- Lead federal agency providing extramural funding for food and agricultural sciences
- Created through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.
- NIFA funding
  - 1.95B budget in FY2021
  - Competitive and capacity funds
- Mission
  - Agricultural research, education, and extension
- Vision
  - Catalyze transformative discoveries, education, and engagement to address agricultural challenges

Discovery

Translation

Innovation

Solution



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# NIFA Invests in Three Types of Activities





# Legislative Authority

## MORRILL ACTS, 1862 AND 1890

- The Morrill Act of 1862 created land-grant institutions so that working class citizens could have equal access to higher education with a focus on farming and mechanical skills. Subsequently the Morrill Act of 1890 established the 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions to address educational inequality among African Americans and Native Americans.

## SMITH-LEVER ACT OF 1914

- The 1914 Smith Lever Act Extension created a Cooperative Extension Service associated with each land-grant institution. This partnership between agricultural colleges and USDA enables the dissemination of information produced by the experiment stations' research.

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1994

- Prior to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, agencies that preceded NIFA were largely established as a result of Executive Orders or directives from the Secretary of Agriculture.
- The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 merged the former Cooperative State Research Service and the former Extension Service into a single agency — the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service. The merger made a single agency responsible for allocating funds and providing leadership of research, education and extension.



# Program Funding

## CAPACITY

NIFA capacity funding to Land Grant Universities (LGUs) supports 4-H at the state and local level. Dollar amounts vary.

## COMPETITIVE

Competitive award programs also provide funding for 4-H including:

- [Children, Youth, Families at Risk](#) (CYFAR) – \$8.4M
- [Agriculture and Food Research Initiative](#) (AFRI)
  - Food and Ag. Non-Formal Education (FANE) - \$7.3M
- AFRI COVID-19 Rapid Response
  - [4-H At Home](#) - \$3.1M
- New Technologies for Agricultural Extension
  - [4-H Pathways](#) - \$150K

## INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS

The Department of Defense, Air Force, Navy, and Army provided \$3.2 M in FY21 for:

- [4-H Military Partnership](#)
- [Military Teen Adventure Camps](#)
- [Project Youth Extension Service \(YES\)](#)



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# 4-H and Positive Youth Development: A continual partner in nutrition security



**Jeff Sallee, PhD**  
**National Program Leader**  
**Division of Youth and 4-H**



**Christopher Petty, MS**  
**Program Specialist**  
**Division of Youth and 4-H**

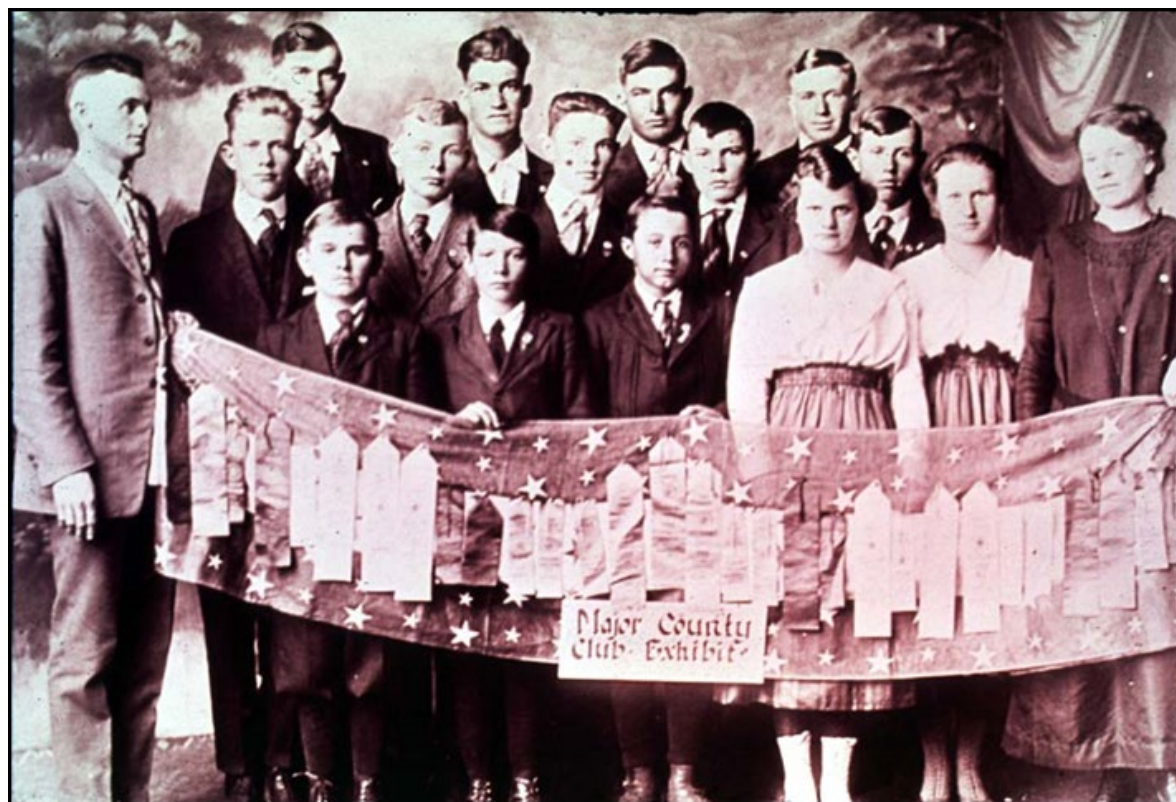


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## 4-H: An American Tradition



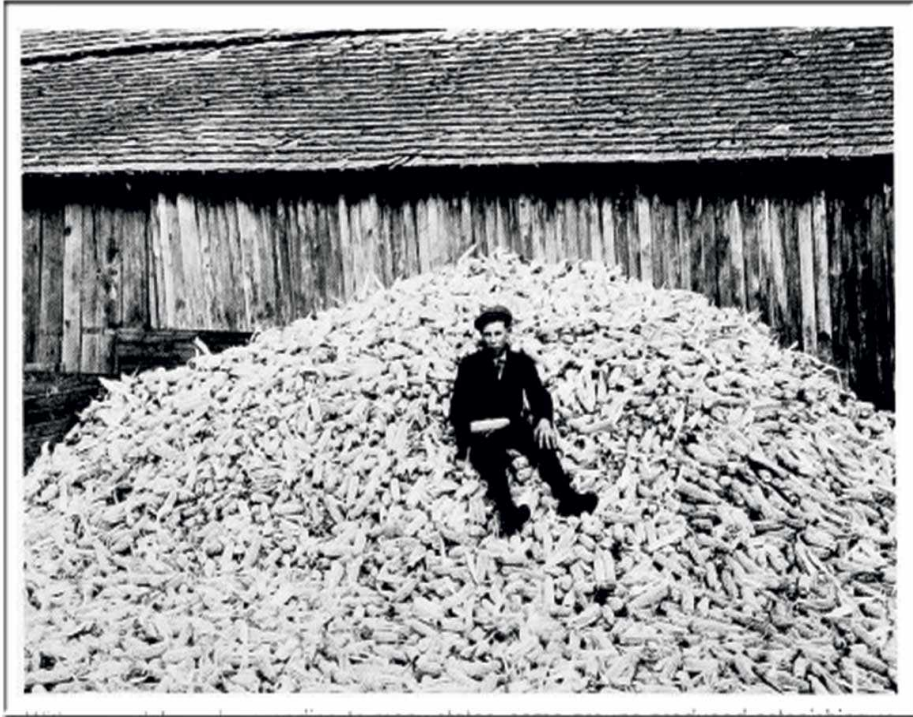


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## First Meeting 1902





**4-H CANNING**  
*for Good Nutrition*







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**A CALL TO 4-H COLORS**  
★ ENLIST IN THE  BRIGADE ★



**FOOD IS AMMUNITION**

America calls you... boys and girls of 10 to 21 years. Join the 4-H ranks. Through your 4-H Club projects you will be on the front line of every battle.



Do your part by enlisting in a 4-H wartime project. See or write your local 4-H leader, county extension agent or State Agricultural College.

★ **TWO MILLION** ★  
★ **OR MORE BY '44** ★  
★ **TO HELP AMERICA WIN THE WAR** ★



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# 4-H and Youth Development Continues to support nutrition security with traditional projects like crops, horticulture, and livestock, and a focus on science, technology engineering, and math (STEM)





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**4-H can support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in food production through a variety of avenues such as urban gardens, farmers markets, greenhouses, traditional / culturally relevant food production methods, etc.**





**4-H and Positive Youth Development can continue to be on the forefront of advancing agricultural production.**

**Newer and emerging technologies like unmanned aerial aircraft, AI, and virtual reality may have the potential to unlock the future of nutrition security...as well as a new generation of food and agricultural scientists!**





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## 4-H Youth is 'Making a Difference' One Community Food Pantry at a Time



<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2018/04/18/4-h-youth-making-difference-one-community-food-pantry-time>



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## Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR)

**Bonita Williams, PhD**  
**National Program Leader**  
**Division of Youth and 4-H**

**Keesha Corbin, MPH**  
**Program Specialist**  
**Division of Youth and 4-H**



# Legislative Program Authority

- **Funding for the Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk (CYFAR) Sustainable Community Projects (SCP) is authorized under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended (7 U.S.C. 341, et seq.). Section 7609 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334) added the 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (as defined in section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note) as eligible to compete for and receive CYFAR funding. Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 amended section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 (7 U.S.C. 343(d)) in regards to eligibility.**
- **The eligibility to compete for CYFAR funding was broadened to include 1890 Land Grant Colleges and Universities, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University, and Central State University. Eligibility was also provided to the University of the District of Columbia per Section 208 of the District of Columbia Public Postsecondary Education Reorganization Act.**



## Program Funding Cycle

- Total Available Funds-\$8.4M
- Individual Award Size-\$660,000/\$1.2M
- Eligibility-1862, 1890 and 1994 Land-grant Institutions/Extension Programs
- Success Rate-19%

# Program Goals

**The mission of the CYFAR program is to marshal resources of the Land-Grant and Cooperative Extension Systems so that, in collaboration with other organizations, they can develop and deliver educational programs that equip youth who are at-risk for not meeting basic human needs with the skills they need to lead positive, productive, and contributing lives.**



# CYFAR Philosophy

**The CYFAR philosophy is the basis for Sustainable Community Projects. The purpose of SCP funding is to improve the quality and quantity of comprehensive community-based programs for at-risk children, youth, and families supported by the Cooperative Extension System.**



# National Outcomes

- **Early Childhood**
  - Children will have their basic physical, emotional and intellectual needs met. Babies will be born healthy.
- **School Age (K-8)**
  - School age youth will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior necessary for fulfilling contributing lives.



# National Outcomes

## Teen

Teens will demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behavior necessary for fulfilling contributing lives.

## Parent/Family

Parents will take primary responsibility for meeting their children's physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs and providing moral guidance and direction. Families will promote positive, productive, and contributing lives for all family members.





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**CYFAR**

Children, Youth, and Families At-Risk

# Common Measures

- Measures Completed Using Pre/Post Design
- In English and Spanish
- Program Quality
- Life Skills
- Resilience
- Participation
- Engagement



## Outcome Examples



Teens increased decision-making skills and critical thinking skills in all cohorts.



Self-efficacy around healthy eating; and family support for learning. Most of the students have positive future and academic goals.



Data from both quantitative and qualitative analysis showed positive results on life skills (decision making, critical thinking, and workforce preparation) and attitudes towards STEM.



## Outcome Examples



Show increases in nutrition knowledge, self-reported frequency of healthy eating behaviors (such as choosing a healthy snack and eating breakfast), improvements in physical activity knowledge and behaviors, and increased food preparation confidence for both the youth and their parents.



The program increased parents and guardians' knowledge and skills of how to teach children to read, as well as their attitude towards reading.



2,400 4-H clubs have been started through the CYFAR program

# Success Story

**Program Report:** The Nebraska CYFAR program titled Youth Arise is an engaging and innovative learning program using evidence-based curricula with gamification, online simulations, and design and incorporating experiential learning opportunities such as traveling (or a virtual visit) to the State Capitol and meeting with legislators.

Youth Arise offers civics, entrepreneurship, and leadership education to at-risk youth in two of the highest-poverty communities with large racial and ethnic minority populations in Nebraska

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“I am impressed to see that middle school students have many issues that they care about, and they want to make a change in their community.”

- School Teacher

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**Outcomes:** This project uses a mixed-methods longitudinal panel design to measure program outcomes at baseline and follow-up assessments. Focus group interviews will be conducted at the end of Year 2. Data are currently collected from sites and will show the increased civic knowledge and skills, attitude, and behavioral engagement of the youth participants.



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**For more information, please check out the USDA-  
NIFA Division of Youth and 4-H website at:**

**<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/4-h-positive-youth-development>**



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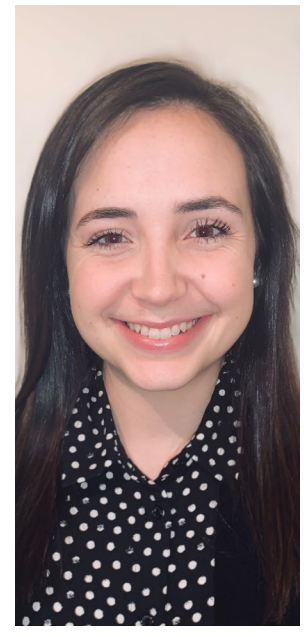
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## **Division of Family and Consumer Sciences Programs**

**Keith Harris, PhD**

**Acting Division Director**

**National Program Leader**



## Division of Family and Consumer Sciences Staff



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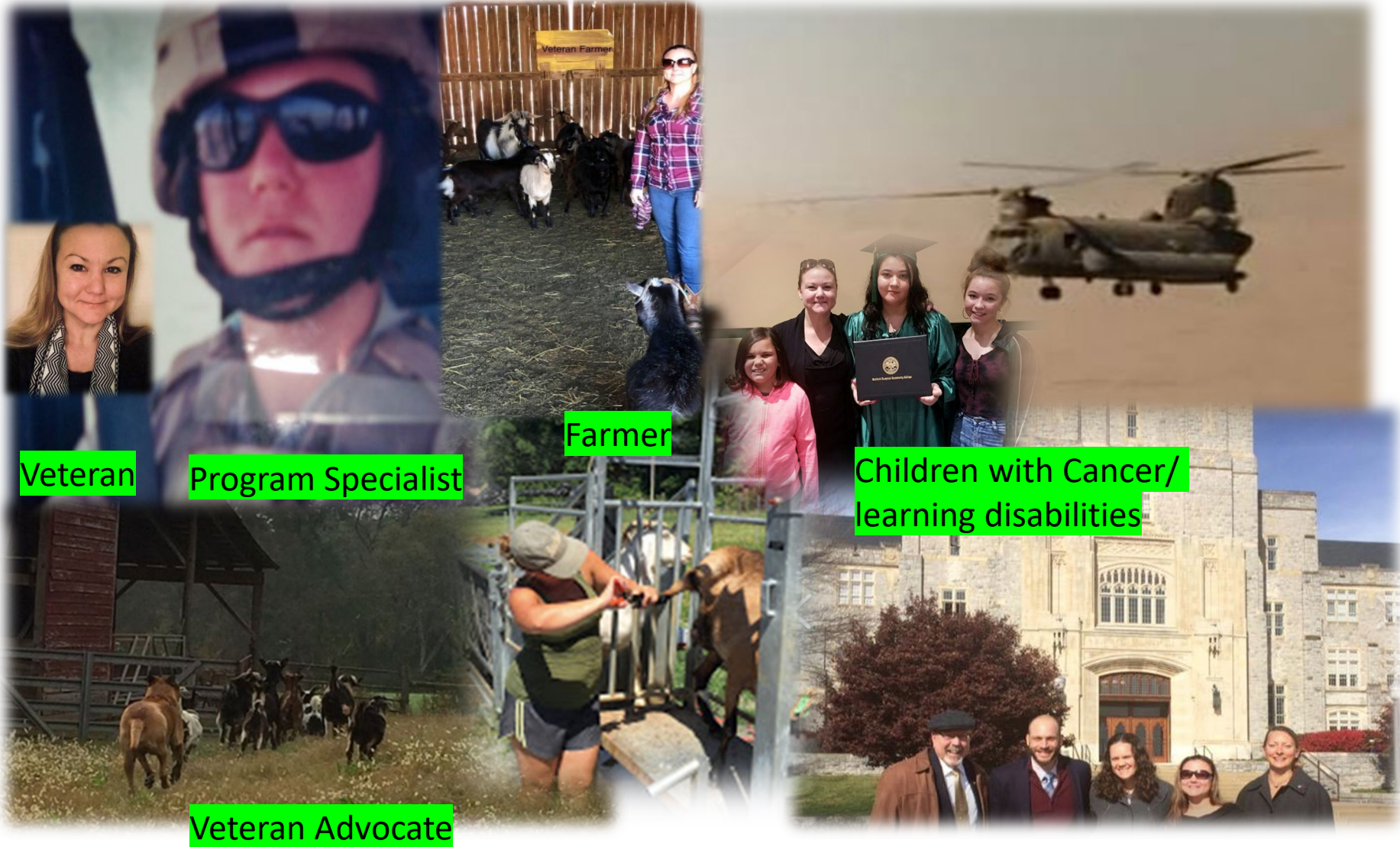
## **Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Military Veterans (AgVets)**

**Crystal Kyle, PhD**

**Biological Science Specialist**

**Division of Family & Consumer Sciences**

# Who AM I ? Dr. SGT. Mom. Crystal Kyle



Veteran

Program Specialist

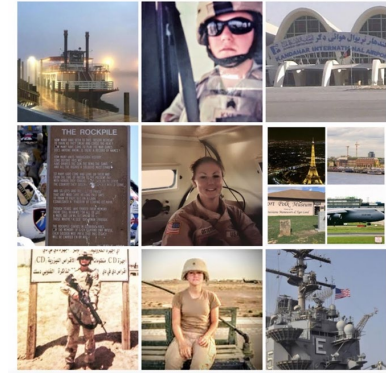
Farmer

Children with Cancer/  
learning disabilities

Veteran Advocate

# My Service

- C/159<sup>th</sup> and 3/82<sup>nd</sup>
- Fort Bragg, NC
  - Avionics and Electrician
  - Test Crew/Flight Crew
  - Disaster and Recovery
  - Biloxi MS, Germany, Paris, Ireland, Kuwait, Arizona
  - NTC
  - Pentagon
  - Afghanistan
  - Iraq







# Roles



- **NC AgrAbility Director**
  - **USDA/NIFA Funded Project that assist Mentally and Physically Challenged Farmers**
- **NC Agromedicine Institute Coordinator**
  - **Research Military Veteran's Mental and Physical Health that are involved in Agriculture**
- **NC Cooperative Extension**
- **USDA/NIFA Biological Scientist**
- **National Council for Behavioral Health Mental Health**
- **First Aider**
- **Suicide Prevention**
  - **A Strategic Planning Approach to Suicide**
  - **Counseling on Access to Lethal Means**



# Problem



- **A large number of military members come from rural backgrounds**
- **Veterans need employment**
- **As many farmers age out, veterans can contribute to food security and national security**
- **Many veterans are drawn to agriculture, but need education in this sector**
- **Research shows veterans respond to similar settings such as national security (nutrition security)**



# Agricultural Identity Formation

***New Farmer Veteran Identity** “What’s more important than keeping our nation safe. That includes food security. I can use all my training in a new way. It is still comfortable, and I am trained to do it! Now I’m healing by keeping others healthy and fed. We don’t have to rely on other countries. National Security...”*

***New Farmer Identity** “I think for me this program has helped me change from that of a military personnel to that of a farmer. My mission changed from the mission of protecting my position of danger to the mission of service through growing food and harvesting food for others.”*



S.A.V.E Farm

## Background

Legislation - Section 748 of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 provides funds to NIFA for a pilot program to provide grants to nonprofit organizations for programs and services to establish and enhance farming and ranching opportunities for military veterans.



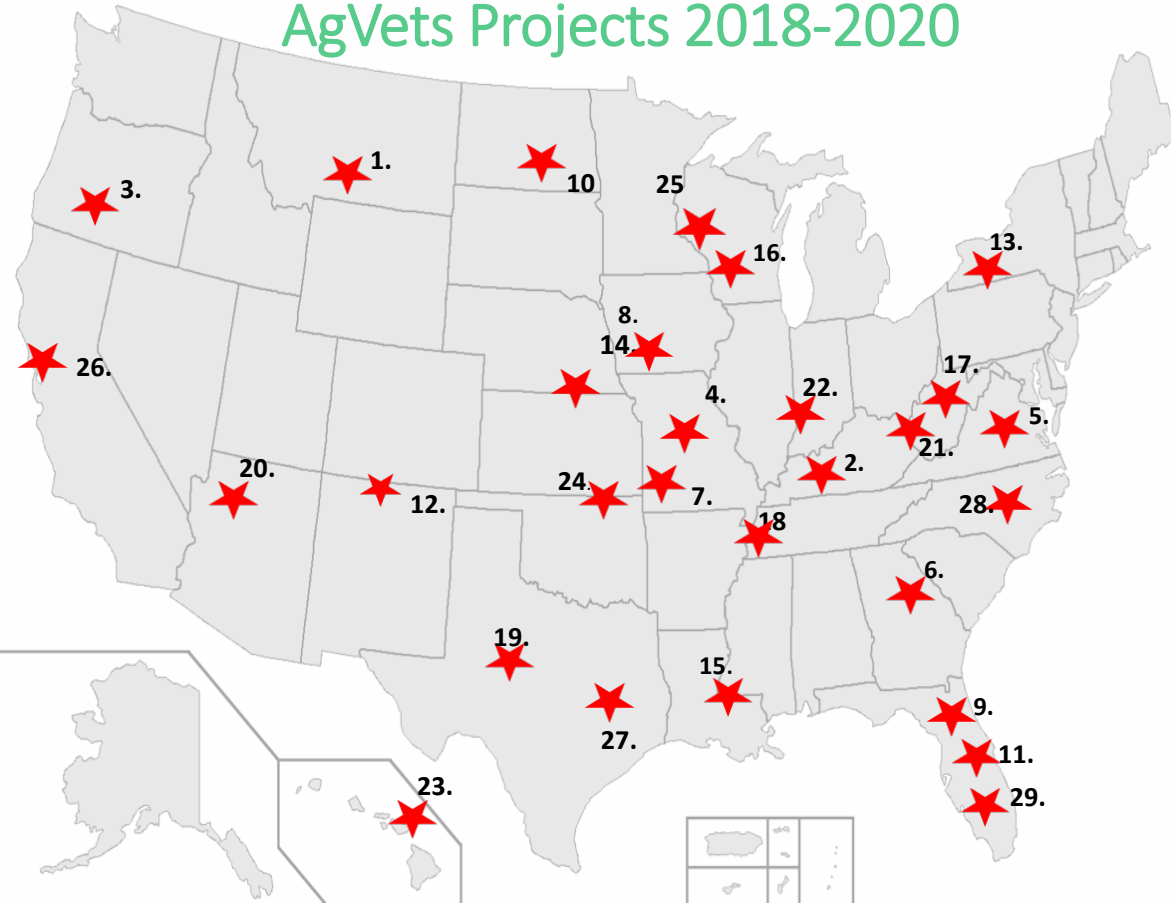
# Introduction

**AgVets seeks to increase the number of military veterans pursuing knowledge and skills development through comprehensive, hands-on and immersive model farm/ranch programs offered locally or regionally that lead to successful careers in the food and agricultural sector. This does not fund individual farmers.**

**AgVets is aligned with the USDA Strategic Goal 4:  
Facilitate Rural Prosperity and Economic Development**



# AgVets Projects 2018-2020



## 2020

1. Armed to Farm: Butte, MT
2. Connecting Kentucky Veterans to Agriculture Opportunities Elizabethtown, KY
3. Rogue Farm Corp: Ashland, OR
4. Enhancing Agricultural Opportunities for Ozarks Farmer Veterans: Springfield, MO
5. Arcadia: Veteran Farmer Training and Incubation: Alexandria, VA
6. Ag Tech Success: Milledgeville, GA
7. We Are All Related: St. Louis, MO
8. Connecting Veterans to Agri-food System Opportunities: Ames, IA
9. Veterans Florida Agriculture Program Tallahassee, FL
10. Turtle Mountain AgVets: Belcourt, ND
11. North South Institute: Incubator Farm Davie, Florida
12. Not Forgotten Outreach: Taos, NM
13. Farm Ops: Advancing Agriculture Opportunities in NY: Ithaca, NY
14. Center For Rural Affairs: Lyons, NE
15. Growing Local: New Orleans, LA
16. Equipping Veterans for Pathways to Employment in the Farm-to-Table Agribusiness Continuum in Southeastern Milwaukee, WI
17. Operation Welcome Home: Morgantown, WV

## 2019

18. Veterans Employed in Technology and Service in Agriculture: Memphis, TN
19. Farming Education And Training: Flat, TX
20. Veterans Agricultural Education and Apprenticeship Program: Flagstaff, AZ
21. Patriot Gardens: Charleston, WV
22. Indiana Ag Vets: W Lafayette, IN
23. Go Farm Hawaii: Growing Veterans: Hilo, HI

## 2018

24. Servicemember Agriculture Vocation Education Farm: Manhattan, KS
25. Creating a Dairy Apprenticeship: Medford, WI
26. Farmer Veteran Coalition: Davis, CA
27. Hope Farms: Houston, TX
28. Veterans Employment Base Camp and Organic Garden, New Bern, NC
29. North-South Institute: Davie, FL





# FY 2021

- **Proposals Due March 23, 2021**
- **\$4,850,000**
  - **0-\$250,000 per proposal**
- **No Match Requirement**
- **AgVets Applicants must be nonprofit organizations**
  - **(a) Is operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest;**
  - **(b) Is not organized primarily for profit; and**
  - **(c) Uses net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization**





# For more information

- <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/enhancing-agricultural-opportunities-military-veterans-agvets>
- [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov)
- <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/enhancing-agricultural-opportunities-military-veterans>

# AgVets Team

**Brent Elrod, National Program Leader**  
**[richard.elrod@usda.gov](mailto:richard.elrod@usda.gov)**

**Crystal Kyle, Program Specialist**  
**[crystal.kyle@usda.gov](mailto:crystal.kyle@usda.gov)**



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# **New Technologies for Ag Extension (NTAE)**

**Sydney Turner**

**Program Specialist**

**Division of Family & Consumer Sciences**

Program Page: <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/new-technologies-ag-extension>

Past Funding Opportunity: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/new-technologies-ag-extension-ntae>



# Legislative Authority Program

Funding for NTAE is authorized under section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended ([7 U.S.C. 341, et seq\(link is external\)](#)). Section 7403 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act (FCEA) of 2008 amends section 3(d) of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914 ([7 U.S.C. 343\(d\)\(link is external\)](#)) regarding eligibility.





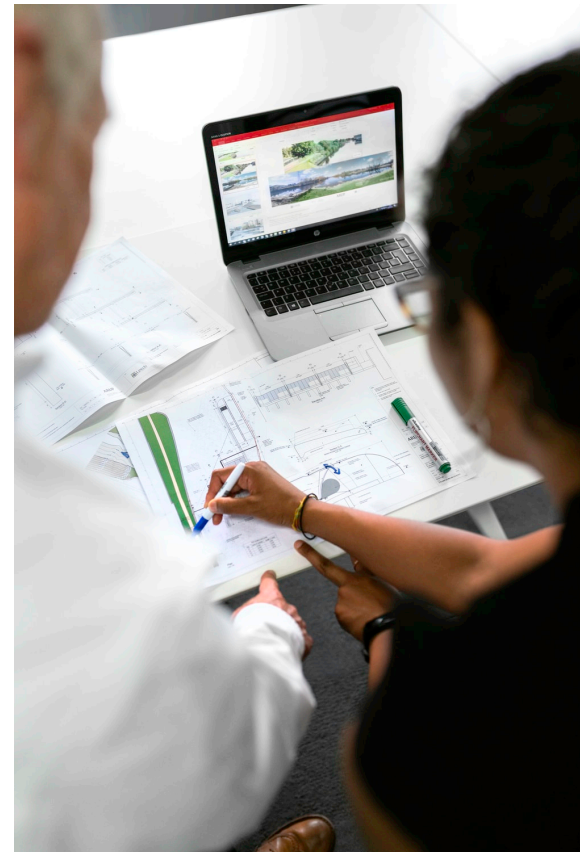
# Program Funding Cycle

- **FY21 Total Available Funds: \$3,408,000**
- **Individual Award Size: \$3,408,000**
- **Eligibility: The eligibility to compete for NTAE funding includes 1862 land-grant institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University. Eligibility is also provided to the University of the District of Columbia.**
- **Success Rate: ~25%**



# Program Goals

**The purpose of the New Technologies for Ag Extension Program (NTAE) is to increase the capacity of the Cooperative Extension System (CES) to adopt new and innovative technology applications for delivering science-based educational resources from land-grant and other partner institutions about matters of high importance to the general public.**





## Nutrition / Food Safety / Food Security Example

\$175K / University of Georgia/Tracey Brigman

- The [National Center for Home Food Preservation \(NCHFP\)](#) was established with NIFA funding to address food safety concerns for those who practice and teach home food preservation and processing methods.
- The pandemic highlighted the need for coordinated information and strong research in this area, as many Americans found themselves in the midst of supply chain shortages and began to focus on safely growing, canning, and preserving their own food.
- The NCHFP's research enables Extension professionals across the country to provide unified science-based consumer guidance for adults and youth, with timely, evidence-based resources.
- The Extension Foundation has a long history of promoting food safety and security.



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## **Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDC)**

**Keith Harris, PhD**

**National Program Leader**

**Acting Division Director**

**Division of Family and Consumer Sciences**

**Jessica Turner, PhD**

**Biological Science Specialist**


**Division of Family & Consumer Sciences**



# RRRDC

## Regional Rural Development Centers

### Legislative Authority

- Funds are provided for ongoing support to the Regional Rural Development Center Program. This work is overseen by NIFA's Division of Family & Consumer Sciences in the Institute of Youth, Family, and Community.
  - The Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDCs), Assistance Listing 10.303, are authorized using authority under 7 U.S.C. 3157(c) and 7 U.S.C. 2204a as amended.
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# Program Purpose

**The purpose of RRDCs are to promote excellence in research, education, and extension essential to assist and support rural development in the United States on a regional and national level and to facilitate coordination and cooperation of research, extension, and education among states.**



Jess Turner USDA NIFA, Rural West Virginia 1988

# Program Goals and Objectives

Goal: To provide ongoing support to the Regional Rural Development Center (RRDC) Program.

Objectives:

- 1) To coordinate rural development research, education and Extension programs cooperatively with land-grant institutions on a regional and national basis; and
- 2) To develop and provide knowledge essential to assist rural development; and
- 3) To bring a scientific lens and skilled personnel to critical rural development issues and practices.



Creating Resilient  
Communities



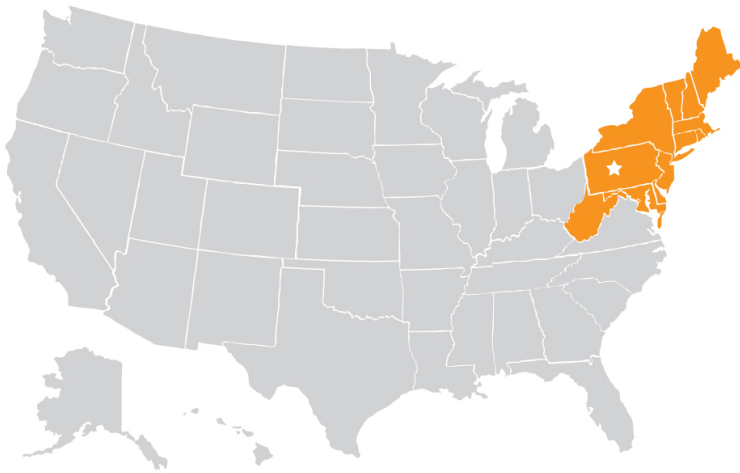
Developing  
Leadership & Civic  
Engagement



Promoting  
Community Health &  
Wellness

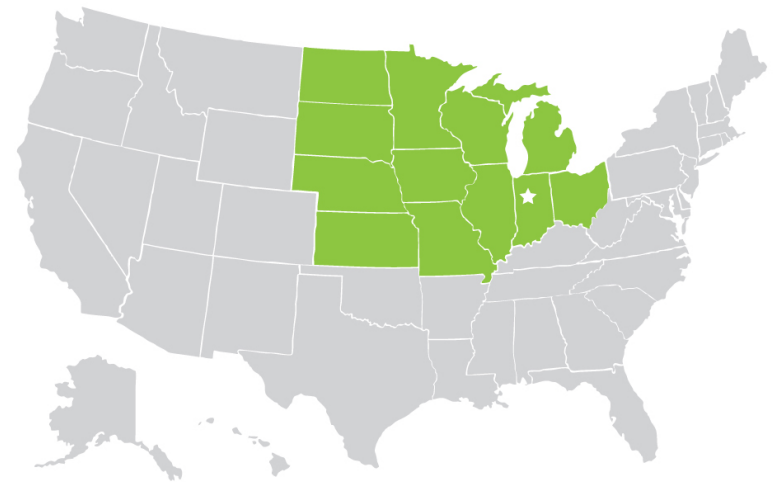


# RRDC's Role in Rural America



## Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development

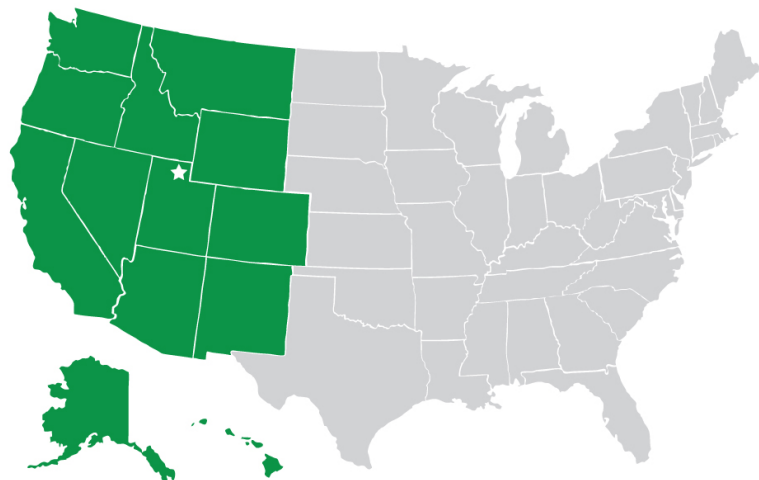
- Hosted by Pennsylvania State University
- Director: Stephan Goetz
- Serving Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia



## North Central Regional Center for Rural Development

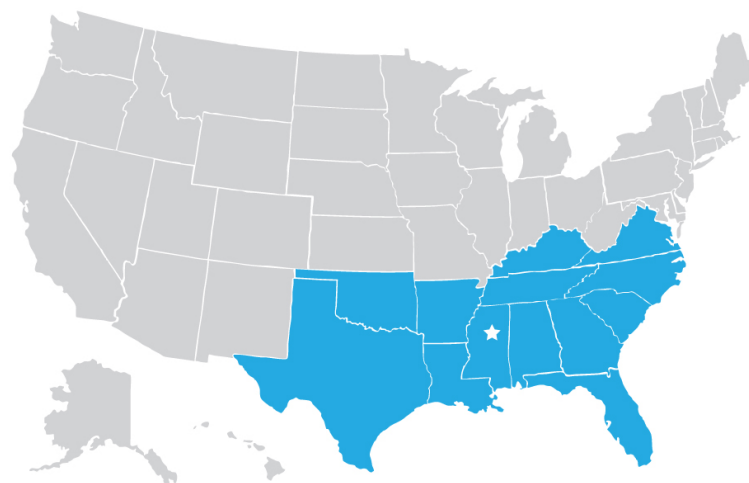
- Hosted by Purdue University
- Director: Maria Marshall
- Serving Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin

# RRDC's Role in Rural America



## Western Rural Development Center

- Hosted by Utah State University
- Director: Don E. Albrecht
- Serving Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, Guam, Micronesia, and Northern Marianas



## Southern Rural Development Center

- Hosted by Mississippi State University
- Director: Steven Turner
- Serving Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and USVI

# FY21 Program Funding Cycle

- **FY21 Total Funds: \$1,978,997**
- **Individual Award Size: ~\$495,000**
- **Eligibility: This is a non-competitive award based upon the legislative authority**





## Advancing the Economic Health of Rural America - *Program Partnerships*



- **Economic Development Research**

The RRDCs partner on research projects aimed at helping policy makers better understand and address rural America's economic development problems

- **Create Bridges**

Pilot program centered on strengthening retail, accommodations, tourism, and entertainment industries which have been notably impacted by COVID-19 and often make up a large portion of the jobs and businesses that drive rural economies.

- **Rural Workforce Development**

Rural Online Initiative (Utah State University Extension), Rural Workforce Engagement Model (REWM), Cooperative Extension





## Advancing the Economic Health of Rural America - *Program Partnerships*



- **Stronger Together (SET)**

Seven-year partnership between the RRDCs and USDA Rural Development resulted in over 100 rural regional collaborations. Guiding rural counties through a process of co-creating strategies rather than competing resulted in their ability to leverage \$200 for every \$1 of USDA RD resources invested.

- **Rural Broadband Access**

National Digital Education Extension Team is diligent in fostering rural broadband access and use through four working groups (policy, access, and adoption/utilization).

- **National Extension Tourism (NET) network**

The RRDCs have partnered with the National Extension Tourism (NET) network, which serves as a vehicle for members of Cooperative Extension Service, Sea Grant, and partner organizations to collaborate and share tourism-related research, education, and outreach programming across the U.S.





## Collaborative Positive Impact:

*Research & Professional Development  
Partnerships*

Each of the RRDCs is  
Building the Scientific  
Knowledge Base to  
underpin Education and  
Extension Programs in Rural  
and Community  
Development.



Jess Turner USDA NIFA, Rural West Virginia 2007

## Collaborative Positive Impact:

### *Research Partnership Examples*

- **Health and Food Security Research**
- **Measuring and Understanding  
Rurality and Rural Diversity**
- **Understanding Community-led  
Change and Economic  
Development**
- **Land-use Research and Policy  
Issues**
- **Fiscal Crises Facing State  
Governments**



## Collaborative Positive Impact:

*Professional Development  
Partnership Examples*

- **Core to advanced Community and Economic Development Skills**
- **Native American Business Owners and E-Commerce**
- **Bridging the Digital Divide for Businesses, Local Governments, and Nonprofits**





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# **Rural Health & Safety Education (RHSE)**

**Sydney Turner**

**Program Specialist**

**Division of Family & Consumer Sciences**

Program Page: <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/rural-health-and-safety>

Past Funding Opportunity: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/rural-health-and-safety-education-competitive-grants-program-rhse>



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## Legislative Authority Program

The authority for the Rural Health and Safety Education Program (RHSE) Competitive Grant Program is under [Section 502 \(i\) of Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972](#), as amended ([7 U.S.C. 2662\(i\)](#))





## Program Funding Cycle

- **FY21 Total Available Funds: \$4M**
- **Individual Award Size: Maximum \$350,00**
- **Eligibility: 1862, 1890 and 1994 land-grant institutions. Award recipients may subcontract to institutions and organizations not eligible to apply as leads, provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project.**
- **FY21 Success Rate: 54.5%**





# Program Goals

**Foster quality of life and empower rural residents to make informed decisions by providing individuals and families with information about leading healthy lifestyles through research-based educational programs and approaches implemented in an Extension delivery model**

- **Primary focus is opioid prevention and reduction through a range of educational programs and approaches focused on pain management**
- **Other areas include but not limited to youth life skills development, strengthening families, health provider training, producer/farm mental health, community capacity-building, substance abuse**



## RHSE Funding Nutrition Examples

**Title:** Community-Informed Capacity Bridging to Increase Access to Health Education in Rural Areas Via Telehealth

**Abstract:** Health disparities for those living in Californian rural communities mirror nationwide trends and include disproportionate rates of food-related health issues such as food insecurity and malnutrition. These disparities extend to young children living in rural communities and prime rural residence for higher risk of morbidity during COVID-19. Many of these disparities stem from structural factors, such as limited access to health care providers and timely and reliable health information. The disparities are even more pronounced for Latino and Native American (NA) populations living in rural communities. Access to specialized services, such as dietitians and health education, is limited in rural communities. Increased access to these services can help mitigate disparities by enabling individuals to take control of their health. The current proposal aims to address access to health education by bridging existing community resources (Cooperative Extension programming and community and Tribal Health partners) to leverage their capacity to deliver relevant food-related health education to underserved audiences through telehealth. The project has three primary objectives: 1) Use a community participatory process to adapt EFNEP educational materials to involve native culture and perspectives; 2) Adapt the delivery model of existing EFNEP materials from in-person to telehealth and explore feasibility and acceptability in rural NA and Latino communities; 3) Explore the appropriateness of adopting a clinician-initiated referral model that has been successfully implemented in urban areas, to increase preventive care capacity in rural areas. The project will inform a model to strengthen the capacity of rural communities to better address food-related health disparities.





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**Questions?**



# Key Takeaways

**Youth and families play such an important role in prioritizing nutrition security!**

**You're a part of prioritizing nutrition security!**



**Ending the  
Pandemic**



**Respondin  
g to the  
Economic  
Downturn**



**Addressing  
the  
Hunger  
and Food  
Insecurity  
Crisis**



**Centering  
Climate in  
Agriculture,  
Food, and  
Forestry**



**Building  
Back  
Better for  
Rural  
Economies**



**Advancing  
Racial  
Equity**

# Prioritizing Nutrition Security: Emerging Approaches

**Date: Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 3 to 4:30 PM EST**

## **Panelists:**

- **Dariush Mozaffarian, MD, DrPH, Dean, Friedman School of Nutrition Science & Policy, Tufts University**
- **Emily Engelhard, MA, Managing Director of Thought Leadership in Research, Feeding America**
- **Los Angeles County Public Health Nutrition & Physical Activity Program Team**
  - Julia Caldwell, PhD, MPH, Chief Research Analyst
  - Dipa Shah-Patel, MPH, RD, Director
  - Kelly Warner, MPH, RD, Program Manager
- **Angela Odoms-Young, PhD, Associate Professor, Cornell University**



# NIFA Nutrition Security Webinar Series Questions – [Sheila.Fleischhacker@usda.gov](mailto:Sheila.Fleischhacker@usda.gov)

