Notice of Funding Opportunity
Research Facilities Act Program

FUNDING YEAR:	Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 and 2028
APPLICATION DEADLINE:	FY 2027 March 15, 2027 FY 2028 March 15, 2028
ANTICIPATED PROGRAM FUNDING:	FY 2027 $121,127,200 FY 2028 $121,127,200
AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL AWARD RANGE:	$100,000 - $30,000,000
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:	USDA-NIFA-OP-012541
ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER:	10.246

ANNOUNCEMENT

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture

Assistance Listing Number (ALN): The Research Facilities Act Program (RFAP) is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.246.

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines

Task Description	Deadline
Application:	FY 2027 - 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, March 15, 2027 FY 2028 - 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time, March 15, 2028 [*Ref to Part I,B of this NOFO*]
Applicants Comments:	Within six months from the issuance of this notice (*NIFA may not consider comments received after the sixth month*)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to the extent permitted by law, will no longer make grants or otherwise fund programs or activities that improperly discriminate on the basis of race or sex, including discrimination in the name of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policies. Instead, USDA will prioritize merit and efficiency. USDA recognizes programs and initiatives will have the greatest impact when these programs and initiatives put American farmers, ranchers, and foresters first by:

- solving the most pressing challenges they face;
- protecting America's food, fuel, and fiber supply to enhance national security;
- supporting production of healthy and safe food for consumers;
- expanding and developing domestic markets;
- training the next generation of agriculturalists; and
- fueling innovation to keep American farmers at the forefront of productivity.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is committed to advancing these principles and encourages applicants to actively engage farmers, ranchers, and foresters when applying for funding opportunities to ensure relevancy and adherence to them. NIFA also encourages agricultural leaders to engage in the peer review panel process to ensure American producers are better served through research, education, and extension activities.

Projects submitted under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) should align with USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1078-020 Directive on Departmental Research and Development Priorities:

1. Increasing Profitability of Farmers and Ranchers
2. Expanding Markets and Creating New Uses of U.S. Agricultural Products
3. Protecting the Integrity of American Agriculture from Invasive Species
4. Promoting Soil Health to Regenerate Long-Term Productivity of Land
5. Improving Human Health through Precision Nutrition and Food Quality

Stakeholder Input. NIFA seeks comments on all NOFO so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments to the extent possible when developing NOFOs and uses comments to help 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)). Applicants may submit written comments to Policy@usda.gov. Please use the following subject line: Response to the RFAP NOFO.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The amount available for support of this program in FY 2027 is approximately $121,127,200 and in FY 2028 is approximately $121,127,200. This NOFO is being released prior to FY 2028 funds being available.

This notice identifies the objectives for RFAP projects, deadlines, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions.

NIFA is requesting applications for the RFAP to support the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, and/or remodeling of a research facility. Proposals must enhance the institution's long-term impact on food and agricultural research and build on careful strategic planning.

RFAP seeks to strengthen the quality and expand the scope of fundamental and applied research at eligible institutions by providing them with opportunities to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, and/or remodeling of the facility that supports their research and research training goals.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ANNOUNCEMENT 2

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS 5

TABLE OF KEY INFORMATION 6

PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION 7
A. Legislative Authority 7
B. Purpose and Priorities 7

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION 10
A. Available Funding 10
B. Application Restrictions 10
C. Project and Grant Types 10
D. Ethical Conduct of Funded Projects 11

PART III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION 12
A. Eligibility Requirements 12
B. Cost Sharing or Matching 13

PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION 14
A. Method of Application 14
B. Content and Form of the Application 14
C. Funding Restrictions 20

PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS 22
A. NIFA's Evaluation Process 22
B. Evaluation Criteria 23
C. Organizational Management Information 24
D. Application Disposition 24

PART VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION 25
A. General 25
B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements 25
C. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements 25

PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION 27
A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget 27
B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards 28
C. Regulatory Information 28
D. Language Access Services 28

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT 29

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS 30

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS 31

TABLE OF KEY INFORMATION

Table 1: Key Dates and Deadlines 2
Table 2: Program Key Information 9
Table 3: Steps to Obtain Application Materials 14
Table 4: Help and Resources 14
Table 5: Key Application Instructions 15

PART I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

The RFAP is authorized under 7 U.S.C. 390 et seq. to make competitive grants to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The RFAP is listed in the Assistance Listings under number 10.246. RFAP is designed to provide financial assistance to qualifying institutions for the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of agricultural research facilities to conduct research in the fields of food and agricultural sciences (as defined in 7 U.S.C. 3103, see Appendix III for definition).

An "agricultural research facility" means a proposed facility for research in food and agricultural sciences for which Federal funds are requested to assist in the construction, alteration, acquisition, modernization, renovation, or remodeling of the facility (7 U.S.C. 390). For purposes of RFAP, an agricultural research facility refers to a proposed facility or facility enhancement that supports advancing research and training in the food and agricultural sciences and aligns with USDA Research and Development Priorities. This includes spaces and infrastructure that enable basic, applied, and developmental research, as well as extension and teaching activities integral to preparing the next generation of researchers and professionals in these fields.

Facilities may encompass, but are not limited to, a wide range of infrastructure that supports research, research training, and integrated activities in the food and agricultural sciences. Eligible facilities may include single buildings, stand-alone structures, or multi-building complexes, provided they directly enable and enhance agricultural research capacity.

Examples include but are not limited to:

1. Research laboratories designed for experimental, analytical, or applied scientific work.
2. Specimen storage, instrumentation suites, and other specialized spaces for maintaining and utilizing research materials and technologies.
3. Classroom, training, or experiential learning spaces that support hands-on research and research focused instruction.
4. Integrated complexes that co-locate research, extension, and teaching functions to promote innovation and collaboration.
5. Greenhouses, growth chambers, shade houses, screen houses, and other controlled environment facilities.
6. Standalone agricultural research structures, including barns, animal care or husbandry facilities, aquaculture units, or other specialized facilities supporting agricultural research programs.

A proposal for an agricultural research facility must meet all the following criteria:

1. Non-Federal share – The proposal shall certify the availability of at least a 1:1 non-Federal matching share of the cost of the facility. The non-Federal share shall be paid in cash and may include funding from private sources or from units of State or local government.
2. Nonduplication of facilities – The proposal shall demonstrate how the agricultural research facility would be complementary to, and not duplicative of, facilities of colleges, universities, nonprofit institutions, and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) within the State and region.
3. National research priorities – The proposal shall demonstrate how the agricultural research facility would:
    a. Serve one or more of the purposes of agricultural research, extension, and education set forth in 7 U.S.C. 3101 and
    b. Serve national or multistate needs.
4. Long-term support and impact – The proposal shall demonstrate that the recipient entity has the ability and commitment to support the long-term, ongoing operating and maintenance costs of:
    a. The agricultural research facility after the facility is completed and
    b. Each program to be based at the facility.

Awards may support the acquisition of real property and fixed equipment and the design, construction, restoration, renovation, and remodeling of buildings or sites of agricultural research facilities or other facilities that house agricultural research experimental samples or specimens. Awards extend to both on-campus facilities and off-campus experiment stations and research centers.

Acquisition and installation of general- and special - purpose equipment is allowed only when the equipment is permanently affixed to the facility and functions as part of the research facility's infrastructure. Eligible equipment must be integral to the construction, renovation, or modernization of the agricultural research facility and necessary for the facility to operate as intended. Examples include building-integrated systems such as fixed environmental controls, permanently installed monitoring or safety systems, and other infrastructure-embedded equipment essential to supporting research activities. Portable, movable, or non-affixed equipment (whether general-purpose or special-purpose) is not allowable under RFAP. Applicants seeking support for standalone research equipment that is not permanently attached to the facility should apply to NIFA's Equipment Grant Program, which provides funding for non-construction research equipment.

Activities may include but are not limited to:

1. Assessing sites and infrastructure;
2. Planning and conceptual designing for the new, restored, or renovated facility or site;
3. Developing schematics and construction drawings for the new, restored, or renovated facility or site;
4. Constructing, restoring, or renovating facility or site;
5. Purchasing and installing related permanently affixed equipment for research monitoring and protecting specimens and samples; and/or

6. Purchasing and installing critical building systems, such as electrical, climate control, security, life safety, lighting, utilities, telecommunications, and energy management.

Applicants are not restricted to a single building, a single site, or a single type of renovation within a proposal. Applicants may request support for construction, renovation, modernization, or expansion across multiple facilities or multiple locations, including outlying experiment stations, as long as all proposed activities are integrated and collectively strengthen agricultural research capacity.

Deliverables may include:
1. Documents determining the feasibility of the planned agricultural research facility(ies) or site(s);
2. Completed design and construction, restoration, or renovation drawings;
3. Completed construction, restoration, or renovation; and/or
4. Completed installation of critical building systems.

Table 2: Program Key Information

Title	Description
Program Code:	RFAP
Program Code Name:	Research Facilities Act Program
ALN:	10.246
Project Type:	Facilities Project
Grant Type:	Standard Grant
Application Deadline	FY 2027 - March 15, 2027 FY 2028 - March 15, 2028
Grant Duration:	12-48 Months
Anticipated # of Awards:	30-35
Minimum Award Amount:	$100,000
Maximum Award Amount:	$30,000,000

PART II. AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The amount available for RFAP in FY 2027 is approximately $121,127,200 and in FY 2028 is approximately $121,127,200. This NOFO is being released prior to FY 2028 funds being available. USDA is not committed to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards.

The Automated Standard Application for Payments, operated by the Department of Treasury, Bureau of Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this NOFO.

B. Application Restrictions

NIFA will evaluate applications using the criteria described in Part V of this NOFO. Applications for FY 2027 and FY 2028 are limited to the following application types:

1. *New application*: New applications will be evaluated using the criteria described in Part V of this NOFO and are subject to the due dates herein (see Appendix III for definition).
2. *Resubmitted application*: Resubmitted applications must include the response to the previous review panel summary and are subject to the same criteria and due dates herein. Resubmitted applicants must enter the NIFA-assigned proposal number of the previously submitted application in the *Federal Field (**Field 4**)* on the application form (see Appendix III for definition).

C. Project and Grant Types

The following describes the types of *projects* or *grants* that are eligible for funding:

1. Project Types. All RFAP projects fall under the Facilities Project type.
2. Grant Types. All RFAP projects fall under the Standard Grant type. Applicants must choose to apply to one of four Project Funding Levels: I, II, III, IV. The four project funding levels are shown below. The project duration is between 12-48 months for all four project funding levels.

   Project Funding Levels I through IV are determined by the amount of Federal funds requested. The example purposes below are illustrative only and do not restrict an otherwise eligible project to a particular funding level. Except for Level I planning awards, an eligible construction, renovation, modernization, expansion, or acquisition activity may be proposed at any funding level whose award range includes the requested Federal amount.

   Level I – Planning Activities
   a. NIFA Award Amount $100,000 - $200,000
   b. Example Purpose – For advancing planning, feasibility and needs assessments, site surveys, environmental reviews, preliminary architectural and engineering designs, cost estimation and budgeting

   Level II – Small Facility Upgrades
   a. NIFA Award Amount $200,000 - $2,000,000
   b. Example Purpose – Renovation, modernization of labs, small facility upgrades

Level III – Mid-Scale Construction/Expansion

a. NIFA Award Amount $2,000,000 - $10,000,000
b. Example Purpose – Expansions, specialized research wings, major retrofits

Level IV – Large-Scale Research Complex

a. NIFA Award Amount - $10,000,000 - $30,000,0000
b. Example Purpose – Entire new buildings, major research complexes, specialized labs, controlled environment research facilities

D. Ethical Conduct of Funded Projects

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 must, upon request, make available to NIFA 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. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants for the RFAP must meet all the requirements discussed in this NOFO. Failure to meet the eligibility criteria by the application deadline may result in exclusion from consideration or, preclude NIFA from making an award. For those new to Federal financial assistance, NIFA's About Grants provides highly recommended information about grants and other resources to help understand the Federal awards process.

Applications may be submitted by:

1. 1994 Land-Grant Institution
2. State Agricultural Experiment Stations
3. 1862 Land-Grant Institutions
4. Accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or State Agricultural Experiment Station that conducts animal health and disease research in accordance with section 1433(c) of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3195)
5. 1890 Land-Grant Institutions
6. Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities (HSACU) as defined in 7 U.S.C. 3103
7. Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture (NLGCA) - Institutions satisfying the eligibility requirements for NLGCA designation.
8. Insular Area Institutions-Institution of higher education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1995 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a).
9. Institutions eligible for "McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act" (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.)
10. Other entities eligible to receive funds under a capacity and infrastructure program (as defined in section 6971(f)(1)(C)). See Appendix IV under capacity and infrastructure programs.

USDA **will not accept** competitive applications for grant and cooperative agreements submitted for dangerous gain-of-function research, as defined in Section 8 of E.O. 14292.

Duplicate or Multiple Submissions –
Application limit for this competition: An eligible institution may not submit more than one application to this program as a lead institution. This includes applications from subordinate units under a parent institution.

Active-award limitation: An institution may submit an application while it has an active RFAP award. However, NIFA may not issue another RFAP award to that institution until the earlier award has been completed and administratively closed. Active RFAP projects awarded prior to FY2026 are exempt from this limitation.

Prospective applicants are advised to contact their institutional sponsored projects office regarding processes used to select proposals for submission.

For RFAP purposes, 'parent institution' refers to the single, legally distinct institution of higher education that oversees its colleges, schools, and departments. A separate UEI by itself does not automatically make a campus or unit a different institution. Some campuses, divisions, or administrative units within a university system may maintain their own UEIs for grants management purposes while still operating under the governance, accreditation, and legal identity of a single parent institution. In such cases, the parent institution, not the UEI, is the controlling factor in determining the one application limit. The one application limit applies to all subordinate units under the same institution. However, university systems with multiple independently accredited and governed institutions may submit one application per institution within the system. A multi campus university system may submit more than one application only if each campus is recognized as a distinct institution based on its own independent accreditation, governance structure, and institutional identity.

Institutions that have received congressionally directed funding for research facility projects are not excluded from participation in this program. Such institutions may submit applications and compete for additional projects under this competitive funding opportunity.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Match Required – Applicants MUST provide at minimum 1:1 matching contribution on a dollar-for-dollar basis for all Federal funds awarded under the RFAP. The non-Federal share must be paid in cash and may include funding from private sources or from units of State or local government. In-kind matching will not be considered. Previously raised cash may qualify if it has not already been expended or used to satisfy another requirement, is committed to the proposed project, is included in the approved budget, and is expended during the allowable project period.

The full match amount must be budgeted in the application, with sources of funding clearly disclosed. Recipients may phase matching contributions, potentially synchronized with project construction milestones, or raise additional funds during the project period, provided that the Authorized Representative signs the award, thereby attesting to fulfill all match commitments. Matching costs must be incurred during the federal award period, align with 2 CFR 200.306 requirements (verifiable, allowable, not double counted, and included in the approved budget), and be properly documented and reported cumulatively via the SF425 Federal Financial Reports throughout and at the conclusion of the project

Consistent with 48 U.S.C. 1469a, notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Northern Mariana Islands, NIFA will waive any requirement for local matching funds under $200,000 (including in-kind contributions).

PART IV. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION

A. Method of Application

Applicants must apply to this NOFO electronically; no other method or response is accepted. The electronic application for this NOFO and additional resources are available on Grants.gov and Grants 101. **Table 3** provides instructions on how to obtain an electronic application. **Part III** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide contains detailed information regarding the Grants.gov registration process. The NIFA Grants Application Guide is contained in the specific funding opportunity package or a sample of the guide can be found here. When applying for a NIFA award, it is important to reference the version of the guide that is included in the specific funding opportunity application package.

Table 33. Steps to Obtain Application Materials

Steps	Action
Step One: Register	*New Users* to Grants.gov must register early with Grants.gov prior to submitting an application.
Step Two: Download Adobe	Download and Install Adobe Reader (see Adobe Software Compatibility for basic system requirements).
Step Three: Find Application	Using this funding opportunity number **USDA-NIFA-OP-012541**, search for application here: Opportunity Package.
Step Four: Assess Readiness	Contact an AR prior to starting an application to assess the organization's readiness to submit an electronic application.

Table 44: Help and Resources

Grants.gov Support	NIFA Support
Grants.gov Online Support Telephone support: 800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035 Email support: support@grants.gov Self-service customer-based support: Grants.gov iPortal Customer Service business Hours 24/7, except Federal holidays.	Email: grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov Business hours: Monday thru Friday, 8a.m. – 5p.m. CT, except Federal holidays.

B. Content and Form of the Application

The NIFA Grants Application Guide is part of the corresponding application package for this NOFO. The NOFO overrides the NIFA Grants Application Guide if there is a discrepancy between the two documents. Applicants that do not meet the application requirements, to include partial applications, risk being excluded from NIFA's review. NIFA will assign a proposal number to all applications that meet the requirements of this NOFO. Applicants must refer to the proposal number when corresponding with NIFA. **Table 5** outlines other key instructions for applicants.

Table 55: Key Application Instructions

Instruction	References **(All references are to the NIFA Grants Application Guide)**
Attachments must be in a portable document format (PDF) format.	Part IV
Check the manifest of submitted files to verify attachments are in the correct format.	Part IV
Conduct an administrative review of the application before submission.	Part IV
Follow the submission instructions.	Part IV
Provide an accurate email address, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R.	Part V
Contact the Grants.gov helpdesk for technical support and keep a record of the correspondence.	N/A
Contact NIFA if applicant does not receive correspondence from NIFA regarding an application within 60 days of the application deadline.	N/A

SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide for the required certifications and assurances.

SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s). See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

R&R Other Project Information Form. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

1. **Field 7. Project Summary (PS)/Abstract.** The PS must show how the project goals align with the project goals of the RFAP. The summary must not exceed 250 words. List the names and affiliated organizations of all Project Directors/co-PDs, the title of the project, and the project funding level at the top of the page. The summary should be a self-contained, specific description of the activity to be undertaken and should include overall project goal(s) and supporting objectives; plans to accomplish project goal(s); and relevance of the project to the goals of the RFAP program. A concise, informative Project Summary is critical for successful applications. Name the file as summary.pdf. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide for instructions and suggested templates.

2. **Field 8**. **Project Narrative (PN).** The PN must not exceed 10 1.5-spaced pages of written text, inclusive of figures and tables (the font size for tables should be no smaller than 12 points, Times New Roman). The page limits outlined here ensure fair competition. Appendices to the PN are allowed if they are directly germane to the proposed project. Do not add appendices to circumvent the page limit. Name the file as narrative.pdf. Each section of the PN corresponds to Review Criteria. For Project

Funding Levels II-IV, the PN must include all the following (For Level I Planning Activities only include what is applicable; see Part V, B).

a. Cover Page: The PN cover page must include the information below and will not count towards the page limit of the PN.
   i. Project Title;
   ii. Project Director (PD) and any Co-PD(s) (include institutional affiliation for each);
   iii. Project Funding Level: Level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV;
   iv. Total Funds Requested: List total Federal funds requested for this application; and
   v. Applicants must identify their eligibility category and cite the statutory, designation, accreditation, or program-participation basis supporting that category. NIFA may request documentation before peer review. A UEI, institutional name, or agricultural program by itself does not establish eligibility.
   vi. Total Cash-Matching funds and source(s)
   vii. Partners: If applicable, list all partner institutions/organizations
b. Rationale and Significance: Describe your organization's research purposes and activities in the fields of food and agricultural science and why the proposed facility project is necessary and how it advances your institution's research mission, infrastructure, and capacity. Discuss how the project addresses critical infrastructure needs, aligns with USDA and national research priorities, and enhances your institution's ability to deliver impactful research outcomes. Justify the requested funding level in relation to the project's scope and anticipated impact. Clearly state how the projects aligns to the USDA Research & Development Priorities and national or multistate research needs. Applicants addressing deferred maintenance across several sites, includes multiple facilities within one location, or includes new construction at multiple locations, these components should be presented as part of a cohesive, well-justified project including how the group of facilities or sites functions together to advance the research mission and bundling these activities into a single proposal is appropriate and strategically aligned. Applicants may submit a portfolio-style application, if the activities are integrated, justified, and collectively support the goals of RFAP.
c. Long-term Impacts and Institutional Commitment: Describe the expected long-term impact of the proposed project on advancing research and enhancing capacity in food and agricultural sciences, fostering innovation, support for workforce development, and benefits to stakeholder communities. Explain how the project aligns with your institution's strategic goals and initiatives. Provide details on institutional commitments to sustain operations, maintenance, and programmatic use of facility beyond the grant period. Provide letters of support for commitment from appropriate institutional officials, program partners, constituents, and/or outside experts.
d. Project Planning and Activities: Describe the planning completed to date and the activities that will occur during the project period. Include key milestones, such as design completion, permitting, procurement, construction phases, and commissioning, and identify the roles of key personnel, contractors, and other project partners. Explain how the project will meet applicable compliance requirements, including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Build America, Buy America Act (BABA), and how project management, budget controls, and risk mitigation strategies will support successful delivery of the facility

on schedule and within budget. RFAP does not require a prescribed percentage of design completion. Project readiness will be evaluated based on the extent and quality of completed planning, site control, cost development, design documentation, permitting and compliance planning, procurement planning, financial commitments, risk analysis, and the applicant's ability to successfully complete the proposed work within the project period. Additional details should be provided in the Project Plan, Planning and Design Documents, and Site Conditions.

e. Financial Capacity and Fundraising: Provide a detailed explanation of your institution's financial capacity to successfully complete the proposed project and meet the required non-federal cash match. Include a description of your fundraising strategy, anticipated sources of matching funds, and timelines for securing commitments. Discuss any funds already pledged or raised and provide evidence of institutional financial stability. Explain how your institution will sustain the facility's operations and maintenance beyond the grant period. If the NIFA-supported project is partially a component of a larger agricultural facility, briefly explain how you intend to finance the entire plan. See 2 CFR 200.306 for requirements related to match and cost share.
f. Project Team: Identify the project team and describe the roles and responsibilities of each member. Include the PD and other key personnel, as well as external partners or consultants who will contribute to planning, design, construction, or compliance activities. Provide a summary of relevant qualifications and experience that demonstrate the team's ability to successfully complete the proposed project and manage federal funds. Explain how the team will coordinate to ensure timely execution, regulatory compliance, and achievement of project goals.
g. Deliverables, Outcomes, and Long-Term Viability: Provide a clear description of the deliverables that will result from the proposed project (e.g., completed facility components, installed systems, commissioning documentation). Explain the expected outcomes for research and how these outcomes will advance food and agricultural sciences. Describe your institution's plan for sustaining the facility and its programs beyond the grant period, including operations, maintenance, and long-term funding strategies. Discuss how the project will provide lasting benefits and remain aligned with future research priorities.
h. Response to previous review: The response to previous review must not exceed two *1.5 spaced* pages. This does not count towards the page limit for the PN.

3. **Field 12**. **Add Other Attachments.** See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.
   a. Project Plan (Required, except for Level I Planning Activities): Provide a phase mapped Project Execution Plan (PEP) for delivering the facility with critical milestones. The PEP is a governing document for scope, schedule, cost, risk, compliance, and controls and is updated at each phase gate (planning, design, construction, and commissioning). Recommend including a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) summary, timeline with milestones, Performance Measurement Baseline (PMB), Basis of Estimate (BOE), risk register, compliance path (NEPA, NHPA, BABA), and governance/change control approach. Page limit: 10 pages. Name file as projectplan.pdf.

b. Planning and Design Documents (Required, optional for Level I Planning Activities): Include site and design documentation that demonstrates readiness and technical rigor including: design basis, schematics, codes/standards, permitting strategy, and technical specifications needed to start and complete the project safely and compliantly. At a minimum include: site conditions; design criteria; schematics; permitting and environmental steps; supply-chain/domestic content (BABA) plan. Page limit: 10 pages. Name file as design.pdf.
c. Budget Justification (Required): Page limit: 5 Pages. Align justifications clearly with budget categories. Name the file as justification.pdf
   i. An estimation of the overall project expenditures for each year of the performance period for the funding level selected, matching funds from a third-party, non-Federal contributions that will be obtained, and the amount of requested NIFA funds.
   ii. A detailed and concise justification that further breaks down cost items under each category of form SF-424C. The budget justification should clearly describe the purpose of expenditures and align with the proposed project as described in the narrative. Identify the names of key personnel that will be supported with NIFA funds, and their roles and responsibilities on the project. The budget justification should show quantities, unit prices and total cost, as applicable. The budget justification should be an extension of the Project Narrative. Construction estimates may be provided to supplement the budget justification.
   iii. Grants that require matching funds as specified under Part III, B of this NOFO must list the matching sources, the identification of the entity(ies) providing the match, and the total pledged amount. A written verification of commitments of matching support (a pledge agreement) is not required. However, applicants are subject to the documentation, valuing and reporting requirements, as specified in 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (the Uniform Guidance)," and 7 CFR 3430, "Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula
d. Institutional Profile (required): Page limit: 3 Pages. Provide the institution's URL and the following in an outline, name file as profile.pdf:
   i. Informational facts and figures regarding the institution, such as its:
      1) History, Mission Statement, Governance, Administrative Structure, and Physical Infrastructure
      2) The sizes and makeup of the research working group/staff in food and agricultural sciences (including the percentage of all staff who work in the food and agricultural sciences)
      3) Existing research facilities of agriculture and food sciences (including the percentage of all research facilities that are in the food and agricultural sciences)
      4) Affiliation or accreditation (if applicable)
   ii. Data on recent food and agricultural sciences program activities, including:
      1) Types and numbers of enrollments, programs, courses, and degrees awarded in the past two years
      2) Percentage of total offerings that are in the food and agricultural sciences
      3) Size and nature of audience or population served, or participant figures

4) Cost to participants (if any)
5) Evidence for the success of these food and agricultural sciences activities
6) If available, provide a URL for the institution's latest annual report

e. Letters of Commitment or Support (required): Include letters of commitment or support from appropriate officials confirming the institution's commitment to the proposed agricultural research facilities activities and to meeting the requirements of the RFAP. You may include other letters of support, such as from scholars in the field, community leaders, and participants in or beneficiaries of the agricultural research facilities, as appropriate. Letters of commitment should refer to the application for NIFA support and must be signed and dated. Neither elected government officials nor NIFA staff may serve as letter writers. Name file as Letters.pdf

f. Site Conditions (conditionally required): Include a description of the site, the project, and any potential expected effects on the environment and historic preservation for NIFA to review if the project entails the development of final design or construction documents, the execution of new construction, expansion, alteration, renovation, repair, rehabilitation, or ground disturbing activities. Applicants must show ownership or legal rights to use the land prior to award execution. Acceptable documents include deed or title, fully executed purchase agreement, or lease agreement. Also include, if applicable, any easements or access agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with partners if the site is shared. Name file as site.pdf. If it is proposed to renovate leased property, a copy of the existing or proposed long-term lease agreement (the lease must extend at least five (5) years past the end of the proposed period of performance), the landlord or lessor's consent to the renovation, and the landlord or lessor's agreement to the period of federal interest of five (5) years past the period of performance end date and to file a Notice of Federal Interest (as applicable) must be submitted. Also include, if applicable, utility service agreements, confirming capacity and availability to support the new facility.

g. Additional Supporting Documentation (recommended): Include other relevant documents to support the application, including materials that illustrate agricultural research activities, such as programming and/or organizational brochures or evaluation materials (metrics or survey documents). Your application may include links or URLs to relevant documents, webpages, or other materials. Page Limit: 5 pages. Name file as documentation.pdf.

R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded). See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide for profile requirements, details about the biographical sketch, and suggested support templates.

R&R Personal Data. This information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award (see **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide).

SF 424C Budget Information for Construction Programs. For guidance, see the SF-424C Instructions and **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

1. Applicants requesting support for a Level I Planning Activities grant must complete the SF 424C (Budget Information for Construction Programs) to reflect only those costs necessary to conduct planning activities. When preparing the SF 424C, applicants should categorize personnel and administrative costs, including salaries, fringe benefits, and

institutional administrative or legal services, under Administrative and Legal Expenses. Expenses associated with site evaluations, feasibility analyses, or appraisals should be entered under Land, Structures, Rights of Way, Appraisals. Costs for architectural and engineering planning services, concept designs, and technical environmental or facility assessments must be included under the appropriate Architectural and Engineering Fees lines. Travel, supplies, stakeholder engagement activities, software or minor equipment essential to planning, and other allowable planning related expenses should be recorded under Miscellaneous or Equipment as applicable. All costs entered on the SF 424C must be supported by the budget justification submitted as part of the budget documentation.

2. Provide the total Federal and non-Federal (match) cost of each budget category listed.
3. Grants that require matching funds as specified under Part III, B of this NOFO must list in their budget justification the matching sources, the identification of the entity(ies) providing the match, and the total pledged amount. A written verification of commitments of matching support (a pledge agreement) is not required. However, applicants are subject to the documentation, valuing and reporting requirements, as specified in 2 CFR Part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (the Uniform Guidance)," and 7 CFR 3430, "Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-Formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions."
4. Indirect Costs (IDC) – See Part IV, C of this NOFO for funding restrictions regarding IDC, and **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide for additional information
5. Contingency Costs - Contingency costs are limited to 5% and must be handled in accordance with 2 CFR 200.433.

Supplemental Information Form. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

1. **Field 2**. **Program to which the applicant is applying.** Enter the program name "Research Facilities Act Program" and the program code "RFAP". Accurate entry is critical.
2. **Field 9**. **Conflict of Interest List**. See **Part V** of the NIFA Grants Application Guide.

C. Funding Restrictions

1. Legislative Mandated Indirect Cost (IDC). Section 7 U.S.C. §390d(b) of the Research Facilities Act states, "Not more than 3 percent of the funds made available for any project for an agricultural research facility shall be available for administration of the project." Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants must limit their requests for recovery of administrative costs to three (3) percent of the total funds requested. Report these costs on SF 424C Line 1 as part of your total Administration and Legal Expenses and itemize the calculation in the Budget Justification.
2. NIFA awards may not be used to support the procurement of unmanned aircraft systems to process, store, or transmit Federal information (as defined in OMB Circular A-130) unless the grant is specifically available for procurement of such equipment and grantees describe in their application how they will comply with the information security requirements outlined in Appendix B of M-26-02 Ensuring Government Use of Secure Unmanned Aircraft Systems and Supporting United States Producers and develop a risk-based approach to applying those requirements to procurement solicitations to potential vendors under the resulting Federal award. This information, if provided, will be evaluated by NIFA as part of its evaluation process. If such procurement is approved,

specific information security requirements may be included in the terms and conditions of the grant to ensure that the grantees will incorporate those requirements in procurement solicitations of unmanned aircraft systems under the Federal award. Additionally, projects must ensure that they are in adherence to Secretary's Memorandum (SM) 1078-014 and are not using unallowable 3-D printers which can be found at National Security and Unallowable Costs.

PART V. APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. NIFA's Evaluation Process

NIFA evaluates each application in a two-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements set forth in this NOFO. All administrative requirements must be met in order for the application to proceed to the next level of review. Second, a scientific peer-review process will be used to technically evaluate applications that have met the administrative requirements using a review panel (see NIFA Peer Review Process).

Scientific Peer Review Process:

NIFA selects reviewers for the review panel based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

1. 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.
2. The need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields.
3. The need to include other experts (e.g., agricultural producers, range or forest managers/operators, researchers, educators, evaluators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs.
4. The need to include 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.
5. The need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to the reviewer's area of expertise, geographic area, and entity type, as appropriate.
6. The need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

After each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible program staff of NIFA will recommend that your project is either approved for support from currently available funds or declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review.

NIFA reserves the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or 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.

After the review process has been completed, NIFA sends copies of reviews, *not* including the identity of reviewers, and a summary (if applicable) of the review panel comments to the PD. ***Conflicts of interest***. NIFA takes extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may influence the review or evaluation (see NIFA Peer Review Process for Competitive Grant Applications).

B. Evaluation Criteria

NIFA will use the following criteria, weighted equally, to evaluate applications to this program. Note: Criteria 3 and Criteria 4 are not required for Level I Planning Activities.

1. Rationale and Significance of the Proposed Agricultural Research Facility

a. Clear description of the institution's research mission and current activities in food and agricultural sciences
b. Why the proposed facility is necessary now (e.g., capacity constraints, modernization needs, scientific opportunity)
c. Extent to which the proposed facility is complementary to, and not duplicative of, any existing agricultural research facilities
d. Clear justification of the facility's importance to advancing food and agricultural research, including its relevance to state, regional, agricultural sector, commodities, natural resource challenges, and stakeholder needs.
e. Alignment with USDA and national research priorities
f. Addressing critical infrastructure gaps
g. Long-term benefits for science, workforce development, and stakeholder communities
h. Justification of requested funding level relative to project scope and impact

2. Long-term Impact and Institutional Commitment

a. Long-term research impact in food and agricultural sciences (e.g., capability to attract grants, interdisciplinary collaboration, innovation pipelines)
b. Alignment with institutional strategic goals and initiatives
c. Institutional commitments (e.g., operations and maintenance, staffing, core facility support, programmatic use) beyond the grant period
d. Innovation capacity and workforce development support

3. Project Planning and Activities

a. Planning completed to date; realistic activities over the project period
b. Major milestones: design completion, permitting, procurement, construction phases, commissioning
c. Compliance readiness: NEPA, NHPA, Build America, Buy America (BABA), environmental health & safety, accessibility, and other relevant federal/local requirements
d. Roles of key personnel and contractors
e. Plan for on-time, on-budget delivery consistent with RFAP program goals

4. Financial Capacity and Fundraising

a. Financial capacity to complete the project and meet non-Federal cash match
b. Fundraising strategy, sources, timelines, and status of commitments
c. Evidence of institutional financial stability
d. Operations and Maintenance sustainability beyond grant period
e. If part of a larger facility plan, credible financing for the entire plan and how the NIFA-supported component integrates

5. Project Team

a. Identification of Project Director and key personnel; external partners/consultants (planning, design, construction, compliance)

b. Relevant qualifications and experience managing facility projects and federal funds.
c. Project governance: decision rights, escalation, change control, and communications
d. Coordination plan to ensure timely execution, regulatory compliance, and goal achievement

6. Deliverables, Outcomes, and Long-Term Viability

a. Clear deliverables: completed facility components, installed systems, commissioning documentation, acceptance testing
b. Expected research outcomes and how they advance food & agricultural sciences
c. Post-award sustainability: operations and maintenance, lifecycle management, asset renewal, program growth; alignment with evolving research priorities

C. Organizational Management Information

Applicants must submit specific management information prior to an award and update the information as needed. Applicants may only need to provide an update if there was a change in previously provided information under this or another NIFA program. NIFA provides the requisite forms during the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible for award under this program, 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, or a determination that an applicant is not responsible).

D. Application Disposition

Applicants may withdraw at any time before NIFA makes a final funding decision. NIFA will retain all applications, including withdrawn applications and unfunded applications.

PART VI. AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds authorized, the NIFA awarding official will make grants to responsible and eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this NOFO. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant must 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 NOFO may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the program-specific laws and regulations, NIFA General Awards Administrative Provisions (7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E), USDA Regulations for Grants and Agreements (2 CFR Chapter IV), Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance (2 CFR part 200), NIFA-specific terms and conditions, USDA General Terms and Conditions for Federal Awards, and approved budget and project plans.

The Notice of Award document will provide pertinent instructions and information as described in 2 CFR 200.211 (see NIFA's Terms and Conditions).

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications and the projects outlined in this NOFO (some are listed here: Federal Regulations). Unless specifically noted by statue or award-specific requirements, NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide applies to all NIFA awards.

C. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Output and reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions. If there are any program or award-specific award terms, they will be identified in the Award Notice.

1. **Performance Reports**

   Awardees of Federal funds are responsible for monitoring day-to-day project performance to ensure that project goals and performance schedules are met, costs are managed, and progress is accurately reported to NIFA. An Annual Performance Report is due to NIFA 90 days after completion of the first 12 months of the initial grant award and annually thereafter during the project period. All work performed during the previous 12-month period, including any funded or unfunded time extensions should be reported. The performance report is to be submitted through NIFA's electronic system that facilitates both grantee submissions of project outcomes and public access to information on federally funded projects. The details of these reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions. The performance report shall not exceed five (5) pages in length and must include the following information:

   For Level I Planning Activities, include where applicable: feasibility report, conceptual design summary, preliminary architectural drawings, cost estimates, and finalized matching plan.

For Project Levels II – IV:

a. Progress vs. Baselines – Status against scope, schedule, and cost baselines. Include milestone attainment (design gates, permits, procurement, sitework, systems, commissioning) and any baseline changes with justification and approval path. Include computation of square footage costs for all projects undertaken.

b. Deliverables completed during the period (facility completion or renovation milestones, commissioning and occupancy, installed critical building systems and permanent equipment, land acquisition, programmatic impact) with photo documentation, inspection/occupancy certificates, and commissioning logs as applicable

c. Narrative explaining schedule delays or cost variances, root causes, and corrective actions; include updated unit-costs where relevant to demonstrate cost-effective practices

d. Compliance status for NEPA, NHPA, and BABA domestic content verification

e. Any updated risks with triggers/mitigations, or supply chain risks affecting domestic content or schedule

f. Key activities and milestones for the next 12-month period

g. A list of the construction, engineering, and architecture contracts reached during the current reporting period that are specific to each program component

h. A thorough accounting of all project expenses incurred to date (cumulative)

2. **Additional Performance Report Emphasis**

Additionally, performance reports should include the following:

a. For new research facilities constructed, expansions, or renovations:
   i. Facility name, cost, square footage, and funds leveraged, if any
   ii. Facility uses for teaching, research, and extension
   iii. Narrative of programs supported and emphasis areas
   iv. Photographs
   v. Facility completion form

b. For major land purchases
   i. Size and cost
   ii. Uses for teaching, research, and extension
   iii. Photographs of any farm/research activities

c. Describe how completed constructions, renovations and acquisitions impacted the institution's programs in Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences (FANH) for teaching, research, and extension.

PART VII. OTHER INFORMATION

A. Use of Funds and Changes in Budget

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.

Changes in Budget or Project Plans. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.308, awardees must request prior approval from NIFA for the following program or budget-related reasons (the awardee is subject to the terms and conditions identified in the award):

1. Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program without prior written approval (even if there is no associated budget revision required);
2. Change in a key person specified in the application or the Federal award.
3. Disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project;
4. Inclusion of costs that require prior approval in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E (Cost Principles), or 2 CFR Part 300 Appendix IX, (Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Awards and Contracts with Hospitals), or 48 CFR, unless waived by the Federal awarding agency, 48 CFR Part 31, Contract Cost Principles and Procedures;
5. Transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs to other categories of expense (2 CFR 200.456 Participant support costs);
6. Sub-awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a Federal award, including fixed amount sub-awards (see 2 CFR 200.333, Fixed Amount Sub-awards), unless described in the application and funded in the approved Federal awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services;
7. Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-Federal entity;
8. The need for additional Federal funds to complete the project;
9. Salary rates of pay exceeding an Executive Level IV salary range (see "Rates of Pay for the Executive Schedule" under the "Executive & Senior Level Employee Pay Tables" header at https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/) require prior NIFA approval. This rate does not include any fringe benefits, general and administrative (G&A), overhead, or other expenses. Requests for approval must include the salary rate of pay and a justification for the rate and be sent to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) to awards@usda.gov;
10. No more than 50 percent of the total dollars of this award may be subcontracted to another party(ies) without prior written approval of the ADO, except subcontracts to Federal agencies;
11. Transferring funds between the construction and non-construction work under a Federal award; and
12. A no-cost extension (meaning, an extension of time that does not require the obligation of additional Federal funds) of the period of performance, other than any one-time extension authorized by the Federal agency in accordance with paragraph 2 CFR 200.308(g)(2). All requests for no-cost extensions should be submitted at least 10 calendar days before the

conclusion of the period of performance. The Federal agency may approve multiple no-cost extensions under a Federal award if not prohibited by Federal statute or regulation.

B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of NIFA transaction records, which are available to the public. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, applicants should clearly mark any information within the application they wish to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary. NIFA will retain a copy of an application that does not result in an award for three years. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An applicant may withdraw at any time prior to the final action thereon.

C. Regulatory Information

This program is not subject to the provisions of 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 OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

D. Language Access Services

NIFA offers language access services, such as interpretation and translation of vital information, free of charge. If you need interpretation or translation services, please visit NIFA Language Access Services.

APPENDIX I: AGENCY CONTACT

For Programmatic questions please email: REE.NIFA.RFAP@usda.gov

For administrative questions related to;

1. Grants.gov, see Part IV of this NOFO
2. Other NOFO or application questions, please email grantapplicationquestions@usda.gov
3. Awards under this NOFO, please email awards@usda.gov

U.S. Postal Mailing Address:
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
P.O. Box 419205, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-6205

Courier/Package Delivery Address:
National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
2312 East Bannister Road, MS 10000
Kansas City, MO 64141-3061

APPENDIX II: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Glossary of Terms

Assistance Listing Number – ALN
Authorized Departmental Officer - ADO
Authorized Representative – AR
Automated Standard Application for Payments – ASAP
Biographical Sketch – BS
Build America, Buy America Act – BABA
Fiscal Year – FY
Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Human Sciences - FANH
Hispanic-Serving Agricultural Colleges and Universities – HSACU
Indirect costs – IDC
Memorandum of Understanding – MOU
National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 – NEPA
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 – NHPA
National Institute of Food and Agriculture – NIFA
Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture – NLGCA
Notice of Funding Opportunity - NOFO
Portable Document Format – PDF
Project Narrative – PN
Project Summary – PS
Research Facilities Act Program – RFAP
United States Department of Agriculture – USDA

APPENDIX III: DEFINITIONS

Refer to 7 CFR 3430 Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Federal Assistance Programs – General Award Administrative Provisions for additional definitions.

Definitions

Matching:

The process through which a grant recipient match awarded USDA funds with cash on a dollar-for-dollar basis. The matching funds must derive from non-Federal sources.

New Application:

An application not previously submitted to a program.

Resubmitted Application:

A project application that was previously submitted to a program, but the application was not funded.

Food and Agricultural Sciences:

The term "food and agricultural sciences" means basic, applied, and developmental research, extension, and teaching activities in food and fiber, agricultural, renewable energy and natural resources, forestry, and physical and social sciences, including activities relating to the following:

(A) Animal health, production, and well-being.
(B) Plant health and production.
(C) Animal and plant germ plasm collection and preservation.
(D) Aquaculture.
(E) Food safety.
(F) Soil, water, and related resource conservation and improvement.
(G) Forestry, horticulture, and range management.
(H) Nutritional sciences and promotion.
(I) Farm enhancement, including financial management, input efficiency, and profitability.
(J) Home economics.
(K) Rural human ecology.
(L) Youth development and agricultural education, including 4–H clubs.
(M) Expansion of domestic and international markets for agricultural commodities and products, including agricultural trade barrier identification and analysis.
(N) Information management and technology transfer related to agriculture.
(O) Biotechnology related to agriculture.
(P) The processing, distributing, marketing, and utilization of food and agricultural products.

APPENDIX IV: CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS

1. Interest (Est.) Earned on the TC Endowment Fund, Sec. 533(c)
2. Tribal Colleges Education Equity Grants Program, Sec. 534(a) (1)
3. Tribal Colleges Institutional Capacity Building Grants, Sec. 535
4. 1994 Research Grants, Sec. 536
5. Smith-Lever Formula 3(b)&(c)
6. Extension Services at the 1994 Institutions
7. Hatch Act
8. HE-Challenge, Multicultural, & Grad. Fellowships. Sec. 1417(b)
9. HE - 1890 Institution Capacity Building Grants. Sec. 1417(b)
10. Animal Health and Disease, Sec. 1433
11. 1890 Institutions Extension, Sec. 1444
12. Evans-Allen Program, Sec. 1445
13. 1890 Facilities, Sec. 1447
14. Distance Education Grants to Insular Areas, Sec. 1490
15. Resident Instruction for Insular Areas, Sec. 1491
16. Grants for Insular Areas (including FY 2015, NARETPA sec. 1447B)
17. McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry
18. Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA)
19. Hispanic-serving ag colleges & universities Endowment Fund, Sec. 1456
20. Capacity Grants to NLGCA Institutions, Sec. 1473F
21. S-L 3(d)-Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program
22. Special Grant Global Change, UV-B Monitoring
23. Regional Rural Development Centers
24. Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions
25. Scholarships at 1890 Institutions
26. 1890 Centers of Excellence
27. New Beginning for Tribal Students
28. Institute for Rural Partnerships