AFRI’s Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education Priority Area FY2021 Webinar

This webinar will be recorded and posted on:
https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-education-workforce-development

- We will begin shortly -

Participants will be muted during the webinar

Use chat to send questions to the Presenters
Who are we?

• Lead federal agency providing extramural funding for food and agricultural sciences

• Restructured through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

• Mission
  • Agricultural research, education, and extension

• Vision
  • Catalyze transformative discoveries, education, and engagement to address agricultural challenges
NIFA Programs Cover Many Topics

Advanced Technologies
- Bioenergy
- Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology

Animals
- Animal Breeding
- Animal Health
- Animal Production
- Aquaculture

Business and Economics
- Markets and Trade
- Natural Resource Economics
- Small Business

Natural Resources
- Air
- Forests
- Grasslands and Rangelands
- Soil
- Water

Education
- Minority Serving Institutions
- Teaching and Learning
- Workforce Development

Environment
- Climate Change
- Ecosystems
- Invasive Pests and Diseases

Food Science
- Food Quality
- Food Safety

Health
- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Wellness

International
- Global Engagement
- Global Food Security

Farming and Ranching
- Agricultural Safety
- Agriculture Technology
- Farmer Education
- Organic Agriculture
- Small and Family Farms

Plants
- Crop Production
- Pest Management
- Plant Breeding
- Plant Health

People
- Community Vitality
- Family Well-Being
- Youth
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative’s Education and Workforce Development Priority Areas

QUICK OVERVIEW
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Competitive Grants Program

Funds research, education, extension, and integrated grants that address key problems of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of agriculture, including ...
AFRI’s Education and Workforce Development

• Seeks to address a projected shortfall of qualified graduates in the agricultural, food, and renewable natural resources sectors of the U.S. economy

• Has four overarching goals:
  – Growing Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development for the Future (PDAL, ALE)
  – Training or Retraining of Agricultural Workers (AWT)
  – Developing Pathways (FANE & REEU)
  – Advancing Science (Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellows)

• Anticipated available funding: approx. $45 million per budget year

• Request for Applications
AFRI Farm Bill Priorities

PLANT HEALTH, PRODUCTION, AND PLANT PRODUCTS
ANIMAL HEALTH, PRODUCTION, AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS
FOOD SAFETY, NUTRITION, AND HEALTH
BIOENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENVIRONMENT
AGRICULTURE SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY
AGRICULTURE ECONOMICS AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

EWD projects must support at least one priority area.
FY2021 Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) Education and Workforce Development (EWD) Priority Areas

- Food and Agriculture Non-Formal Education (FANE & CEEY, A7801)
- Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL, A7501)
- Agricultural Workforce Training (AWT, A7601)
- Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU, A7401)
- Pre-doctoral Fellowships (A7101)
- Postdoctoral Fellowships (A7201)
- Agricultural Literacy Evaluation (ALE & OCPD, A7702) only in FY2021
FANE: Support content development and activities for **non-formal education to foster development of technology-savvy youth**.

- Examples: data science, artificial intelligence, automation, robotics, gene editing, and biotechnology

Projects must develop activities that cultivate interest and competencies in **STEM and in food and agricultural sciences** and support at least one of the **six Farm Bill Priority areas of AFRI**.
Purpose of Food and Agricultural Non-Formal Education Priority Area (A7801), CEEY

CEEY: Applications are solicited for a project that promotes non-formal educational civic engagement experiences for 4-H youth in grades 10-12th (15-19 years old) such that participants create positive social change in their communities.

A single grant will be awarded to an institution to coordinate and execute the delivery of the annual National 4-H Conference in consultation with USDA NIFA program staff.
AFRI EWD Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education (FANE/CEEY) Priority Area (A7801)

PROGRAM GUIDANCE
Eligibility
Eligible Applicants for Single Function Projects

Single Function

Project Type: Education Extension

- State Agricultural Experiment Stations
- Colleges or universities, including junior colleges offering associate degrees or higher
- University research foundations
- Other research institutions or organizations
- Federal agencies
- National laboratories
- Private organizations or corporations
- U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents
- Any group consisting of two or more entities identified above
Eligible Applicants for INTEGRATED Projects

- 4-year Colleges and Universities
- 2 & 4 year 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- 2 & 4 year Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities
Grant Types

**Standard**
- Everyone eligible to apply

**Strengthening Standard**
- Minority-Serving Institutions (>50% minority)
- Small & Midsize Institutions (<17,500 students)
- EPSCOR States

No Equipment Grants Offered
Program Area Priority

Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education (FANE) applications must address the following:

• Develop **content and activities to enhance youth’s understanding** of gene editing, biotechnology, data science, artificial intelligence, robotics, automation, and other technologies that enhance the food and agricultural enterprise and prepares them to help meet the needs of the future workforce through enhanced non-formal education modules.

• Develop **outreach materials** that clearly communicate the demonstrated benefits of agricultural technologies and biotechnology.

• Should complement and build upon programs that have successfully **demonstrated positive youth development strategies and outcomes** (i.e. 4-H programming, Agriculture in the Classroom, FDA’s Agricultural Biotechnology Education and Outreach Initiative, etc.).

• **Involve youth in the design, execution, and evaluation of activities** that lead to the development of consumer-friendly content that builds public confidence in the safe use of biotechnology in agriculture and the food system.
Civic Engagement Experience for Youth (CEEY) applications must address the following:

• Develop, organize, and execute the National 4-H Conference on an annual basis.

• Provide a clearinghouse for National 4-H Conference planning outputs, data, and documents as well as products and outputs of FANE funded projects.

• Conduct a formal assessment of the National 4-H Conference and its impact on youth that produces curricula, trainings, and other offerings to be used in future conferences and events.

• Enhance access to participation in National 4-H Conference to underrepresented youth and communities by utilizing at least 25% of the grant funds to support attendance costs of youth from these communities.

• Connect participants with 4-H leaders, youth development practitioners, Cooperative Extension faculty, land-grant university administrators, government officials, researchers, policy-makers, 4-H alum, business leaders and other partners.
Cost Share or Matching

- Matching: ONLY required if project is commodity specific and not of national scope
- Matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.
Budgeting: FANE Basics

- **No Equipment Only Grants**

- What can go in the budget?
  - Participant stipends and travel
  - Provider personnel salaries
  - Software
  - Curricula

- Total project budgets must not exceed $750,000 total per project for project periods of three or four years.
Budgeting: CEEY Basics

• **No Equipment Only Grants**

• What can go in the budget?
  • Youth cost of attendance and subsistence (travel, housing, meals)
  • Speaker honorariums
  • Provider personnel salaries
  • Event planning supplies
  • Facilitator and staff training
  • Evaluation

• Total project budgets must not exceed $1,000,000 total per project for project periods of four or five years.

• **At least 25% of the grant funds need to support attendance costs of youth from underrepresented communities.**
The Request for Applications (RFA)


Applications are due 5pm (EST) Tuesday, **May 6, 2021**, submitted through Grants.gov

**Proposals per Institution: No Limit**

**FANE**: $750,000 total per project for project periods of three or four years.
**CEEY**: $1,000,000 total per project for project periods of four or five years.
- CEEY anticipates to make up to 1 award.
AFRI EWD Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education (FANE/CEEY) Program

HOW TO APPLY
Step 1: Read the Request for Applications

WWW.NIFA.USDAGOV
Step 1: Read the Request for Applications Cont.


Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development

Program: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) | AFRI Education and Workforce Development | Educational Scholarship Programs | Plant Breeding, Genetics & Genomics Programs | Weed Science | Animal Breeding, Genetics, and Genomics | Plant Health and Production and Plant Products Program Area | Animal Reproduction | Animal Health | Organic Agriculture Program

The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development (EWD) focuses on developing the next generation of research, education, and extension professionals in the food and agricultural sciences. In FY 2021, EWD invited applications in seven areas: agricultural workforce training; professional development for agricultural literacy; training of undergraduate students in research and extension; fellowships for predoctoral candidates; fellowships for postdoctoral scholars, a new program for food and agricultural nonformal education, and a FY 2021-only program for evaluation of NIFA’s agricultural literacy and workforce development portfolio. See EWD Request for Applications for specific details.

Who Is Eligible to Apply: 1862 Land-Grant Institutions, 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, 1994 Land-Grant Institutions, For-profit Organizations Other Than Small Businesses, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Individuals, Native American Tribal Orgs, not Federally recognized Tribal Governments, Nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than Institutions of Higher Ed, Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) IRS status, other than Institutions of Higher Ed, Other or Additional Information (See below), Private Institutions of Higher Ed, Small Business, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, State Controlled Institutions of Higher Ed
Documents in Part IV – C of the RFA

OTHER INFORMATION

Prospective applicants should review each RFA to explore all the opportunities available to them.

- AFRI Requests for Applications

Attachment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File Name</th>
<th>Size</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFRI Grant Types (223.69 KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRI Letter of Intent Instructions (188.33 KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFPI Project Types (34.49 KB)</td>
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<td>Table 2 Least Successful Institutions (192.79 KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FASE Strengthening Grant Eligibility Flow Chart (124.78 KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFPI SAS RFA Additional Information for Part IV C (278.8 KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021-2023 Foundational and Applied Science RFA Additional Information for Part IV C (340.29 KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFPI Review Criteria (264.26 KB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AFPI EWD RFA Additional Information for Part IV C (680.68 KB)</td>
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Resource Type: Instructions

The following details Part IV, C of the Education and Workforce Development Request for Applications for FY 2021 and FY 2022

January 19, 2021: Corrected predoctoral academic standing requirement year (page 58).

Note that the required content and forms for applications vary by the program area priority described in the RFA. Along with the information on this first page, see the appropriate program area priority section for relevant details:

C. Content and Form of Application Submission ........................................ 1
Agricultural Workforce Training (AWT) Grants ........................................ 2
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Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships ......................................................... 52
Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development Evaluation .................... 66
Application Details

• Application documents must be in Portable Document Format (PDF) to be accepted by NIFA, including your narrative and budget justifications.
  – Grants.gov may allow other formats, but NIFA does not
  – Do not use third-party PDF builders
  – Pay special attention to Part IV-C and the 2021-2022 EWD RFA

• Project Narrative is 10 page limit and will be strictly enforced
  – Single Spaced
  – 12 point Times New Roman font
  – Includes text, figures and tables
    • Tables may be single spaced
Project Narrative - FANE

• Describe within 10 pages:
  – **Overview & Justification**: Description of objectives, justify the need
  – **Extension Environment**: Location, who is involved, key personnel, partnerships, host sites
  – **Approach**: Youth involvement, outreach materials development, plan of operation and methodology
  – **Project Evaluation & Reporting**: Timeline, approach for tracking, Youth-centered learning outcomes
  – **Expected Outputs**: Number of products, underrepresented youth, youth participants, indirect youth served
    • *Expected Outputs table does not count against the 10-page limit of the Project Narrative.*

• **Applications exceeding the page limitation will be returned without review.**
Project Narrative - CEEY

• Describe within 10 pages:
  – **Overview**: Statement, activities taking place
  – **Objectives and Outcomes**: Objectives, goals, and outcomes
  – **Approach**: Description of activities, mandatory activity, pitfalls, evaluation plan
  – **Personnel and Resources**: Key project personnel involvement, institutional resources and facilities, personnel needs, collaborating organizations, and transferability
  – **Expected Outputs**: Number of underrepresented youth, youth participants
    • *Expected Outputs table does not count against the 10-page limit of the Project Narrative.*

• **Applications exceeding the page limitation will be returned without review.**
FANE and CEEY

Both FANE and CEEY should include:

• **Bibliography & References Cited** – No Page Limit
• **Facilities & Other Resources** – No Page Limit
• **Equipment** – No Page Limit

Pay special attention to Part IV-C and the 2021-2022 EWD RFA

Other Attachments (FANE/CEEY)

- **Key Personnel Roles** – 2 Page Limit
- **Logic Model** – 2 Page Limit (Required for all integrated project applications)
- **Management Plan** – 3 Page Limit (Required for all integrated project applications)
- **Data Management Plan** – 2 Page Limit
- **Documentation of Collaboration** – No Page limit
- **Minority-Serving Institution Documentation**
- **Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants**
First-Time Applicants: Be Advised:

Grants.gov requires you to have a DUNS and SAM identification. Getting these credentials may take a few months.

If this is your first time applying for a federal grant, make sure your institution is capable a submitting through Grants.gov.

Also, make sure you have the ability to save and create documents as Adobe PDFs. NIFA systems will not process other documents.

For technical assistance contact grants.gov applicant support. **Don’t wait until the week applications are due!!**
AFRI EWD Food and Agricultural Non-formal Education (FANE/CEEY) Program

PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCESS
Evaluation Criteria (FANE/CEEY)

• Merit of the Application for Science
  – Objectives, approach, data management, involvement of youth in design, extension leads, impact

• Qualifications of Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities, and Project Management
  – Roles of key personnel, Institutional capacity, personnel competence, clear plan for project management
  – NOTE: CEEY - a clear plan is articulated for the evaluation and formal assessment of the National 4-H Conference and its impact on youth that produces curricula, trainings, and other offerings to be used in future conferences and events.

• Project Relevance
  – Supportive of FANE/CEEY goals, methods for evaluating success, sustainability, stakeholder involvement.
Ten things you should consider while writing a proposal

GRANT WRITING TIPS
1. Find the right program for you and your idea

♦ Main purpose of program (funding priorities) – does idea fit in mainstream or on the fringe?

♦ Don’t waste time applying to the wrong program... square pegs don’t fit in round holes!

♦ Eligibility restrictions?
2A. Assemble an Effective Team and Develop the Proposal Together

- Include ALL Expertise necessary to complete the project.
- Don’t start writing until all team members are identified.
- Share responsibility of writing but edit into a single voice.
2B. Assemble an Effective Team and Develop the Proposal Together

♦ Who will be responsible for project activities?

♦ If the project involves extension activities:

   ♦ Who are the stakeholders?

   ♦ What roles will they play in project development and implementation?

♦ Who will evaluate the project?
3. Become a “student” of the RFA

- Understand the main goals of the program
- Understand the instructions outlined in the RFA on how to assemble the proposal
- Read the RFA !!!
4. Develop a timeline for proposal preparation

- Develop timeline that allows for completion of proposal
  - 2 weeks before submission deadline

- If you rush preparation of the proposal, it will show
  - Reviewers will notice and not be kind
5. Understand criteria for evaluating proposals

♦ RFA normally contains the criteria that will be used by reviewers to evaluate your proposal

♦ Understand these criteria BEFORE you begin preparing your proposal - provides better understanding of where to put greatest efforts during proposal preparation
6. Understand review process and reviewers

- Reviewer may be assigned 10 to 20 proposals
- Following directions in RFA helps reviewers
  - not doing so makes them work harder than needed
- Preparing proposal logically and clearly helps reviewers
  - not doing so makes them work harder than needed
7. Write the proposal logically and clearly

♦ Organize proposal according to outline in RFA or evaluation criteria, whichever is most logical

♦ Following the prescribed format makes reviewers happy and more generous

♦ Do not make reviewers work harder
8. Prepare budget with a strong justification

♦ Unreasonable budgets hurt proposals – create skeptics within reviewer ranks

♦ Keep budgets within guidelines in the RFA – they are judged on degree of reasonableness

♦ Being very under budget does not increase your chances!!
9. Obtain critical input from experienced and successful colleagues

Someone who....

♦ Talks frankly, bluntly and clearly – don’t want someone who beats around the bush

♦ Has little sympathy for your ego

♦ Has been successful in obtaining grants

♦ Is unfamiliar with what you propose to do
10. Allow time for institutional administrative requirements

Submit on time

♦ All Documents must be in PDF
♦ 5:00 pm Eastern Time
♦ A deadline is a deadline is a deadline!
How are Proposals Reviewed?
Successful Proposals

- Excite the reviewers
- Excite the reviewers!!!!!
- Are easy to read and understand
- Have clear rationale & objectives that fit program priorities
- Clear budget and goals
- Address potential pitfalls, including short-comings and alternative plans

https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/general-grant-writing-tips-success
Reasons for Lower Ratings

• Project of little or no relevance to NIFA mission and/or program priorities
• Poorly written, unclear objectives or hypotheses, spelling errors or typos
• Not innovative, little new information gained
• Not as exciting as other proposals (i.e., worth funding, but ran out of funds)
Timeline of Competitive Programs

1-2 months
Request for Application (RFA) Release
Proposal planning and writing

2-3 months
Proposal under Peer Review
Proposal Funding Notifications

1-2 months
FANE/CEEY Proposal Due Date: May 6th, 2021
Awards are finalized and made

On average, a competitive proposal takes about 6-9 months from RFA release to an award being made to an institution

We will keep you updated as much as possible, but please be patient.
What to Do if You Have Questions?

Contact the Program Staff!!!
### Other AFRI EWD program areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Area Priority</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Agricultural Literacy and Workforce Development Evaluation</td>
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Education and Workforce Development Program Area

The information presented here is for FY2021 AFRI EWD FANE Priority Area. Please consult the Request for Applications for full program priority area details:

- AFRI - Education and Workforce Development RFA

AFRI FAQs:

- 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
Questions?

Please use the chat box