Finding Funding: Spotlight on USDA-NIFA

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Webinar goals

- Getting to know the USDA-NIFA
- AFRI funding
- Non-AFRI funding
- Eligibility
- Q&A
US Department of Agriculture

- Provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science, and effective management

- Made up of 29 agencies
National Institute for Food and Agriculture

Leadership and funding for programs to advance agriculture-related sciences.

NIFA programs rely upon a three-pronged strategy: integrated research, education, and extension to ensure discoveries from the lab are transferred to those who can put them to work.
What drives a sponsor’s giving?

Their **MISSION** is what matters!

- Become knowledgeable about the mission of the sponsor
- Successful applicants effectively connect their fundable ideas to the mission of the sponsor
- Your proposal should **expressly** state HOW your project advances the mission of the sponsor
Farm Bill priority areas

1. Plant health and production and plant products
2. Animal health and production and animal products
3. Food safety, nutrition, and health
4. Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment
5. Agriculture systems and technology
6. Agriculture economics and rural communities.
USDA Strategic Goals

1. Ensure USDA programs are delivered efficiently, effectively, with integrity and a focus on customer service.
2. Maximize the ability of American agricultural producers to prosper by feeding and clothing the world.
3. Promote American agricultural products and exports.
4. Facilitate rural prosperity and economic development.
5. Strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research.
7. Provide all Americans access to a safe, nutritious, and secure food supply.

Finding NIFA funding

https://nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant
NIFA funding categories

- Competitive Grant Programs (AFRI, non-AFRI)
- Non-Competitive Grant Programs
- Capacity Grant Programs
NIFA Agriculture & Food Research Initiative (AFRI)
AFRI Sustainable Ag Systems

Increase sustainable production, considering
- Diminished land and water resources
- Changing climate, weather events
- Disease and pests
- Challenges to human health, well-being

Solutions a convergence of science and tech
- Optimize productivity
- Ensure safe, affordable, nutritious food supply
- Advance the bioeconomy
- Promote ag workforce development

https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-sas
AFRI Foundational & Applied Science

Advance knowledge in both fundamental and applied sciences important to agriculture, within the six priority areas

https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-foundational-program
AFRI Education & Workforce Development

Advancement of the next generation of research, education, and extension professionals in food and ag science

Goals
1. Enhancing agricultural literacy and workforce training
2. Developing pathways
3. Advancing science

https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-education-workforce-development
NIFA-AFRI eligibility

Single-function Research, Education or Extension Projects

- State Agricultural Experiment Station
- Colleges and universities (including junior colleges)
- University research foundations
- Other research institutions and organizations
- Federal agencies
- National laboratories
- Private organizations or corporations
- Individuals who are U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents

Integrated Projects

- Colleges and universities
- 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities

Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants

- Small and mid-sized or minority-serving degree-granting institutions
- State Agricultural Experiment Stations, or degree-granting institutions eligible to receive EPSCoR funding
AFRI grant types

- Standard Grants
- Coordinated Agricultural Project
- Conference Grants
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants
- Other Grants (Collaborative)

Not all grant types are solicited within each Request for Applications (RFA) or by each Program Area Priority within each RFA

Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants (FASE)

- Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships
- New Investigators
- Strengthening Grants
  - Seed grants
  - Equipment grants
  - Sabbatical grants
  - Strengthening standard grants
  - Strengthening Coordinated Agricultural Projects
  - Strengthening conference grants
Strengthening Grants: Eligibility

- Small and mid-sized degree-granting institutions (<17,500 enrollment)
- Minority-serving degree-granting institution
- State Agricultural Experiment Station or degree-granting institutions eligible for USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) funding
New Investigator grants

New Investigator at the beginning of their career:

- Does not have an extensive scientific publication record,
- Has less than five years of postgraduate, career-track experience.
- May not have received competitively awarded Federal research funds as lead PD
- Two types of NI grants: NI Standard Grant, and NI Seed Grant
Seed grants

- For collecting pilot data, or other project-prep efforts
- Does not support standalone projects
- Lead to future AFRI applications
- Two-year project period
- Up to $300,000
Identify your Priority Area(s)

Identify your Program Area Priority(ies)

Review funding parameters

Review details regarding targeted topic needs
## Non-AFRI NIFA funding programs

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<th>Program</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program</td>
<td>March 24, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program</td>
<td>February 15, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program</td>
<td>Fall 2022 (projected)</td>
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<td>Crop and Pest Management</td>
<td>February 28, 2022</td>
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<td>Equipment Grants Program</td>
<td>Targeted RFA release in February 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program</td>
<td>December 2022 (projected)</td>
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<td>Non-AFRI NIFA funding programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Higher Education Challenge Grants: Targeted RFA release in February 2022</td>
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<td>Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative: January 13, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program: April 6, 2022; Targeted February 1, 2023</td>
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<td>Specialty Crop Research Initiative: Pre-applications were due January 21, 2022</td>
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<td>Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program: March 31, 2022</td>
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Non-AFRI NIFA eligibility

- Eligibility varies by program and is listed in each Request for Application (RFA)
- Land-Grant Colleges and Universities
- Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture
- Minority-Serving Institutions
- Colleges and Universities
- Other organizations
Strategies and Resources

Serve as a peer review panelist: [https://prs.nifa.usda.gov/prs/preLogin.do](https://prs.nifa.usda.gov/prs/preLogin.do)

Explore current funding awards in CRIS: [https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/](https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/)

New NIFA data reporting tool, Data Gateway: [https://nifa.usda.gov/data](https://nifa.usda.gov/data)

Webinar: New Investigator Overview: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOkTgIGdRAs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOkTgIGdRAs)

## Strategies and Resources

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<tr>
<td>NIFA General Grant Writing Tips for Success:</td>
<td><a href="https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/">https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>AFRI Request for Applications Resources:</td>
<td><a href="https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/afri-request-applications-resources">https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/afri-request-applications-resources</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>View Upcoming RFA Calendar:</td>
<td><a href="https://nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar">https://nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar</a></td>
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Questions?
Spring webinar topics

- Common Grantwriting Pitfalls, **February 2**
- Finding Funding: Spotlight on the USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), **February 10**
- Finding Funding: Spotlight on the National Science Foundation, **March 2**
- Collaborative Grantseeking, **March 10**
- Finding Funding for Your Scholarship and Creative Endeavors, **April 6**
- Funding for New and Early-Stage Investigators, **April 14**

https://www.wisys.org/grants/webinars
On-Demand WiSys Webinars

✓ Pivot
✓ Budget Building Fundamentals
✓ Improving Your Odds for Success BEFORE the Writing Begins
✓ Finding Funding: Spotlight on the NIH R15
✓ Planning for Grants Success
✓ Common Grantwriting Pitfalls
✓ National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Program

https://www.wisys.org/grants/webinars