The Hatch Act of 1887
(Multistate Research Fund)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 30, 2021

USDA United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture
The Hatch Act of 1887 (Multistate Research Fund Initial Announcement)

Assistance Listing formerly known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under 10.203.

DATES: Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 30, 2021. 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.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks your comments about this RFA. We will consider all comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we will use the input to 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)). Submit written stakeholder comments by the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this notice to Policy@usda.gov. This email address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not for requesting information or forms. Please use the following subject line: The Hatch Act of 1887 Multistate Research Fund RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This RFA is being released prior to the passage of the FY 2022 appropriations bill. Enactment of continuing resolutions (CR) or an appropriations act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program. NIFA will make adjustments to the allocations once the FY 2022 appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2021 was $60,050,909. Appendix A of this RFA includes specific FY 2021 distributions. NIFA will issue FY 2022 payments subject to the availability of funds and the applicant having met the previous year’s reporting requirements. Part III § B, identifies if matching is a requirement and, if so, you should pay particular attention to the matching instructions included in Part IV § B. 4.

This notice identifies the objectives for Hatch Multistate project/program, the eligibility criteria for projects/program and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions you need to apply for a Hatch Multistate grant.
2022 Updates

1. In FY20 and FY21, NIFA implemented a high-level budget submission process as a pilot program. After extensive review and participant feedback, NIFA will discontinue this pilot program effective immediately. Budgets and the SF-424a will not be part of the FY22 application process. The SF-424a has been removed from the application guide and the application packet in grants.gov. NIFA will continue to explore budgetary and performance elements that can be collected to meet agency needs.

2. FY22 reporting requirements will begin the transition from REEport to the NIFA Reporting System (NRS) for some programs. Please consult your program RFA for specific transition reporting requirements.
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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background
The Hatch Act of 1887 (Public Law 105-185, June 23, 1998; 24 Stat.440, chapter 314) is codified at U.S.C. 361a-i and provides the basis for federal funding for agricultural research activities at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas.

Not less than 25 percent of the total Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c) funding is allotted to the states for cooperative research employing multidisciplinary approaches in which a State agricultural experiment station, working with another State agricultural experiment station, the Agricultural Research Service, or a college or university, cooperates to solve problems that concern more than one state. These funds are designated as the “Multistate Research Fund, State Agricultural Experiment Stations.” Funds are allocated on a prorata basis and allocations are adjusted to support national and regional projects. These projects and their associated budgets are reviewed and approved annually.

B. Purpose
The purpose of Hatch Act funding is to conduct agricultural research programs at State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas. The specific purpose of Hatch Multistate funding is to conduct research by institutions within a State and by institutions in multiple States to solve problems that concern more than one State. The Hatch Act aligns with the following USDA Strategic Goals:

1. Strategic Goal 2: Maximize the Ability of American Agricultural Producers to Prosper by Feeding and Clothing the World;
2. Strategic Goal 3: Promote American Agriculture Products and Exports
3. Strategic Goal 4: Facilitate Rural Prosperity and Economic Development;
4. Strategic Goal 5: Strengthen the Stewardship of Private Lands Through Technology and Research;
5. Strategic Goal 6: Ensure Productive and Sustainable Use of Our National Forest System Lands; and

This grant is used to support continuing agricultural research at colleges eligible to receive funds under the Act approved July 2, 1862 (12 Stat. 503, as amended) (“1862 Land-Grant Institutions”), as well as State agricultural experiment stations. Funds appropriated under this section shall be used to conduct original and other researches, investigations, and experiments bearing directly on and contributing to the establishment and maintenance of a permanent and effective agricultural industry of the United States, including research basic to the problems of agriculture in its broadest aspects, and such investigations as have for their purpose the development and improvement of the rural home and rural life and the maximum contribution by agriculture to the welfare of the consumer, as may be deemed advisable, having due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective States.

Further, funds shall also be available, in addition to meeting expenses for research and investigations conducted under authority of section 361b of this title, for printing and
disseminating the results of such research, retirement of employees subject to the provisions of 7 U.S.C. section 331, administrative planning and direction, and for the purchase and rental of land and the construction, acquisition, alteration, or repair of buildings necessary for conducting research. Additional documentation may be required for prior approval of above-mentioned costs. The State agricultural experiment stations are authorized to plan and conduct any research authorized under section 361b of this title in cooperation with each other and such other agencies and individuals as may contribute to the solution of the agricultural problems involved, and moneys appropriated pursuant to sections 361a to 361i of this title shall be available for paying the necessary expenses of planning, coordinating, and conducting such cooperative research.
PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding
Subject to any FY 2022 Continuing Resolution, NIFA will distribute funds to the institutions according to the amounts allocated in FY 2021. NIFA will make adjustments to the allocations for FY 2022 once appropriations are finalized. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2021 was $60,050,909.

The Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/asap/ operated by the Department of Treasury’s Bureau of the Fiscal Service, will be the payment system for all NIFA grant awards.

B. Type of Application
In FY 2022, submit applications to the Hatch Multistate Program as a “new” application.

C. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research
In accordance with sections 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 that 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
Only authorized representatives on behalf of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations located in the 50 States, American Samoa, District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas that conduct agricultural research in accordance with the multistate research fund provisions of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361a-i) may submit applications. 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.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching
Section 3(d)(1) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-federal funds for agricultural research and for the establishment and maintenance of facilities for the performance of the research.” However, section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(4) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirement of paragraph (1), the insular areas of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States and the District of Columbia shall provide matching funds from non-federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. ... The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.”

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.

7 CFR 3419.6 states that “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.”

NIFA may consider and approve matching waiver requests of the 50 percent match applicable under this RFA to insular areas and District of Columbia. Both 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. 4. for additional instructions about how to request a waiver.
PART IV APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package
Submit only electronic applications via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For information about the pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle, see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101/pre-award-phase.html.

New Users of Grants.gov
Prior to preparing an application, we recommend that the project director/principal investigator (PD/PI) first contact an authorized representative (AR, also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR)\(^1\) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If not (e.g., the institution/organization is new to the electronic grant application process through Grants.gov), you must complete the one-time registration process PRIOR to submitting an application. The registration process can take as long as two weeks to complete. It is, therefore, critical to begin the process as soon as possible. To register, the AR should select “Register” in the top right corner of the Grants.gov web page (or go to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html).

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials
To receive application materials:

1. You must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov to access, complete, and submit applications. For basic system requirements and download instructions, see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your version of Adobe Reader is compatible.

2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html and enter the funding opportunity number:

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-10203-HMFPXXXX-22-0002

in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package. A Grant Application Package is tied to a particular funding opportunity. Applications must be submitted ONLY to the particular funding opportunity to which the Grant Application Package is associated. The application package also contains the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.” This guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, additional information about the Grants.gov

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\(^1\) The Authorized Representative (AR) must have the authority to represent and bind the organization for any agreement (i.e., the individual who is authorized to commit the awardee’s time and other resources to the project, to commit the awardee to comply with the terms and conditions of the award instrument including those set out herein, and to otherwise act for or on behalf of the awardee institution or organization).
registration process, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

**If you require assistance to access the application package** (e.g., downloading or navigating Adobe forms) or **submitting the application**, refer to resources available on the Grants.gov website ([https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html)). Grants.gov assistance is also available at:

- **Grants.gov customer support**
  
  (800) 518-4726 toll-free or (606) 545-5035
  
  Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on **federal holidays**. Email: [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)


Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

1. Funding opportunity number (FON)
2. Name of agency to which you are applying
3. Specific area of concern

**B. Content and Form of Application Submission**

You should prepare electronic applications following Parts V and VI of the [NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html). This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A of this part). The following **additional information** is needed to prepare an application for this RFA. **If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.**

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., PDF) in Part III, Section 3 of the guide. Any proposals that are non-compliant with the requirements (e.g; content format, pdf file format, file restrictions, and no password protected files) will be at risk of being excluded from NIFA review. Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. We will accept subsequent submissions of an application until the established deadline in the RFA (see Part V, 2.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further information).

**For any questions related to the preparation of an application,** review the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide and the applicable RFA. If you need further assistance, contact:

- **Email:** [capacitygrantquestions@usda.gov](mailto:capacitygrantquestions@usda.gov)
- **Business hours:** Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET, excluding **federal holidays**.

Each grant application must contain the following:

1. “Application for Federal Assistance,” Form SF-424 R&R Cover Sheet
2. Key Contacts Form
3. NIFA Supplemental Information Form
4. Attachment Form (including attachments in PDF format)
The NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide includes instructions for additional forms that are not needed for an application in response to this RFA. Complete and submit only the forms associated with the funding opportunity package and as instructed below.

1. **SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet**
   Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V § 2 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions. Please note new instructions are included below for Field 5. The Organizational Information NIFA has included in Appendix A is based on FY 2021 applications received for this program. If your organization intends to submit an application using information other than what appears in Appendix A, please contact us at capacitygrantquestions@usda.gov prior to submitting your application.

   a. **Field 1. Type of Submission** – Check “Application”
   b. **Field 5. Applicant Information**
      1. Enter Legal Name of the Applicant as registered in the System for Awards Management (SAM) which appears in the first column of Appendix A to this RFA.
      2. Enter Organizational DUNS as it appears in the second column of Appendix A to this RFA.
      3. Enter Department Name of Eligible Recipient, if applicable.
   c. **Field 8. Type of Application** – Enter “new”
   d. **Field 11. Descriptive Title of Applicant’s Project** – Enter a short descriptive title, no more than 200 characters including spaces, of the project(s) being paid for with this grant. Do not use acronyms or any special characters.
   e. **Field 15. Estimated Project Funding** – For item a, enter your institution’s FY 2021 allocation as listed in Appendix A to this RFA.
   g. **Field 8. Type of Application** – Enter “new”.
   h. **Field 15. Estimated Project Funding** – For item a, enter your institution’s FY 2021 allocation as listed in Appendix A to this announcement.
   i. **Field 17. Complete Certification** - See Part V § 2.18 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for the required certifications and assurances (e.g., Prohibition Against Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements).

2. **Key Contacts Form**
   Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI § 5 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. These documents shall be completed and submitted in PDF format.

   a. **Contact 1 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the Director.
   b. **Contact 2 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the Director’s designee, if applicable.
   c. **Contact 3 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the Business Office Manager/Administrator for this program.
   d. **Contact 4 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the person responsible for drawdowns.

3. **Supplemental Information Form**
   Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI § 1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions.
a. **Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name “Hatch Multistate Formula Program” and the program code “HMFP”.

b. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** Do not attach a conflict of interest list.

4. **Attachment Form**

Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI § 6 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions.

a. **Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status**

See Part V § 4.12. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for instructions regarding mandatory Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status. For Capacity programs, this mandatory information must be either included as an attached PDF and identified on the Attachment Form or appropriately answered within the “Reps and Certs” section of your SAM.gov registration.

b. **Matching Funds**

If matching funds are required as specified under Part III § B. Cost-Sharing or Matching, the matching is an eligibility criterion and you must include the non-federal source documentation with the application. We 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 is to include the non-federal sources (specify the type of match as third party or cash; the source of match state or non-state, county or non-tax; and the amount of match for each source) and the amount of all match support including support from outside the applicant institution. The match information should be in PDF format (see Part III § 3. of the guide for attachment requirements) and included as a separate attachment identified on the Attachment Form.

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.

c. **Matching Funds Waiver Request (Optional)**

If your institution is applying for a matching funds waiver, prepare a request in PDF format for inclusion within your submission and identify on the Attachment Form (see Part III § 3. of the guide for attachment requirements). The revised Final Rule 3419, published May 11, 2018, contains information on applications for waivers for both 1890 land-grant institutions and 1862 land-grant institutions in insular areas. Include the following elements in the request:

1. 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);
2. a statement of the fiscal year(s) for which the waiver is requested;
3. a statement of the exact dollar amount of waiver being requested by fiscal year and how the amount was computed (by matching fund category); and
4. a statement of why the waiver is requested using the criteria listed in the revised
Final Rule 7 CFR 3419.3: impacts from natural disaster, flood, fire, tornado, hurricane, or drought; state and/or institution facing financial crisis; or lack of matching funds after demonstration of good faith efforts to obtain funds;
5. documentation supporting the need for a waiver. Documentation must be current, within the past two years from the date of the letter requesting the waiver; and
6. the university’s efforts to meet future matching needs.

The documentation should include the university’s approved budget for the program for both the current and previous budget cycles. It may also submit items such as a statement from the State asserting what portion of the required match amount the State contribution to the institution will cover, a schedule of projected cash flows showing what portion of the matching funds the university will have available or other documents such as letters from State or institution budget personnel or newspaper articles. Newspaper articles may be provided as supporting documentation but will not be considered as primary supporting documentation. In requesting the waiver, the institution must consider the availability of all permissible forms of matching in detail.

C. Submission Dates and Times
Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by 5 p.m. Eastern Time on September 30, 2021. 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 for Grants.gov contact information.

Once NIFA accepts your application, you may check the status of your application in the ezFedGrants portal or by looking in Grants.gov. Please refer to the training tab on the ezFedGrants page to learn how to access ezFedGrants.

If you are not able to validate that NIFA received your application by September 14th, 2021, 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 Hatch MRF Projects
Hatch federal funding must be used on approved Hatch projects including Hatch Multistate Research Funds (HMRF) projects and other allowed activities.

(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 Hatch formula grant expenditures.
(3) Retirement Contributions
Employer contributions to land-grant college retirement systems are limited to 5 percent of that 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 5 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 § H.1 of the NIFA Policy Guide for additional information.

(4) Matching Funds
See Part III § B. for additional information.

(5) Carryover of Funds
Hatch MRF funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, 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 to carry over funds for one additional year; however, no additional carryover requests may be considered or approved, as no legislative authority to do so is provided.

E. Other Submission Requirements
You should follow the submission requirements noted in Part III of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

For information about the status of a submitted application, see Part III § 6 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM) – each applicant (unless excepted under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (e), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:
   a. be registered in SAM before submitting its application;
   b. provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
   c. continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

If you have not complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements you may be considered unqualified to receive an award.

Your SAM registration information determines your organization ID in the ezFedGrants system, and the information must match your ASAP recipient DUNS 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.

We will provide you 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 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 those responsible, eligible applicants.

B. Award Notice
The notice of federal award is the authorizing document. The award document contains award provisions and other pertinent information. See Notice of Award for further details.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications and the projects outlined in this RFA (some are listed here: Federal Regulations). Unless specifically noted by statute, regulatory or award-specific requirements, NIFA Policy Guide applies to all NIFA awards.

D. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research
Refer to Part II § C for more information.

E. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements
Organizations receiving Hatch Regular funding from NIFA are required to submit the following reports:

1. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Plan of Work (POW) update;
2. FY 2021 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results (Annual Report);
3. Program/project Initiation in the NIFA Reporting System (NRS);

The FY 2023 Plan of Work (POW) update and the FY 2021 Annual Report are due by April 1, 2022. NIFA is building a new integrated reporting portal for research and extension that will affect how the 2021 Annual Report will be submitted to NIFA. Updated instructions for submitting the 2021 Annual Report to NIFA will be provided on the NRS web page https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/pow-nifa-reporting-system. The FY 2023 Plan of Work should be submitted online through the Institutional Profile in REEport unless instructed otherwise on the NRS webpage (https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/pow-nifa-reporting-system).

In FY 2022, Institutions will initiate Research projects in NRS via this link: https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/pow-nifa-reporting-system. Institutions must submit a Project Initiation in the NRS prior to the initiation of each capacity-funded project. An Initiation includes the Project Description, Classifications, Assurances, and identification of Integrated and Multi-State activities prior to initiation of each capacity-funded project. The program will undergo a review by NIFA and be approved, deferred, or declined.

Institutions will submit annual progress reports in the NRS based on the federal fiscal year. Reports are due March 1 for the preceding fiscal year. Progress reports will form the basis for the newly formatted Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results. A Final Report must be submitted to NIFA through the NRS for each completed or terminated project.

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 additional required SF-425’s throughout the life
of the award. Information on how to access the ezFedGrants portal can be found under the training on the ezFedGrants page at ezFedGrants (eFG) Grants and Agreements System.

See The Hatch Act of 1887 for additional details of reporting requirements. Additional information about the new system and reporting requirements is provided at https://nifa.usda.gov/tool/pow-nifa-reporting-system. To sign-up to receive information, schedules, and updates about the POW-REEport Integration Project, send an email message to pow@usda.gov (link sends e-mail). Insert the following text on the subject line: "Request to Sign Up for POW notifications." You will receive an email confirming your subscription.
PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions regarding Hatch Multistate projects/program, please contact:

**Dr. Ganesh Bora**, National Program Leader
Institute of Food Production and Sustainability
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road
Mail Stop 10000 (ten thousand)
Kansas City, MO 64131
E-mail: ganesh.bora@usda.gov

**Dr. Megan O’Rourke**, National Program Leader
Institute of Bioenergy, Climate and Environment
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road
Mail Stop 10000 (ten thousand)
Kansas City, MO 64131
E-mail: megan.orourke@usda.gov

**Bridget Zeller**
Office of Grants and Financial Management
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road
Mail Stop 10000 (ten thousand)
Kansas City, MO 64131
Telephone: 816-401-8219
Email: capacitygrantquestions@usda.gov

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

For questions relating to the 5-Year Plan of Work Update or the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results, contact Planning, Accountability and Reporting Staff; Email: pow@usda.gov.
PART VIII – OTHER INFORMATION

The USDA NIFA home page for the Hatch Multistate Program (HMRF) is: https://nifa.usda.gov/program/hatch-act-1887-multistate-research-fund.
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