



FACT SHEET

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

Critical Agriculture Research and Extension (CARE; A1701)

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) is the nation's leading competitive grants program for agricultural sciences. The CARE program is a crosscutting program in the AFRI Foundational and Applied Science RFA. In addition, this program is involved in Commodity Board co-funding. Crosscutting programs address two or more of the six AFRI priority areas which include: 1) plant health and production and plant products, 2) animal health and production and animal products, 3) food safety, nutrition, and health, 4) bioenergy, natural resources, and environment, 5) agriculture systems and technology, and 6) agriculture economics and rural communities. This program supports projects that involve high quality research and highly effective extension practices to quickly implement new knowledge and/or practices that improve aspects of the agriculture industry and food production system.

IMPORTANT FACTS

- AFRI was established by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill and re-authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill.
- Total program funds for crosscutting programs in 2022 is \$42 million.
- For FY 2021, 59 proposals were submitted to be reviewed in panel, 16 proposals were awarded.
- For FY 2021, out of the 16 proposals awarded, 3 were EPSCoR institutions (FASE), 3 were New Investigators, and 1 small to mid-sized institution was funded.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY FOR CARE

- Requested Grant Types: Standard grants, strengthening standard, and new investigator grants must not exceed \$300,000 total (including indirect costs) for projects lasting one to three years.
- Integrated (includes research and extension) projects only.

PROGRAM AREA PURPOSE AND PRIORITIES

- Focus on a clear, time-sensitive, stakeholder-identified need or problem for agriculture;
- Explain the magnitude of the problem and the rationale for targeting it (e.g., unexpected losses of income or employment, acres affected, estimated or actual economic costs to specified agricultural or food system, private industry, etc.);
- Describe a meaningful approach for blending research and extension expertise and other outreach and implementation approaches throughout the project to address objectives;
- Provide evidence that the project is aligned with at least one of the six AFRI priority areas;
- State expected solutions or improvements and how these will be assessed and measured;
- Address the potential cost of a proposed solution and describe how it can be scaled to be sustainable in the short and long term;
- Explain how the project will strengthen agricultural and food-production systems and how results will be adopted or applied at a local, regional, or national level.

NIFA invests in and advances agricultural research, education, and extension and seeks to make transformative discoveries that solve societal challenges.



PROGRAM AREA PRIORITY CONTACT

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OTHER INFORMATION

2021 Foundational and Applied Science RFA: [2021 Foundational and Applied Science RFA](#)

NIFA Databases to Search for Previously Funded Awards: [CRIS Search for CARE-A1701](#); [NIFA Data Gateway](#)

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

AFRI New Investigator FAQs: [AFRI Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement \(FASE\) Grants for New Investigators FAQs](#)

AFRI General FAQs: [AFRI Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

AFRI FASE FAQs: [AFRI / FASE - Frequently Asked Questions](#)

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