



National Institute of Food and Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
FOOD PRODUCTION AND SUSTAINABILITY
YOUTH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

NIFA

FY2024 BFRDP RFA Technical Assistance Webinar

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Meeting Logistics

- To access the Spanish language interpretation channel, click on the interpretation icon in the shape of a globe on the lower part of the screen, and select the Spanish language.
- *Asistentes hispanohablantes, para acceder al canal en español y obtener el servicio de interpretación simultánea, hagan clic en el ícono del globo terráqueo que se encuentra en la barra de herramientas en la parte inferior de la pantalla y seleccionen el idioma español.*

Meeting Logistics, Continued

- This webinar will be recorded.
- ***Zoom Tech Support*** = 1-888-799-0125, Option 2
- Throughout the presentation, you may type questions in the Q/A box.
- Slides and the recording from this webinar will be posted to <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/events/technical-assistance-webinar-beginning-farmer-rancher-development-program-bfrdp-rfa>



Non-Discrimination Statement

<https://www.usda.gov/non-discrimination-statement>

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- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.



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Topics We Will Cover

- NIFA & Program Overview
- Request for Application (RFA) Details
- Proposal Evaluation Process
- Additional Information/Resources
- Questions and Answers
 - Please put your questions in the Q/A box throughout the presentation, we will respond to questions in the order we receive them.



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NIFA & Program Overview

Denis Ebodaghe, BFRDP National Program Leader

NIFA Overview

- **National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA)** is the extramural science-funding agency within USDA's Research, Education and Economics mission area.
- NIFA **invests in and supports** initiatives that ensure the long-term viability of agriculture.
- NIFA provides **funding and strategic leadership** for programs that ensure groundbreaking discoveries in agriculture-related sciences and technologies reach the people who can put them into practice.

Topics Covered by NIFA Programs



Advanced Technologies

Bioenergy; Biotechnology;
Nanotechnology



Animals

Animal Breeding; Animal Health;
Animal Production; Aquaculture



Business and Economy

Markets and Trade; Natural Resource
Economics; Small Business



Natural Resources

Forests; Grassland and Rangeland; Soil,
Water, and Air



Education

Minority Serving Institutions; Teaching
and Learning; Workforce Development



Environment

Climate Change; Ecosystems; Invasive
Pests and Diseases



Farming and Ranching

Agriculture Safety & Technology; Farmer
Education; Organic & Family Farms



Human Sciences

Community Vitality; Family Well-Being;
Youth



Food Science

Food Quality; Food Safety



Food and Nutrition Security

Nutrition; Obesity; Wellness



International

Global Engagement; Global
Food Security



Plants

Crop Production; Pest
Management; Plant
Breeding; Plant Health

Purpose and Priorities

- The primary goals of the BFRDP, under assistance listing number 10.311, is to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories:

Enter and/or improve BFR successes in farming, ranching and management of nonindustrial private forest lands

Support for projects that provide education, mentoring and technical assistance

Give BFRs the knowledge, skills and tools needed to make informed decisions for their operations and enhance their sustainability

Eligibility

- Applications may only be submitted by a collaborative state, tribal, local or regionally based network or partnership of qualified public and/or private entities, including:
 - State Cooperative Extension Services
 - Federal, State, municipal or tribal agencies
 - Community-based organizations (CBOs)
 - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
 - Junior and four-year colleges or universities or foundations maintained by a college or university
 - Private for-profit organizations

Eligibility, Exclusions

- Application submission of a project effort that is a duplicate of a current BFR project will not be accepted for review.
- Applications submitted by individuals, or by organizations that do not involve other entities in a network or partnership are, will not be accepted for review.
- Please do not apply for another Simplified Standard grant if you were previously awarded one. Simplified Standard grants are designed for new applicants who have never received grants, nor gained more than three (3) years of experience in assisting BFRs.

Application Submission & Award Limitations

RFA Page #14

- To meet geographical diversity, multiple awards will not be made to the same organization, institution, or Project Director in the same calendar year.
- Organizations and institutions that have received a Standard or Education team grant in the last two funding cycles (FY2022 or FY2023) are ineligible to apply.
 - Project Directors and Co-Project Directors on current BFRDP projects (FY2022 or FY2023) are ineligible to apply this funding cycle.



Project and Grant Types

RFA Page #9-11

Project Types

Education

Extension

Grant Types

Standard

Simplified Standard

Education Team



Project and Grant Type Description

RFA Page #9-11

Grant Type	Budget request total, not per year	Project Type	Project Duration
Large Standard	Up to \$750,000	Training and Technical Assistance	36 months
Medium Standard	Up to \$525,000	Training and Technical Assistance	36 months
Small Standard	Up to \$300,000	Training and Technical Assistance	36 months
Simplified Standard	Up to \$49,999	Training and Technical Assistance	12 months
Education Team	Up to \$750,000	Training	36 months



Match Requirement

RFA Page #15

- BFRDP awardees must provide 25% match from non-Federal sources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions
 - NIFA may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if it is determined that a waiver or modification is necessary to effectively reach an underserved area or population
 - If you plan to serve an underserved area or population, please enter the statement at the **top of your budget justification form**: **“This applicant plans to serve an underserved area or population and would like to request the 25% match waiver.”**



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Application Details and Documents

Ilesha McGruder, BFRDP Program Specialist



Application Details

RFA Page #1-2

- RFA is available online at the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP) [Funding Opportunity Page](#)
 - [BFRDP webpage](#)
 - [FAQs](#)
- **Application Deadline:** 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) April 4, 2024
 - Submitted through Grants.gov
- Total funding available in FY 2024: ~\$24,000,000
- Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-BFR-010413
- Program Code: **BFRDA** (Standard, Simplified Standard), or **BFRDB** (Education Team)
- Maximum* funding per award: \$49,999-\$750,000
- Awards per Institution: One (1)

* Program has flexibility to expand on the award types and related award amount that it funds.

Key Documents

RFA Page #17-25

Key components of your Application:

- Project Summary/Abstract
- Project Narrative
- Budget & Budget Justification
- Bibliography/Reference List
- Data Management Plan
- Other Documents (See RFA and [NIFA Grants Application Guide](#))

Application Details (contd.)

RFA Page #18-23

- Project Narrative is **20 page limit, or 10 pages for Simplified Standard Grants** and will be strictly enforced.
 - **1.5 spacing**
 - 12 point Times New Roman font
 - Includes text, figures and tables
 - Tables may be single spaced

- Within 20 pages, or 10 pages for Simplified Standard Grants describe:
 - List of headings of information required in narrative
 - If applicable, Response to Previous Review for Resubmissions (additional 1 page, does **not** count towards page limit for the PN)
 - If applicable, Prior BFRDP Accomplishments (additional 1 page, does **not** count towards page limit for the PN)

- Applications exceeding the page limitation will be returned without review.

Data Management Plan

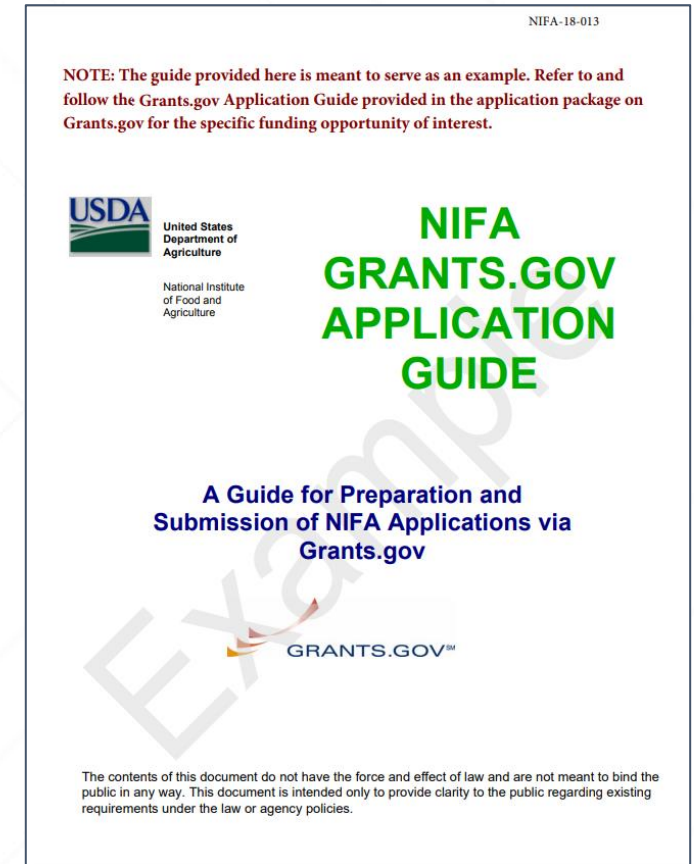
RFA Page #23

- Investigators must provide detailed (up to 2 pages) business and management plans including:
 - Expected data type
 - Data format
 - Data storage and preservation
 - Data sharing, protection and public access
 - Roles and responsibilities
- Please also review: nifa.usda.gov/resource/data-management-plan-nifa-funded-research-projects

Application Submission

RFA Page #26

- NIFA only accepts **electronic** submission of applications.
- NIFA Grants Application Guide available:
nifa.usda.gov/resource/nifa-grantsgov-application-guide
- Application documents **must be in Portable Document Format (PDF)** to be accepted by NIFA, including your narrative and budget justifications.
 - Grants.gov may allow other formats, but NIFA does ***not***
 - Do not use third-party PDF builders





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Proposal Evaluation Process

Denis Ebodaghe, BFRDP National Program Leader

Evaluation Process

Proposals are assigned for review to at least 3 reviewers with expertise in the proposed topic.

Reviewers will produce individual reviews of each proposal, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses.

These written reviews are used to begin panel discussions with other reviewers serving on the peer-review panel.

Through these discussions, peer-review panelists come to consensus on the final rating and ranking of proposals.



Evaluation Criteria – Small, Medium, Large Standard & Education Team

RFA Page #29-31

1. Partnerships and Collaboration
2. Consultation of Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
3. Relevancy
4. Technical merit
5. Secretary of Agriculture Priority: Climate Change and Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Solutions
6. Secretary of Agriculture Priority: Increasing Equitable Participation in USDA's Programs and Services
7. Achievability
8. Expertise & Track Record of the Applicants
9. Adequacy of Available or Obtainable Support Personnel, Facilities, and Instrumentation
10. Adequacy of Plans for Participatory Evaluation Process, Outcome-Based Reporting, and the Communication of Findings and Results beyond the Immediate Target Audience

Evaluation Criteria – Simplified Standard

RFA Page #31-32

1. Partnerships and Collaboration
2. Consultation of Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
3. Relevancy
4. Technical merit
5. Secretary of Agriculture Priority: Climate Change and Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Solutions
6. Secretary of Agriculture Priority: Increasing Equitable Participation in USDA's Programs and Services
7. Achievability
8. Expertise & Track Record of the Applicants
9. Adequacy of Available or Obtainable Support Personnel, Facilities, and Instrumentation
10. Adequacy of Plans for Participatory Evaluation Process, Outcome-Based Reporting, and the Communication of Findings and Results beyond the Immediate Target Audience



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

1. Partnerships and Collaborations

- To what extent does the proposal represent a substantial and effective collaborative network or partnership of public and/or private entities?
- Does the proposal include the necessary partners to meet the needs of the audience?
- Does the proposal make appropriate use of the expertise and strengths of each partner?
- Does the application include Letters of Commitment signed by the AR of the partnering organization?



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

2. Consultation of Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

- Does the proposal explain and document the role of beginning farmers and ranchers played in the design, implementation, and decision making related to the proposed initiative and project activities?
- Does the proposal support new and established local and regional training, education, outreach, and technical assistance initiatives to increase opportunities for beginning farmers and ranchers?



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

3. Relevancy

- Does the proposal identify and direct its work towards BFRDP priorities listed in the RFA?
- Does the proposal describe the necessity of the project based on needs identified for the target audience?
- Does the proposal describe the degree to which the project addresses audience needs and/or geographic area(s) not served by previous and alternative training, outreach, mentoring and education programs?



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

4. Technical Merit

- Does the proposal clearly describe project objectives, activities, and outcomes?
- Does the proposal describe the likelihood of success of the proposed activities and conceptual adequacy of the proposed activities to meet the needs of the targeted audience, including feasibility of the approach?
- Are the objectives and activities innovative and original?
- Are the expected performance targets, outcomes and incomes indicated in a plan for outcome-based reporting?
- Are the project partnerships and collaborations sustainable?
- Is the budget for planned activities reasonable within the scope of the project?



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

7. Achievability

- Is the probability of success appropriate given the level of originality, target audience and budget for each activity?
- Does the applicant identify pitfalls and how they will be addressed?
- Is there sufficient time commitment of project directors (and co-directors) for project activities and management?
- Is there sufficient time allocated for systematic attainment of objectives?
- Are there clearly defined roles and relationships among key participants and collaborators?
- Is there a plan for decision-making and collaborative effort administration?



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

8. Expertise and track record of the applicants
 - Does the proposal demonstrate expertise through successful multi-year experience in education outreach, mentoring and/or technical assistance of BFR?
 - Is the successful multi-year experience demonstrated by number of training, assistance, or educational activities previously carried out? And/or number of participants or graduates of the program, success rate and their current occupation?
 - Are there detailed qualifications of the applicant (individual or team) to conduct proposed activities and project outcomes in serving the needs of the target audience?



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

9. Adequacy of available or obtainable support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation
 - Does the proposal include expertise of collaborators and consultants?
 - Does the proposal have sufficient education facilities and equipment for the proposed education and outreach methods?



BFRDP Evaluation Criteria

Demonstrate your project's fit in your application. Below are some questions to address when preparing your BFRDP funding application.

10. Adequacy of plans for participatory evaluation process, outcome-based reporting, and the communication of findings and results beyond the immediate target audience
 - Does the proposal identify the evaluation team members and their expertise?
 - Are the expected performance targets, impacts and *outcomes* measurable, and achievable within the allotted time frame?
 - Is the **logic model** detailed in guiding program planning, implementation, and evaluation?
 - Is a **Data Management Plan** detailed?
 - Does the proposal articulate how the PD and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project?



BFRDP Outcomes Based Reporting

- Inputs: resources used to implement the project (i.e., people, money, materials)
- Outputs: things produced as a results of the projects' activities (i.e., educational materials, publications, conferences)
- Outcomes: changes in knowledge, behavior, or condition
- Target audience: those who benefit directly or indirectly from the project

[BFRDP Outcomes Based Reporting Guide](#)

Timeline of Competitive Programs

2 months

- Request for Application (RFA) release
- Proposal writing and planning
- **Proposals due April 4th, 2024 at 5:00 PM ET**

2-3 months

- Proposal under peer review
- Proposal funding notifications

1-2 months

- Awards are finalized and made

On average, a competitive program takes about 3-5 months from the proposal due date to an award being made to an institution.

We will keep you updated as much as possible. We appreciate your patience!



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Grants Management Introductions & Pre-Award Requirements

Steven Evans & William Mallet, Grant Management Specialists

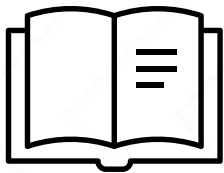


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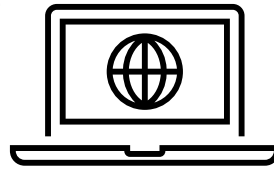
Additional Information
Bekah Hanson, BFRDP Program Specialist



Application Preparation Resources



[NIFA Grant Application
Guide](#)



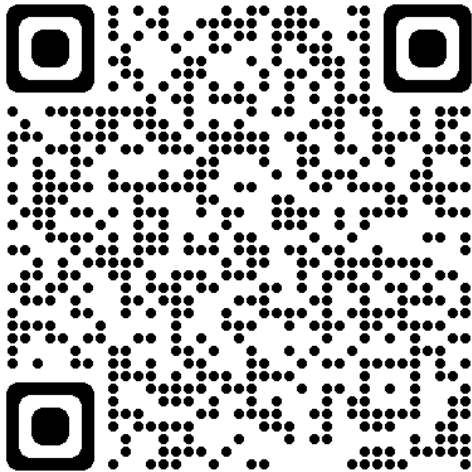
[USDA BFRDP
Website](#)



[BFRDP Grant Writing
Webinar Recording](#)

Use Data Gateway to Find Funded Awards

- Launch NIFA Enterprise Search
- <http://portal.nifa.usda.gov/enterprise-search/ss/1470>



A screenshot of the NIFA Data Gateway website. The header includes the USDA logo and navigation tabs for TOPICS, GRANTS, DATA, RESOURCES, and ABOUT. A search bar is located in the top right. The main banner features a photograph of hands in white gloves examining a plant stem, overlaid with a digital interface showing chemical structures and data points. A dark teal box on the right side of the banner contains the text "Data Gateway" and a breadcrumb "HOME > DATA". Below the banner, there are social media share icons and a "Launch NIFA Enterprise Search" button. The left sidebar contains a menu with categories like NIFA REPORTING SYSTEM, CRIS, LMD, REEPORT, and REEIS. The main content area contains a paragraph describing the Data Gateway's capabilities and links to additional resources.

Upcoming Events

- **FY24 BFRDP TA Office Hours**
 - [Wednesday, February 28, 2024: 2:00-3:30 PM EDT](#)
 - [Wednesday, March 13, 2024: 2:00-3:30 PM EDT](#)
- NIFA Events Calendar for upcoming deadlines, meetings and webinars: <https://www.nifa.usda.gov/events>
- Upcoming Request for Applications (RFA) release calendar: [nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar](https://www.nifa.usda.gov/upcoming-rfa-calendar)



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>>> New to grant writing or management?
Applied before and not been as successful?

Annual Grants Support Technical Assistance Workshop

MARCH 4-8, 2024

NIFA is hosting a free 5-day virtual event with 3-hour sessions each day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST. Registration required.



TOPICS COVERED:

- MARCH 4:** Accessing NIFA Web Resources on Grants Development and Grants Management
- MARCH 5:** Overview of Major NIFA Programs
- MARCH 6:** Opportunities for Selective NIFA Applicants (Groups)
- MARCH 7:** Learning Moments from Grants Management
- MARCH 8:** Reporting and Related Topics

WWW.NIFA.USDA.GOV/EVENTS/FY24-ANNUAL-GRANTS-WORKSHOP

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Grant Resources

- Funding Opportunities: nifa.usda.gov/grants/funding-opportunities
- Competitive Grants Flowchart: nifa.usda.gov/competitive-grants
- NIFA Grant Resources: nifa.usda.gov/grant-training
- NIFA Policy Guide: nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide
- Indirect Costs: nifa.usda.gov/indirect-costs
- A Guide for Preparation and Submission of NIFA Applications via Grants.gov:
apply07.grants.gov/apply/opportunities/instructions/PKG00249520-instructions.pdf



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Q/A

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Questions?

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