

Frequently Asked Questions: USDA-NIH Joint Funding Opportunity on Comparative Genomics

1. Does this program also seek proposals addressing the comparative genomics of the pathogens such as bacteria and fungi?

In this program we are more interested in comparative genomics of the host. With regards to host-pathogen interactions projects focused on comparative immunology where understanding the interplay of microbial and host genetics would better fit the program priorities for this RFA.

2. Does NIH and USDA co-fund the successful grant proposals?

Highly ranked projects will be selected for funding either by NIH or NIFA based on the alignment of the project proposal to the goals of the agency. We are not planning on cofunding grant proposals

3. Which agency will receive / review grant proposals?

NIH is the lead agency for this program. Hence, all proposals have to be submitted to NIH call for the PAR at grants.gov. NIH will also conduct the review of the proposals. NIH and NIFA will jointly put together a panel for reviewing the proposals based on the expertise needed to review the proposals received.

4. How much funding is available for this program from USDA?

USDA is planning on investing up to \$3M for this program and would like to make 2 awards from this program.

5. What are the submission dates (deadlines) for this funding opportunity?

Since the proposals are received and reviewed by NIH, standard RO1 dates apply for submitting the grant proposals. NIFA is participating for 1 year for 3 grant cycles. The dates are New proposal submission deadlines: October 5, 2018; February, 5, 2019, and June 5, 2019.

Proposal resubmissions deadlines; November 5, 2018; March 5, 2019, and July 5, 2019.

USDA will not fund revised or renewal proposals in this program. The link for proposal submission is <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=297339>

6. Does the proposal need to benefit both animal agriculture and biomedicine?

The dual purpose dual benefit program requires that the projects submitted to the program need to benefit both biomedicine and animal agriculture.

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-16-366.html>

For the comparative genomics program, there is no requirement for the project to benefit both animal agriculture and biomedicine. Highly ranked projects aligned with biomedical research goals will be considered for funding by NIH, whereas highly ranked agricultural animal genomics projects will be considered for funding by USDA-NIFA. If you are interested in understanding the genetic basis of specific trait(s) of interest to animal agriculture that could be identified through the use of Comparative genomics approach, then this joint funding opportunity is appropriate.