



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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USDA NIFA

NIFA Funding and Public Facing Dashboards

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Topics Covered



NIFA Program Funding



Award Information- Policy



Common Questions & Findings



Funding Dashboards

NIFA Program Funding



NIFA Program Funding

Each of the funding sources are listed on the Executive Summary Dashboard with their respective Assistance Listing.

- Assistance listings are detailed public descriptions of federal programs that provide grants, loans, scholarships, insurance, and other types of assistance awards. Available to the public these listings outline program attributes including program authorization, program purpose, eligible entities, match requirements etc..



NIFA Program Funding: Example

Evans-Allen 1890 Research Capacity Grants

Authorizations: 7 U.S.C. 3222. Evans-Allen funds are allocated according to a statutory formula for agricultural research at the 1890 land-grant institutions, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University and Central State University (per Section 7129 of Pub. L. 113-79).

Purpose (Objectives/Use): Funds appropriated under this section shall be used for expenses of conducting agricultural research, printing, disseminating the results of such research, contributing to the retirement of employees subject to the provisions of section 331 of this title, administrative planning and direction, and purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of buildings necessary for conducting agricultural research.

Match (Formula and Matching Requirements)-A non-federal match of 100 percent is required, although the Secretary may waive the match above 50 percent if an institution demonstrates that it is unable to meet that requirement.

NIFA Program Funding: Example

Hatch Act Capacity Grants

Authorizations: 7 U.S.C. 361 et seq. The Hatch Program allocates federal funds on the basis of a statutory formula to the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas of Puerto Rico, Guam, Virgin Islands, Micronesia, American Samoa, and Northern Marianas Islands. Approximately 25 percent of these funds also are awarded for the Hatch Multistate Research Fund as a separate allocation and on a formula basis. This additional funding is to support Multistate Research Fund Projects selected through a scientific peer-review process. The States are required to spend a certain amount on integrated activities.

Purpose (Objectives/Use): To assist State Agricultural Experiment Stations, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Insular areas in conducting agricultural research programs. These activities are broad and include research on all aspects of agriculture, including soil and water conservation and use; plant and animal production, protection, and health; processing, distribution, safety, marketing, and utilization of food and agricultural products; forestry, including range management and range products; multiple use of forest rangelands, and urban forestry; aquaculture; home economics and family life; human nutrition; rural and community development; sustainable agriculture; molecular biology; and biotechnology. Research may be conducted on problems of local, state, regional, or national concern.

Match (Formula and Matching Requirements): A 100 percent non-federal match is required for all recipients except for the District of Columbia and Insular Area institutions, which are required to provide a 50 percent non-federal match.



Authorized Representative

The AR is a government-wide term, is the designated representative of the grantee organization in matters related to the award and administration of its NIFA grants.

The AR:

- Submits proposals on behalf of the institution;
- Receives and accepts awards;
- Commits the awardee's time and other resources to the project;
- Commits the awardee to comply with the terms and conditions of the award instrument;
- Submits post-award actions; and
- Otherwise acts on behalf of the awardee institution.

For most Capacity Funding authorizations there is reference to a Director or Treasurer etc. that is the responsible party to ensure that the federal funds allocated for the programming is spent in accordance with the authorizing language and all other regulation and policy requirements. Most authorizing legislation for competitive programming does not provide any specifics on this designated individual. More information on the role of the Authorized Representative can be found in the NIFA Federal Financial Assistance Policy Guide.

Award Information-Policy



NIFA Policy Guide

- The NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide (i.e., the Policy Guide) describes the statutory and regulatory responsibilities of NIFA federally-funded recipients.
- The Policy Guide is the central source of NIFA's administrative guidance for recipients of NIFA grants and partners in cooperative agreements.
- Other policy guidance documents are linked throughout the Policy Guide, when applicable.
- The Policy Guide is available online at: <https://nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide>.
- Email questions/comments to: PolicyGuide@usda.gov.



NIFA Federal Assistance Terms & Conditions

- **Agency-Specific Research**
 - [January 2024 \(Update\)](#)
 - Updates expected 4th quarter 2024
- **Capacity Terms and Conditions**
 - [May 2023 \(update\)](#)
 - Update expected Summer 2024 (similar changes to Research)
- **Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR)**
 - [January 2023 \(update\)](#)
 - Anticipate Summer 2024 Update Soon (in clearance)
- **1890s Facilities**
 - [May 2022 \(update\)](#)
 - Update expected Summer 2024 (in clearance)
- **NEW: General Facilities**
 - April 2024



OMB Updates to 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance

- Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, also known as the “Uniform Guidance”, consists of Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards
- OMB released an update to the Uniform Guidance in May 2024
- Highlights:
 - Reducing overall burden for grant recipients
 - Plain language revisions to improve clarity, consistency, and accessibility
 - The de minimis indirect cost rate will increase from 10% to 15%
 - Increased threshold triggers for certain administrative requirements
 - Changes must be implemented by October 1, 2024



Allowable Costs

- Costs must be examined within the scope of:
 - Program authorizing legislation
 - NIFA policy
 - Award terms and conditions
 - Uniform Guidance cost principles
 - Internal organizational policy
 - Project plan
- Allowable costs must be:
 - Reasonable
 - Necessary
 - Allocable



2 CFR 200 Subpart E – Cost Principles

- Determine the allowable costs incurred by grant recipients
- Establish standards for the allowability of costs
- Provide detailed guidance on the cost accounting treatment of costs as direct or indirect costs
- Set forth allowability and allocability principles for selected items of cost



Matching or Cost Sharing

- Portion of funds not paid by Federal funds or contributions
- Authorizing legislation governs matching requirements
- Matching and cost sharing requirements will be identified in the RFA
- Matching requirements are covered in the Uniform Guidance, 2 CFR 200.306

Waiver of Matching Requirements

- Letter from Authorized Representative
- Institution, program, award information
- Efforts to meet future match
- Reason for Request
- Supporting documentation



No-Cost Extension

- One-time no-cost extension of time, for up to 12 months, to complete an award if additional work and resources remain
- Subsequent no-cost extension to time requires detailed justification and written prior approval



Capacity Program Reference Chart

Program	Period of Performance	Carryover Provision	Match	Match Waiver
Ag Extension Section 1444	5 Years	100% for up to 1 year	100%	Up to 50%*
Ag Research Evans-Allen Section 1445	2 Years	100% for up to 1 year	100%	Up to 50%*
Animal Health Disease Research	2 Years	100% for up to 1 year	100% of amounts over \$100,000	No waiver
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)	5 Years	100% for up to 5 year	Not applicable	Not applicable
Hatch Act Regular	2 Years	100% for up to 1 year	States: 100% Insular Areas & DC: 50%	Insular Areas: Up to 100% All others: No waiver
Hatch Act Multi-State	2 Years	100% for up to 1 year	States: 100% Insular Areas & DC: 50%	Insular Areas: Up to 100% All others: No waiver
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry	2 Years	50% for up to 1 year 100% for up to 1 year*	100%	Insular Areas: 100% < \$200K All others: No Waiver
Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)	2 Years	50% for up to 1 year*	Not applicable	Not applicable
Smith Lever 3(b) & (c), Special Needs, and DCPPERA	5 Years	100% for up to 5 years	States: 100% Insular Areas: 50%	Insular Areas: Up to 100% All others: No waiver

*NIFA approval required

Common Questions & Findings



Common Question: How can Universities determine how much has been awarded, how much is utilized and how much is remaining and when should it be spent?

- Award Face Sheet
- ASAP (inquiry only roles)
- Awards@usda.gov or 1890@usda.gov
- ASAPCustomerService@usda.gov



Common Site Visit Findings: Time & Effort (T&E) Reporting

NIFA is generally unable to conclude that payroll allocations for staff members with split appointments are accurately or inaccurately charged to NIFA grants.

- We look for support documentation or internal controls to validate charges are allocable, and not based on the original budget estimates.
- The more infrequent the certification, the more support documentation is required; i.e., some type of document/mechanism used by the employee, and reviewed by the certifier, that can assure NIFA that something other than the original budget estimate or an employee's memory is used to allocate payroll charges.
- A best practice in the area of T&E would be to establish policies for regular certification and T&E for all salaries, including those used as matching.



Other Common Site Visit Findings

- Lack of segregation of capacity funds in the accounting system
- Federal and matching funds must be accounted for according to period of performance, through a unique fund, or subfund code.
- Capacity funds cannot be used as revolving funds.
- Annual awards are available for the period of performance designated on the award document, and they cannot be used to supplement prior or future awards.
- Capacity funds being used for indirect costs; or Equipment Purchases that did not receive prior approval



Common Question: What is comingling funds and why is it not allowed?

Comingling refers broadly to the mixing of funds dedicated for one approved use with unassociated funds. It most often describes an awardee's improper mixing of their grant funds with other non-grant funds belonging to an institution.

Funds specifically budgeted and/or received for one project may not be used to support another unless legislation specifically says so.



Comingling and Misuse

Recipients of federal grants have been awarded funds to carry out the goals and objectives identified in the grant.

These funds are subject to certain regulations, oversight, and audit. Please remember:

- Grant recipients are stewards of federal funds.
- Grant dollars **must** be used for their intended purpose.
- Grant recipients must account for costs and justify expenditures.



Comingling and Misuse - Repercussions

Using federal grant dollars for purposes other than their intended use can result in:

- Recoupment & Offset
- Fines
- Suspension & Debarment
- Criminal & Civil Prosecution

Although comingling and misuse does not always arise from ill intent, however the repercussions remain the same.

Funding Dashboards



NIFA Grant Funding Dashboard

- The NIFA Grant Funding dashboard provides an inside look into NIFA funding for competitive and capacity grants from fiscal year 2018 forward.
- Dashboard went live in June of 2023.
- The creation of this tool was a high priority for NIFA in an effort to increase transparency for all stakeholders on grant award funding information.
- The NIFA Grant Funding dashboard has four main components:
 - **Overview** - Provides a look into NIFA funding obligated by fiscal year and by federal program (assistance listing number) for competitive and capacity grants.
 - **Funding Map** - Provides a look into the primary performance location of NIFA funding obligated by congressional districts and states.
 - **Matching** - Provides a look into NIFA funding obligated and match funding received from grantees, by grant type and recipient organization.
 - **Download** - Provides the user the capability to download and save data with filters included.

[NIFA Grant Funding Dashboard | NIFA \(usda.gov\)](#)



Live Demo of Dashboard



Questions?



**Event Code: NIFA Funding and
Public Facing Dashboards**



Questions/comments/feedback:
NIFA Learning and Development Team
AdminOpsTeam.NIFA@usda.gov

Subject line: NIFA Funding and Public Facing Dashboards

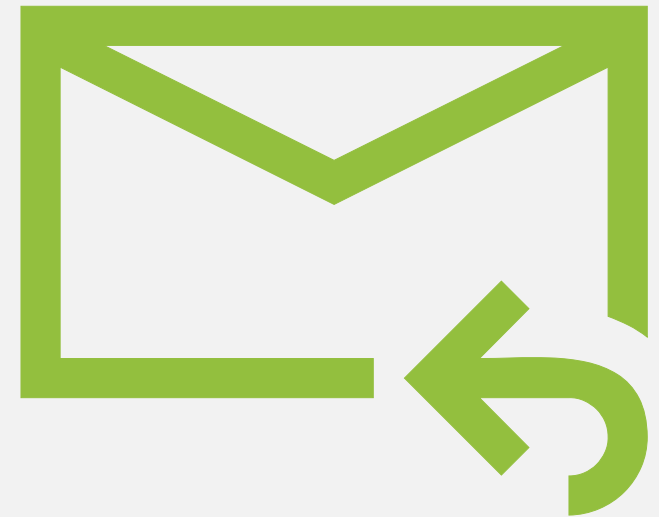


Contact Information

- Administrative Contact / Grants Management Specialist listed on the Notice of Award
- National Program Leader or Program Specialist

General Email:

- Awards@usda.gov for competitive awards
- Capacitygrantquestions@usda.gov for capacity awards
- 1890@usda.gov for 1890s stakeholders
- ASAPCustomerService@usda.gov for ASAP assistance
- Policy@usda.gov for policy inquiries
- Electronic@usda.gov for dashboard feedback





Non-Discrimination Statement

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

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