

Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions Section 1445

Fiscal Year 2025 Request for Applications
APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 30, 2024

**INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445

Assistance Listing Number: This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under 10.205.

Dates: Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 30, 2024**. Comments regarding this Request for Applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Advancing Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA): The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recognizes research, education, and extension efforts will have the greatest impacts when programs are grounded in DEIA. NIFA is committed to enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility of programs and encourages individuals, institutions, and organizations from underserved communities to apply to funding opportunities as lead, co-lead, or subaward recipient(s), and to engage as leaders in the peer panel review process to support the development of strong networks and collaborations. NIFA encourages applications that engage diverse communities and have broad impacts through research, education, extension, and integrated activities to address current and future challenges.

Stakeholder Input: NIFA seeks comments on all Request for Applications (RFA) so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments to the extent possible when developing RFAs, and uses comments to help meet the requirements of Section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 ([7 U.S.C. 7613\(c\)\(2\)](#)). Applicants may submit written comments to Policy@usda.gov. Please use the following subject line: Agriculture Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions RFA.

Executive Summary

NIFA requests applications for the Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions Program (Section 1445) for fiscal year (FY) 2025 to support continuing agricultural research at colleges eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 ([7 U.S.C. 321–326](#) and [328](#)) (“1890 Land-grant Institutions”), including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University, and Central State University.

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 the Act of March 4, 1940 (54 Stat. 39–40, as amended; [7 U.S.C. 331](#)), administrative planning and direction, and purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of buildings necessary for conducting agricultural research.

This RFA is being released prior to the enactment of a FY 2025 Appropriations Act. Subject to any FY 2025 Continuing Resolution, NIFA will distribute funds to the institutions according to the amounts allocated in FY 2024. NIFA will adjust the allocations for FY 2025 once appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2024 was \$83,053,575. Allocations for specific institutions can be found on the program’s [FY 2024 Distribution Schedule](#)¹. NIFA will issue FY 2025 payments subject to the availability of funds and the applicant having met the previous year’s reporting requirements. [Part III, B](#) of this RFA identifies if matching is a requirement and, if so, please pay particular attention to the matching instructions included in [Part IV, B, 6](#) of this RFA.

This notice identifies the objectives for Section 1445 projects/programs, the eligibility criteria for projects/programs and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions.

The USDA NIFA web page for Section 1445 is:
<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agricultural-research-1890-land-grant-institutions>.

¹ The prior year Section 1445 Distribution Schedule was previously included as Appendix A of this document and is now located on the NIFA website at: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/capacity-program-distribution-schedules>.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

Section 1445 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA), is also known as Section 1445 Evans Allen Research Program ([7 U.S.C. 3222](#)). This law provides the basis for federal funding for agricultural research activities at 1890 Land-grant Institutions, including Tuskegee University, West Virginia State University, and Central State University.

Per [7 U.S.C. 3222](#), funds appropriated in excess or deficit of the previous fiscal year appropriations are added or subtracted from each eligible institution's allocation using a 20-40-40 calculation in the following manner:

1. 20% of the increase/decrease allotted in equal proportions to eligible institutions.
2. 40% of the increase/decrease allotted to eligible institutions in proportion to the rural population within the state in which the institution resides, based on the last available census.
3. 40% of the increase/decrease allotted to eligible institutions in proportion to the farm population within the state in which the institution resides, based on the last available census.

Should an eligible institution's allocation fall below the required minimum; reductions are made proportionately from the other eligible institutions to ensure the required minimum allocation is met.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to support agricultural research activities at 1890 Land-grant Universities.

The Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions – Section 1445 is aligned with the following:

[USDA Strategic Plan FY 2022-2026](#) goals:

1. **Strategic Goal 1:** Combat Climate Change to Support America's Working Lands, Natural Resources and Communities
2. **Strategic Goal 2:** Ensure America's Agricultural System is Equitable, Resilient, and Prosperous
3. **Strategic Goal 3:** Foster an Equitable and Competitive Marketplace for All Agricultural Producers
4. **Strategic Goal 4:** Provide All Americans Safe, Nutritious Food
5. **Strategic Goal 5:** Expand Opportunities for Economic Development and Improve Quality of Life in Rural and Tribal Communities
6. **Strategic Goal 6:** Attract, Inspire, and Retain an Engaged and Motivated Workforce that's Proud to Represent USDA

[USDA Science and Research Strategy, 2023–2026](#) priorities:

1. **Priority 1:** Accelerating Innovative Technologies & Practices
2. **Priority 2:** Driving Climate-Smart Solutions
3. **Priority 3:** Bolstering Nutrition Security & Health

4. **Priority 4:** Cultivating Resilient Ecosystems
5. **Priority 5:** Translating Research into Action

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

This RFA is being released prior to the enactment of a FY 2025 Appropriations Act. Subject to any FY 2025 Continuing Resolution, NIFA will allocate and distribute funds to the institutions according to the [amounts distributed in FY 2024](#). NIFA will adjust the allocations for FY 2025 once appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2024 was \$83,053,575.

The [Automated Standard Applications for Payment System \(ASAP\)](#) operated by the Department of Treasury’s Bureau of the Fiscal Service, will be the payment system for all NIFA grant awards. Questions or concerns regarding the ASAP system and its functionality or use should be sent to ASAPCustomerService@usda.gov for the quickest resolution.

B. Type of Application

Applications for FY 2025 are limited to “new” applications.

C. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

In accordance with 2, 3, and 8 of [2 CFR Part 422](#), institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients shall, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and documentation to support the conduct of the training. See [Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research](#) for further information.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

The following list of 1890 Land-grant Institutions are eligible for the Section 1445 program. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided the subcontracts are necessary for the conduct of the project. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may have been reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

1. Alabama A&M University
2. Alcorn State University
3. Central State University
4. Delaware State University
5. Florida A&M University
6. Fort Valley State University
7. Kentucky State University
8. Langston University
9. Lincoln University
10. North Carolina A&T State University
11. Prairie View A&M University
12. South Carolina State University
13. Southern University
14. Tennessee State University
15. Tuskegee University
16. University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
17. University of Maryland Eastern Shore
18. Virginia State University
19. West Virginia State University

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Section 1449 of NARETPA ([7 U.S.C. 3222d\(c\)](#)) states, “the State shall provide equal matching funds from non-federal sources.” Such matching funds shall be for an amount equal to, not less than 100 percent of the formula grant funds to be distributed to the eligible institution. The Secretary may waive the matching funds requirement for up to 50 percent for any fiscal year for an eligible institution if the Secretary determines the State will be unable to satisfy the 100 percent matching requirement.

The *Matching Funds Requirements for Agricultural Research and Extension Capacity Funds at 1890 Land-grant Institutions, including Central State University, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University, and at 1862 Land-Grant Institutions in Insular Areas* are published at [7 CFR 3419](#) which defines “matching funds” as “funds from non-federal sources, including those made available by the State to the eligible institutions for programs or activities that fall within the purposes of agricultural research and cooperative extension under Sections 1444 and 1445 of NARETPA; the Hatch Act of 1887; and the Smith-Lever Act.” Additionally, [7 CFR 3419](#) defines “non-federal sources” as “funds made available by the State to the eligible institution either through direct appropriation or under any authority (other than authority to charge tuition and

fees paid by students) provided by a State to an eligible institution to raise revenue, such as gift acceptance authority or user fees.”

[7 CFR 3419.6](#) states, “The required matching funds for the capacity programs must be used by an eligible institution for the same purpose as Federal award dollars: Agricultural research and extension activities that have been approved in the plan of work required under sections 1445(c) and 1444(d) of the [National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977](#), section 7 of the [Hatch Act of 1887](#), and section 4 of the [Smith-Lever Act](#). For all programs, tuition dollars and student fees may not be used as matching funds.” Projects funded by non-federal funds intended to be utilized as match to any Capacity award will also be subject to the provision found in 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, the [NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#), and the [NIFA Capacity Award Terms and Conditions](#).

Match Waivers:

[7 CFR 3419.3](#), Limited Waiver Authority, and [7 CFR 3419.4](#), Applications for waivers for both 1890 Land-grant Institutions and 1862 Land-grant Institutions in insular areas, address the criteria an institution must meet to be granted a waiver as well as the process and supporting documentation required for submitting a waiver. See [Part IV, B, 6 c](#) of this RFA for additional instructions about how to request a waiver. Until a matching waiver is approved by NIFA, the amount of the required matching funds identified in the application as well as matching documentation must be the same as listed in the [FY 2024 Distribution Schedule](#). Documentation of any other amount will cause the application to be returned and corrected resubmission will be required.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Method of Application

Applicants must apply to this RFA electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this RFA and additional resources are available on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and [Grants 101](#). The tables below provide instructions on how to obtain an electronic application.

The [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) contains necessary, detailed information to prepare and submit Grant applications to NIFA through Grants.gov and is contained within the specific funding opportunity package. When applying for a NIFA award, it is important to reference the version of the guide that is included in the specific funding opportunity application package.

Table 1: Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	<i>New Users</i> to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application (Register Here).
Step Two: Download Adobe	Download and Install Adobe Reader (see Adobe Software Compatibility for basic system requirements).
Step Three: Find Application	Using this funding opportunity number USDA-NIFA-10205-1445XXXX-25-0001 , search for application here: Opportunity Package .
Step Four: Assess Readiness	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization’s readiness to submit an electronic application.

Table 2: Help and Resources

Grants.gov Support	NIFA Support
Grants.gov Online Support Telephone support: 800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035 Email support: support@grants.gov Self-service customer-based support: Grants.gov iPortal Key Information: Customer service business Hours 24/7, except federal holidays .	Email: grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov Key Information: Business hours: Monday thru Friday, 7a.m. – 5p.m. ET, except federal holidays

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

The [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is part of the corresponding application package for this RFA. The RFA overrides the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. Applicants that do not meet the application requirements, to include partial applications, risk being excluded from NIFA’s review. Applicants must refer to the grants.gov application number when corresponding with NIFA.

Each grant application must contain the following:

1. Application for Federal Assistance, Form SF-424 R&R Cover Sheet

2. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form
3. Project Abstract Form (include attachment in PDF)
4. Key Contacts Form
5. NIFA Supplemental Information Form
6. Attachment Form (including attachments in PDF)

The [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) includes instructions for additional forms not needed for an application in response to this RFA. Complete and submit only the forms associated with this funding opportunity package and as instructed below.

Table 3: Key Application Instructions

Instruction	References (All references are to the NIFA Grants Application Guide)
Attachments must be in a portable document format (PDF).	Part IV
Check the manifest of submitted files to verify attachments are in the correct format.	Part IV
Conduct an administrative review of the application before submission.	Part IV
Follow the submission instructions.	Part IV
Provide an accurate email address, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R.	Part V
Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for technical support and keep a record of the correspondence.	N/A
Contact NIFA if applicant does not receive correspondence from NIFA regarding an application within 30 days of the application deadline.	N/A

1. SF-424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the fields within this form are available in Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#). The following are additional instructions. The information included in [the FY 2024 Distribution Schedule](#) is based on FY 2024 applications received for this program. If your organization intends to apply using information other than what appears in [the FY 2024 Distribution Schedule](#), please contact us at 1890@usda.gov prior to submitting.

- a. **Field 7. Type of Applicant** – Enter the Institution type as registered in SAM.gov.
- b. **Field 11. Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project** – Limit title to 200 characters including spaces. Do not use acronyms or special characters.
- c. **Field 15. Estimated Project Funding** – For items a and b, enter your institution’s FY

2024 allocation and matching as listed in the [FY 2024 Distribution Schedule](#)².

- d. **Field 19. Authorized Representative** – Signature of Authorized Representative in this box shall match information completed within this section. If the signature is a designee or other party, a letter on institution letterhead designating the signature authority must be included with the submission as part of the attachments within the Attachment Form. The application may be returned if this document is missing.

2. Project/Performance Site Location(s) Form

Information related to the requirements on this form is available in Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#). The following are additional instructions.

- a. County – If work is performed in multiple counties and not the entire state, enter “Multiple County” into this field. Insular Areas enter “All” into this field.
- b. Zip/Postal Code – Enter the nine-digit postal code of the primary performance location. If work is performed in more than one postal code within a city, enter “city-wide” into this field.
- c. Project/Performance Site Congressional District – Specific entries are required for the following states/territories:
 - i. 000 – Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, Wyoming
 - ii. 098 – Washington, DC, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands
 - iii. 099 – Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau, US Minor Outlying Islands

3. Project Abstract Form

The Project Abstract information is important to Data Act requirements for tracking federal spending more effectively with agency programs. The abstract submitted should follow these requirements:

- a. One continuous paragraph (no hard returns and no bullet points)
- b. 4,000 characters or less (including spaces, dashes, etc.)
- c. Only the following special characters should be used within the abstract, if necessary:
“”,!@#%&*;<>:-=+[]{}()\^|_
- d. Abstract information should include the following items to describe the work:
 - i. A plain language description of the purpose of the federal award.
 - ii. Activities to be performed with the funds from the award.
 - iii. Deliverables and expected outcomes from the activities.
 - iv. Intended beneficiaries of the activities.
 - v. Any subrecipient activities if known/specified at the time of the award.
- e. Information provided in this abstract will be displayed to the public via the [USA Spending](#) website. Do not include any proprietary or confidential information.

4. Key Contacts Form

Information related to the requirements of this form is available in Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#). The following are additional instructions. The Project Role field must contain

² The prior year Section 1445 Distribution Schedule was previously included as Appendix A of this document and is now located on the NIFA website at: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/capacity-program-distribution-schedules>.

the exact roles indicated below for each contact listed. A separate Key Contact Form must be completed for each of the four project roles listed below. Enter the Contact's official job title in the "title" field of the form. Do not enter an official job title in the Project Role field.

- a. **Contact 1 Project Role "1890 Research Director"**: Enter the contact information for the representative assigned as the 1890 Research Director.
- b. **Contact 2 Project Role "1890 Research Director's Designee"**: Enter the contact information for the representative assigned as the 1890 Research Director's designee if one is appointed. A designee letter on institution letterhead must be included with this submission as part of the attachments within the Attachment Form. Enter N/A on this Key Contact form if there is no designee.
- c. **Contact 3 Project Role "Business Office Manager/Administrator"**: Enter the contact information for the representative assigned as the Business Office Manager/Administrator.
- d. **Contact 4 Project Role "ASAP Draw Administrator"**: Enter the contact information for the representative assigned to process the ASAP grant award withdrawals. This contact may not be the Authorized Representative.

5. Supplemental Information Form

Information related to the requirements of this form is available in Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#). The following are additional instructions.

- a. **Field 1. Funding Opportunity Name** – Enter in this field "Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-Grant Institutions – Section 1445."
- b. **Field 2. Program to which you are applying** - Enter this information into the fields within this section:
 - i. Program Code Name – Evans Allen Section 1445
 - ii. Program Code – 1445
- c. **Field 3. Type of Applicant** - Enter the Institution type as registered in SAM.gov. This field must match the entry in Field 7 on the SF 424 R&R.
- d. **Field 6. ASAP Recipient Information** – Check "Yes" and enter in the ASAP Recipient ID that corresponds with the Institution receiving the award.
- e. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List** - Do not attach a conflict-of-interest list, leave this section blank.

6. Attachment Form

Information related to the requirements on this form is available in Part V of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#). The following are additional instructions.

- a. **Matching Requirement** - If matching funds are required as specified under Part III, B of this RFA, then matching is an eligibility criterion, and applicants must include the non-federal source documentation with the application. NIFA will consider this documentation when ascertaining final matching requirements or in determining if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

The matching documentation shall include:

- i. the non-federal sources (e.g., the type as third party or cash; the source as state, non-state, county, or non-tax) and the amount from each source;

- ii. the program name;
- iii. the fiscal year; and
- iv. signed by an authorized representative of the institution.

The match information must be in PDF (see Part IV of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for attachment requirements) and included as a separate attachment identified on the Attachment Form.

To establish the value of applicant contributions in accordance with applicable cost principles, refer to [2 CFR Part 200](#), “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards” for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

- b. **Matching Funds Waiver Request (Optional)** - If your institution is applying for a matching funds waiver, prepare a request in PDF for inclusion within your submission and identify on the Attachment Form (see Part IV of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for attachment requirements). [7 CFR 3419](#) details the requirements for matching funds for agricultural research and extension capacity funds at 1890 Land-grant institutions and 1862 Land-grant institutions in insular areas. The following information shall be included with your submission:

The following information shall be included with your submission:

- i. a request to waive matching requirements under this RFA including the name of the eligible institution and the type of Federal capacity funds (i.e., research, extension, Hatch, Smith-Lever);
- ii. a statement of the fiscal year(s) for which the waiver is requested;
- iii. a statement of the exact dollar amount of waiver being requested by fiscal year and how the amount was computed (by matching fund category);
- iv. a statement of why the waiver is requested using criteria listed in [7 CFR 3419.3](#);
- v. documentation supporting the need for the waiver (documentation must be current, within the past two years from the date of the letter requesting the waiver);
- vi. Institution’s change in State Appropriation documentation such as communications and/or final budget information from the State and any other communications regarding changes in other non-federal funding resulting in the need for the waiver; and
- vii. a statement regarding the University’s efforts to meet future matching needs.

Other information submitted may include but is not limited to a statement from the State asserting what portion of the required match amount the State contribution will be; a schedule of projected cash flows showing what portion of the matching funds the Institution will have available; letters from the State or Institution budget personnel; and/or newspaper articles providing supporting information. Newspaper articles may be provided as supporting documentation but will not be considered as primary documentation. In requesting the waiver, the Institution must consider the availability of

all permissible forms of matching in detail. Approval of your waiver will not be determined at the time of the application.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#).

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 30, 2024**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

In case of trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, you should **FIRST** contact the [Grants.gov Help Desk](#) to resolve any problems. Keep a record of any such correspondence. See [Part IV, A](#) of this RFA for Grants.gov contact information.

You may check the status of your application in the [ezFedGrants](#) portal or by looking in [Grants.gov](#).

If you are not able to validate NIFA received your application by **October 14, 2024**, contact the Agency Administrative Contact identified in [Part VII](#) of this RFA. Failure to do so may result in the application not being processed and funding being held. You should cite your [Grants.gov](#) tracking number on all inquiries until an award number is assigned.

D. Funding Restrictions

1. Approved NIFA Section 1445 Research Projects

Section 1445 funds may only be used on approved Section 1445 projects.

2. Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission

In accordance with section 1473 of NARETPA ([7 U.S.C. 3319](#)), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Section 1445 grant expenditures. Further, costs that are part of an institution's indirect cost pool (e.g., administrative, or clerical salaries) may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

3. Carryover of Funds

Section 1445 funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, up to 100 percent of funds may be carried over for up to one year after the end of the year for which they were appropriated. No prior approval is required.

4. Retirement Contributions

Employer contributions to land-grant college retirement systems are limited to five percent of the portion of the salaries paid, under this award, to employees who participate in the system ([7 U.S.C. 331](#)) and are subject to the other conditions in [7 U.S.C. 331](#). Note the five percent limitation does NOT apply to any state or individual contribution. Contributions of funds under this award may not exceed the contributions from non-Federal sources made by or on behalf of the individual concerned. See Section VI of the [NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#) for additional information.

E. Other Submission Requirements

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM) – Each applicant (unless excepted under [2 CFR 25.110\(b\) or \(c\)](#), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under [2 CFR 25.110\(d\)](#)) is required to:

1. be registered in SAM before submitting an application;
2. provide a valid UEI number in its application; and
3. continue to always maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which the applicant has an active federal award, an application, or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

If you have not complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements, you may be considered ineligible to receive an award.

Your SAM registration information determines your organization ID in the [ezFedGrants](#) system, and the information must match your ASAP recipient UEI and EIN.

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

NIFA will review submitted documents to determine if all program, financial, and administrative requirements are met and are current. Missing or incomplete information within an application may require additional submittals and deletion of application(s) already submitted.

B. Organizational Management Information

Specific applicant organizational management information shall be submitted on a one-time basis, with updates submitted as needed. If this information has not been submitted under this or another NIFA program, it is the responsibility of the organization to do so for determination of eligibility prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA.

NIFA will provide the forms to fulfill these requirements as part of the Pre-Award process. Although an applicant may be eligible, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination an applicant is not responsible based on submitted or discovered organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA awarding official shall make grants to eligible applicants.

B. Award Notice

The notice of federal award is the authorizing document. The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information as described in [2 CFR 200.211](#) (see [NIFA's Terms and Conditions](#)). Awardees should ensure a copy of the Notice of Award, as well as all future amendments, are retained within their institutional systems.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These may include, but are not limited to, those listed at [USDA/NIFA Federal Regulations](#). Unless specifically noted by statute or award-specific requirements, [NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide](#) applies to all NIFA awards.

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Institutions receiving Section 1445 funding from NIFA are required to submit the following reports:

1. FY 2026 Plan of Work (POW) update;
2. FY 2024 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results (Annual Report);
3. Program/Project initiation in the NIFA Reporting System (NRS);
4. Program/Project progress reports;
5. Project Financial Report; and
6. Federal Financial Reports (SF-425)

The FY 2026 POW update is due June 1, 2025, and the FY 2024 Annual Report is due by April 1, 2025. Program/Project Initiations and Progress Reports are to be completed by any institution who has been granted authority to use capacity dollars. NIFA is building an integrated reporting portal for research and extension grants. Information regarding requirements for submittals of reporting through the NRS are available at the NRS web page <https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/pow-nifa-reporting-system>.

A Project Financial Report must be submitted to NIFA annually for all eligible projects from the preceding fiscal year. A Project Financial Report is also required for expenditures on all state projects to be included in the non-federal funds and matching funds computation. Reports shall be made on the federal fiscal year basis.

Federal Financial Report (SF-425) – Federal Financial reporting via the SF-425, is due within the ezFedGrants portal, at minimum on an annual basis. Please see your Notice of Award (NOA) for information on additional SF-425s that may be required throughout the life of the award. Information on how to access the ezFedGrants portal can be found on the [ezFedGrants Grants and Agreements System Overview](#) page.

See [Agricultural Research at 1890 Land-grant Institutions](#) for additional details of reporting requirements.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

For questions regarding Section 1445 projects/programs, please contact:

Dr. Solomon Haile, National Program Leader
Division of Community and Education
Institute of Youth, Family, and Community
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Telephone: 615-517-4157
Email: Solomon.Haile@usda.gov

For general administrative application questions contact us at
Grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov.

For questions relating to NRS forms and submissions, please contact the Planning,
Accountability and Reporting Staff; Email: nrs@usda.gov

For questions relating to the 5-Year POW Update or the Annual Report of Accomplishments and
Results, contact Planning, Accountability and Reporting Staff; Email: nrs@usda.gov