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# Secondary Education, Two-Year Postsecondary Education, and Agriculture in the K-12 Classroom (SPECA) Challenge Grants Program

BIOENERGY, CLIMATE,  
AND ENVIRONMENT



YOUTH, FAMILY,  
AND COMMUNITY



FOOD SAFETY  
AND NUTRITION



INTERNATIONAL  
PROGRAMS



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National Program Leader

# USDA NIFA

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# QUICK OVERVIEW



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# Eligible SPECA Applicants:

- (1) public secondary schools
- (2) public or private nonprofit junior and community colleges
- 3) institutions of higher education
- (4) nonprofit organizations



# They Apply Because They Want To...

Increase the number and diversity of students who will pursue and complete a 2- or 4-year degree in FANH fields.

**SPECA**

Enhance the quality of K-14 instruction to meet the current and future need for discovery in the food, agricultural, natural resources and human sciences (FANH)



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# The Request for Applications (RFA)

**An RFA is your instruction manual for writing a grant**

**The 2016 RFA was released January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

It is available online at: <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/secondary-education-two-year-postsecondary-education-and-agriculture-k-12>

**Applications are due March 18, 2016**, submitted through  
Grants.gov

Total funding available in FY16: \$858,500



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## Attention: Grants.Gov

Grants.gov requires you to have a DUNS and SAM identification. Getting these credentials may take a few months.

If this is your first time applying for a federal grant, make sure your institution is capable of submitting through Grants.gov.

Also, make sure you have the ability to save and create documents as Adobe PDFs. Grants.gov will not process other documents.

Go to the Grants.gov section on organization registration or Grants.gov support for details. Don't wait until the week applications are due!!



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# PROGRAM DETAILS



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## Projects Should Benefit K-14 Students



Ag in the K-12  
Classroom



Secondary School  
Grades 9-12



Junior or community  
college  
2-Year Associate

SPECA supports for-credit academic instruction

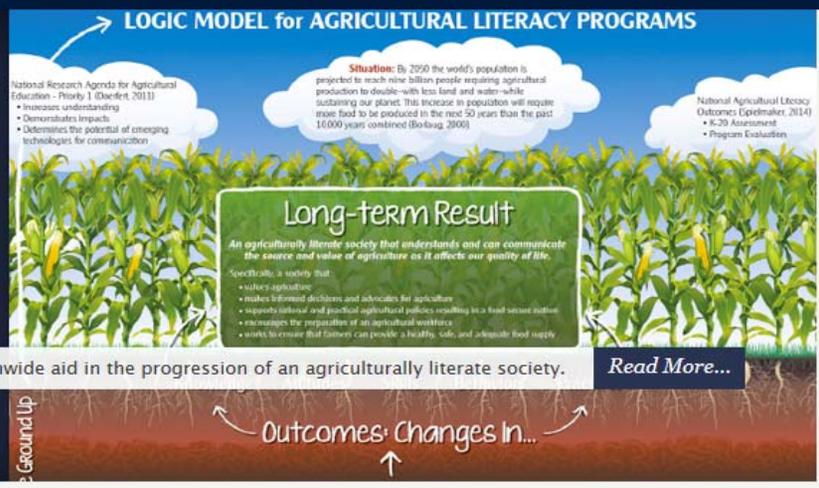


Questions? Contact Us Translations



Home Teacher Center Student Center Get Involved Affiliates

# A Logic Model for Agricultural Literacy



Outlines how Agriculture in the Classroom efforts nationwide aid in the progression of an agriculturally literate society. [Read More...](#)



## Curriculum Matrix



June Featured Resources

- My Little Seed House and Seed Book
- Esperanza Rising
- Middle School Nutrients for Life Lessons

## Conferences & Happenings



Not too late to join us in Louisville, Kentucky, for the 2015 National Conference! Share this Press Release

Save the dates for the 2016 National

## Tweets

Follow

**Food for Thought** @AITCtweets 2 Jun

The Featured Resources for June are on the NAITC Curriculum Matrix!  
[agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix...](http://agclassroom.org/teacher/matrix...)  
 #agclassroom #agliteracy  
[pic.twitter.com/S6lgotdlFh](https://pic.twitter.com/S6lgotdlFh)



June Featured Resources



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# EDUCATIONAL NEED AREAS



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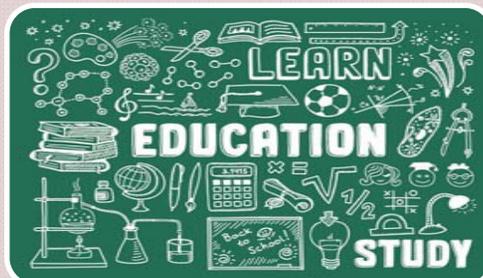
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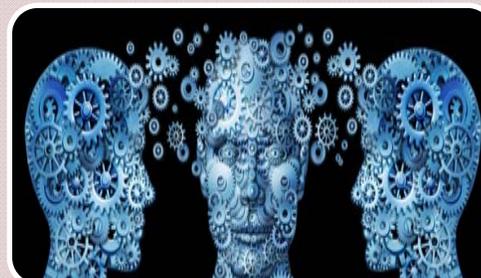
# Educational Need Areas



Curriculum  
Development,  
Instructional  
Delivery Systems  
and Expanding  
Student Career  
Opportunities



Faculty  
preparation and  
enhancement for  
teaching



Facilitating  
Interaction with  
Other Academic  
Institutions



# Educational Need Areas

## Curriculum Development, Instructional Delivery Systems and Expanding Student Career Opportunities

- Create and improve curricula
- Instructional materials and other learning resources
- Attract, recruit, and retain students in agriculture fields

## Faculty preparation and enhancement for teaching

- Advance faculty development
- Build teaching competency and leadership
- Develop subject matter expertise
- Improve student recruitment and advising skills

## Facilitating Interaction with Other Academic Institutions

- Promote institutional connections:
- Secondary/Postsecondary 2-Year /4-Year
- Maximize the development and use of resources supporting instruction



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# GRANT TYPES



# GRANT TYPES

Conference/Planning Proposal \$25,000

Regular Project Proposal \$50,000

Joint Project Proposal \$150,000

Large-scale Comprehensive Initiatives \$300,000



# Grant Types

## Conference/Planning Proposal

Applicants in this Grant Type may request up to \$25,000 (total conference, not per year) to:

- Facilitate strategic planning session(s) required of faculty, industry, professional association, community leaders, or other necessary participants
- Goal is to develop a formal plan leading to a subsequent submission of a Joint or Large-scale (state or region) comprehensive initiatives (LCI) project proposal



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# Grant Types

## Regular Project Proposal (Single Institution/Organization)

- Applicants may request up to \$50,000 (total, not per year)
- Applicant executes the project without the requirement of sharing grant funds with other project partners.



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# Grant Types

## Joint Project Proposal (Applicant + One or more Partners)

- Applicants may request up to \$150,000 (total, not per year)
- Applicant executes the project with assistance from at least one additional partner. The partners must share grant funds



# Grant Types

## Large-scale Comprehensive Initiatives (LCI) (Applicant + Two or more Partners)

- Applicants may request up to \$300,000 (total, not per year) for a large-scale (state or region) comprehensive initiatives (LCI) Project Proposal
- At least two additional partners
- The additional partners must share grant funds



# Grant Types

An LCI project differs from a Joint Project Proposal in project scope and impact:

- LCI Project Proposals must support a multi-partner approach to solving a major state or regional challenge in FANH sciences education at K-14 grade levels.
- LCI Project Proposals are characterized by multiple partners (each providing a specific expertise) organized and led by a strong applicant with documented project management ability to organize and carry out the initiative.



# Funding Restrictions

- The project director must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States
- Funds can't be used for the construction of a new building or facility or the acquisition, expansion, remodeling, or alteration of an existing building or facility.
- Promotional items (e.g., T-shirts and other give-a-ways) and food functions (e.g., cookouts or other social meal gatherings) are considered 'entertainment' expenses, and are ***not allowed***



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# Tips:

- Serve as a reviewer. Email: [jlee@nifa.usda.gov](mailto:jlee@nifa.usda.gov) if interested.
- Don't wait until last minute to submit
- Technical assistance available through [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)



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# **OTHER EDUCATION FUNDING OPTIONS**



- USDA NIFA Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators: <http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and>
  - Webinar (February 8<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm EST) : <http://nifa.usda.gov/event/informational-webinar-professional-development-opportunities-secondary-school-teachers-program>
- USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program>
- USDA Farm to School Grant: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/farmentoschool/farm-school-grant-program>
- USDA Summer Food Service Program: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/summer-food-service-program-sfsp>
- USDA Farm Service Agency Youth Loans: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=paca&topic=you>
- General USDA Youth Resources: [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=FOR\\_KIDS](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=FOR_KIDS)



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## Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

**Objective:** Provide *immersive* learning experiences in non-formal educational programs for secondary school educators, enabling them to identify and replicate best practices to enhance student outcomes in the food, agricultural, natural resources, and human (FANH) sciences



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## Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

### Eligible Institutions:

- 4-year colleges and universities
- (2 or 4 year) 1994 Land-Grant Institutions
- (2 or 4 year) Certified Hispanic-serving agricultural colleges and universities.



## Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

- Developing **self-sustaining models** for professional development that better prepare these education professionals to provide outstanding teaching, guidance, institutional structures, etc. that enhance student outcomes in FANH sciences.
- Changing instructional approaches to effectively identify skill gaps and address conceptual areas particularly challenging to students.
- Integrating innovations in science and pedagogy into existing teacher professional development programs (e.g. through hands-on research/extension experiences for teachers with partner institutions and labs).
- Other methods to fill the existing gap of professional development in advanced FANH sciences for educational professionals at the secondary level.



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## Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educators

Webinar: Recording available at:

<http://nifa.usda.gov/event/informational-webinar-professional-development-opportunities-secondary-school-teachers-program>

Request For Applications: AFRI ELI

<http://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/agriculture-and-food-research-initiative-food-agriculture-natural-resources-and>



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