



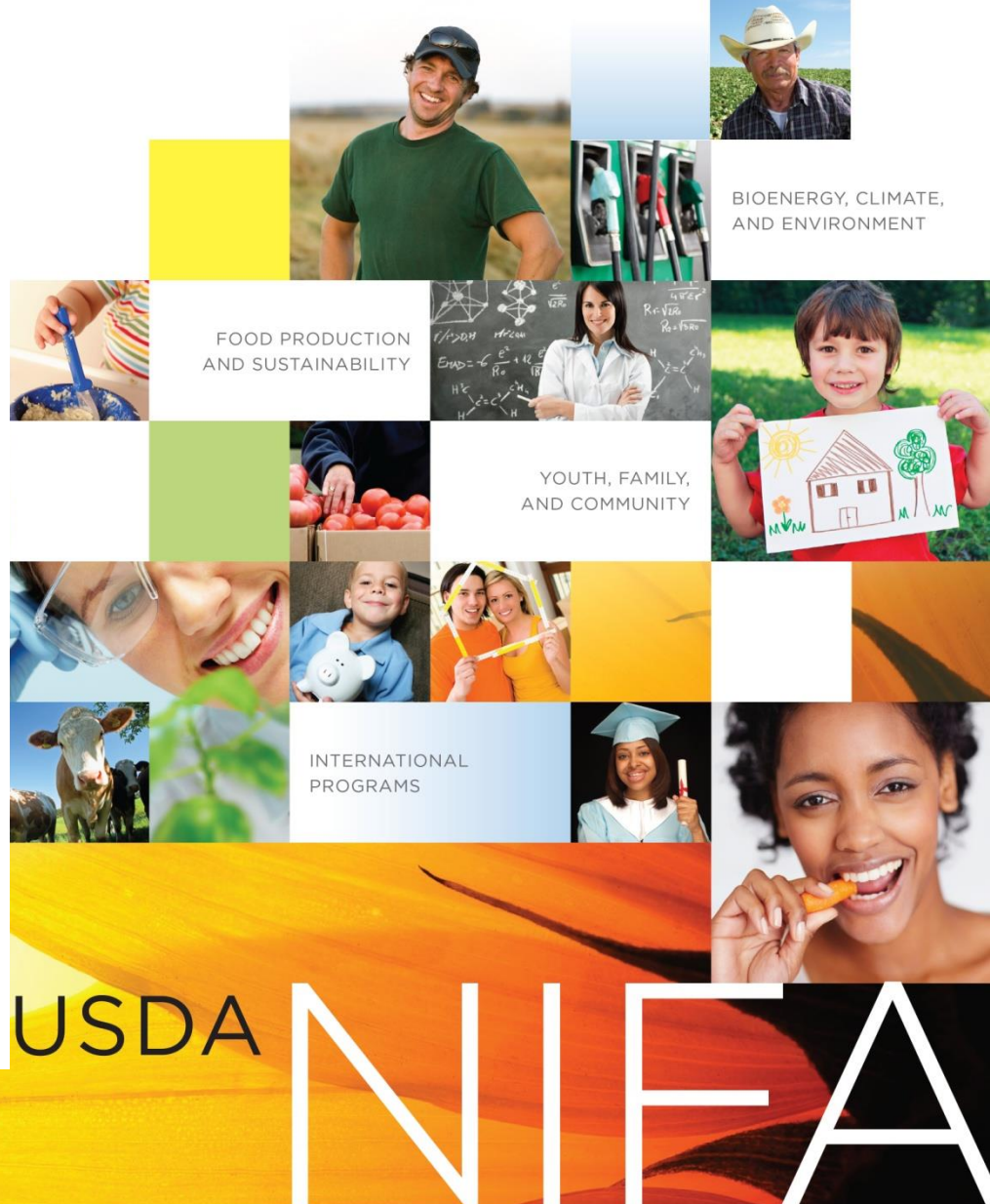
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Funding Opportunities at NIFA

Developing Partnerships

October 6, 2019
Chicago, IL



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



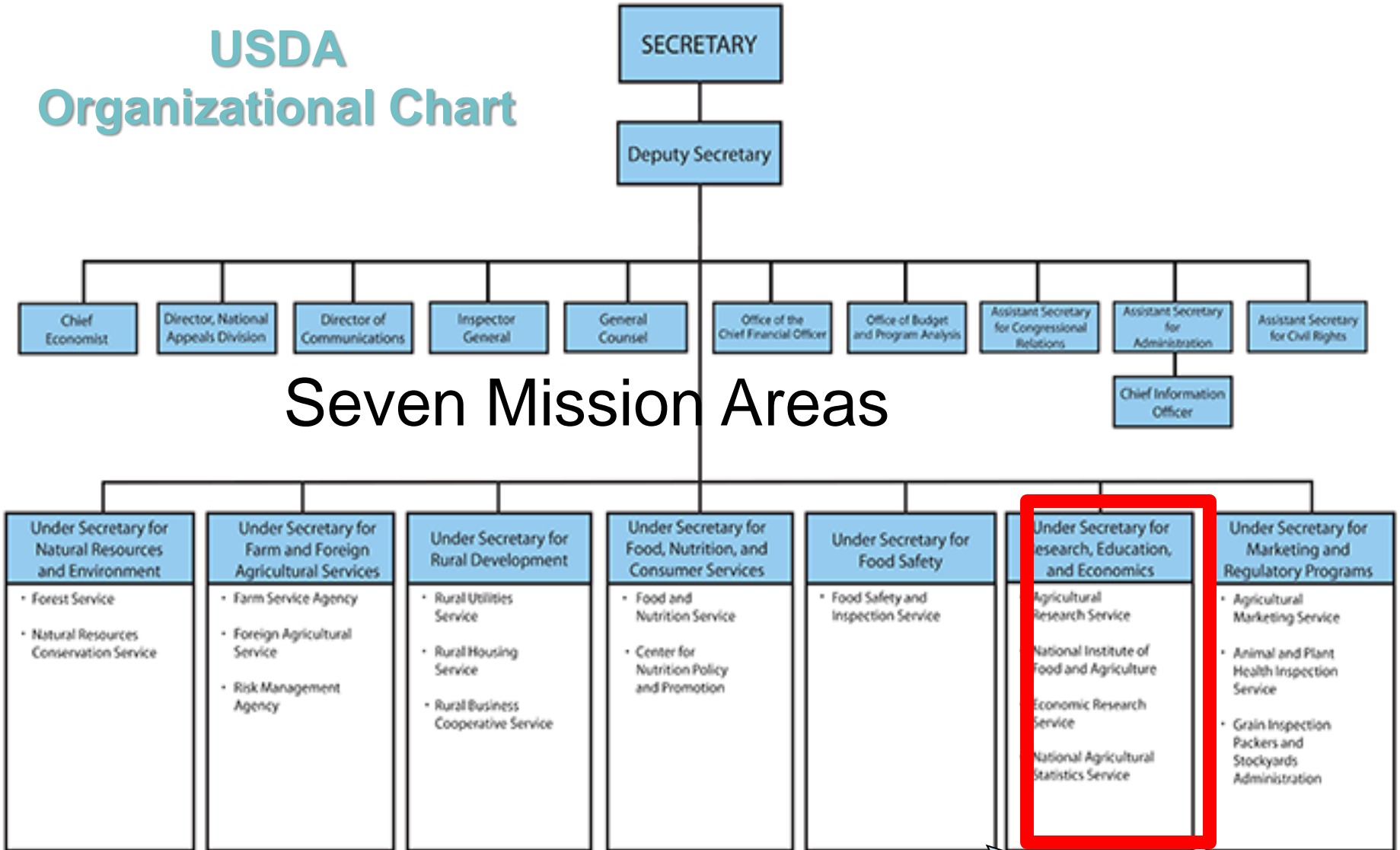
Outline of Presentation

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- NIFA Overview
- Highlight Key Funding Opportunities
 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
 - Education Programs
- Partnership Opportunities
- Tips for Success in Grant Writing
- Questions and Answers



USDA Organizational Chart



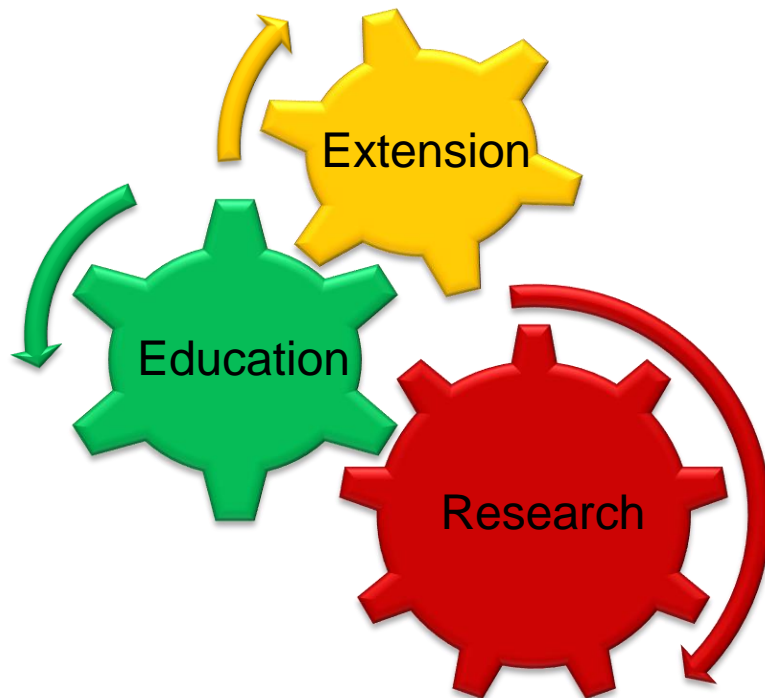
Seven Mission Areas

REE

ARS, NIFA, ERS, NASS

Our Mission

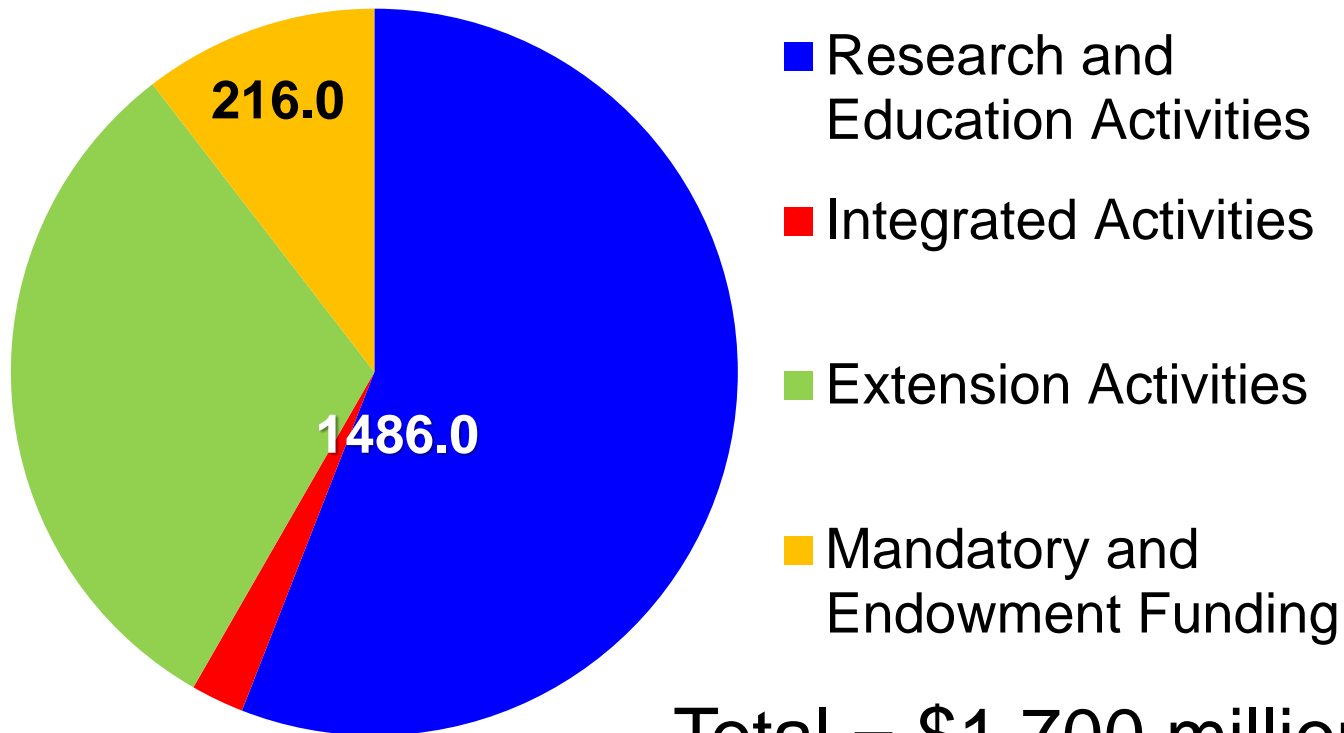
USDA's primary extramural agency to advance food & agricultural sciences



- **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 2019 Budget (million dollars)



Total = \$1,700 million



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NIFA Programs Cover Many Topics



Advanced Technologies

- Bioenergy
- Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology



Education

- Minority Serving Institutions
- Teaching and Learning
- Workforce Development



Food Science

- Food Quality
- Food Safety



Animals

- Animal Breeding
- Animal Health
- Animal Production
- Aquaculture



Environment

- Climate Change
- Ecosystems
- Invasive Pests and Diseases



Health

- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Wellness



Business and Economics

- Markets and Trade
- Natural Resource Economics
- Small Business



Farming and Ranching

- Agricultural Safety
- Agriculture Technology
- Farmer Education
- Organic Agriculture
- Small and Family Farms



International

- Global Engagement
- Global Food Security



Natural Resources

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



People

- Community Vitality
- Family Well-Being
- Youth



Plants

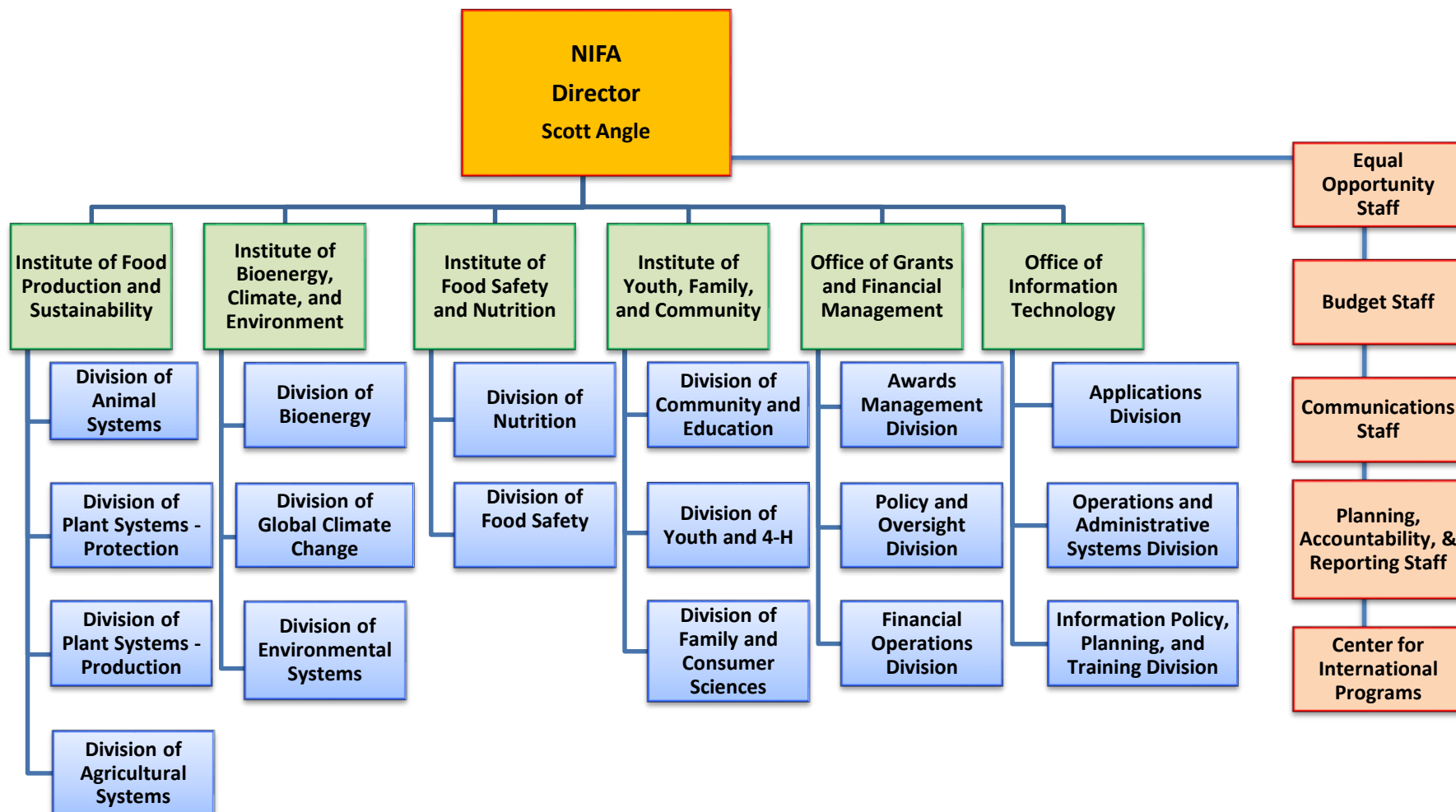
- Crop Production
- Pest Management
- Plant Breeding
- Plant Health



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NIFA's Four Science Institutes

- **Institute of Bioenergy, Climate, and Environment**
 - Enhance sustainable bio-based 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**



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www.nifa.usda.gov
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NIFA

Where can you find important information on possible future funding opportunities?

Keep Abreast of:



- President's Budget/NIFA's Explanatory Notes
- RFAs
- Special reports
- NIFA Funding Opportunity Workshops
- NIFA Communications (e.g., subscribe to NIFA news)
- Grants.Gov



Funding Mechanisms

- Capacity Funding
 - Hatch Research, Evans-Allen, Smith-Liver, McIntire-Stennis
 - Target (by statute) specific institutions
- Competitive Grant Funding
 - Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
 - Individual Programs



Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

- 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



AFRI RFAs for 2020

- Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS)
- Foundational and Applied Sciences (FAS)
- Education and Workforce Development (EWD)

All Are now Published

All **but** SAS contain FY2019 and FY2020 due dates



Sustainable Agricultural Systems

- Second Year 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

- \$90 million in funding available
- Integrated Projects only (must include all three: Research, Education, and Extension)
- Up to \$10 million per systems-level project
 - Periods of up to five years.
 - FASE: Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement
- Letter of Intent deadline **LOI is required**
- Application deadline: check RFA



Sustainable Agricultural Systems

- Applications must address one or more 25-year goals:
 - **Increase profitability in agriculture** through reducing inputs, enhancing productivity, and reducing losses due to environmental and biological stresses, including pests and diseases;
 - Foster economic development and prosperity in rural America by **catalyzing production** of high – value bio-based chemicals and other products using agricultural feed stocks; and
 - **Enhance rural prosperity** and health through advances in nutritional and human sciences, and ensuring access to affordable, safe and nutritious food to sustain healthy lifestyles.



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AFRI Foundational Covers Many Topics



Advanced Technologies

- Bioenergy
- Biotechnology
- Nanotechnology



Food Science

- Food Quality
- Food Safety



Environment

- Climate Change
- Ecosystems
- Invasive Pests and Diseases



Animals

- Animal Breeding
- Animal Health
- Animal Production
- Aquaculture



Health

- Nutrition
- Obesity
- Wellness



Natural Resources

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



Business and Economics

- Markets and Trade
- Natural Resource Economics
- Small Business



Plants

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



AFRI Project Types

Single function

- Research
- Education
- Extension

Multi-function

- Integrated



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**



Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants

- Only in AFRI Competitive Programs
 - 15% of AFRI budget set-aside
- 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

FASE Grants

- Opportunities for:
 - USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) entities
 - Small and mid-sized academic institutions with limited institutional success
 - Less than 17,500 students
 - **Minority-serving institutions**
 - **More than 50% Minority Enrollment**
 - **New Investigators**
 - Pre- and Postdoctoral scholars

Strengthening

What is your percent?



FASE Grant Types

- 11.25% set-aside for Strengthening Grants
 - Seed Grants
 - Sabbatical Grants
 - Equipment Grants
 - Strengthening Standard Grants
 - Strengthening CAPs
 - Strengthening Conference Grants



FASE Grant Types

- Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships
 - 3.75% funding set-aside
- Eligibility
 - Citizens, nationals, permanent residents
 - Progress toward or time from completion of degree
- Programs are in Education and Workforce Development RFA



FASE Grant Types

- 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



****FASE 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



FASE Strengthening Grant Types

- Equipment Grants
 - 50% of cost or \$50,000 (whichever is less)
 - Requires non-Federal matching – waivers of $\leq \$25,000$ are available
- No specific RFA for these 3 grant types
 - Applicants submit to AFRI program of interest by program's deadline



FASE 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



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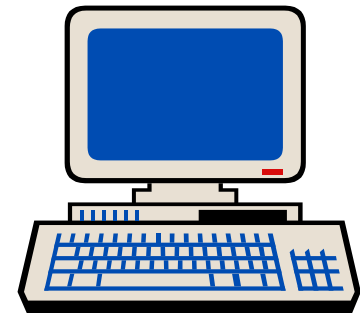
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What to Do if You Have Questions ?



Contact the
Program Staff!!!



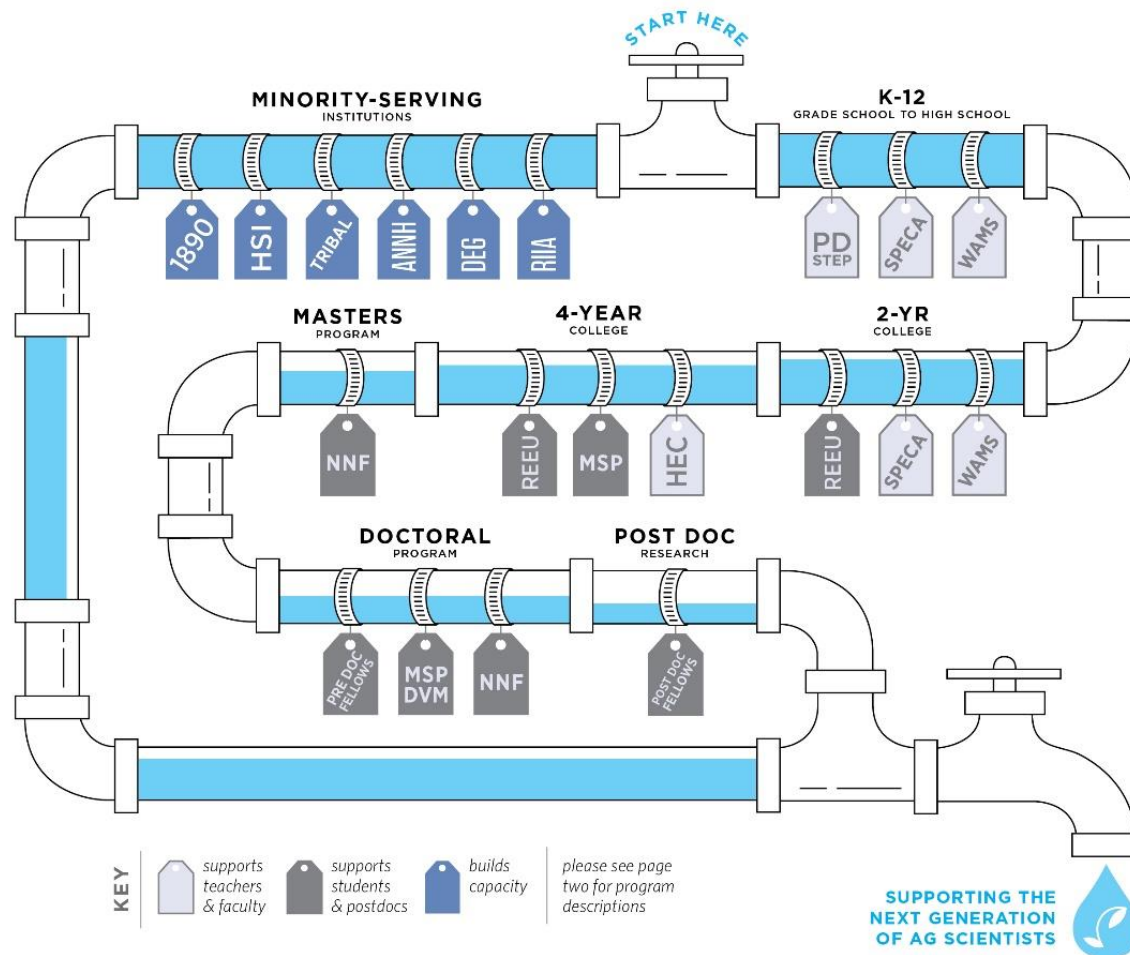


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Education and Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) Grant Programs





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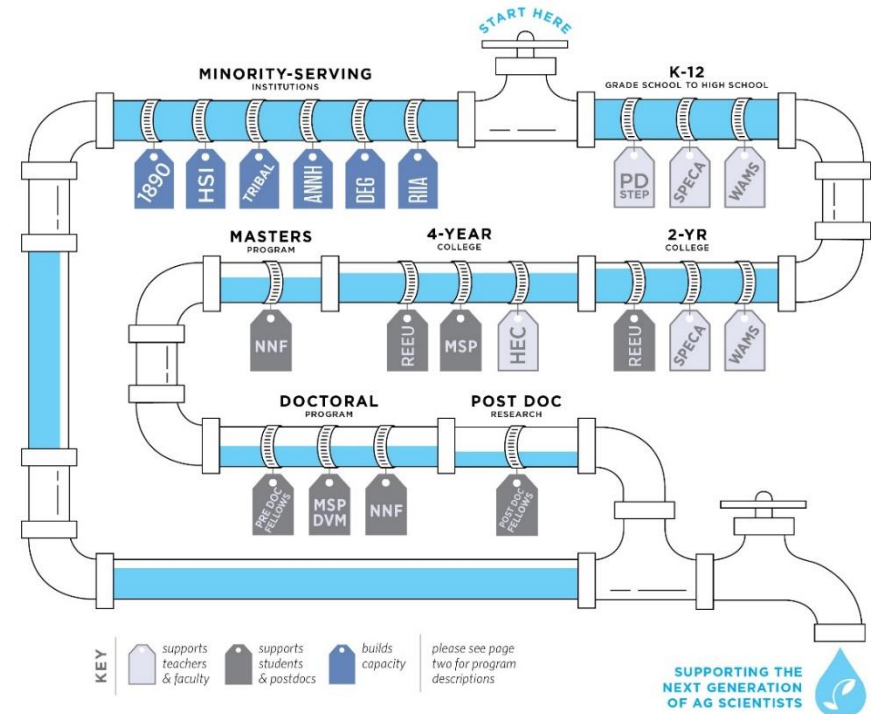
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Education and MSI Grants

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





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Workforce Development Programs

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



Multicultural Scholars (MSP)

- 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: TBD

% Funded: 24%
FY2019 Deadline: **Check RFA**



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- Grants are given to Colleges and Universities.

Award Max: \$200,000
Contact: TBD

% Funded: 24%
FY2020 Deadline: **Check RFA**



NIFA Undergraduate Fellows (REEU)

- 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.

**AFRI-EWD
2-year RFA**

Award Max: \$500,000
Contact: TBD

% Funded:
FY2020 Deadline: **Check RFA**



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

% Funded: 21%
FY2019 Deadline: Has not opened



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 pre-doctoral students
 - The research independence and teaching credentials of postdoctoral students
- Grants are normally provided to the pre-doctoral/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

Award Max Post Doc: \$165,000
FY2019 Deadline: Check RFA

**AFRI-EWD
2-year RFA**



Agricultural Workforce Training (AWT)

- Develop industry ready workforce within the food and agricultural sciences
 - Develop or update curriculum for training at:
 - Community, junior, and technical colleges/institutes.
 - Workforce related certificates, or other industry accepted credentials
 - Provide apprenticeships, on-the-job simulations, etc
- Partnership with industry is expected
- \$500,000 total for project periods of up to 5 years.
- ***Letter of Intent is required ***

AFRI-EWD
2-year RFA

Award Max: \$500,000
Contact: TBD

Funded: First Year being Offered
FY 2020 Deadline: Check RFA



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Learning & Engagement Programs

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Grants to support formal and informal education activities promoting the food and agriculture sciences at pre-K through Masters Level



Higher Education Challenge

- 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: TBD

Funded: 20%
FY 2020 Deadline: TBD



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: TBD

Funded: 20%
FY 2020 Deadline: TBD



Professional Development for Agricultural Literacy (PDAL)



- Develop and Strengthen pathways for FANH instruction at K-14 levels.
 - Improve how educators deliver academic instruction
- Encourage self-sustaining models
 - Identify and address skill gaps
 - Integrates innovations in science and pedagogy
 - Immersive learning experiences in non-formal education
- \$300,000 total for project periods of up to 4 years.
- Limit of one award per host institution



**AFRI-EWD
2-year RFA**

Award Max: varies
Contact: TBD

Funded: 21%
FY 2020 Deadline: Check RFA



Capacity Building Programs

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Capacity building programs strengthen the ability of eligible minority-serving institutions (MSIs) and non-land-grant colleges of agriculture to increase access to education, extension, and research opportunities in Ag STEM.



Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program

- 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
- FY2020: \$7.8 million available for funding, \$1 million in continuation awards
- **No Matching Required**

Award Max: \$50,000 to \$ 1million
Contact: Dr. Irma Lawrence

Award rate: 9%
FY2020 Deadline: **January 2020**



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: Research, Education, Outreach or Applied Research
 - Grant Types: Conference, Regular, and Collaboration
- Eligibility restricted to NIFA certified NLGCA
- No Matching Required

Award Max: varies
Contact: TBD

Funded: 38%
FY 2020 Deadline: TBD



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Other Grant Programs



Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP)

- In FY 2019, \$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 (BFRDP)

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 (BFRDP)

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).



The Bottom Line

You Could Make a Difference and Help to Connect Students to USDA

- HACU Internships
- USDA Student Pathways Programs
- Presidential Internship Program
- Be aware of other activities on the same area/topic
- Coordinate efforts with feeder initiatives and follow-up initiatives
- Duplicate/adapt successful initiatives
- Address barriers
- Involve students in network
- Duplicate or ‘clone’ yourself
- Make sure students meet the requirements for the jobs





Lessons Learned

What works...

- Local contact at Site
- Select two or more students (cohort)
- Regular meetings and gatherings
- Technical Training and Guidance
- Back up plan if first match does not work
- Mentorship and group interaction
- Assistance with housing including funding
- Salaries



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Grant Writing Tips for Success

“Ten Things You Must Do”



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Partnership Models

- Florida
- New Mexico
- Puerto Rico
- California
- Texas 1
- Texas 2
- Texas 3



Florida International University Model

Establish a multi-institutional consortium in Florida and Puerto Rico.

Purpose: Train 49 undergraduates, and 4 masters students in biological and natural science areas for career placement in USDA and other federal agencies.

Main target: large body of under-represented students



RATIONALE

Fits the Biological and ARS program (**BARS**) track

Built on strong **environmental** and **biological** science programs of the four HSI consortium institutions

Advances the application of **New Biology** in solving food and agricultural problems, by training students in

- environmental/natural resources
- integrated pest management
- food sciences
- soil microbiology
- population genetics
- plant sciences

PROJECT IMPACT

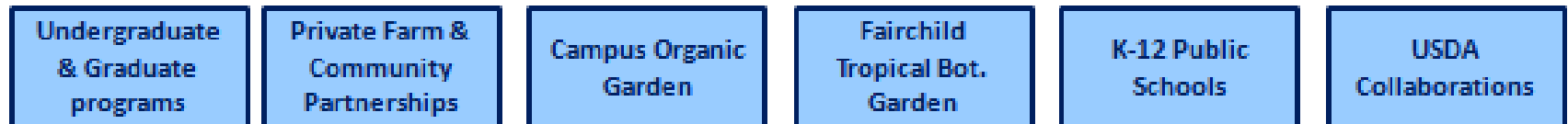
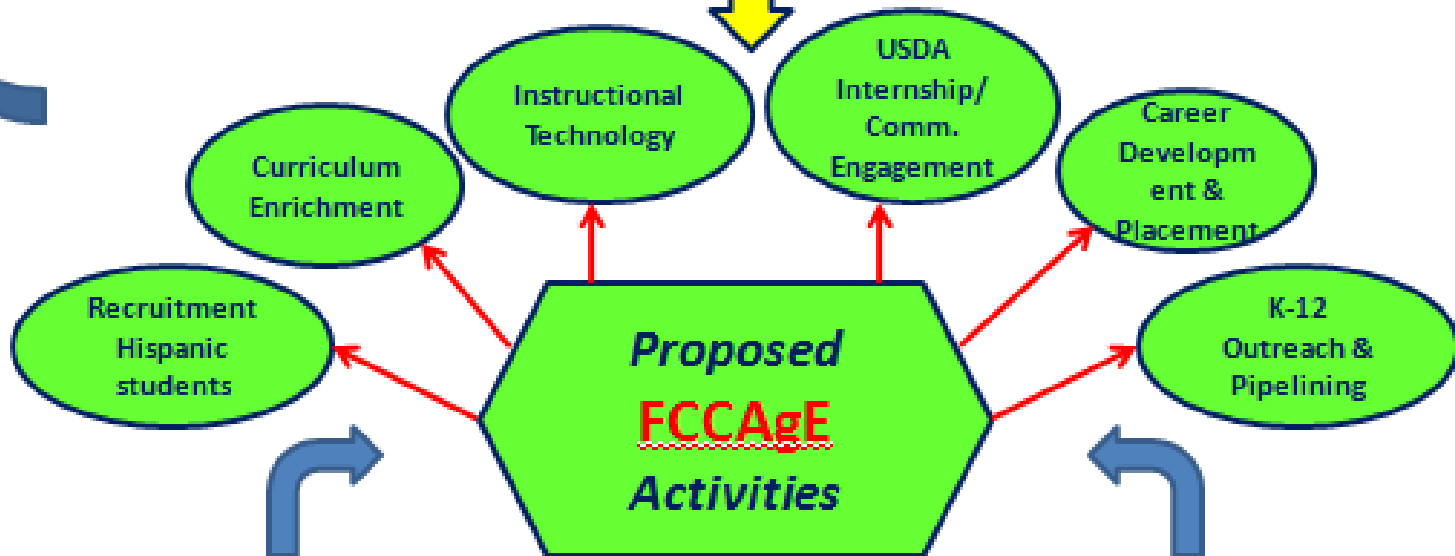
50 FCCAgE students will enter USDA, related agencies or grad school

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

Student Mentoring

Project Evaluation

Publicity/Dissemination



EXISTING PROGRAMS, COLLABORATIONS, AND FACILITIES



PRODUCTS AND RESULTS

| Strategic Area | Indicators | Level |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Curriculum Development | # students enrolled | 60 |
| | # courses | 15 – 20 |
| Faculty Development | # faculty | 5 |
| | Professional meetings (days) | 10 |
| Equip/edu. materials-- student training | Supplies/printed materials (\$) | \$10,000 |
| | Lap equipment (\$) | \$20,000 |
| Instructional delivery | # faculty | 10-15 |
| | Technology use (hours) | 500 – 1000 |
| Experiential Learning | # hours/day | 2 |
| | # days | 150 |
| Recruitment | # students | 60-65 |
| | # school visits | 10 |
| Retention | # students enrolled | 60 |
| | # advisor hours | Variable |
| Degrees – level of Support | # BS degree | 46 |
| | # Masters | 4 |
| | # PhD | 1 |
| Students Stipends | # supported during the grant period | 51 - 60 |
| | # supported per year | 51-60 |
| About the students Served | # undergraduates | 46 |
| | # under-represented minority | 40 |
| K-12 Outreach | # students participation | 1000 |
| | # teachers participation | 30 |

UPRM-CETARS: Consolidating the Pipeline in Agriculture and Natural Resources From K-12 to The Field

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Felix R. Roman, PD



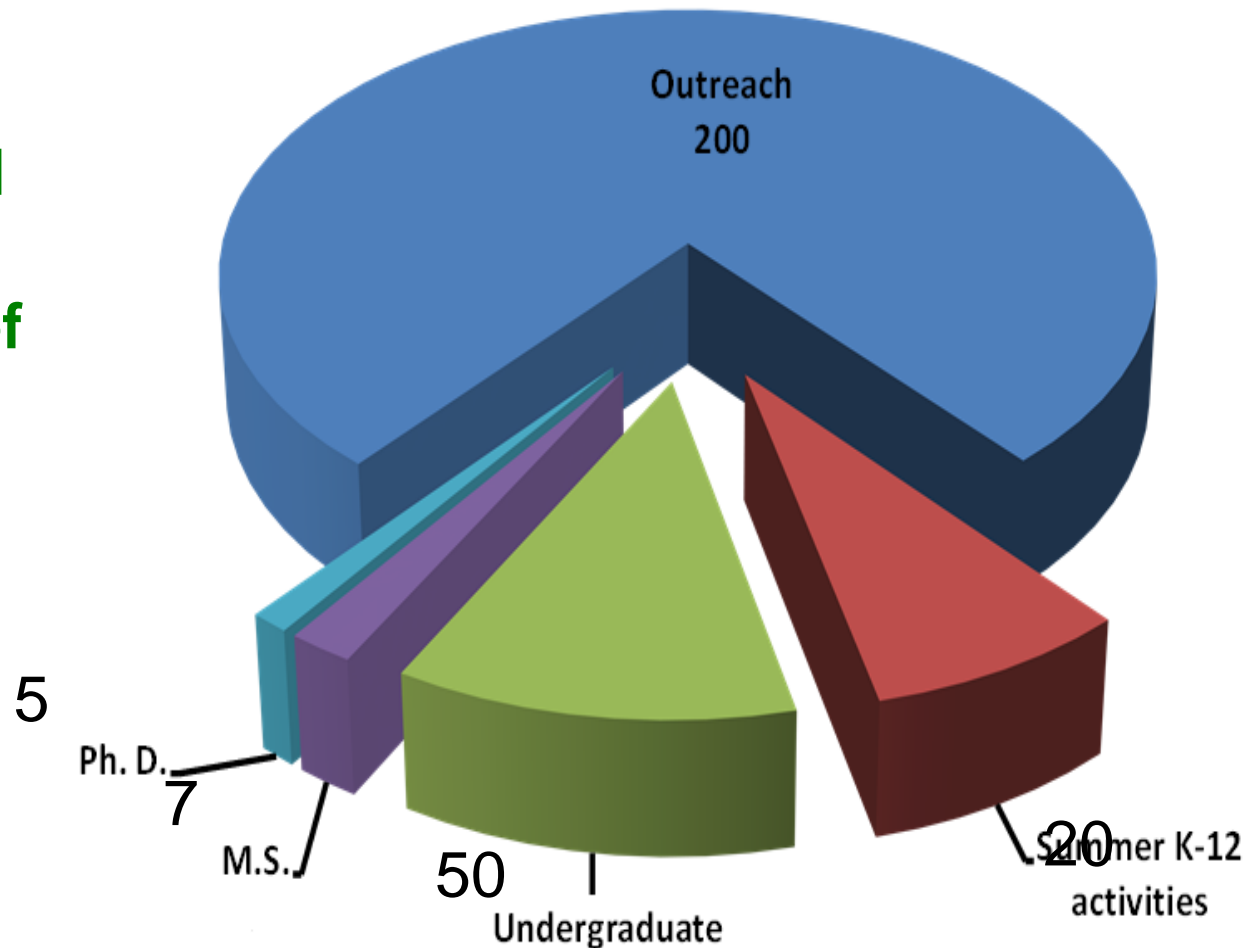
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Projected Participation Threshold

**A targeted
academic
retention of
80% is
expected**



10/23/2019



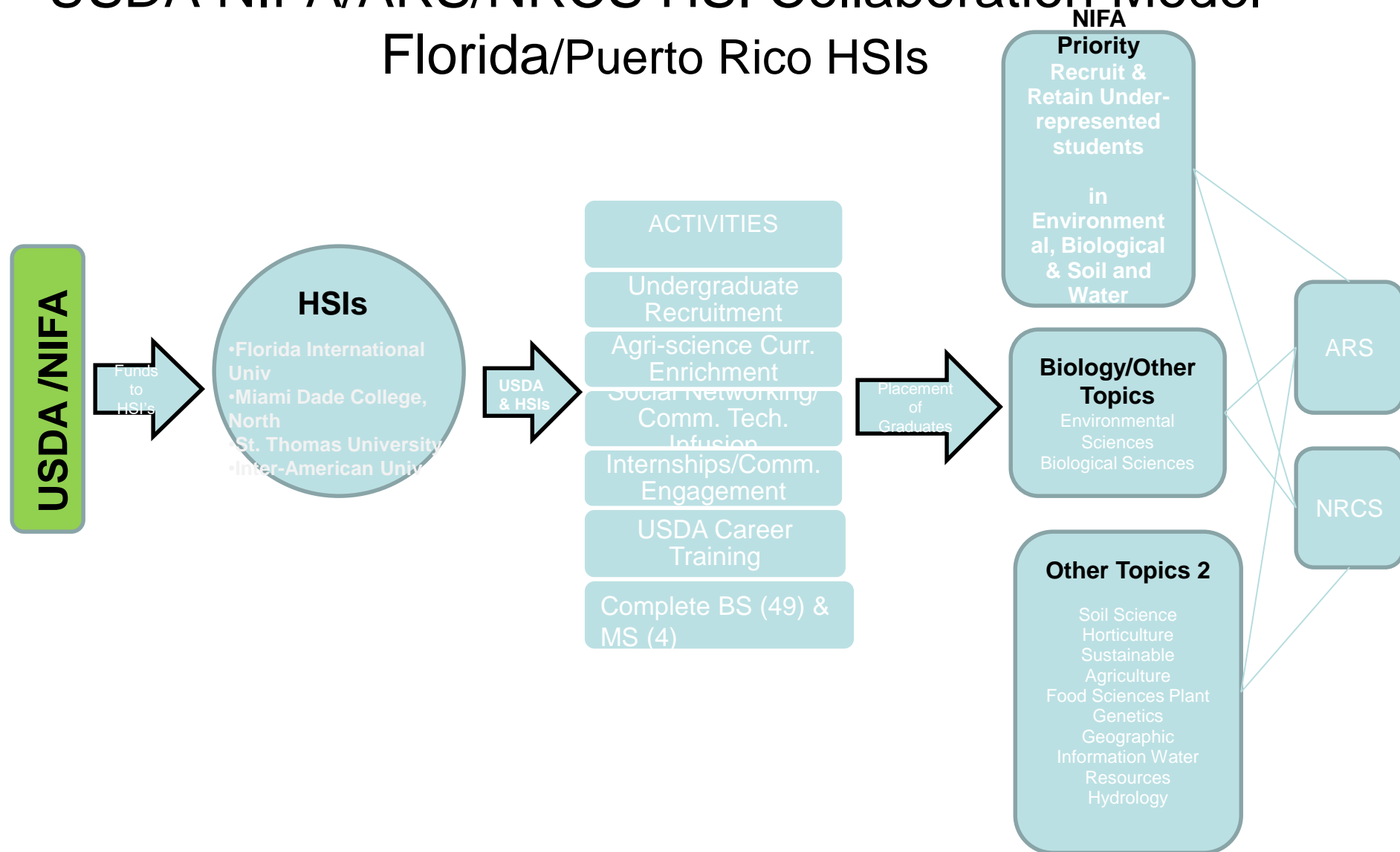
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USDA NIFA/ARS/NRCS HSI Collaboration Model

Florida/Puerto Rico HSIs



CETARS GOALS

- Strengthen collaborative research-education between Food Science, Applied Chemistry, Crops and Environmental Sciences and Engineering Science and Materials
- Recruit talented students into agriculture or related sciences
- Increase the participation of minority students in agricultural sciences and the protection of natural resources
- Enhance the research skills of students by exposing them to experiential research-learning and community service
- Foster student-focused research to solve real-life problems faced by communities, small developing agro-industries and government
- Develop a technical “critical mass” through active educational and research multi-institutional collaborations
- Promote faculty development and competitiveness in agriculture and related sciences.



CETARS Students Performance

Undergraduate participants must:

- Present at least 1 research presentation (poster or oral) at a regional meeting or national conference per year.
- Conduct at least 20 hrs of research per week.
- Submit bi-weekly progress reports and one final project report per semester
- Participate at USDA sponsored internships

Graduate participants must:

- Present at least one publication ready presentation (oral) at a major regional meeting or national conference.
- Conduct at least 35 hrs of research per week.
- Submit bi-weekly progress reports and one final project report per semester
- Submit one research publication per year
- Participate at USDA sponsored Internships

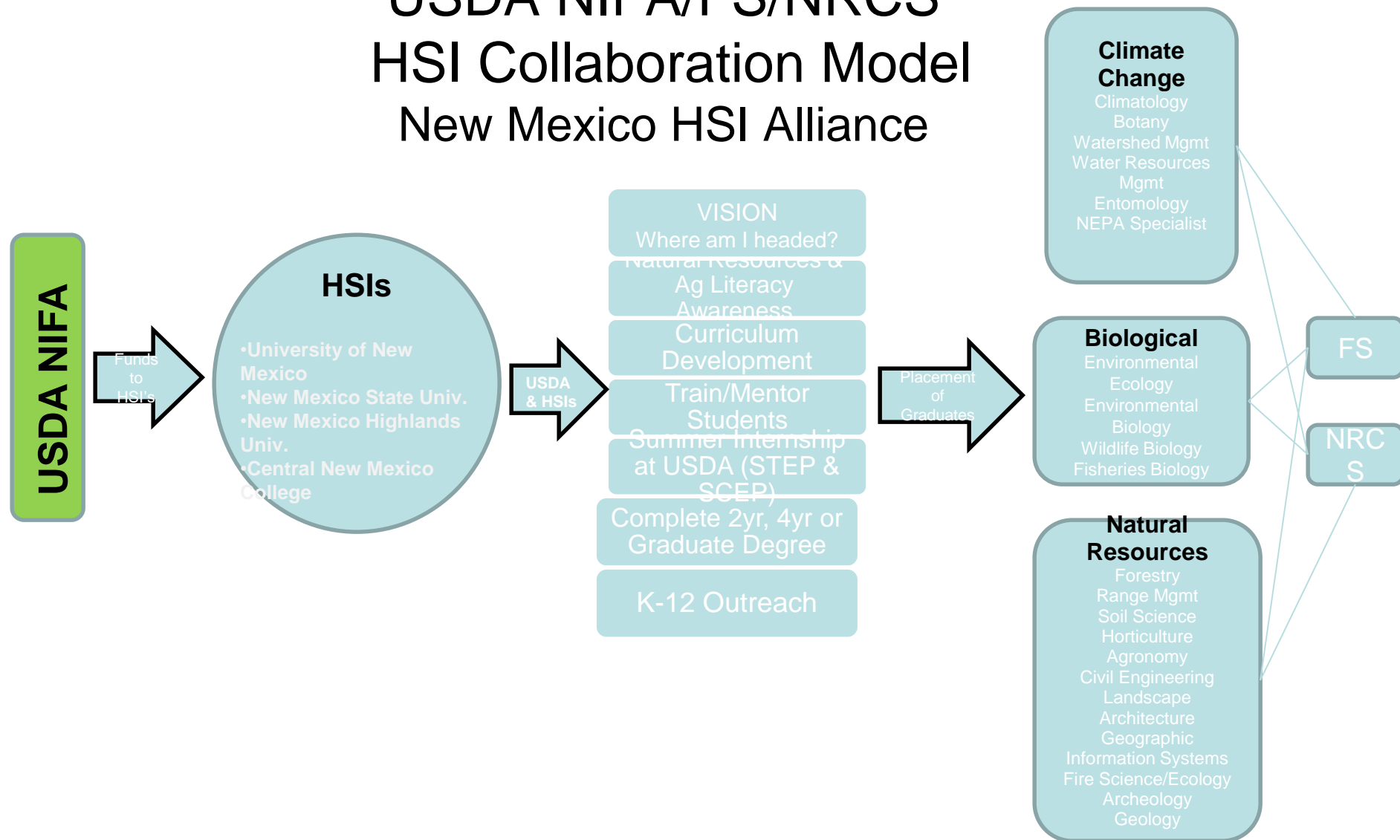


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USDA NIFA/FS/NRCS HSI Collaboration Model New Mexico HSI Alliance



USDA NIFA AWARD



California State University HSI Collaboration
Water Resources and Policy Initiatives
California State University, San Bernardino
California State University, Fresno

Activities

Recruitment of underrepresented students at 14 HSIs



Identification of appropriate watershed management internships



Placement of students into paid Watershed Management Internships

Individual intern counseling to identify entry-level USDA careers desired



Completion of required courses for entry-level USDA careers desired



Track retention & graduation
Track job placement

Budget Highlights

Places highest priority on student support allocating over 61 percent of direct costs for internship salaries and the supplies and materials necessary to carry out experiential learning Watershed Management Internships.

Only three professional staff allocated just 19% direct costs.

Faculty members and researchers are not compensated for supervising internships.

50 paid Watershed Management Internships in first year

\$4,500 Internships awarded to underrepresented undergraduate and graduate students

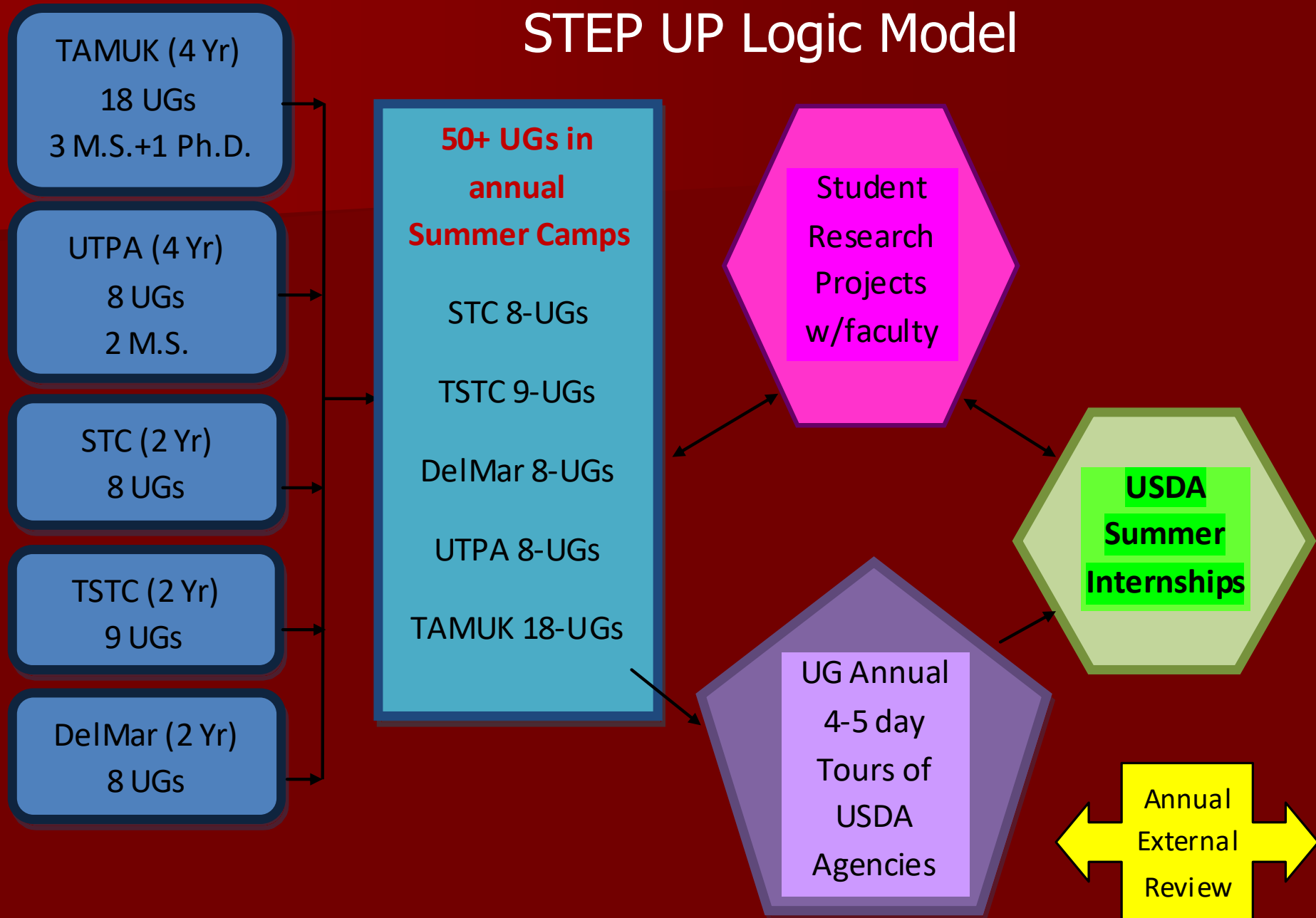
360 hours of experiential learning at a salary of \$12.50 per hour for undergraduate students

300 hours of experiential learning at a salary of \$15.00 per hour for graduate students.

SOUTH TEXAS REGIONAL COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

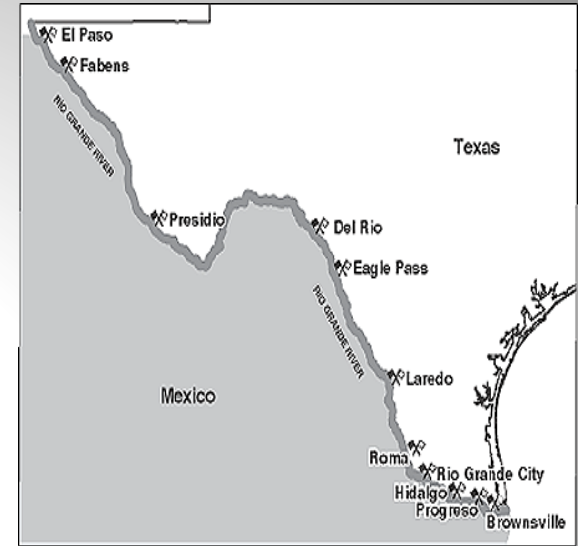
Texas A&M University-Kingsville (4-Yr), Kingsville, TX
University of Texas-Pan American (4-Yr), Edinburg, TX
Texas State Technical College (2-Yr), Harlingen, TX
South Texas College (2-Yr), Weslaco, TX
Del Mar College (2-Yr), Corpus Christi, TX

STEP UP Logic Model



Food Safety & **A**groterrorism **T**raining:

Educating Our Future Workforce



Texas State University
Laredo Community College
Palo Alto College
Northwest Vista College

Recruitment

- Recruitment of outstanding Hispanic scholars from Laredo Community College, Palo Alto College, and Northwest Vista College.
- Formation of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization.
- Maintained by three bilingual graduate students and undergraduate students.

Recruitment (cont.)

- Students selected by panel consisting of members at each institution.
 - Laredo Community College – 13 slots (\$5,000 per year)
 - Palo Alto College – 13 slots (\$5,000 per year)
 - Northwest Vista College – 13 slots (\$5,000 per year)
 - Texas State University – 11 slots (\$8,000 per year)
- Funding in the form of scholarships (tuition, fees, and books)

Creation of University Transfer Centers

- Two University Transfer Centers will be established (Palo Alto College and Laredo Community College)
- Transfer assistants provided at each site.
- One stop shop to gain information about Texas State University and employment opportunities within the USDA agency.
 - Brochures
 - Applications
 - Multiple computer workstations

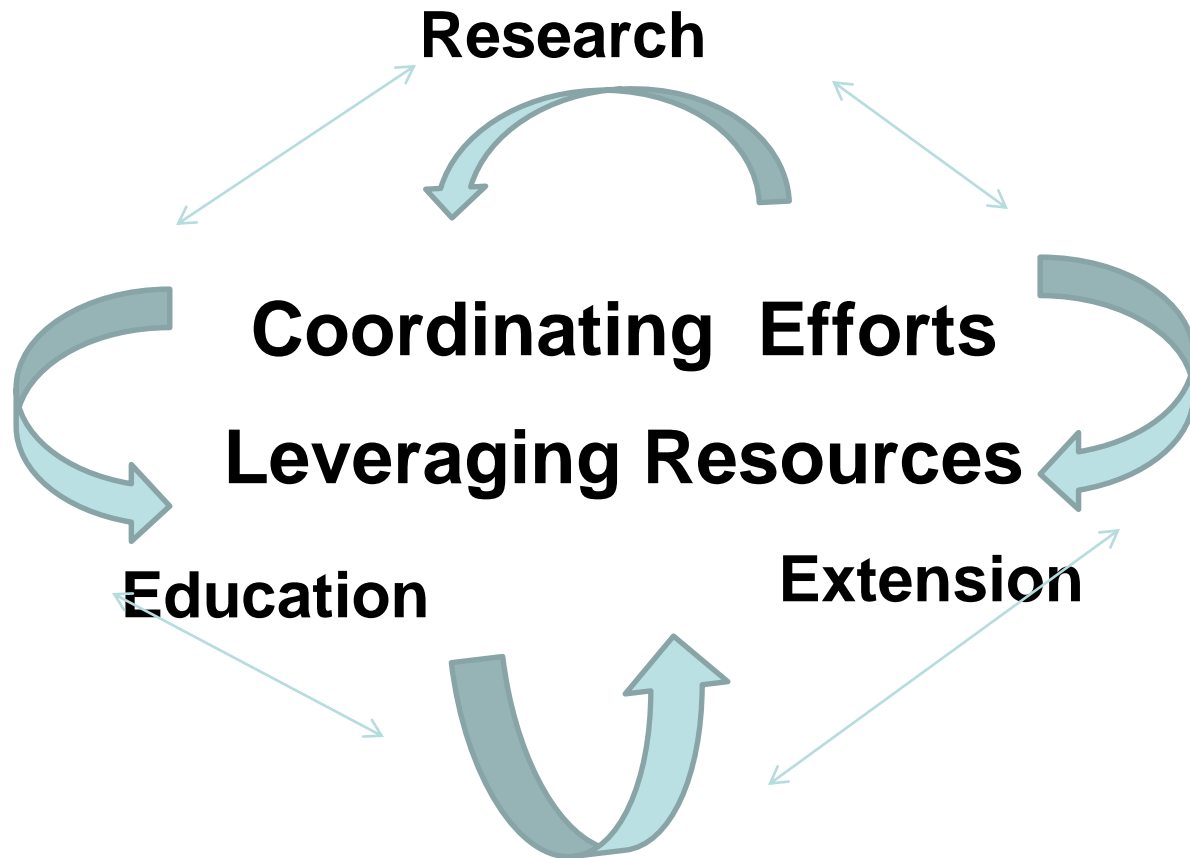


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Food and Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment





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

2A. Assemble an Effective Team and Develop the Proposal Together

- ◆ Include ALL Expertise necessary to complete the project
- ◆ Don't start writing until all team members are identified.
- ◆ Share responsibility of writing, but edit into a single voice



Ten Things You Must Do

2B. Assemble an Effective Team and Develop the Proposal Together

- ◆ Who will be responsible for project activities?
- ◆ If the project involves extension activities:
 - ◆ Who are the stakeholders?
 - ◆ What roles will they play in project development and implementation?
- ◆ Who will evaluate the project?



Ten Things You Must Do

2C. Have team members develop two (or three) PowerPoint slides that describe:

- ◆ What activities (and responsibilities) they will undertake
- ◆ How they connect to other components of the project
- ◆ What resources they will require to succeed
- ◆ Use these slides to develop the proposal outline



Ten Things You Must Do

3. 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

4. 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

5. 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

6. 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

7. 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

8. Prepare budget with a strong justification

- ◆ Unreasonable budgets hurt proposals – create skeptics within reviewer ranks
- ◆ Keep budgets within guidelines in the RFA – they are judged on degree of reasonableness
- ◆ Being very under budget does not increase your chances!!

Ten Things You Must Do

9. 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

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

- ◆ All Documents must be in PDF
- ◆ 5:00 pm Eastern Time
- ◆ A deadline is a deadline is a deadline!



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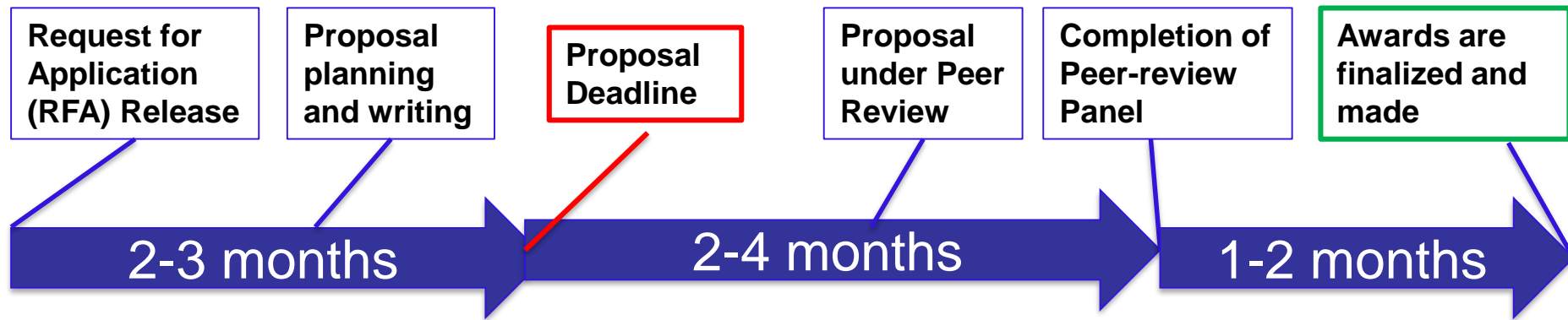
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How are Proposals Reviewed?





Timeline of Competitive Programs



On average, a competitive proposal takes about 6-9 months from RFA release to an award being made to an institution



Successful Proposals

- Excite the reviewers
- Excite the reviewers!!!!
- Are easy to read and understand
- Have clear rationale & objectives that fit program priorities
- Clearly stated hypotheses or research questions – for research proposals

<https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/general-grant-writing-tips-success>



Successful Proposals

- Clearly stated learning objectives and expected outcomes/impacts
 - What will be different as a result of the proposed work?
- Have specific objectives, methods, work plan, plan for dissemination of results ,etc.
- Have well-communicated importance of the topic and potential contributions of work
- Appropriate expertise of the Project Director(s)



Successful Proposals

- Contain a detailed project description - methods, sample selection, analysis, educational program delivery, instructional materials development, etc.
- Address potential pitfalls, including shortcomings of data and alternative plans
- Follow the submission rules!!!



Reasons for Noncompliant Proposals

- Exceed
 - Page, budget, or duration limits
- Files are not in proper format (pdf)
- Do not fit the program priorities
- Project of little or no relevance to NIFA mission and/or program priorities



Reasons for Lower Ratings

- Insufficient preliminary data or evidence from literature
- Poorly written, unclear objectives or hypotheses, spelling errors or typos
- Poor record of results (e.g., publications) from previous funding
- Project Director(s) not qualified



Reasons for Lower Ratings

- Low scientific merit, basic flaws in logic, demonstrates lack of scientific understanding
 - Experiments or objectives not cohesive, inappropriate, too vague, or not integrated
 - No hypotheses, research questions, or learning objectives
 - Not innovative, little new information gained
- Not as exciting as other proposals (*i.e.*, worth funding, but ran out of funds)

The screenshot shows the Grants.gov homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HELP, REGISTER, and LOGIN. Below this is a search bar with the text "SEARCH: Grant Opportunities" and a "GO" button. A yellow circle highlights the "FOR" menu item in the navigation bar. A large blue arrow points from the bottom left towards the "FOR" menu item, with the text "Email Notifications" written inside it. The main content area features a red banner with an alert from SAM.gov. Below the banner, there is a section titled "Apply Using Workspace" with a description of the workspace and a red button that says "Apply for a Grant Using Workspace ». At the bottom, there is a footer with various links including SEARCH GRANTS, GET STARTED, GRANT POLICIES, GRANT-MAKING AGENCIES, PREVENT SCAMS, COMMUNITY BLOG, TWITTER FEED, YOUTUBE VIDEOS, ONLINE HELP, and SUPPORT CENTER.

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FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.®

HELP | REGISTER | LOGIN

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities ▾ Enter Keyword... GO

HOME LEARN GRANTS SEARCH GRANTS APPLICANTS GRANTORS SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM **FOR** CONNECT SUPPORT

ALERT from SAM.gov: If you are registering a new entity in SAM.gov, you are the authorized Entity Administrator before your registration change. Provide an original, signed notarized letter stating that you are the authorized Entity Administrator before your registration change. Read the [FAQs](#) to learn more about this process

Apply Using Workspace

Grants.gov Workspace enables you and your colleagues to fill out webforms and apply to a workspace for a grant opportunity to begin the application process.


Apply for a Grant Using Workspace »

GRANTS.GOV Online Forms

1. TYPE OF SUBMISSION:
a. Type of Submission:
Other (Specify):
b. Frequency:
Other (Specify):
c. Estimated Amount Requested:
d. Explanation:

SEARCH GRANTS GET STARTED GRANT POLICIES GRANT-MAKING AGENCIES PREVENT SCAMS COMMUNITY BLOG TWITTER FEED YOUTUBE VIDEOS ONLINE HELP SUPPORT CENTER



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FIND. APPLY. SUCCEED.™

HELP | REGISTER | LOGIN

SEARCH: Grant Opportunities GO

HOME | LEARN GRANTS | SEARCH GRANTS | APPLICANTS | GRANTORS | SYSTEM-TO-SYSTEM | FORMS | **CONNECT** | SUPPORT

GRANTS.GOV > Connect > Manage Subscriptions


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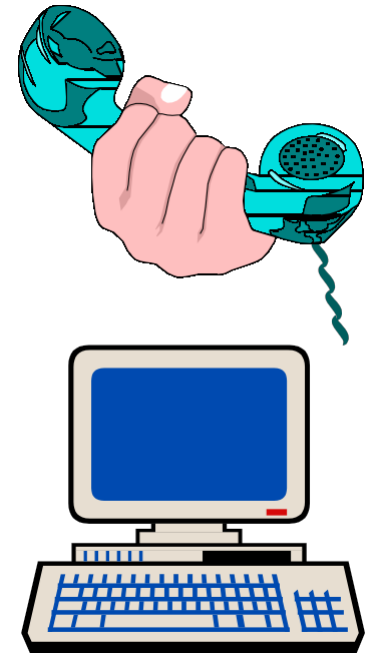
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What to Do if You Have Questions ?



Contact the
NIFA Program
Staff!!!





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Opportunities for Global Engagement through USDA/NIFA programs



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

Global Engagement Programs

[Building Capacity at Home and Abroad](#)

[Enhancing NIFA's Effectiveness for Global Engagement](#)

[Grant Opportunities for Global Engagement](#)

[FAQs about International Partnerships](#)

[Developing Global Partnerships](#)

Grant Opportunities for Global Engagement

Over the years, the Center for International Programs has provided guidance to others within NIFA to include global engagement opportunities for U.S. institutions in NIFA's grant programs. The table below provides a comprehensive list of RFAs and their associated international offerings in a simple format for potential applicants to peruse. The list of opportunities within RFAs has grown and will continue to grow as we strive to bring awareness of international issues to the agency.

NIFA RFAS OFFERING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

| RFAs | What's Offered |
|--|---|
| Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational Program | <i>International Partnerships or Engagement</i> |
| Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Childhood Obesity Prevention Challenge Area | <i>International Partnerships or Engagement</i> |
| Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Agriculture and Natural Resources Science for Climate Variability and Change Challenge Area | <i>International Partnerships or Engagement</i> |



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Questions?

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