

Finding Funding: Spotlight on USDA-NIFA

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To Do:

Webinar goals

- Getting to know the USDA-NIFA
- AFRI funding
- Non-AFRI funding
- Eligibility
- Q&A



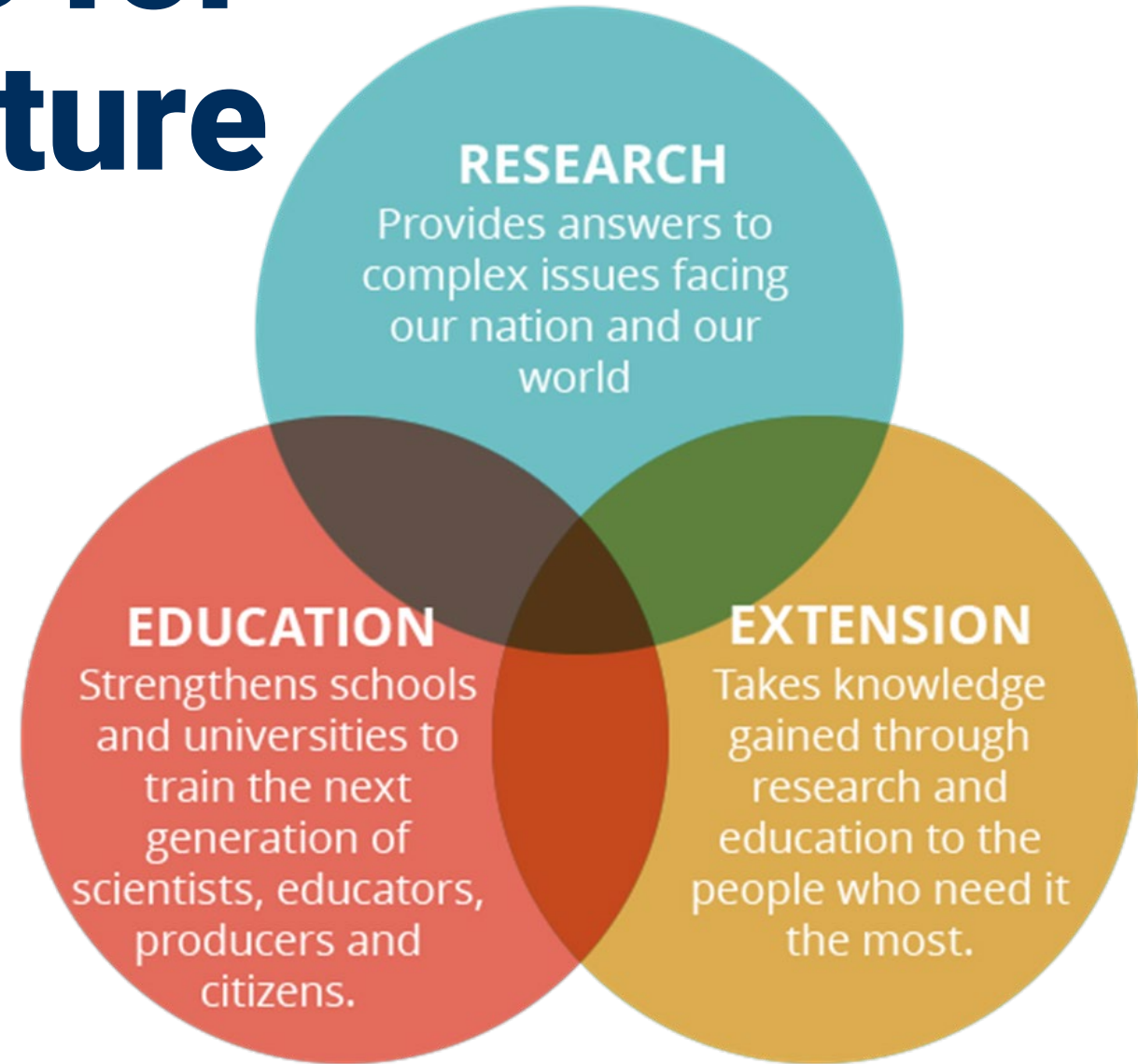
US Department of Agriculture

- 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.



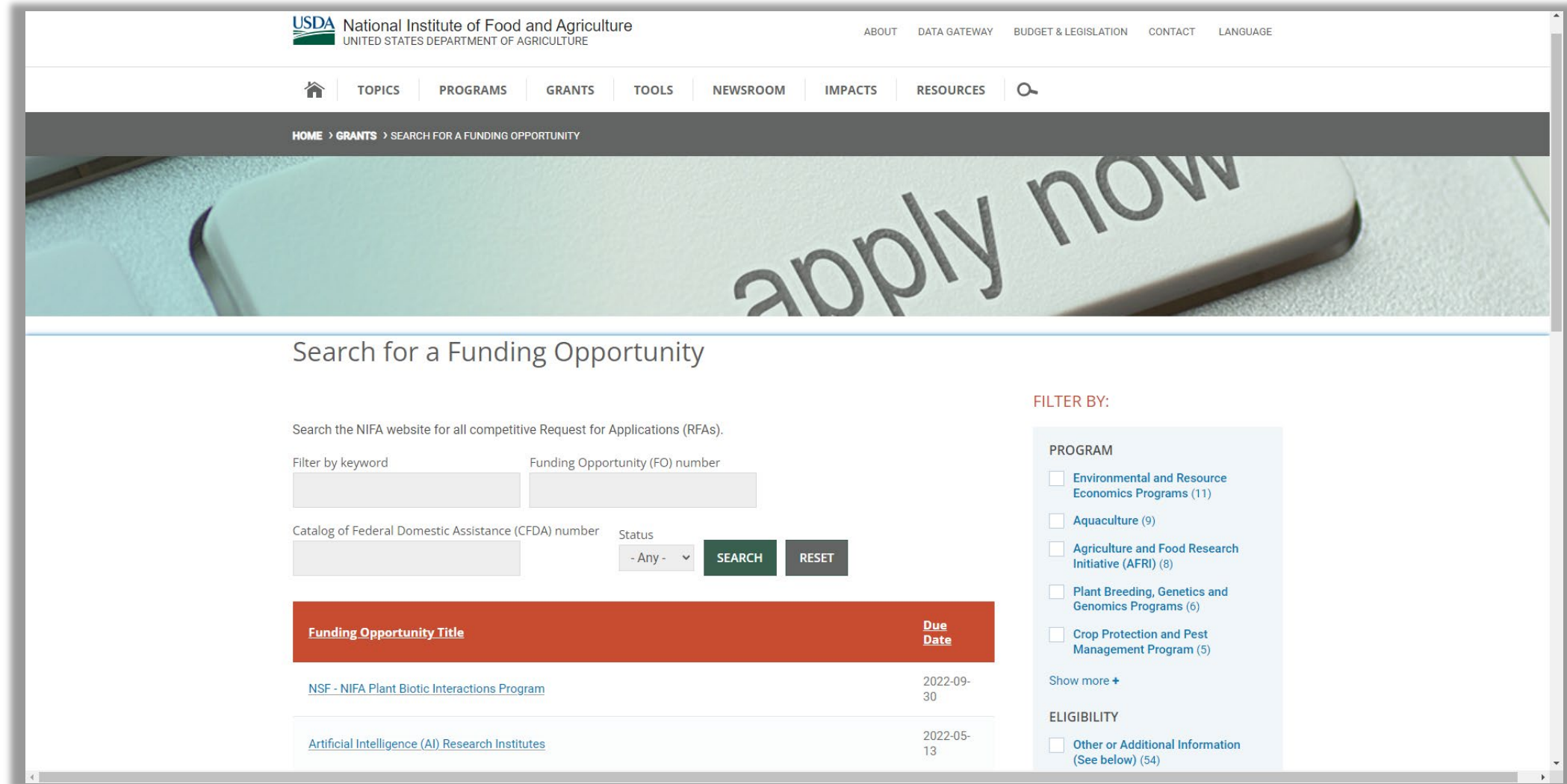
<https://nifa.usda.gov/farm-bill-priorities>

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.
6. Ensure productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System Lands.
7. Provide all Americans access to a safe, nutritious, and secure food supply.

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/usda-strategic-plan-2018-2022.pdf>

Finding NIFA funding



The screenshot shows the NIFA website's search interface. At the top, the USDA logo and navigation links are visible. Below the header, a search bar and a list of categories (TOPICS, PROGRAMS, GRANTS, TOOLS, NEWSROOM, IMPACTS, RESOURCES) are present. A banner image with the text "apply now" is displayed. The main section is titled "Search for a Funding Opportunity" and includes a search instruction: "Search the NIFA website for all competitive Request for Applications (RFAs)." Below this, there are input fields for "Filter by keyword", "Funding Opportunity (FO) number", and "Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number". A "Status" dropdown menu is set to "- Any -". There are "SEARCH" and "RESET" buttons. On the right, a "FILTER BY:" section lists various programs with checkboxes and counts: "Environmental and Resource Economics Programs (11)", "Aquaculture (9)", "Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) (8)", "Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics Programs (6)", and "Crop Protection and Pest Management Program (5)". A "Show more +" link is also present. Below the filter section, an "ELIGIBILITY" section lists "Other or Additional Information (See below) (54)". The main search results area shows a table with two columns: "Funding Opportunity Title" and "Due Date". The first row lists "NSF - NIFA Plant Biotic Interactions Program" with a due date of "2022-09-30". The second row lists "Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Institutes" with a due date of "2022-05-13".

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ABOUT DATA GATEWAY BUDGET & LEGISLATION CONTACT LANGUAGE

HOME > GRANTS > SEARCH FOR A FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Search for a Funding Opportunity

Search the NIFA website for all competitive Request for Applications (RFAs).

Filter by keyword Funding Opportunity (FO) number

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number Status

Funding Opportunity Title **Due Date**

NSF - NIFA Plant Biotic Interactions Program	2022-09-30
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Institutes	2022-05-13

FILTER BY:

PROGRAM

- ☐ Environmental and Resource Economics Programs (11)
- ☐ Aquaculture (9)
- ☐ Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) (8)
- ☐ Plant Breeding, Genetics and Genomics Programs (6)
- ☐ Crop Protection and Pest Management Program (5)

[Show more +](#)

ELIGIBILITY

- ☐ Other or Additional Information (See below) (54)

<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





AFRI Foundational & Applied Science

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

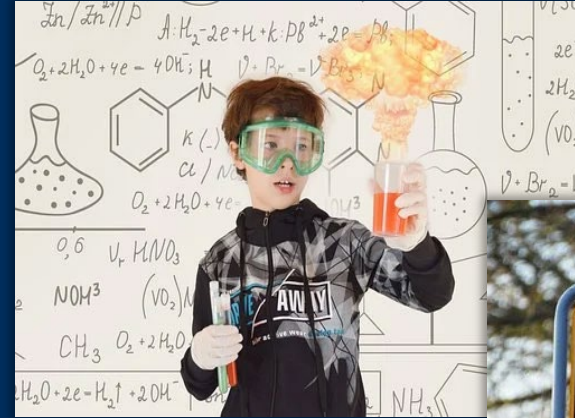
<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/afri-foundational-program>

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

RFP sample

- Identify your Priority Area(s)
- Identify your Program Area Priority(ies)
- Review funding parameters
- Review details regarding targeted topic needs

f. Pollinator Health: Research and Applications

Program Area Priority Code: A1113

Proposed Budget Requests:

- Budgets for Standard Grants, Strengthening Standard Grants, and New Investigator Grants must not exceed **\$750,000 total per project** (including indirect costs) for project periods of three to five years.
- Budgets for Standard Grants, and Strengthening Standard Grants addressing the research coordination network priority below must not exceed **\$650,000 total per project** (including indirect costs) for project periods of three to five years. NIFA anticipates a maximum of one award.
- Conference and FASE Grants must adhere to the guidelines outlined in Part II, C(2) of this RFA.
- Requests exceeding the budgetary guidelines will not be reviewed.

Requested Project Types: Single function Research, Education or Extension only

Requested Grant Types: Standard, Conference, and FASE (Strengthening Standard, New Investigator, Strengthening Conference, Seed, Equipment, and Sabbatical) Grants only

Requested Grant Types for Research Coordination Networks: Standard and FASE (Strengthening Standard) Grants only

Letter of Intent: required only for Conference Grant applications. The LOI must be submitted a minimum of 195 days before the conference begins.

Application Deadlines:

- **2021:** Thursday, May 27, 2021 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
- **2022:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time)
- **Conference Grants:** submitted after LOI decision response and a minimum of 150 days before the conference begins

Program Area Priority Contacts:

- Dr. Erica Kistner-Thomas, (816) 894-9283 or erica.kistnerthomas@usda.gov
- Dr. Megan O'Rourke, (816) 319-8527 or megan.orourke@usda.gov

Non-AFRI NIFA funding programs

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program: March 24, 2022

Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program: February 15, 2022

Capacity Building Grants for Non-Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture Program: Fall 2022 (projected)

Crop and Pest Management: February 28, 2022

Equipment Grants Program: Targeted RFA release in February 2022

Food and Agriculture Service Learning Program: December 2022 (projected)

Non-AFRI NIFA funding programs

Higher Education Challenge Grants: Targeted RFA release in February 2022

Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative: January 13, 2022

Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom Challenge Grants Program: April 6, 2022; Targeted February 1, 2023

Specialty Crop Research Initiative: Pre-applications were due January 21, 2022

Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program: March 31, 2022

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>

Explore current funding awards in CRIS: <https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/>

New NIFA data reporting tool, Data Gateway: <https://nifa.usda.gov/data>

Webinar: New Investigator Overview:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOkTgIGdRAs>

New Investigator Webinar Series Handout: <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/2021-afri-new-investigator-webinar-series-handout>

Strategies and Resources

Peer review process for competitive grant applications:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/The%20NIFA%20Peer%20Review%20Process%20for%20Competitive%20Grant%20Applications-07062021.pdf>

NIFA General Grant Writing Tips for Success: <https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/>

AFRI Request for Applications Resources: <https://nifa.usda.gov/resource/afri-request-applications-resources>

AFRI Application Review Criteria: <https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource/AFRI-Review-Criteria-011421-508.pdf>

View Upcoming RFA Calendar: <https://nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar>

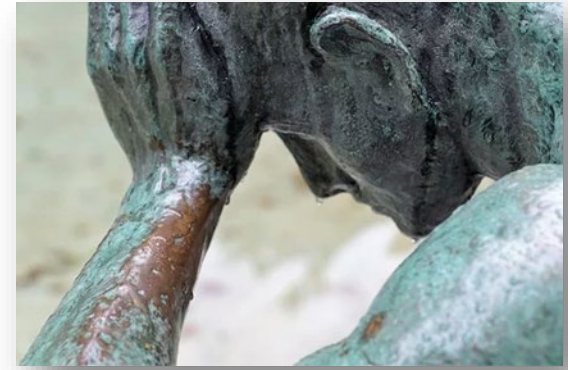
Questions?



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>