

Army Family Advocacy Program: Research and Prevention

FY 16 Request for Applications (RFA)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 7, 2016

ELIGIBILITY: See Part III, A of RFA



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Army Family Advocacy Program: Research and Prevention

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.500.

DATES: Applications must be received by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 7, 2016**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding (see Part IV, C. of this RFA). Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within 6 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 the comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we'll use them 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 via e-mail to: Policy@nifa.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting Information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the: Army Family Advocacy Program: Research and Prevention RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the Army Family Advocacy Program: Research and Prevention (ARMY) for fiscal year (FY) 2016 to 1) determine the effectiveness for child and domestic/partner abuse case treatments for Army Medical Command and 2) develop evidence-based information for prevention of child abuse and domestic/partner abuse for Army Installation Management Command. The amount available for this grant in FY 2016 is \$403,200.

This notice identifies the objectives for ARMY projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for an ARMY grant.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

In accordance with the Economy Act of 1932, as amended, (31 U.S.C. 1535), the Department of Defense (DoD) is utilizing the unique resources of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) by providing NIFA with funds to support the Army Family Advocacy Program: Research and Prevention (ARMY) Competitive Grant Program. Such efforts help provide expert knowledge and experience related to adult and child maltreatment. Within DOD, Economy Act transactions are governed by DoD Financial Management Regulation, Volume 11A, Chapter 3, Economy Act Orders.

Pursuant to 7 U.S.C. Sec. 3318(c), the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Director of the NIFA, may enter into contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements, for periods not to exceed five years, with state agricultural experiment stations, state cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or educational institutions or organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, individuals, and any other contractor or recipient, either foreign or domestic, to further research, extension, or teaching programs in the food, agriculture, natural resources, and human sciences of the Department of Agriculture.

B. Purpose and Priorities

ARMY is aligned with the USDA Strategic Plan (<http://www.ocfo.usda.gov/usdasp/usdasp.htm>) Strategic Goal 1: Assist Rural Communities to Create Prosperity so They Are Self-sustaining, Repopulating, and Economically Thriving through addressing human and social capital. ARMY is aligned with the USDA Research, Economics, and Education (REE) Action Plan (http://www.ree.usda.gov/ree/news/USDA_REE_Action_Plan_03-2014.pdf) Goal 7: Rural-Urban Interdependence and Prosperity through “support information and technology transfer and translational research, ‘transformational extension,’ to inform citizens and enable and support vibrant and resilient communities.” ARMY is aligned with the NIFA’s Strategic Plan (http://nifa.usda.gov/about/pdfs/strat_plan_2014.pdf), Goal 1: Science through “catalyze exemplary and relevant research, education and extension programs.”

This work also supports the mission of the DoD-USDA Partnership for Military Families Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in 2010 by NIFA and DoD senior leadership. The goal of the MOU is “...to enhance federal interagency coordination and build capacity for partnerships and collaboration among the agencies and across public and private sectors to sustain programs and services for military service members and their families.”

Background and Context

The U.S. Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP) helps soldiers and families recognize and meet the unique challenges of military lifestyles. FAP is dedicated to helping soldiers and families with the complex challenges related to domestic abuse, child abuse, and neglect. The FAPs exist to prevent and intervene in cases of domestic and/or child abuse. This RFA includes two

priorities reflecting the clinical and prevention work of the FAP. You must address both priorities in proposal.

Priority 1

As part of preventing and intervening in cases of domestic and/or child abuse, maltreatment reports are investigated and then presented to a multidisciplinary body located on each military installation known as the Case Review Committee (CRC). The CRC reviews the facts and then votes on each case using an automated system of definitions and decision trees called the Decision Tree Algorithm (DTA) to determine if the facts in the case "meet criteria" (i.e., the preponderance of the evidence points to the act of abuse/neglect as having occurred) or "do not meet criteria."

Recent studies have been completed focused on abuse incidents, including the Command Support Study (CSS). The (CSS) is an evaluation of the Family Advocacy Program Managers' (FAPM's) briefing of command and the role the commander plays in supporting the Army's response which occurs when there is an incident of family violence. FAPM provides domestic violence and child abuse prevention and education briefings to commanders, service members' family members and civilian employees.

The CSS logic model states that if the FAPM briefs the commander, as required by regulation, the commander will have a better understanding of how the Army responds to incidents of family violence and the role commanders play in that response. As a result, the commander will be more likely to attend the CRC meeting when there is an incident of family violence involving a soldier under his or her command. If the commander attends the CRC meeting, he or she will have a better understanding of what went into the determination that the incident did or did not meet criteria for abuse as well as the rationale for the proposed treatment plans for the offender and the victim.

As a result, the commander will be more likely to endorse treatment, will be more supportive of the treatment process, and the offender and the victim will be more likely to complete treatment. If treatment is completed, the family will be less likely to experience another incident of abuse. This study, the third replication, was designed to retest the validity of the CSS logic model with a larger sample and better understand the relationships between FAPM briefings, command CRC attendance, command concurrence with treatment plans, offender and victim completion of treatment, and subsequent recidivism in family violence incidents. For the CSS, the only information available about treatment was whether the offender and victim completed or partially completed treatment.

This current proposed project entails an in-depth look at cases in which treatment was successful in preventing further family violence and cases in which treatment failed (i.e., did not prevent a subsequent incident). The purpose would be to determine what characteristics of treatment might explain treatment success or failure, the service dosage, the timing and length of the intervention, and how well the treatment matched the individual's and family's assessed needs, as well as other case characteristics not considered in the CSS that might explain treatment success or

failure. The findings from the study would identify those case characteristics and any relevant context that may enhance or diminish treatment success so that intervention efforts can be more effective.

The primary objective for this project is:

- To provide valuable information on the effectiveness of child and domestic/partner abuse case treatments for Army Medical Command through a qualitative study.

This objective will be accomplished through developing the following products:

- A categorization of cases from the CSS data that meet the criteria for high, moderate, or low risk for treatment failure at each location and a standard protocol for coding case records through visits at installations designated based on priority determined in consultation with the Army FAP Medical Command.
- A final report detailing findings and recommendations submitted to the Army FAP Medical Command.

Priority 2

Several self-guided tutorials have been developed that assist FAPM and other FAP providers in their work to support soldiers, families, leadership, and other community members. Some recent resources include the “Domestic Abuse Victim Advocacy Program (DAVAP) Self-Guided Tutorial” (in press); “Army FAP Commander’s Desk Guide” (2013, Ed. 4); “Transitional Compensation (TC) Program Self-Guided Tutorial” (2012); and TC Leaders’ Edition (2013). Other previous studies have also assisted Headquarters FAP (HQ FAP) team to collect information on Army-wide FAPM program implementation practices and feedback about resources that assist the FAPM’s overall prevention work. This work was often conducted through online surveys of FAPMs and other FAP providers (e.g., victim advocates and home visitors).

The primary objective of Priority 2 is to continue support for FAP initiatives providing evidence-based information about the prevention of child abuse and domestic/partner abuse that supports program accountability requirements. The development of a “FAPM Survey” and analysis of the results will be used to assist HQ FAP team in understanding how FAPMs currently implement their comprehensive prevention services. The survey will also collect feedback and recommendations from FAPMs about what features of the “FAP Guide to Prevention Programming Self-Guided Tutorial” (FAP Guide) are useful and what gaps exist. The FAP Guide revision/update is important because it assists the FAPM through a 7-step process to develop and implement a prevention program, which aligns with Army policy and guidance (e.g., AR 608-18, ACS [see http://www.apd.army.mil/pdffiles/r608_18.pdf], FAP accreditation standards). Findings from the survey will also provide information on other FAPM resources that will assist FAPMs in their prevention work. Additionally, due to the unique expertise of the Extension professionals in behavioral science, professional learning, and evidence-based resource development, particularly with families and children, applicants from Cooperative

Extension Service at a land-grant university are strongly encouraged to apply or partner with appropriate professionals with related or supportive expertise and experience.

The primary objective for this priority is:

- To develop evidence-based information for prevention of child abuse and domestic/partner abuse that supports program accountability requirements for Army Installation Management Command.

This objective will be accomplished through developing the following products:

- An online survey and a summary report that addresses the following FAP objectives: 1) to learn about installation best practices and delivery strategies, 2) to obtain feedback about ways to improve the “FAP Guide to Prevention Programming Self-Guided Tutorial,” 3) to identify key content areas for training new FAPMs, and 4) to assist in developing a logic model that includes identifying any current outcome data being collected. The survey results will also help inform HQ FAP team about any recommended revisions/updates to the “FAP Guide to Prevention Programming Self-Guided Tutorial.”
- A self-guided tutorial designed to function like the current FAP Guide Content with content modifications based on FAPM survey responses. The tutorial should include informational topics/screens with subject area ‘pop-up’ scripts, and accompanying links in order to access more information, such as policy guidance, best practices, and related resources. This product, the master electronic tutorial (in pdf format), will be turned over to the HQ FAP team point of contact who will arrange to have it posted on through a website accessed by FAP staff.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The anticipated amount available for NIFA support in FY 2016 is \$403,200. The funds will be awarded through a single grant for a period of one year. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

Awards issued as a result of this RFA will have designated the Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, as the payment system for funds. For more information see https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/asap/asap_home.htm.

B. Types of Applications

In FY 2016, you may only submit a new application to the ARMY Competitive Grant Program:

New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the ARMY Competitive Grant Program. We will review all new applications competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by state agricultural experiment stations, state cooperative extension services, all colleges and universities, other research or educational institution or organizations, Federal and private agencies and organizations, individuals and any other recipient, either foreign or domestic, to further research, extension, or teaching programs in the food and agriculture, natural resources and human sciences.

Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations 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 be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For an overview of the Grants.gov application process see <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.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) 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), then the one-time registration process must be completed PRIOR to submitting an application. It can take as long as 2 weeks to complete the registration process so it is critical to begin as soon as possible. In such situations, the AR should go to **“Register” in the top right corner of the Grants.gov web page (or go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html>) for information on registering the institution/organization with Grants.gov.** Part II.1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide contains detailed information regarding the registration process. Refer to item 2. below to locate the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.”

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 <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your current version of Adobe Reader is compatible.
2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html> and enter the funding opportunity number

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-EXCA-006025

in the appropriate box and click “Search.” From the search result, click “Select Package” to access the application package. A Grant Application Package is tied to a particular funding opportunity. You may submit an application ONLY to the particular funding opportunity to which the Grant Application Package is associated.

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 (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-tools-and-tips.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

Grants.gov iPortal (see <https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants>): Top 10 requested help topics (FAQs), Searchable knowledge base, self-service ticketing and ticket status, and live web chat (available 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. ET). Get help now!

Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Name of agency you are applying to
- 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. This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed to prepare an application in response to 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 name restrictions, and no password protected files) WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW. Grants.gov does not check for NIFA required attachments or that attachments are in PDF format; see Part III section 6.1 of the guide for how to check the manifest of submitted files. Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. We will accept subsequent submissions of an application until close of business on the closing date 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 assistance is still needed for preparing application forms content, contact:

- Email: electronic@nifa.usda.gov
- Phone: 202-401-5048
- Business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, excluding [federal holidays](#).

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. See Part V., Section 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. SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 3. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

3. R&R Other Project Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 4. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 7. Project Summary/Abstract. The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of ARMY. See Part V. 4.7 of NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

b. Field 8. Project Narrative.

NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed 6 pages of written text regardless of whether it is single- or double-spaced and up to 4 additional pages for figures and tables. We have established this maximum (10 pages) to ensure fair and equitable competition. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

Section 1: Statement of Need & Qualification

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of the priority issues this project is seeking to address.
- Describe the audience(s) to be served (i.e., stakeholders) and how the overall project will effectively address the audience(s) needs.
- Detail the characteristics of the institution(s) that make it particularly qualified to conduct the proposed work. You could describe ongoing or recently completed significant activities related to the proposed project (e.g., expert knowledge and experience related to: adult and child maltreatment; responding to, managing and determining adult and child maltreatment cases, child maltreatment and domestic abuse clinical case treatment, program and process assessment and evaluation, qualitative research, relevant evidence-based resource development and military program evaluation).

Section 2: Goals and Objectives

- List clear, concise, and logically arranged project goals and objectives. For the goals, you must address each of the priority issues identified in Section 1 above. For the objectives, you must link to the goals and address program priorities listed in Part 1, Section B.

Section 3: Approach and Design

Project Action Plan: Based on the products being developed, a project plan will be drafted. The plan should contain the following:

- a preliminary project plan which shows the relationships between objectives, project activities, and product development;
- the evaluation approach to include internal, process evaluations and quality assurance controls;
- development and/or implementation challenges that may be encountered;
- a description of how stakeholder feedback and involvement will be a part of the project.
- methods by which information will be collected and analyzed;
- means by which data will be collected; indicate collection instruments and methods if appropriate (questionnaire, interviews, focus groups, site visits, etc.); and
- identification of ongoing program sustainability or improvement.

Section 4: Project Management

- For each key person identify their role on the project, qualifications and expertise in meeting timelines, reporting, and collaborative efforts.

Section 5: Project Communication Plan

- Briefly describe how pertinent information, progress and results from this project will be communicated during the course of the project and upon its conclusion.

c. Field 12. Add Other Attachments

See Part V., Section 4.12. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide (Field 12 on the Form) for instructions regarding mandatory Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status.

4. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 5. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This section of the Guide includes information about the people who require a Senior/Key Person Profile, and details about the Biographical Sketch and the Current and Pending Support, including a link to a suggested template for the Current and Pending Support.

5. R&R Personal Data – As noted in Part V, 6. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. Part V.6. also notes the importance and use of the information.

6. R&R Budget

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 7. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

For further information and instructions regarding indirect costs, refer to Part V, section 7.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. For indirect cost funding restrictions, refer to section D. of this Part of the RFA.

7. Supplemental Information Form

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part VI, 1. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

- a. Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name (i.e., enter “Army Family Advocacy Program: Research and Prevention”) and the program code (i.e., enter “FAP”). Note that accurate entry of the program code is very important for proper and timely processing of an application.
- b. Field 8. Conflict of Interest List.** See Part VI, 1.8 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Prior to electronic submission of the application via Grants.gov, it is strongly recommended that an administrative review be conducted to ensure that an application complies with all application preparation instructions. An application checklist is included in Part VII of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide to assist with this review.

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by **5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 7, 2016**. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

If you have 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.

We send email correspondence to the AR regarding the status of submitted applications. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received correspondence from NIFA regarding a submitted application within 15 days of the established deadline, contact the Agency Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel.**

Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.

D. Funding Restrictions

Agency policy limits the maximum potential funding period (including any awards transferred from another institution or organization) to five years in duration. The funding period will commence on the effective date cited in the award instrument. Any such limitation also applies to subcontracts made under awards subject to a funding period limitation.

The PD may incur pre-award costs within the 90-day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award providing: the approval of pre-award spending is made and documented in accordance with the awardee's normal procedures prior to the incurrence of the cost(s); the advanced funding is necessary for the effective and economical conduct of the project; and the costs are otherwise allowable. Pre-award expenditures are made at the awardee's risk. AOR authority to approve pre-award costs does not impose an obligation on NIFA: (1) in the absence of appropriations; (2) if an award is subsequently not made; or (3) if an award is made for a lesser amount than the awardee expected.

Pre-award costs incurred outside the 90-day period immediately preceding the effective date of the award must receive written approval from the ADO. Please verify with the Administrative/Business Contact listed in this RFA before any pre-award expenditures are incurred. Any expenditures made before then are at your own risk.

E. Other Submission Requirements

You should follow the submission requirements noted in Part IV, section 1.9 in the document entitled "NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide."

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

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

We evaluate each application in a 2-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, a technical review panel will evaluate applications that meet the administrative requirements.

We select reviewers based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

When each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible program staff of FAP will review results and provide recommendations to NIFA which will make the final decision that the project: (a) be approved for support from currently available funds or (b) be declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review. NIFA will make the final awards based on the panel reviews and FAP recommendations.

NIFA reserves the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or with the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., reductions in the scope of work, funding level, period, or method of support) prior to recommending any project for funding.

B. Evaluation Criteria

We will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA:

1. Potential for Assessing the Effectiveness of Child and Domestic/Partner Abuse Case Treatments and Developing Evidence-Based Information for Prevention of Child Abuse and Domestic/Partner Abuse (35 percent)

This criterion is used to assess the likelihood that the project will succeed in: (1) providing the overall management of this project including partnerships and management of project staff; (2) meeting project objectives; and 3) demonstrating successful past experience with related projects.

2. Proposed Approach and Program Coordination (30 percent)

This criterion is used to assess the soundness and sustainability of the proposed approach including statement of need, scope of the project, objectives, design, methods, key personnel, timeline, expected products and results, and communication plan.

3. Evaluation (25 percent)

This criterion is used to assess the adequacy of the proposed project evaluation design and its capacity to meet the project objectives.

4. Budget and Budget Narrative (10 percent)

This criterion is used to assess the extent to which the total budget adequately supports the project and is cost effective based on budget outline provided. Elements considered include: the necessity and reasonableness of costs to carry out project activities and achieve project objective and the adequacy of time committed to the project by key project personnel.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, we take extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. See http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/competitive_peer_review.html for further information about conflicts of interest and confidentiality as related to the peer review process.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one-time basis, with updates on an as-needed basis. This requirement is part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. We will provide you copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the preaward process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, 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 that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

E. Application Disposition

An application may be withdrawn at any time before a final funding decision is made regarding the application. Each application that is not selected for funding, including those that are withdrawn, will be retained by FAP for a period of three years.

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 whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. The project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, regulations, terms and conditions of the award, applicable federal cost principles, USDA assistance regulations, and NIFA General Awards Administration Provisions at 7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E.

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to which the director has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number and the Federal Agency Identification Number assigned by NIFA;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time NIFA intends to support the project without requiring recompetition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of financial assistance approved for the award;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view NIFA award terms and conditions);

(10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by NIFA to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

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, the ones listed on the NIFA web page - <http://nifa.usda.gov/federal-regulations>.

NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide—a compendium of basic NIFA policies and procedures that apply to all NIFA awards, unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary is available at <http://nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide>.

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Grantees are to use REEport, NIFA's electronic, web-based inventory system to submit an initial project initiation which documents expected products and outcomes of the project. Additionally, annual progress report documenting realized project outcomes must be submitted to the electronic system. The web-based system facilitates an electronic workflow between grantees and NIFA for project accomplishments to be easily searchable and allows for public access to information on Federally-funded projects. The details of these reporting requirements, including those specific to the annual and final technical reports, are included in the award terms and conditions. The output and reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions (see <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> for information about NIFA award terms). If there are any program or award-specific award terms, those, if any, will be identified in the award.

Data Use: Use of data provided to NIFA awardees pursuant to this grant award shall comply with the provisions of this paragraph. NIFA awardees shall be free to publish in professional, refereed journals information or data developed or collected (except confidential data or information including Protected Health Information (PHI) or Personal Identifiable Information (PII)) resulting from the activities under this agreement. All educational and technical assistance materials developed by the awardee under an agreement with NIFA shall be owned by the awardee. NIFA and the HQ FAP team will have a non-exclusive, royalty-free, non-transferable, irrevocable license to reproduce, prepare derivative work and distribute copies of the deliverables so long as such deliverables are used for non-commercial educational or government purposes. Any work produced under a NIFA award is subject to 2 CFR Part 200.315 related to intangible property.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Programmatic Contact:

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PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

We will send copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

- a.** The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.
- b.** The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all changes in approved goals or objectives prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests be approved for changes that are outside the scope of the original approved project.
- c.** The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel, prior to effecting such changes.
- d.** The awardee must request, and the ADO must approve in writing, all transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not federal funds are involved, prior to instituting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.
- e.** The project period may be extended without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed any applicable statutory limit or expiring appropriation limitation. The terms and conditions of award

include information about no-cost extensions of the award and when ADO's prior approval is necessary.

- f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes, if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of NIFA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 2 CFR part 415, subpart C, this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

Please refer to [7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs--General Award Administrative Provisions](#), for applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program.

The HQ FAP team, within the Department of the Army, is made up of senior-level staff working in the Army Family Advocacy Program with expertise in addressing the complex challenges related to domestic abuse, child abuse, and neglect and military life. They are dedicated to helping Soldiers and Families with the complex challenges related to domestic abuse, child abuse, and neglect by focusing on prevention, education, prompt reporting, investigation, intervention, and treatment.

F. Materials Available on the Internet and Downloadable:

- [The Family Advocacy Program, U.S. Army Installation Management Command](#)
- [The Family Advocacy Program, U.S. Army Medical Command](#)