



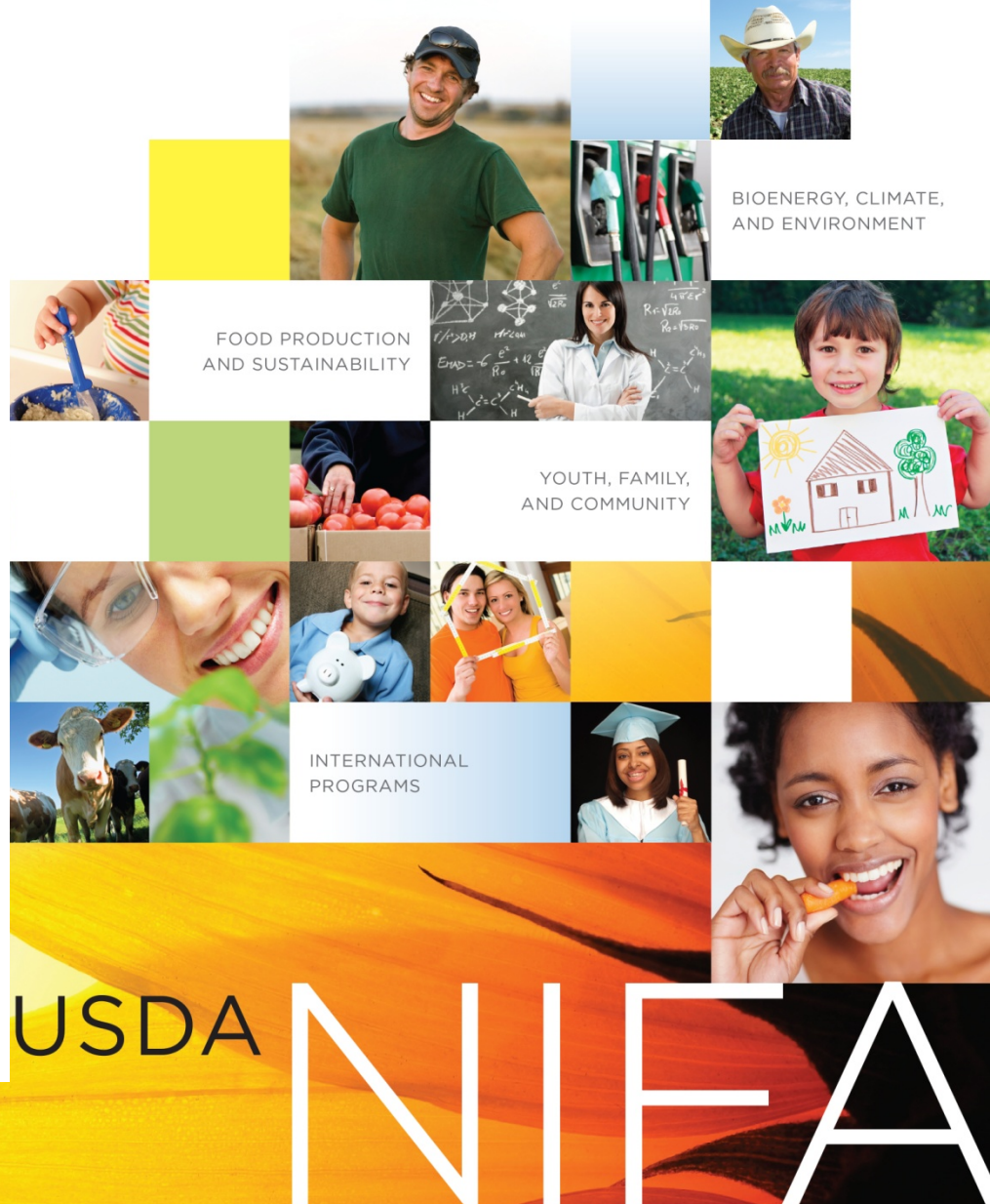
United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

# Funding Opportunities at NIFA

HACU Conference  
Atlanta

October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018



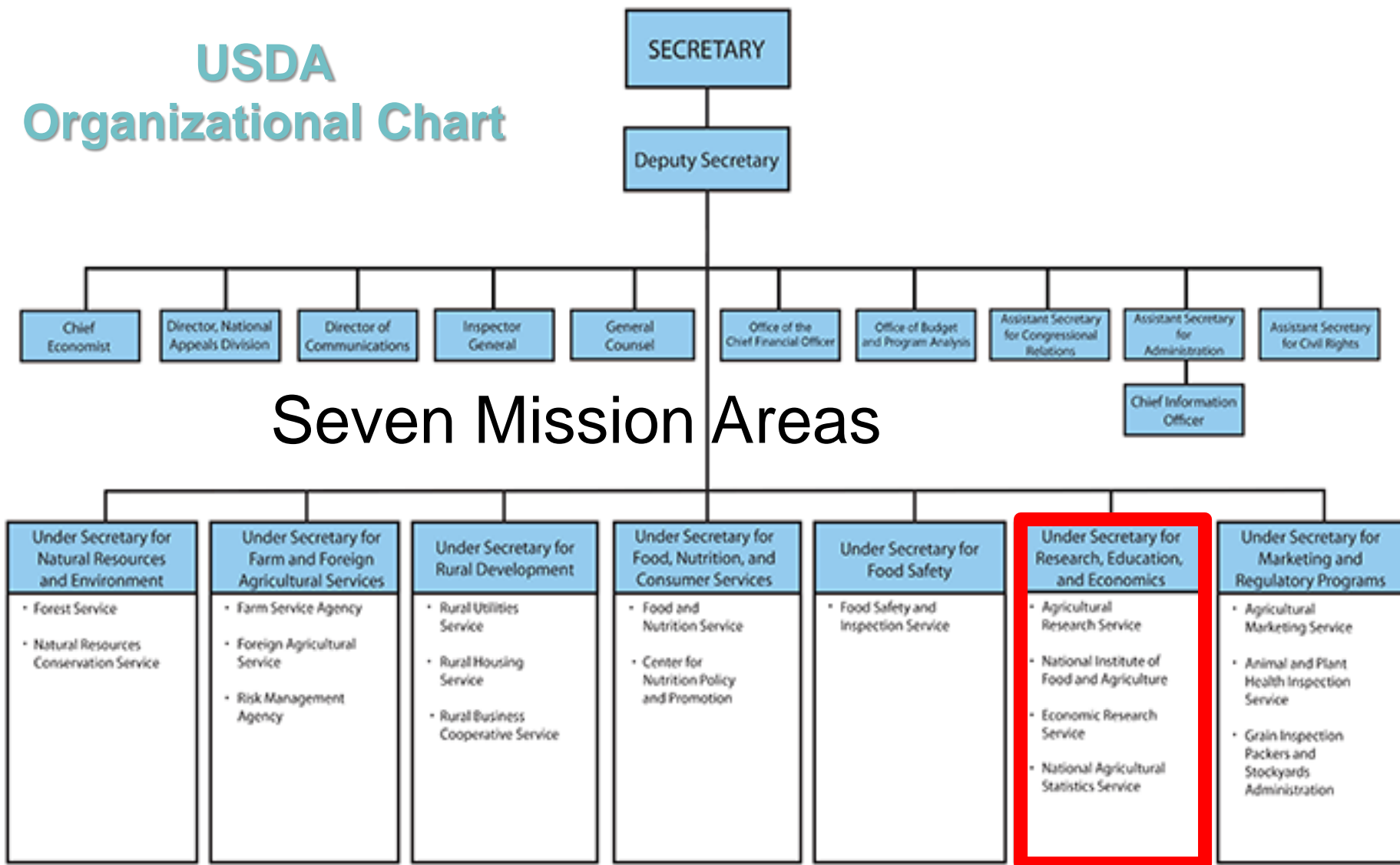
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

# Outline of Presentation



- NIFA Overview
- Highlight Key Funding Opportunities
  - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
  - Education Programs
  - HSINP
  - FS
  - International Engagement
- Tips for Success in Grant Writing

# USDA Organizational Chart



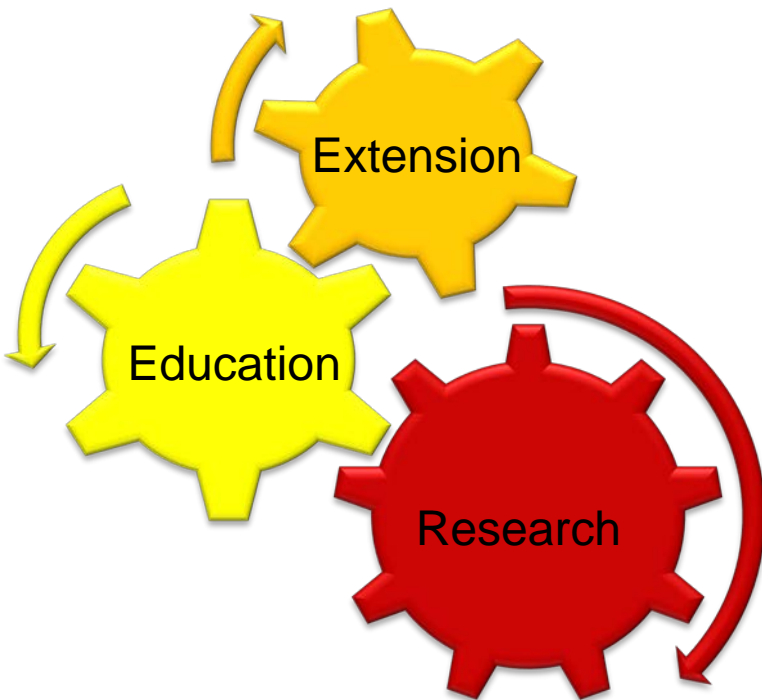
18 Agencies

REE  
ARS, NIFA, ERS, NASS

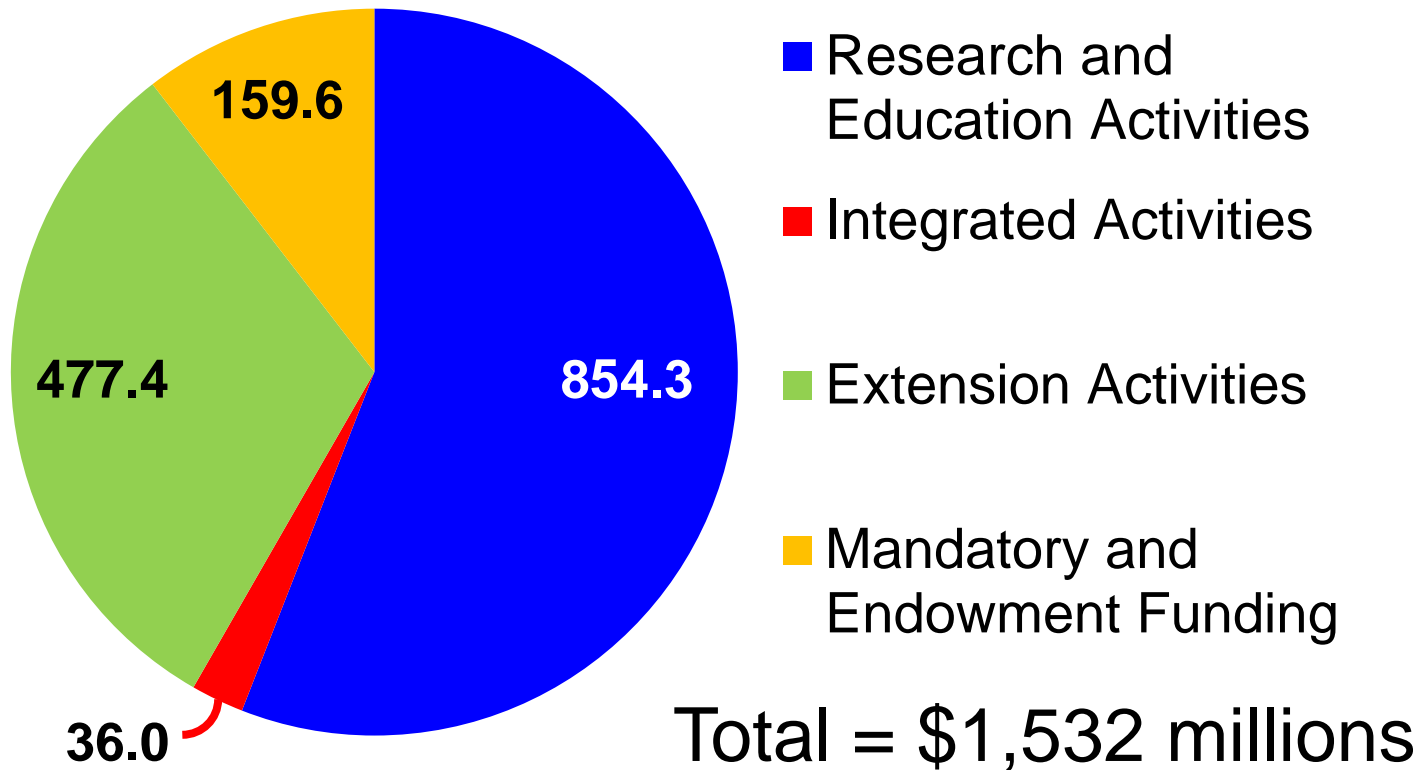
# NIFA's Mission

## Extramural Funding

- **Research** - Provide answers to complex societal issues
- **Education** - Support schools and universities in training the agricultural workforce
- **Extension** - Provide knowledge gained through research to agricultural workforce; theory to practice



# NIFA's 2018 Budget (million dollars)



# NIFA Programs Cover Many Topics



## Natural Resources

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



## People

- Community Vitality
- Family Well-Being
- Youth



## Food Science

- Food Quality
- Food Safety



## Health

- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Wellness



## International

- Global Engagement
- Global Food Security



## Plants

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



# NIFA's Four Science Institutes

- **Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment**

- Enhance sustainable biobased energy systems and products
- Enhance adaptive agro-ecosystems in response to climate variability and change

- ***Institute of Food Production and Sustainability***

- Enhance global food security through productive and sustainable agricultural systems

- **Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition**

- Ensure safe food supply; improve citizens' health through nutrition; reduce childhood obesity; and improve food quality

- **Institute of Youth, Family, and Community**

- Enable vibrant and resilient communities; enhance youth development
- Prepare the next generation of scientists
- Enhance science capacity in minority serving institutions

- **Center for International Programs**

# The Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)

- USDA's largest competitive grant program
- Addresses the 6 Farm Bill priorities for AFRI
  - Plant health and production and plant products
  - Animal health and production, animal products
  - Food safety, nutrition, and health
  - Bioenergy, natural resources, environment
  - Agriculture systems and technology
  - Agriculture economics and rural communities

# Funding Mechanisms at NIFA

## Competitive Grant Funding

- Research Programs
- Education Programs
- Extension Programs
- Integrated Programs – combine research, education and/or extension at program or project level (Multi-function)

>30 programs with broad eligibility

# I. AFRI Grant Types

- Standard Grants
- Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAPs)
- Conference Grants
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants
  - Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowships
  - New Investigator Grants
  - Strengthening Grants – several types

# 1. Sustainable Agricultural Systems (\$A\$)

- **\$80 million in funding available**
- New RFA for 2018 in the Agricultural and Food Research Initiative
- Progression of the Challenge Areas to new multi-disciplinary systems-level work
- *Funding for large integrative projects that address major challenges in agricultural systems*
- SAS is soliciting creative and visionary project applications that:
  - use transdisciplinary approaches
  - integrate research, education, and extension activities
  - promote convergence of science and technology
  - solve present and future food and agricultural production system challenges
  - result in societal benefits.

# Sustainable Agricultural Systems

- **Up to \$10 million per systems-level project**
- Periods of up to five years.
- Integrated Projects only (must include all three: Research, Education, and Extension)
- **Letter of Intent required-deadline:** Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 5pm Eastern Time
- FASE – Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement
  - **Again, LOI is required—June 2018**
- **Deadline:** Wednesday, **October 10, 2018** at 5pm Eastern Time

**[nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-sas](http://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-sas)**

# Sustainable Agricultural Systems

## GOALS

- Applications must address one or more **25-year goals**:
  - Increase agricultural total factor productivity growth from the current 1.5 percent to 2 percent per year and agricultural production by 2 percent annually in all U.S. regions, providing models for similar agro-ecological niches;
  - Improve water and nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient use efficiency by 50 percent;
  - Reduce crop losses due to environmental stress and pests, or diseases by 20 percent;
  - Produce 50 billion gallons of biofuels and 50 billion pounds of biobased chemicals and bioproducts; and
  - Reduce food-borne illnesses down to 8.5 cases per 100,000.

## 2. Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)

- Phase 1 & 2 **\$25 million** for both phases
- 10 research areas;

Plant Related Research areas:

- Forests and Related resources
- Plant Production and Protection—Biology
- Plant Production and Protection—Engineering
- Biofuels and Biobased Products
- *Contact: Scott Dockum, [sdockum@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:sdockum@nifa.usda.gov)  
202-720-6346*
- Phase I RFA is typically released in July of each year with an early October deadline

# 3. FASE

## Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants

### Goals:

- Strengthen science capabilities in research, education and/or extension
- Help institutions increase competitiveness
- Attract new scientists into careers in high-priority areas of national need



# Special Opportunities in FASE Grants

- USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (**EPSCoR**) entities
- **Small and mid-sized academic institutions** with limited institutional success
- **Minority-serving institutions**
- **New Investigators**
- **Pre- and Postdoctoral scholars**

# EPSCoR Eligibility

EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research):

- States with AFRI funding  $\leq$  38th percentile of all states from AFRI during previous 3 years (19 states)
- U.S. territories and possessions included
- EPSCoR states recalculated each year - states can move on or off of list depending on their previous success receiving AFRI awards

# 2017 EPSCoR States

## FY 2017 USDA EPSCoR States

Alaska	New Hampshire	South Dakota
Idaho	New Jersey	Utah
Louisiana	New Mexico	Vermont
Maine	North Dakota	West Virginia
Mississippi	Oklahoma	Wyoming
Montana	Rhode Island	
Nevada	South Carolina	

## Other Entities Eligible for USDA EPSCoR Funds

American Samoa	Northern Mariana Islands
District of Columbia	Puerto Rico
Guam	Virgin Islands of the U.S.
Micronesia	

# New Investigator Grants

- No funding set-aside, mechanism to support new investigators below the funding line
- Eligibility
  - First 5 years of first career-track position
  - Limited publication record
  - No previous Federal funding other than a pre- or postdoctoral fellowship or AFRI seed grant
- PDs apply to programs offering Standard Grants

# Strengthening Grant Eligibility

## Degree granting institutions

- Located in EPSCoR states
- Small to mid-size institutions with limited institutional success
- Minority-serving institutions with limited institutional success

# Strengthening Grant Eligibility

## Small and Mid-sized institutions:

- Current total enrollment of <17,500

## Minority-serving:

- Minority enrollment >50% of total enrollment

## Limited institutional success:

- Not among most successful universities and colleges receiving Federal funds for science and engineering R&D (Table 1 in RFA)

# FASE Grant Types

## Strengthening Grants – 11.25% set-aside:

- Seed Grants
- Sabbatical Grants
- Equipment Grants
- Strengthening Standard Grants
- Strengthening CAPs
- Strengthening Conference Grants

# AFRI FASE Grants

New Investigator  
Grants (no set-aside)

Strengthening Grants (11.25%  
of AFRI funding)

Eligibility:

- EPSCoR states
- Minority-serving institutions
- Small or mid-sized institutions

Pre- and Postdoctoral  
Fellowship Grants  
(3.75% of AFRI funding)

- Seed Grants
- Sabbatical Grants
- Equipment Grants
- Strengthening Standard Grants
- Strengthening CAP Grants
- Strengthening Conference Grants

# Strengthening Grant Types

## Seed Grants (\$150,000 for 2 years)

- Collect preliminary data for future AFRI funding
- Single function research, education or extension

## Sabbatical Grants

- Up to one year of salary, travel funds, supplies
- mini-sabbaticals also appropriate

## Equipment Grants

# Strengthening Grant Types

## Strengthening Standard Grants (and CAPs)

- Identical to Standard Grant application except project type box checked indicating eligibility
- No specific RFA
  - applicants submit to AFRI program of interest by program's deadline
  - Strengthening Standard Grant applications reviewed with Standard Grant applications in same panel

## Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships:

- 3.75% funding set-aside (**\$4 million plus**)
- Eligibility
  - Citizens, nationals, permanent residents
  - Progress toward or time from completion of degree
- Programs are in Education and Workforce Development RFA

# Strengthening Grant Types

## Equipment Grants

- 50% of cost or \$50,000 (whichever is less)
- Requires non-Federal matching – waivers of ≤\$25,000 are available

### ➤ **No specific RFA for these 3 grant types:**

→ applicants submit to AFRI program of interest by program's deadline

# Sound Confusing?

Great News...

there is a flow chart...

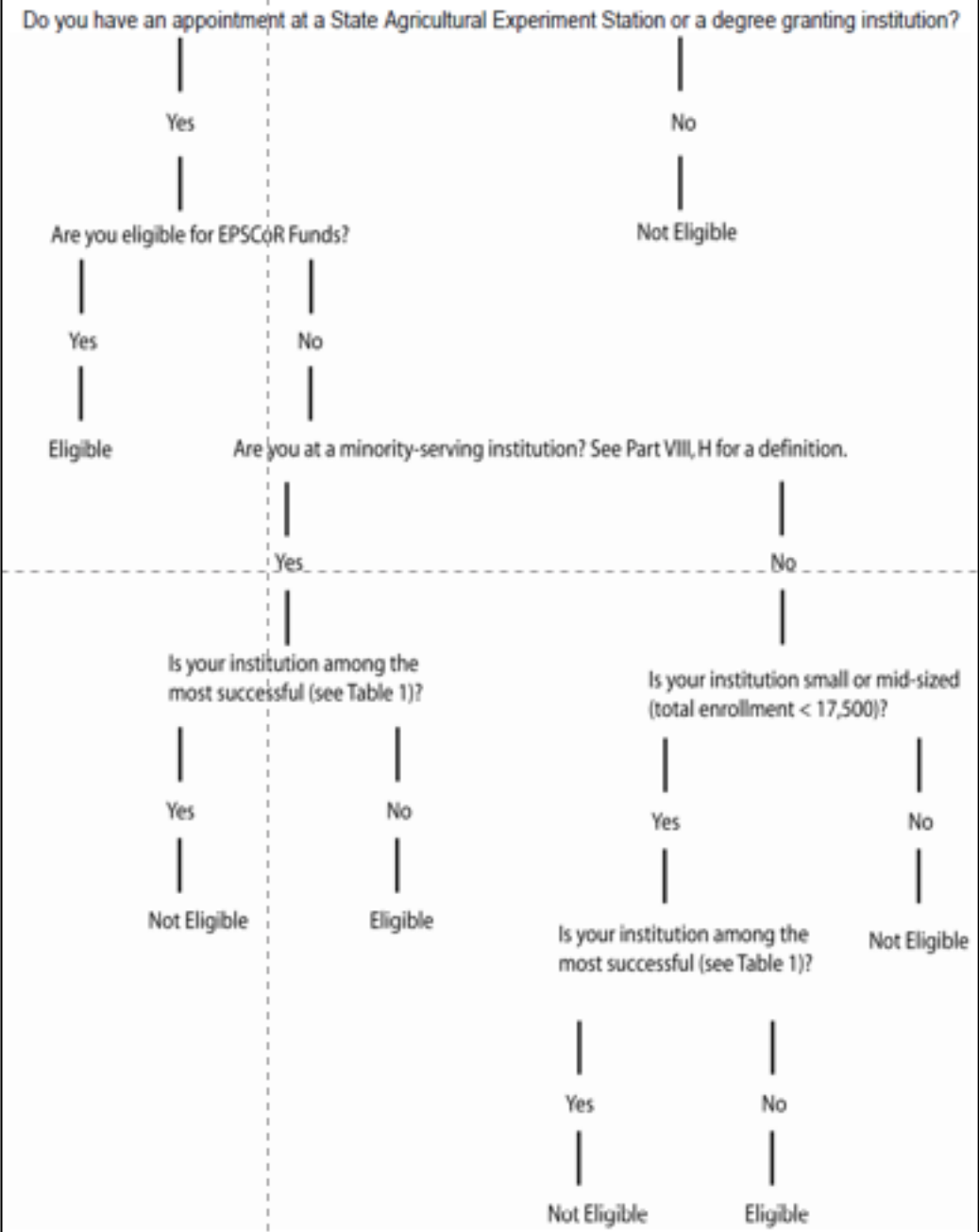


United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

National Institute  
of Food  
and Agriculture

Helpful eligibility  
flow chart on  
last page of  
AFRI RFAs

FIGURE 1. Flow Chart for Strengthening Grant Eligibility.

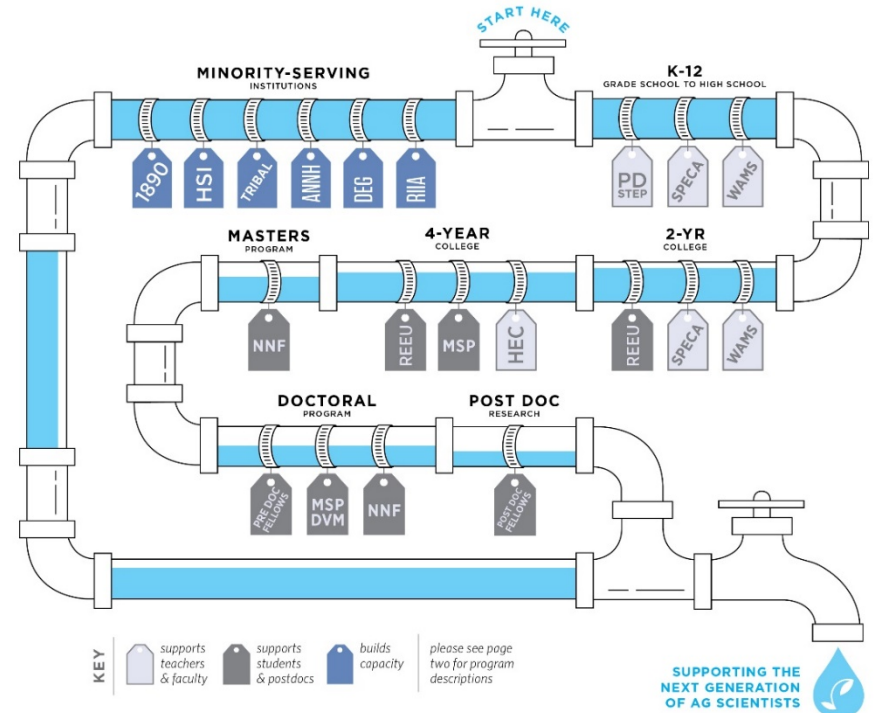


# Education and MSI Grants

NIFA administers about 25 Education & Capacity Building programs with about \$225 million in annual appropriations

## Goals:

- Workforce Development
- Learning & Engagement
- Capacity Building for eligible MSIs and NLGCA



# Workforce Development Programs



Grant programs that directly support students and prepares them for the workforce in STEM fields related to the USDA Mission.

# Multicultural Scholars



- Available Funding: **\$945,000**
- Scholarships (undergraduate) to encourage students from groups that are historically underrepresented to pursue and complete **baccalaureate degrees** in the Food, Agricultural, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences, or achieve a D.V.M.
- Any combination of 2-, 3-, and/or 4-year scholarships
- **\$6,500 /student/year, for up to four years** + **\$2,500 /student/year for cost of education allowance**
- Student Experiential Learning (SEL) – One-time **\$4,000 for each eligible USDA MSP Scholar**
- Grants are given to Colleges and Universities.

Award Max: \$200,000

Contact: Dr. Ray Ali

[rali@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:rali@nifa.usda.gov)

% Funded: 24%

FY2018 Deadline: Passed

(202) 720-2727

# NIFA Undergraduate Fellows (REEU)



- Available Funding: **\$7,279,105 in FY 2018**
- Research and extension based experiential learning for undergraduates such that upon graduation they may enter the agriculture workforce with exceptional skills;
- Provides opportunities for students from underrepresented and economically disadvantaged groups at minority-serving institutions, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to obtain hands-on experience and training at larger universities and USDA laboratories.
- Eligible institutions include colleges and universities.

Award Max: \$ 300,000  
[Ariela.Zycherman@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:Ariela.Zycherman@nifa.usda.gov)

Contact: Ariela Zycherman  
202-720-0384

# National Needs Fellows



- Fellowships for **MS & Doctoral** level students in areas of specified, national need
  - MS - \$18,500 /student/year, for 2 years
  - PhD - \$24,500 /student/year, for 3 years
- Special (supplemental) International Study Stipend for current fellow up to \$4,500 /MS student and \$8,000 /PhD student
- Grants are given to Colleges and Universities.

Award Max: \$262,500  
Contact: Dr. Ray Ali  
rali@nifa.usda.gov

% Funded: 21%  
FY2018 Deadline: Passed  
(202) 720-2727

# NIFA Pre-Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Fellows



- Pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships to prepare the next generation of research, education, and extension professionals.
  - Technical and functional competence for predoctoral students
  - The research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students
- Grants are normally provided to the predoctoral/postdoctoral scholar through the respective institution (e.g. colleges and universities).
- There is a small institutional allowance in addition to student stipend, fees and tuition, travel, supplies, etc.

Award Max Pre Doc: **\$120,000**  
Contact: Ray Ali  
rali@nifa.usda.gov

Award Max Post Doc: **\$165,000**  
FY2018 Deadline: Passed  
(202) 720-2727

# Higher Education Challenge



- Available Funding: **\$4,800,000**
- Grants to colleges and universities to improve:
  - Food, agricultural, natural resources, and human sciences education
    - **baccalaureate or master's degree** level
  - Professional degree-level education in **veterinary medicine (DVM)**.
- Curriculum development, instructional delivery systems and expanding student career opportunities
- Faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching.
- Facilitating interaction with other academic institutions

Award Max: \$ 750,000  
Contact: Dr. Antonio McLaren  
[antonio.a.mclaren@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:antonio.a.mclaren@nifa.usda.gov)

Funded: 20%  
Deadline: TBD  
(202) 720 - 0742

# Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (WAMS) Fields Program



- Eligibility very broad
- Approximately **\$400,000** available each year.
- Increase, to the maximum extent practicable, participation by rural women and underrepresented minorities from rural areas in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields from grade levels K-14.

Award Max: varies  
Contact: Dr. Victoria Lebeaux  
Victoria.S.LeBeaux@nifa.usda.gov

Funded:  
FY 2018 Deadline: TBD  
202-578-4139

# Secondary, Postsecondary Ag Education Challenge (PD STEP)



- Available Funding: **\$800,000**
- Innovative teaching enhancements
  - Improve how faculty deliver academic instruction
- Emphasis is on encouraging students
  - transfer to higher education institutions
  - complete advanced degrees
- \$150,000 total for project periods of up to 3 years.
- Limit of one award per host institution
- Any single institution can submit a maximum of three proposals

Award Max: varies  
Contact: Dr. Victoria Lebeaux

Funded: 21%  
FY 2018 Deadline: TBD

# MSI Programs



- 1890 LGUs
- Tribal Colleges (1994 LGUs)
- Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Alaskan Native/Native Hawaiian
- Insular Area

# Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

- **FY2018: \$8.8 million available for funding**
- Grants to HSIs to improve:
  - Curricula Design, Materials Development and Library Resources
  - Faculty Preparation and Enhancement for Teaching
  - Instruction Delivery Systems
  - Scientific Instrumentation for Teaching
  - Student Experiential Learning
  - Student Recruitment and Retention
- Grant Types: Conference, Regular, and Collaboration
- 100 percent matching requirement
  - Waived to HSACUs, NLGCAs, and land-grants.

Award Max: **\$50,000 to \$ 1million**

Contact: Irma Lawrence

[ILAWRENCE@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:ILAWRENCE@nifa.usda.gov)

Award rate: 9%

FY2019 Deadline: TBD

202-531-0633

# **FY 2019 HSI's RFA**

## **3 Levels of Funding**

**LEVEL 1. Regular** up to \$250K

time applicants + \$25K

Strengthening, first

**LEVEL 2. Collaboration**—Priority Oriented-\$250K/yr/4yrs

Will result on **FIFTEEN B.S.** and **TEN M.S./PhD** per priority

**\*Plant Sciences\***

Forestry

Food Science/Nutrition

Animal Science/Plant science

Natural Resources

Microbiology/Nanotechnology

**LEVEL 3. Conference \$30,000 to \$50,000**

## HSIs Projects Duration -- 4 years

The statutory time limit for these grants is **five (5) years**.

## NEED AREAS we fund

1. **Curricula** Design, Materials Development and Library Resources
2. **Faculty** Preparation and Enhancement for Teaching
3. Instruction **Delivery** Systems
4. Scientific **Instrumentation** for Teaching
5. Student **Experiential** Learning
6. Student **Recruitment** and Retention

# Academic Disciplines

- **Entomology - Plant**
- **Human Nutrition**
- **General Food & Agricultural Sciences**
- **Aquaculture**
- **Veterinary Medicine/Science**
- **Watershed Management)**
- **Agricultural/Biological Engineering**
- **Entomology - Animal**
- **Environmental Sciences/Management**
- **Animal Sciences**
- **Soil Sciences**
- **Family & Consumer Sciences**
- **International Education/Research**
- **Plant Sciences and Horticulture (including Turf Sciences)**
- **Other**

# Indirect Costs

Use negotiated rate, but may not exceed **30 percent**.

# Matching Requirements

- **100 percent matching requirement**

Matching requirements does not apply to grants awarded to HSACUs, NLGCAs, and Land-grants.

(Pages 17-18 RFA)

Note that NIFA included information at

[http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/matching\\_require.html](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/awards/matching_require.html) to further assist you in determining if you must meet the new matching requirement.

# Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture



- Capacity building grants for non-land-grant colleges of agriculture to develop curricula, conduct research, participate in outreach activities, and enhance agricultural related programs outside of the land-grant university system.
- **Project Types**
  - Teaching Projects
  - Research Projects
  - Outreach or Applied Research Projects

# Non-Land Grant Colleges of Agriculture



- Eligibility restricted to NIFA certified NLGCA
- Approximately **\$4.8 million** available each year.
- FY 2018 application deadline was in May.
- Grant Types/Size in FY 2018
  - a) Planning Activity/Conference Grant = \$30,000
  - b) Regular Grants = \$150,000
  - c) Collaborative Grants = not to exceed \$3


Award Max: varies  
Contact: Dr. Ariela Zycherman  
[Ariela.Zycherman@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:Ariela.Zycherman@nifa.usda.gov)

Funded: 38%  
FY 2018 Deadline: TBD  
202-720-0384

# Other Grant Programs



# Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP)



- In FY 2018, **\$17.7 million** was available for funding.
- Funds for education, training, outreach and mentoring of beginning farmers and ranchers
  - Entering, establishing, building and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises.
- 25% match required

# Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program



Grant recipient must be a collaborative state, tribal, local, or regionally-based network or partnership of public or private entities, may include:

- State cooperative extension service;
- Federal, State or tribal agency;
- College or University (including an institution awarding an associate's degree);
- Foundation or any other appropriate partner, as determined by the Secretary.
- Priority given to Community-based and nongovernmental organization with expertise in new agricultural producer training and outreach

# Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program



Standard Projects - to provide local and regional training, education, outreach and technical assistance

✓ Up to \$250,000 per year for up to 3 years

- Financial management training
- Whole farm planning
- Conservation assistance
- Diversification and marketing strategies
- Curriculum development
- Other subject areas of use to beginning farmers or ranchers (see the BFR program page).

**HSINP**

# Forest Service



## There are opportunities to include **international activities** in your

NIFA **Capacity** grants (mainly land grant institutions)

- NIFA **Competitive** grants (all eligible institutions)

Note:

Any international activity must advance U.S. agricultural goals.

Only U.S. institutions are eligible to apply for NIFA awards.

For info on competitive grant programs with global engagement opportunities see

<https://nifa.usda.gov/opportunities-global-engagement>

Questions? Email: [otto.gonzalez@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:otto.gonzalez@nifa.usda.gov)

# 3 Steps toward including an International activity

Step 1 - See  
If it fits within a  
NIFA grant program



Step 2 – Determine how it  
helps you accomplish your  
research, education or extension  
objective

Step 3 – Identify potential  
collaborators, institutions,  
or locations

## Advancing U.S. Agriculture through Global Engagement

### Advancing U.S. Agriculture through Global Engagement

### Advancing U.S. Agriculture through Global Engagement



#### Engage Students and Faculty in Latin American Agriculture as a Model for Global Involvement and Career Development

Training future leaders with a good understanding of global food and agriculture issues is important, but such shared opportunities for research



#### Biology and Management of Plant-Associated Viruses and Endophytic Fungi in New Mexico

Regarding endophytic fungi: Locooweeds (found globally) are leguminous plants which are toxic to grazing animals due to consumption of swainsonine, an alkaloid produced by fungi which live endophytically inside the locoweed plants. Scientists at New Mexico State University are working with Chinese scientists to compare locoweed endophytes in China to those found in the western United States. Fungal endophytes and locoweed plants will be characterized biologically and molecularly. By better understanding the fungi and their interaction with their plant hosts, New Mexico State University scientists hope to develop options to help rangeland managers avoid or control the problem of livestock poisoned by locoweed. **HATCH grant**



#### Risk Assessment and Eradication of *Globodera* in U.S. Production of Potato

The U.S. potato industry depends upon the ability to respond in a quick, economical, and environmentally sound way to invasive agricultural pests such as cyst nematodes in the genus *Globodera*. The University of Idaho formed a consortium of researchers, extension specialists, and educators from three land grant institutions (U. of Idaho, Oregon State University, Cornell University), USDA Agricultural Research Service, and international experts (James Hutton Institute, Scotland; INRA, France; Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada). The objective is to increase the capacity of the U.S. to respond to the threat of *Globodera* in potato production because potato is the most important non-grain food crop in the world. **AFRI grant**



#### Managing Plant-Microbe Interactions in Soil to Promote Sustainable Agriculture

Lettuce drop is a destructive disease caused by a fungus (*Verticillium dahliae*) that causes lettuce leaves to wilt and drop to the soil surface. The University of California, Davis, with collaboration from the California Leafy Greens Research Board, and Bayer Crop Sciences in Germany is researching how certain soils are able to suppress lettuce drop and other diseases caused by *Verticillium* spp. They applied a metagenomics, high-throughput DNA sequencing approach to identify the soil-borne microbes that eliminate *Verticillium* wilt symptoms in lettuce grown in California's Salinas Valley. Ultimately, this knowledge will aid in the development of strategies to manage *Verticillium* wilt throughout the world. **HATCH grant**

To solve societal challenges, NIFA's investments in transformative science directly support the long-term agricultural sciences, visit [www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts), sign up for email updates or follow us on Twitter.



## Advancing U.S. Agriculture through Global Engagement

National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grantees are including international activities as an effective way to help achieve research, education, and extension objectives important to U.S. agriculture. Only U.S. institutions can receive NIFA grants, and any international activities must advance U.S. agriculture. The NIFA-funded projects described here are examples of how U.S. researchers and faculty through international collaborations and activities are achieving results valuable to the U.S. and the world. These projects help promote U.S. agriculture, advance trade, serve U.S. food security and food safety needs, and foster collaboration to address mutual interests within the global agricultural science community.



#### Entomological Studies of Zika Virus Transmission in Haiti

Zika Virus (ZIKV) has emerged in the Americas where susceptible populations of new vectors of transmission may arise and the disease may spread more rapidly. To fully understand the range of mosquito species capable of transmitting ZIKV in the Americas, University of Florida researchers studied ZIKV transmission in Haiti, with an objective to determine the frequency of Zika infection in wild-caught mosquitoes, and in mosquitoes stored from previous collection. What was learned in Haiti could be applicable to Florida and other southern states of the U.S. due to the similarity of mosquito species. **AFRI grant**



#### Broadening Students' Experiences and Expanding Their Career Competencies through International Experiential Learning Opportunities

Faculty at Texas A&M University (TAMU) and Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) teamed to broaden their students' academic experiences and career competencies through a faculty-led study abroad program in Namibia, partnering with the University of Namibia and Namibia-based research centers. Recruiting students traditionally underrepresented in study abroad programs was an important objective. Faculty included Namibians' knowledge of community-based natural resource management strategies, and how to use these strategies to address food security issues. TAMU and PVAMU faculty with colleagues in Namibia developed course materials, and aimed to integrate learning from the study abroad experience into courses back at their universities. **HEC grant**



#### Expanding U.S. Market Access in China's Evolving Agricultural and Trade Policy Environment

To gain an understanding of China's agricultural trade policies and promote U.S. market access to China, a team from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech) researched U.S. market access under China's evolving agricultural and trade policies. Working with Chinese collaborators, they traveled to China to interview both Chinese and U.S. leaders in agribusinesses, government agencies, and universities to determine trade constraints, regulations and other impediments to U.S. agricultural exports. This research will provide U.S. agribusinesses and agricultural exporters with knowledge to evaluate potential risks and opportunities caused by differential agricultural and trade policies and help U.S. agribusinesses expand market access into China. **AFRI grant**



#### Development of Woody Landscape Cultivars

People love ornamental plants that exhibit drought tolerance, provide environmental and ecological benefits, and have low maintenance requirements. Asian countries, especially China, have rich resources of ornamental plants. Plant breeders at the University of Georgia to strengthen the ornamental industry are developing new woody ornamental plant cultivars that thrive in drought and other environmental conditions. Their research includes collecting germplasm from plant species growing under extreme conditions. Two *Ilex* (holly) species growing under extreme conditions were collected from China and germinated. The Georgia researchers will test both species for their performance under drought and flooded conditions and use them for breeding lines. **HATCH grant**



#### U.S.-U.K. Collab: Mycobacterial Transmission Dynamics in Agricultural Systems: Integrating Phylogenetics, Epidemiology, Ecology, and Economics

Researchers at Cornell University formed a collaborative with scientists in the United Kingdom (U.K.) to investigate mycobacterial transmission in agricultural systems. Their objective was to develop a quantitative methodology for incorporating whole genome sequence data into bacterial transmission models for infectious diseases, integrating ecology, economics, molecular biology, and epidemiology. Due to their valuable collections of data and isolates in the U.S. and the U.K., with experts across multiple scientific fields, the team was able to apply these methods and models to better understand the principles and dynamics governing transmission of mycobacterial infection. **AFRI grant**

#### Learn More About NIFA's Opportunities for Global Engagement

NIFA's Center for International Programs establishes connections between NIFA and other organizations, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), CGIAR system of international agricultural research centers, and the World Bank; and with agricultural research agencies of other countries to globally advance the results and experience of NIFA and the institutions it serves, and achieve goals important to U.S. agriculture. To find out more about NIFA's international collaborations and opportunities in the different NIFA grant programs visit us on the web: <https://nifa.usda.gov/program/global-engagement-program>

- Global Engagement Programs
- Enhancing NIFA's Effectiveness for Global Engagement
- Grant Opportunities for Global Engagement
- Developing Global Partnerships

Contact: Otto Gonzalez, Director, Center for International Programs, [otto.gonzalez@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:otto.gonzalez@nifa.usda.gov)

All project descriptions in this document are based on reports from the grantees to the USDA Center for Research Information System (CRIS). <https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/>

Information that solves societal challenges. NIFA's investments in transformative science directly support the long-term agricultural sciences, visit [www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts](http://www.nifa.usda.gov/impacts), sign up for email updates or follow us on Twitter.

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For info on NIFA global engagement opportunities

<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/global-engagement-programs>

# Grant Writing Tips for Success

“Ten Things You Must Do”

# Ten Things You Must Do

## 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?

# Ten Things You Must Do

## 2. 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 !!!
- ◆ Read the RFA !!!

# Ten Things You Must Do

## 3. 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

# Ten Things You Must Do

## 4. 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

# Ten Things You Must Do

## 5. Understand review process and reviewers

- ◆ Reviewer may be assigned 10 to 20 proposals
- ◆ Following directions in RFA helps reviewers; not following directions makes them work hard
- ◆ Preparing proposal logically and clearly helps reviewers; not doing so makes them work hard

# Ten Things You Must Do

## 6. 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
- ◆ Making reviewers work harder hurts you

# Ten Things You Must Do

## 7. Prepare budget with a strong justification

- ◆ Unreasonable budgets hurt proposals – create skeptics within reviewer ranks (credibility)
- ◆ Keep budgets within guidelines in the RFA – they are judged on degree of reasonableness

# Ten Things You Must Do

8. 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

# Ten Things You Must Do

9. Fill out forms completely and correctly

- ◆ Documents must be in PDF

# Ten Things You Must Do

10. Allow time for intramural administrative requirements – submit on time

- ◆ 5:00 pm Eastern Time
- ◆ A deadline is a deadline is a deadline!

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