

Renewable Resources Extension Act Program

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

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

Renewable Resources Extension Act Program

Assistance Listing Number: This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under 10.515.

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: Response to the RREA RFA.

Executive Summary

NIFA requests applications for the Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) Program for fiscal year (FY) 2025 to assist all states in carrying out a program of extension activities designed to assist forest and range landowners and managers in making resource management decisions based on research findings. Forest and rangeland resources include vegetation, water, fisheries and wildlife, soil, and recreation.

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 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 \$3,840,000. 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, applicants should pay particular attention to the matching instructions included in [Part IV, B, 6](#) of this RFA.

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

The USDA NIFA web page for RREA is:

<https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/renewable-resources-extension-act-capacity-grant>

¹ The prior year RREA 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

The Renewable Resources Extension Act ([16 U.S.C. 1671-1676](#)) established the Renewable Resources Extension Act Program. This law provides the basis for federal funding for extension activities associated with trees, fish, wildlife, and water resources on private forest and rangelands and for renewable resource education programs at State Land-grant Institutions established under the Morrill Act of July 2, 1862, as amended; the Hatch Act of March 2, 1887, as amended; the Morrill Act of August 30, 1890, as amended, including Tuskegee University; and other State-supported colleges and universities offering graduate training in the sciences basic to forestry and having a forestry school.

States are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the respective capabilities of their private forests and rangelands for yielding renewable resources and relative needs for such resources identified in the periodic Renewable Resource Assessment provided for in Section 3 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the periodic appraisal of land and water resources provided for in Section 5 of the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977.

B. Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to assist states in carrying out an extension program designed to assist forest and range landowners and managers in making resource management decisions based on research findings. Forest and rangeland resources include vegetation, water, fisheries and wildlife, soil, and recreation. Programs must address the RREA strategic issues identified in the 2018-2022 RREA Strategic Plan, which has been extended through FY 2024. Specifically, RREA programs are designed to:

1. provide educational programs that enable individuals to recognize, analyze, and resolve problems dealing with renewable resources, including forest- and range-based outdoor recreation opportunities, trees and forests in urban areas, and trees and shrubs in agroforestry systems ;
2. use educational programs to disseminate the results of research on renewable resources;
3. conduct educational programs that transfer the best available technology to those involved in the management and protection of forests and rangelands and the processing and use of their associated renewable resources;
4. develop and implement educational programs that give special attention to the educational needs of small, private nonindustrial forest landowners;
5. develop and implement educational programs in range and fish and wildlife management;
6. assist in providing continuing education programs for professionally trained individuals in fish and wildlife, forest, range, and watershed management and related fields;
7. help forest and range landowners in securing technical and financial assistance to bring appropriate expertise to bear on their problems;
8. help identify areas of needed research regarding renewable resources;
9. in cooperation with State foresters or equivalent State officials, promote public understanding of the energy conservation, economic, social, environmental, and psychological values of trees and open space in urban and community area environments and expand knowledge of the ecological relationships and benefits of trees and related resources in urban and community environments; and

10. conduct a comprehensive natural resource and environmental education program for landowners and managers, public officials, and the public, with particular emphasis on youth.

Th RREA programs is aligned with 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 5:** Expand Opportunities for Economic Development and Improve Quality of Life in Rural and Tribal Communities

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

1. Priority 1: Accelerating Innovative Technologies & Systems
2. Priority 2: Driving Climate-Smart Solutions
3. Priority 4: Cultivating Resilient Ecosystems
4. 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 \$3,840,000.

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

Refer to Part IV of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) for more information.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

The following list of institutions are eligible for the RREA 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. Auburn University
4. Central State University
5. Clemson University
6. Colorado State University
7. Cornell University
8. Delaware State University
9. Florida A&M University
10. Fort Valley State University
11. Iowa State University
12. Kansas State University
13. Kentucky State University
14. Langston University
15. Lincoln University
16. Louisiana State University
17. Michigan State University
18. Mississippi State University
19. Montana State University
20. Nevada System of Higher Education
21. New Mexico State University
22. North Carolina A&T State University
23. North Carolina State University
24. North Dakota State University
25. Ohio State University
26. Oklahoma State University
27. Oregon State University
28. Pennsylvania State University
29. Prairie View A&M University
30. Purdue University
31. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
32. South Carolina State University
33. South Dakota State University
34. Southern University
35. Tennessee State University
36. Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
37. Tuskegee University
38. University of Alaska

39. University of Arizona
40. University of Arkansas
41. University of Arkansas Pine Bluff
42. University of California
43. University of Connecticut
44. University of Delaware
45. University of Florida
46. University of Georgia
47. University of Guam
48. University of Hawaii
49. University of Idaho
50. University of Illinois
51. University of Kentucky
52. University of Maine
53. University of Maryland College of Agriculture
54. University of Maryland Eastern Shore
55. University of Massachusetts
56. University of Minnesota
57. University of Missouri
58. University of Nebraska
59. University of New Hampshire
60. University of Puerto Rico Agricultural Extension
61. University of Rhode Island
62. University of Tennessee
63. University of the District of Columbia
64. University of the Virgin Islands
65. University of Vermont
66. University of Wisconsin
67. University of Wyoming
68. Utah State University
69. Virginia Polytechnic Institute
70. Virginia State University
71. Washington State University
72. West Virginia State University
73. West Virginia University

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

No Match Required – The RREA program has NO matching requirement.

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. Part III of the [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) contains detailed information regarding the [Grants.gov](#) registration process. [The NIFA Grants Application Guide](#) is contained in the specific funding opportunity package or a sample of the guide can be found [here](#). 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-10515-RREAFXXX-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 (include 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) format.	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 Appendix A, please contact us at capacitygrantquestions@usda.gov or [1890@usda.gov](tel:1890) (as applicable) 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 item a, enter your institution’s FY 2024 distribution as listed in the [FY 2024 Distribution Schedule](#)².

² The prior year RREA 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>.

- 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, Guam, 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 of the Key Contact form must contain the exact roles indicated below for each contact listed. A separate Key Contacts 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 “State Extension Director” or “1890 Administrator”:** Enter

the contact information for the representative assigned as the State Extension Director or 1890 Administrator.

- b. **Contact 2 Project Role “RREA Principal Investigator (Project Director)” or “1890 Administrator’s Designee”**: Enter the contact information for the representative assigned as the RREA Principal Investigator (Project Director) as designated by the State Extension Director’s or 1890 Administrator’s designee. A designee letter on institution letterhead must be included with this submission as part of the attachments within the Attachment Form.
- 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 “Renewable Resources Extension Act.”
- b. **Field 2. Program to which you are applying** – Enter this information into the fields within this section:
 - i. Program Code Name – Renewable Resources Extension Act Program
 - ii. Program Code – RREAF
- 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](#).

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 RREA Projects

RREA federal funding must be used on the strategic issues included in the FY 2018-2022 RREA Strategic Plan and identified in the institution's approved 5-Year Plan of Work for FY 2018-2022. The FY 2018-2022 RREA Strategic Plan is extended through FY 2024 and can be found on the [USDA NIFA home page for RREA](#).

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 RREA formula 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

RREA funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however current policy allows 50 percent of the allocation from the fiscal year of appropriation to be carried over into the next fiscal year. These carryover funds must be fully expended by September 30 of the carryover year (e.g., September 30, 2026, for FY 2025 funds). However, waiver requests may be considered and approved. Requests should be submitted to the national program leaders listed in [Part VII](#) of this RFA, who will provide the required format for requesting a greater than 50 percent carryover of funds.

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 REQUIREMENT

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 RREA funding from NIFA are required to submit the following reports:

1. Project Initiation in the NIFA Reporting System (NRS);
2. Program/Project progress reports;
3. Project Financial Report; and
4. Federal Financial Report (SF-425)

Program/Project Initiations and Progress Reports are to be completed by any institution who has been granted authority to use capacity dollars. NIFA has built 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 reporting via the SF-425 is due within the ezFedGrants portal, at minimum on an annual basis. Please see your Notice of Award 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 [RREAF](#) for additional details of reporting requirements.

See [Renewable Resources Extension Act Capacity Grant](#) for additional details of reporting requirement details.

PART VII-AGENCY CONTACT

For questions regarding RREA projects/program, please contact:

Dr. Diomides (Diomy) Zamora, National Program Leader
Division of Environmental Systems; Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Telephone: 202-590-6049
E-mail: diomides.zamora@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 State; email nrs@usda.gov.