AFRI FOUNDATIONAL & APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW

OFFICE OF GRANT & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

University *of* Idaho
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

CALS OFFICE OF GRANT & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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AFRI FOUNDATIONAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES (FAS) PROGRAM

The AFRI Foundational program focuses on building a foundation of fundamental and applied knowledge in food and agricultural sciences critical for solving current and future societal challenges.

It is the largest federal program for competitive grant funding for fundamental and applied research, extension, and education in food and agriculture.

INCREASED FUNDING AVAILABLE
- $300 million estimated program funding in 2024
- $290 million per year for 2021 and 2022 (more current info not available)

UI CALS SUCCESS
- UI and **CALS** has substantial success already
- **UI PIs** have received AFRI competitive funding for ~**118 projects**
  Project list: *https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/cgi-bin/starfinder/117352/crisassist.txt*

New Funding Opportunity:
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

Funding Priorities—by Farm Bill Categories (FY24 anticipated funding)

- Plant Health and Production and Plant Products (~$61 million)
- Animal Health and Production and Animal Products (~$56 million)
- Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health (~$38 million)
- Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment (~$37 million)
- Agriculture Systems and Technology (~$36 million)
- Agriculture Economics and Rural Sociology (~$30 million)
- Crosscutting Programs (addressing 2 or more of the above priorities) (~$36 million)
  - *Agricultural Microbiomes in Plant Systems and Natural Resources*
  - *Critical Agricultural Research and Extension (CARE)*
  - *Data Science for Food and Agricultural Systems (DSFAS)*
  - *Inter-Disciplinary Engagement in Animal Systems (IDEAS)*
  - *Agricultural Biosecurity*
  - *Extension, Education & USDA Climate Hubs Partnership*
  - *AFRI Commodity Board Co-Funding Topics (co-funded with state commodity boards including but not limited to Dairy Management Inc. and USA Dry Pea & Lentil Council)*
  - *Rapid Response to Extreme Weather Events Across Food and Agricultural Systems (Standard, and Strengthening Standard only)*

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

DUE DATES

AFRI FAS 2024 Due Dates

- Program deadlines through August-December 2023. Full details available at:
  https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agriculture-food-research-initiative-afri/afri-deadlines

AFRI FAS Conference Grants

- Rolling deadline
- Required LOI must be submitted **at least 195 days before** the start of the proposed conference
- Full conference grant application must be submitted **at least 150 days before** the start of the proposed conference

CALS and OSP Deadlines

if not met, you may not be allowed to apply unless under approved extenuating circumstances

OSP Deadline

- 4 <u>full</u> business days prior to grant deadline, 6 <u>full</u> business days if your project includes subawards
- **ALL** final documents must be uploaded in VERAS **and** grants.gov (accessed via VERAS)

CALS Deadline

- 10 <u>full</u> business days prior to grant deadline
- All documents in VERAS ready for review by OGPD and CALS-GMS staff

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

PROJECT AND GRANT TYPES

PROJECT TYPES
- Research
- Education
- Extension
- Integrated (includes at least two of the three functions above)

GRANT TYPES
- Standard
- Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP)
- Conference
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) (see next slides)
  - Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships
  - New Investigator
  - Strengthening
    - Seed
    - Equipment
    - Sabbatical
    - Strengthening Standard
    - Strengthening CAP
    - Strengthening Conference

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

GRANT TYPES

Standard
- Supports targeted original scientific agricultural knowledge: Research, Education, Extension, or Integrated Projects

Coordinated Agricultural Project (CAP)
- Supports large-scale, multi-million-dollar projects
- Multi-function projects must incorporate at least 2 of the 3 components (Research, Extension, and Education)

Conference
- Support scientific meetings that bring together scientists to identify research, education, and/or extension needs,
update information, or advance an area of science

Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE)
- This is not a separate program; it is an **enhancement** that UI qualifies for to help target set-aside funds
- Strengthen science capabilities in Research, Education, & Extension Programs
- Help 'less successful' institutions develop competitive projects
- Attract new scientists into careers in high-priority areas of national need
- *See next 2 slides for FASE grant types*

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

GRANT TYPES: FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE ENHANCEMENT (FASE)

- **FASE Pre- and Post-doctoral Fellowships**
  - Provides fellowships to predoctoral and postdoctoral students in the agricultural sciences
  - Goal: to prepare the next generation of scientists through doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships

- **FASE New Investigator**
  - *Defined as:*
    - Less than 5 years postgraduate, career-track experience
    - Has NOT received competitive Federal research funds beyond pre- or postdoctoral grants or AFRI seed grants
    - Do not need to be US citizens if associated with US Institution
    - Can be Research, Education, and/or Extension
    - Application written same as non-new investigator expect check the box indicating New Investigator eligibility

There are Two Types of New Investigator Grants available:

- **FASE New Investigator Standard Grants**
  - A Standard Grant application in which the Project Director meets the eligibility criteria for New Investigators.
  - Check the New Investigator box under FASE on the AFRI Project Type form

- **FASE New Investigator Seed Grants**
  - An individual applicant may submit only one Seed Grant per fiscal year as PD
  - New Investigators may only receive one New Investigator Seed Grant as PD during their career
  - Budget limited to $300,000 (total costs) for 2 years
  - Check both both the New Investigator and Seed Grant boxes under FASE on the AFRI Project Type form

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

GRANT TYPES: FASE, *CONTINUED*

NOTE: 15% of AFRI funding is set aside for strengthening grants

FASE Strengthening

Proposals limited to a 7-page project narrative
- **Seed** ($200,000 over 2 years)
  - Collection of preliminary data leading to future standard AFRI application
  - Seed applications only need good ideas, not preliminary data
- **Equipment** (up to $50,000)
  - Purchase of a single piece of equipment
  - Requires cost-share/matching (non-federal sources)
- **Sabbatical**
  - Up to one year of salary, and funds for travel and supplies
  - Mini-sabbaticals are also allowed (a few weeks or months)

Proposals with standard 18-page project narrative
same definitions and application as for non-FASE grant types
- **Standard**
- **Strengthening CAP**
- **Strengthening Conference**
  For all 3:
  - Same application as Standard, check the box indicating FASE eligibility
  - Reviewed with other Standard applications, not separately

Seed, Equipment & Sabbatical applications are reviewed together within the AFRI program submitted to.
These 3 grant types are ranked relative to each other, with competition <u>only</u> among those 3 grant types

2 chances for funding:
Compete with all applications (strengthening and non-strengthening)
1st Chance: If selected then will receive program funding (not from set-aside funds)
2nd Chance: If not funded but ranked well in the fundable range, will be evaluated for funding from the 11.25% set-aside funds

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

RESOURCES TO LEARN ABOUT PREVIOUSLY FUNDED PROJECTS

AFRI-FUNDED PROJECTS BY STATES

- Link to summaries for projects funded in each state
- *https://nifa.usda.gov/afri-funded-projects-state*

CURRENT RESEARCH INFORMATION SYSTEM (CRIS)

- Searchable database of USDA-funded projects
- *https://cris.nifa.usda.gov/*

Current Research Information System CRIS

2017   Retrieved 6 records

Title	Awd Yr Prop No	Investigator	Institution	View
INCREASING REGIONAL TO GLOBAL-SCALE RESILIENCE IN FEW SYSTEMS THROUGH COORD. STORAGE MGMT IN CONCERT WITH INNOVATION IN TECH.& INSTITUTIONS	2017 2016-09857	Cosens, B. A.	UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO	Brief Full
CHARACTERIZATION AND MANIPULATION OF ABIOTIC STRESS SIGNALING IN TOMATO	2017 2016-10554	Xiao, F.	UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO	Brief Full
INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND EXTENSION PROJECT TO STUDY AND IMPROVE COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS IN THREE STATES	2017 2016-10945	Higgins, L.	UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO	Brief Full
OVINE FAANG PROJECT	2017 2016-10149	Murdoch, B. M.	UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO	Brief Full
CHARACTERIZATION OF THE CYST NEMATODE UBIQUITIN LIGASE EFFECTOR AND ITS VIRULENCE IN HOST POTATO PLANTS	2017 2016-09301	Xiao, F.	UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO	Brief Full
INLAND PACIFIC NORTHWEST WHEAT-BASED SYSTEMS: LANDSCAPES IN TRANSITION	2017 2016-11575	Johnson-Maynard, J.	UNIV OF IDAHO MOSCOW, IDAHO	Brief Full

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROGRAM

SUCCESS RATES

In 2021-22*, NIFA received ~2,938 proposals for all AFRI funding programs and made 780 awards (~26.5%)

AFRI Programs Sorted from Least Competitive to Most Competitive, 2021-2022 Total Awards: $477,073,011			
Program Name	**# applications**	**# awards**	**% funded**
Education and Workforce Development	377	152	40.3%
Crosscutting Programs	333	98	29.4%
Animal Health and Production and Animal Products	399	110	27.6%
Plant Health and Production and Plant Products	537	142	26.4%
Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities	193	50	25.9%
Bioenergy, Natural Resources, and Environment	281	70	24.9%
Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health	396	89	22.5%
Sustainable Agricultural Systems (and SAS Program Evaluation)	79	16	20.3%
Agriculture Systems and Technology	343	53	15.5%
Total	**2,938**	**780**	**26.5%**

Source: https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/agriculture-food-research-initiative-afri/afri-annual-review

* 2021-2022 is the most recent report available for program rates

DEVELOPING YOUR PROPOSAL

- **COORDINATION AND PLANNING**
  - **Start early!**
  - **Start your proposal in VERAS** (you can delete if you decide to not move forward) *https://www.veras.uidaho.edu*
  - Read the RFP/RFA and Additional Information documents thoroughly
  - Contact the program manager to discuss your idea (they want to hear from PIs)
  - Scale your budget to your proposed work
  - Coordinate with partners (i.e., subawards and service contracts)
  - Use the CALS OGPD AFRI Checklist and Tip Sheets
  - **Read the RFP/RFA again**
  - **Submit Early!**
  - Plan for multi-year efforts to secure funding (e.g., tier your research from Seed Grant to Standard Strengthening Research Grant to larger-scale Integrated Project Grants)
  - **Revise based on reviewer feedback and RESUBMIT next year if you are not funded (don't give up, resubmissions have a fairly high success rate)**

OGPD RESOURCES

Our purpose is to increase the amount of grant funding awarded to the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

We support all aspects of the proposal submission process to federal and state funding programs.

Proposal preparation
- Process management (VERAS, grants.gov, subawards, etc.)
- Review and edit <u>all documents</u> (iterative process)
- Budget development
- Online Resources (templates and instructions, for key personnel, project summary, budget, etc.):
  https://www.uidaho.edu/cals/services/grant-and-project-development/services/resources
- Examples from successful proposals
  e.g., logic model, management plans, data management, etc.

Proposal strengthening
- Review/compare RFA and proposal components
- Provide feedback on project narrative strengths/weaknesses
- Strengthen documentation of need using secondary data
  - **Indicators Idaho website: <u>www.indicatorsidaho.org</u>**

AFRI PEER REVIEW PROCESS

Peer Review

- NIFA relies on a rigorous peer review process by research, extension, and/or education experts to select proposals of highest merit
- The program-specific evaluation criteria detailed in RFAs may include:
  - Scientific Merit
  - Qualifications of the Project Team
  - Institutional Capacity and Availability of Facilities
  - Project Planning & Management
  - Relevance to Agriculture and Program Priorities

AFRI Request for Applications--AFRI Review Criteria

https://www.nifa.usda.gov/afri-request-applications-resources

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Key resources to prepare your application

- **AFRI Foundational Request for Applications (RFA):**
  https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-foundational-applied-science-program

- **Additional Information for AFRI FAS RFA Part IV C** *(contains crucial detail not in the RFA):*
  https://www.nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-02/AFRI-FAS-RFA-Additional-Information-for-Part-IV-C-FY24_0.pdf

- **AFRI Foundational Checklist (prepared by CALS OGPD)** *(Attached to this email and on our website)*

- **NIFA templates:**
  https://www.nifa.usda.gov/application-support-templates

- **AFRI Request for Applications Resources:**
  https://www.nifa.usda.gov/afri-request-applications-resources

CALS-OGPD can also provide select example documents from prior successful proposal submissions.

AFRI FOUNDATIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

Program requirements vary so review the RFA and supplemental instructions carefully. The CALS AFRI Checklist provides more detail.

- Project Summary/Abstract (250-word limit, use NIFA template)
- Project Narrative (18 pages for most proposals; 7 pages for sabbatical, equipment, and seed grants)
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Bibliography & References Cited
- Facilities & Other Resources
- Equipment
- Key Personnel Roles (2 pages)
- Logic Model (2 pages)
- Management Plan (3 pages)
- Data Management Plan (2 pages)
- Documentation of Collaboration
  - Letters of Support from stakeholders, industry, non-profits, etc. (not allowed by some programs)
  - Letters of Commitment/Collaboration from subrecipients and consultant/contractors
- Senior/Key Personnel Documents (including consultants)
  - Biographical sketch (2 pages + publication list)
  - Current & Pending Support (use NIFA template)
  - Conflict of Interest (include full names, use NIFA template)

- **Forms generated within VERAS/grants.gov interface:**
  - SF424 documents
  - Project Type
  - Human and Animal Research Protocols
  - Felony and Tax Certification (OSP)
  - Keywords (8-10 keywords provided by the PD)

BUDGET

OGPD can provide the following budget assistance:

- **Developing your budget**
  - What objectives and activities are you proposing
  - What resources are needed to meet these objectives: *e.g., salary/fringe, travel, materials/supplies, tuition, and indirect costs/F&A (sticker shock!)*
  - Reviewers will call you out for submitting an 'overly ambitious project'
  - Refer to CALS FY25 Rate Sheet (attached) for fringe benefit rates, tuition/fee rates, indirect cost rates, and travel rates

- **Making sure your budget is reasonable, allocable, and allowable**
  - **Reasonable**—is the budget sufficient and appropriate for what you're proposing
  - **Allocable**—can an expense be separated and charged to the grant (e.g., not ½ of a computer)
  - **Allowable**—is an expense allowed by the federal guidelines (e.g., red flags for food/refreshments; administrative employees; participant incentives. Absolutely not allowed: entertainment, gifts, alcohol, lobbying, fundraising, etc.)

- **Creating a budget justification:** a text version describing your budget in more detail

- **Managing subaward process**
  - Gather UI-OSP and sponsor-required documentation—TIME INTENSE PROCESS
  - Manage other institutions' ability to complete in a timely manner <u>and</u> allow UI-OSP time to review
  - Aim to have all subaward documents in place <u>3 weeks</u> before deadline
  - Requirements from subawardee institutions:

    - UI Subrecipient Form
    - Budget
    - Budget Justification
    - Scope of Work
    - Letter(s) of Commitment
    - Key Personnel Documents (Biosketch, Current & Pending, Conflict of Interest

BUDGET

OGPD budget assistance, *continued*

- **VERAS/Grants.gov**
  - Entering budget and budget justification into VERAS and online federal application portals (grants.gov)

- **NOTE: AFRI indirect costs/F&A are currently limited to 30% of Total Federal Funds Awarded**
  - Equivalent to 42.857% of Total Direct Costs, <u>including indirect costs in awards to other institutions</u>
  - UI OSP <u>requires</u> all institutions share the burden of this limit.
  - Once the subrecipient budget is finalized, OSP determines the amount each institution must reduce their indirect costs. Funds are shifted from indirect costs to direct costs (keeping the budget total the same)
  - This adds another round of interaction with subrecipient institutions, which takes time
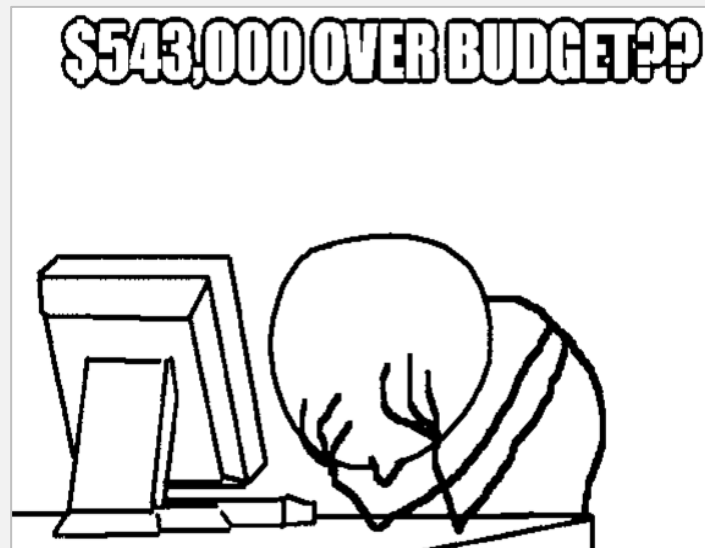
BUDGET

KEEP IN MIND:

- **Budget creation, revision, re-revision, and finalization can be very time consuming, frustrating, and will take you away from working on your proposal narrative**

- **Start your budget early in the proposal preparation process**

- **Once you finalize your budget and all proposal documents, your VERAS entry must be approved by the following:**

  - CALS: Debbie Gray (CALS OGPD) or Amy Norman (CALS Grant Management Services)
  - Assigned Sponsored Programs Administrator, OSP
  - Your Department Head
  - Department Head of any other co-PI(s)
  - CALS Dean's Administration / Holly Waters (CALS GMS)
  - Dean's Administration from other participating College(s)
  - Sarah Martonick, OSP Director and UI's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO RESOURCES

CALS OFFICE OF GRANT & PROJECT DEVELOPMENT   **cals-grants@uidaho.edu**
- Debbie Gray, Interim Director
- Julie Colson, Grant Assistant

CALS GRANT MANAGEMENT SERVICES   **calsgms@uidaho.edu**
- Holly Waters, Director
  - Oversight for CALS internal processing of proposals
  - Ensures compliance throughout the grant lifecycle
- Debbie Gray and Amy Norman
  - Final review of all CALS grants prior to submission to OSP
- Grant Specialists: Robyn Wakefield, Kallie Nelson, Amy Norman
  - Budget review, cost-share identification, and financial and Post-Award management assistance

CALS DEVELOPMENT
- Ann Barrington, Senior Director of Development abarrington@uidaho.edu
  - Responsible for CALS fundraising efforts, may be able to identify cost-share/matching funds

UI OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
- **UI Office of Sponsored Programs**
  - Pre-Award Contact: A Sponsored Programs Administrator (SPA) will be assigned to your project
    - Assists with grant submission compliance prior to funding;
    - Provides final approval before submission to funder
  - OSP Post-Award Contact: post-award@uidaho.edu
    - Oversees all Post-Award (after a proposal has been awarded) activities
- **UI Research & Faculty Development**
  - Carly Cummings, Director ccummings@uidaho.edu
    - Provides trainings, manages the limited submission process, and assists with limited aspects of proposal development with a focus on larger-scale, interdisciplinary projects. Note: they do not work with budgets or in VERAS and grants.gov

SUMMARY/HINTS

- Get started in VERAS as soon as you decide to submit a proposal (helps us / OSP manage workload)
- Read the RFA and relevant documents at the beginning, in the middle, and at the end of your proposal development process
- **Follow the instructions closely** *(including font size, margins, proposal section requirements, allowable/non-allowable costs, required budget items (e.g., travel to project director meetings), file names, etc.*
- Have someone who is not familiar with your area of expertise read your proposal
- Contact us as soon as you begin to plan your proposal!