USDA NIFA AFRI: TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED WITH YOUR NEXT PROPOSAL

RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FACULTY SUCCESS SEMINAR SERIES

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Please keep your microphone muted until the Q&A session

Please note that this session is being recorded
This seminar is being recorded

- Please stay muted until the Q&A portion at the end of the seminar
- Type questions into the chat box and these will be addressed during the Q&A portion

We will send the presentation to all attendees next week
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

We provide proposal development assistance across the spectrum*

uidaho.edu/orfd

Meet goals in the UI strategic plan – grow research and creative efforts across all disciplines

Reach out to discuss ideas and request service –

*Not including budget preparation

All services are optional and are granted on a first come, first served basis
OBJECTIVES
SHARE TIPS, RESOURCES, APPROACHES

- Overview USDA, NIFA, AFRI, and Foundational and Applied Science Program
- Tour the Request for Applications (RFA)
- Discuss Instructions, Eligibility, Deadlines and Review Criteria
- Share tips to find a fit with Program area, Project type and Grant type
- RFD Resources to organize the proposal planning and writing process
WHAT IS USDA?
UNIVERSITY STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Responsible for developing and executing federal laws related to farming, forestry, rural economic development, and food

Strategic goals and mission areas guide the 29 agencies and offices
- Mission area: Research, Education and Economics, includes the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)

TIP: RFAs align with USDA strategic goals; Identify which goals your project addresses and state in your proposal

Resource: USDA Website
WHAT IS NIFA?
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Mission: to invest in and advance agricultural research, education, and extension to solve societal challenges.

NIFA awards Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) grants through four competitive programs:
- Education & Workforce Development
- Foundational and Applied Science
- Sustainable Agricultural Systems
- Interagency Programs

Resource: NIFA Website
WHAT IS AFRI?
THE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The nation's competitive grants program for agricultural sciences

Mission: to invest in agricultural production research, education and extension projects for more sustainable, productive and economically viable plant and animal production systems.

Funds research, education, and extension grants to improve rural economies, increase food production, stimulate the bioeconomy, mitigate impacts of climate variability, address water availability issues, ensure food safety and security, enhance human nutrition, and train the next generation of the agricultural workforce.

Resource: AFRI Website
AFRI PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Aligned with Farm Bill priorities
  - Plant Health and Production and Plant Products
  - Animal Health and Production and Animal Products
  - Food Safety, Nutrition, and Health
  - Bioenergy, Natural resources, and Environment
  - Agriculture Systems and Technology
  - Agriculture Economics and Rural Communities

Resource: Farm Bill Priorities
AFRI RFAs

Three main programs published as 2-year RFAs

Use with the Application Guide

TIP: Check website frequently for updates

Resources: Three sources:
- USDA NIFA RFA List
- NIFA Grants Search Page
- Grants.gov
FOUNDATIONAL & APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM (FASP)

Mission: to build a foundation of fundamental and applied knowledge in food and agricultural sciences critical for solving current and future societal challenges

Supports research, education and extension activities

Aligns with six of the seven USDA strategic goals

Program areas match the Farm Bill and AFRI priorities

Resources:
- FASP Webpage
- 2021 AFRI New Investigator Handout
FOUNDATIONAL & APPLIED SCIENCE PROGRAM (FASP)

Important to find the right fit for your research topic
- Program area
- Priorities and subpriorities
- Project types
- Grant types

TIP: Contact the program officer – listed as the program area priority contact – before you start writing to verify the fit of your project to the program areas identified in your Data Gate search and the program area priorities, project types and grant types selected from the RFA

Resource: FASP Webpage
APPROACHING THE RFA

- RFA Number: USDA-NIFA-AFRI-007692
- Active dates: July 17, 2020 – July 29, 2021
- Deadlines vary by program area priority
- Awards: Up to $15M
- TIP: Use most recent version. Read carefully! Reread carefully!

Resources:
- RFA PDF
- AFRI Deadlines Table
## ANATOMY OF THE RFA: STRUCTURE

### Standard structure
with links to additional NIFA resources attachments

### TIP:
Using the search command, find and highlight red letter words (must, should, required, etc.), copy these instructions into a new file, and use as a guide to plan and write

### Resources: 2021 New Investigator Handout

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<td>Other</td>
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ANATOMY OF THE RFA: ATTACHMENTS

Additional resource attachments

TIP: For convenience, download the additional instruction attachments into a folder

Resources:
- New Investigator Handout
- RFA Attachments
GETTING STARTED: FOUNDATIONAL AND APPLIED SCIENCE PROPOSAL

Step 1 Identify a Program Area

Step 2 Select Priority(ies)

Step 3 Select a Project Type

Step 4 Select a Grant Type
STEP 1: IDENTIFY A PROGRAM AREA

Seven program areas align with AFRI’s priorities.

RFA describes the priorities and subpriorities for each program area.

Proposals must respond to specific program areas and priorities.

TIP: Using Data Gateway, search key words in your field to identify one or more program areas that fund research related to your project.

Resource:
- Data Gateway Award Search Tool
STEP 2: SELECT PRIORITY(IES)

In the RFA, read the identified program area descriptions

TIP: The descriptions in the RFA will help determine which program area priority(ies) are the best fit for your project

Resources:
- Webinars
- Foundational and Applied Science Program RFA

Program Area Description

Plant Health and Production and Plant Products (PHPPP)

Background: Monumental gains in American crop productivity over the past 60 years are the result of innovations in agricultural production practices, plant breeding, and pest management.

Additional Program Area Priorities: 1. Agricultural Microbiomes in Plant Systems and Natural Resources (A1402) and Tactical Sciences for Agricultural Biosecurity (A1181) program area priorities are described in Crosscutting Programs.

Total Program Funds: Approximately $66 million for each review cycle.

Key Information: (Applicable to All PHPPP Program Area Priorities):

Program Area Priorities: Each application must address at least one of the seven program area priorities.

- Foundational Knowledge of Agricultural Production Systems
- Foundational Knowledge of Plant Products
- Pests and Beneficial Species in Agricultural Production Systems
- Physiology of Agricultural Plants
- Plant Breeding for Agricultural Production
- Pollinator Health: Research and Application
- Conventional Plant Breeding for Cultivar Development
STEP 2: SELECT PRIORITY(IES)

Each program area priority description outlines key information, covers the subject matter and lists related programs.

**TIP:** Program codes must be stated in the proposal to ensure it is routed to the correct review panel.

**TIP:** To avoid handling the 100 page RFP, search the RFP for the priority descriptions, cut and paste the sections into another file.

**Foundational Knowledge of Agricultural Production Systems**

- Program Area Priority Code: A1102
- Proposed Budget Requests: $650,000 (research only) or $750,000 (integrated) total per project for project periods of 3-5 years
- Project Types: Research and Integrated Projects only
- Grant Types: Standard, Conference, and FASE (Strengthening Standard, New Investigator, Strengthening Conference, Seed, Equipment, and Sabbatical) Grants only
- Application Deadline: June 17, 2021 (5:00 pm ET)
- Contact: Mathieu Ngouajio, mathieu.ngouajio@usda.gov
  - John Erickson, john.erickson@usda.gov
  - Neerja Tyagi, neerja.tyagi1@usda.gov
**STEP 3: IDENTIFY PROJECT TYPE**

- **Project types:**
  - Research
  - Extension
  - Integrated research, education and/or extension

- **TIP:** The AFRI Project Type form outlines options and can act as a worksheet to determine grant type

- **Resources:**
  - Project types
  - Project type form
STEP 4: IDENTIFY GRANT TYPE

AFRI Grant Types

▪ Standard Grants: Original research
▪ Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP): Large scale, multi-million dollars
▪ Conference Grants: $50K max, Letter of Intent required
▪ Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement (FASE) Grants: EPSCoR states only
  ▪ New Investigator Grants (Standard and Seed)
  ▪ Pre- and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants
  ▪ Strengthening Grants (Standard; CAP; Conference, Seed ($300K), Sabbatical, Equipment ($10 – $250K)

Resource:

▪ AFRI Grant Types
▪ AFRI Project Type Form
APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA

- Two-part evaluation process
  - Screen applications for administrative requirements
  - Scientific peer-review process using a review panel
    - Addresses the evaluation criteria
    - Project will have significant outcome and impact

**TIP**: Refer to the review criteria when planning and organizing your outline and again after completing a comprehensive draft to ensure your proposal addresses NIFA’s evaluation criteria as listed in AFRI’s reviewer guide.

**Resources**:
- [Guidance for AFRI Reviewers](#)
- [Application Review Requirements](#), Part V of all AFRI RFPs
### RFD RESOURCES

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<td>Funding Opportunity Briefs (FOB)</td>
<td>Summarizes AFRI Program RFAs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Opportunity Worksheets</td>
<td>Identify in a checklist format the program area, program priority, project type and grant type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program/Priority Areas Instruction Guides</td>
<td>Outlines and describes the requirements of the program area and the associated priority(ies) you have identified for your application</td>
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<td>Proposal Task Scheduling Planner</td>
<td>Plan the timeline to complete attachments and schedule narrative reviews with RFP team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checklists</td>
<td>Outlines the formatting requirements, the project narrative template and the attachment instructions</td>
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Resources:
- [RFD website](#)
- Submit a [service ticket](#) and select [REQUEST RFD SERVICES](#)
NIFA AFRI PROGRAM RESOURCES

- Grant Training (navigate the grant process: writing tips, logic model planning, application)
- Apply for a grant
- Search for a funding opportunity
- Data Gateway Award Search Tool
- AFRI Funded Projects by State
- AFRI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- AFRI FASE & EPSCoR Program
- AFRI RFA Resources
- Application Support Templates (Conflict of interest/project summary/current & pending)
- Application Guide (July 18, 2019)
TAKE AWAY MESSAGES

1. Identify the USDA strategic goals and AFRI’s program area, program area priorities the application addresses and state these near the beginning of the proposal narrative.

2. Contact a program officer to verify proposed project fit with priorities, project type and grant type.

3. Refer to tips and resources provided to prepare and complete a competitive application!
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING!
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<td><strong>Apr. 7</strong>  USDA NIFA AFRI: Tips for Getting Started with Your Next Proposal</td>
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<td><strong>Apr. 14</strong> Developing Data Management Plans - Best Practices and Resources</td>
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FACULTY SUCCESS SEMINARS

Office of Research and Faculty Development

Email: ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu
Website: uidaho.edu/ortfd

ZOOM ID
uidaho.zoom.us/j/95865360877
RFD CAN ASSIST YOU!

- Email: ored-rfdteam@uidaho.edu
- Url: https://www.uidaho.edu/research/about/orfd
AFRI GRANTS

- Research, education, and extension grants
- Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP) grants - large, multi-million dollar projects that often involve multiple institutions
- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) grants - help institutions become more competitive and attract new scientists and educators to careers in high-priority areas of agriculture.
- Grants to state agricultural experiment stations; colleges and universities; university research foundations; other research institutions and organizations; federal agencies; national laboratories; private organizations or corporations; individuals; or any group consisting of two or more of the aforementioned entities.
Search for a funding opportunity: https://nifa.usda.gov/page/search-grant

USDA – US Department of Agriculture
NIFA – National Institute of Food and Agriculture
AFRI – Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program
Foundational – Foundational and Applied Science Program
FASE – Food and Agriculture Science Enhancement (for EPSCoR states)
AFRI Program Information
Data Gateway Award Search Tool
AFRI Funded Projects by State
AFRI Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS

APPLICATION SUPPORT TEMPLATES

Resource

- Application Support Templates
- Conflict of interest
- Project summary
- Current and pending support,
AFRI NEW INVESTIGATOR

- Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement (FASE) grant program
  - Capacity building – EPSCoR states

- PI does not have an extensive publication record; less than 5 years of postgraduate; career-track experience, and not have received competitively awarded federal research funding as PI/PD

- Two types of New Investigator grants
  - Standard grant
    - Funding dictated by program area priority
  - Seed grant
    - $300K maximum, up to 2-years

- New Investigator applications reviewed with others in their category
  - The New Investigator box on the application must be checked

- Resources
  - Webinars and FAQs