AFRI Education and Workforce Development (EWD)
Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates Program (REEU) for Fiscal Year 2020

March 9, 2020: Dates have been updated for FY 2020.

Contents

Events

Free Informational Webinar

Upcoming Webinars and transcripts of such can be found under "Related Events" on the [AFRI Education and Workforce Development Program page](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the focus of the NIFA Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) Program?

The Program is focused on promoting research and extension experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills.

What is the focus of the Education Coordinated Network for Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU-ECN)?

The Program is focused on supporting the REEU program by creating and maintaining the tools to support a community of practice for Program Directors and by making the REEU programs more accessible to potential student participants through a central digital hub.

What is the due date for the REEU program?

• Fiscal Year 2020 competition: Thursday, July 23, 2020 (5:00 p.m. EDT)

Do students apply directly for this funding opportunity?

No.

Who is eligible to apply?

There are two categories of project types in REEU for 2020: Integrated and Single-Function Projects. Your eligibility is determined by the type of project for which you intend to apply. To understand eligibility guidelines it helps to first understand these two project type categories in detail.

NIFA organizes the agricultural knowledge systems into three functions:

- Research—laboratory or field investigations or other types of scientific data gathering and analysis

- Education—the sharing of knowledge and building of skills
- Extension—community-focused education

An **Integrated Project** combines TWO or more of the three functions. A **Single-Function Project** focuses on at least ONE of the knowledge systems.

Single-Function Project Eligibility

- A State Agricultural Experiment Station
- A college or university, including junior colleges offering associate degrees or higher
- A university research foundation
- Another type of research institutions or organization
- A Federal agency
- A national laboratory
- A private organization or corporation
- A U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident
- Any group consisting of two or more entities identified above

Integrated Project Eligibility

- A State Agricultural Experiment Station
- A college or university
- A university research foundation
- Another type of research institutions or organization

FASE Grant Eligibility

A **Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grant** is a special funding resource for capacity building with specific eligibility guidelines. For more information on FASE grants, see AFRI Grant Types.

What does host institution mean? And how does it pertain to the restriction of one award per host institution and a maximum of three submissions per institution?

The host institution is the institution of the Project Director. Distinct institutions are determined based on how degrees are awarded. Different campuses will only count as different institutions if they award degrees separately.

What is the FACT initiative?

The Food and Agriculture Cyberinformatics and Tools (FACT) initiative is intended to advance data science tools, applications, and infrastructure development in agricultural domains. FACT focuses on data science to enable systems and communities to effectively utilize data, improve resource management, and integrate new technologies and approaches to further U.S. food and agriculture enterprises. Projects funded through FACT will work to examine the value of data for small and large farmers, agricultural and food industries, and gain an understanding of how data can impact the agricultural supply chain, reduce food waste and loss, improve consumer health, environmental and natural resource management, affect the structure of U.S. food and agriculture sectors, and increase U.S. competitiveness.

Does an REEU FACT proposal need to be entirely FACT related?

No, while a REEU FACT proposal can be entirely related to research on and extension work for food and agricultural cyberinformatics and tools, it can also be a proposal that integrates cyberinformatics and other technological tools with complementary research and extension experiences in the lab or in the field.

How do I demonstrate that my proposal is a FACT proposal?

Include "FACT" in the title.

What is the funding rate of submitted applications?

23%.

How much money is available and for how long?

For REEU, applications must not exceed $400,000 total (including indirect costs) for project periods of up to 4 years OR $500,000 total (including indirect costs) for project periods of up to 5 years.

 For REEU-ECN, applications must not exceed $400,000 total (including indirect costs) for project periods of up to 5 years

Is REEU- ECN going to be competed in FY19 and FY20?

We plan to award a single grant in FY20 and then recompete the REEU-ECN after the 5 year grant period is complete.

What can I spend REEU funds on?

Project costs must be predominantly for student support, including items such as participant stipends, housing, meals, travel, and laboratory use fees. Costs in budget categories outside Participant Support must be modest and reasonable (and may include justified support for the coordination of the program).

Can I use REEU funds to cover the cost of tuition?

No.

Can funds be used to support summer programs?

Yes.

Can funds be used to support international travel?

Yes.

Are indirect costs allowed?

Yes, there is a limit in indirect costs for the overall award to 30 percent of Total Federal Funds Awarded (see Part 4E of the RFA)

Is there a matching requirement?

Matching is only required if a funded project is commodity-specific and not of national scope. If this is the case, the grant recipient is required to match the USDA funds awarded on a dollar-for-

dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions. For more information see the NIFA Matching Requirements for Competitive Grant Awards Fact Sheet.

Are Letters of Intent required?
No.

Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by a single institution?
Any single institution can submit a maximum of three proposals.

Can an institution receive an REEU and an REEU-ECN?
Yes.

Can international institutions be partner institutions?
Yes.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident to submit an application as a project director?
If the applicant is applying as an individual (not through an institution), they must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents.

Do I have to be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident to be a co-PD?
No.

If I receive an award, when can I expect to start?
A minimum of six months will be needed to process awards after the application deadline.

How do I apply?
Instructions on how to apply are included in the AFRI Education and Workforce Development Request for Applications (RFA) for this grant. Read it carefully as this document includes complete information for submitting an application to this funding opportunity.

Applications will need to be submitted through Grants.gov. First-time users should allow at least a month to create their Grants.gov account.

Where can I find additional program information?
Please refer to the AFRI EWD Program Webpage for additional information including an applicant guide to help you navigate the 2020 AFRI EWD RFA.