The Hatch Act of 1887
(Regular Research Fund)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Request for Applications

APPLICATION DEADLINE: September 6, 2019
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research)

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ASSISTANCE LISTING formerly known as the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA): This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under 10.203.

DATES: Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on September 6, 2019. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seeks comments on all request for applications (RFAs) so it can deliver programs efficiently, effectively, with integrity, and with a focus on customer service. NIFA considers comments, to the extent possible when developing RFAs and use comments to help meet the requirements of Section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). Applicants may submit written comments to Policy@nifa.usda.gov (email is for comments only). Please use the following subject line: The Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research) RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: This RFA is being released prior to the passage of the FY 2020 appropriations bill therefore, enactment of continuing resolutions (CR) or an Appropriations Act may affect the availability or level of funding for this program. NIFA requests applications for the Hatch Act of 1887 (Regular Research) Capacity RFA.

The amount available for support of this program in FY 2019 was $172,705,011. The anticipated amount available for support of this program in FY 2020 is $172,382,319. Interim Appendix A of this RFA includes specific distributions from Fiscal Year 2019. Subject to any FY 2020 Appropriations or FY 2019 Continuing Resolution and the availability of funds, distributions will be made to the institutions quarterly, dependent on the applicant having met the previous year’s reporting requirements. Any adjustments to the allocation listed in the Interim Appendix A will be made once the FY 2020 appropriations are finalized and will be reflected in the fourth quarter. Part III, B, identifies if matching is a requirement and, if so, you should pay particular attention to the matching instructions included in Part IV, B, 4.

This notice identifies the objectives for Hatch Act Regular (HFP) project/program, the eligibility criteria for projects/program and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions you need to apply for a Hatch Act Regular grant.
**What’s new for 2019?**

- NIFA is offering an opportunity to pilot submission of a SF424a budget with FY 2020 capacity applications. In FY 2021, budgets will be required as a component of capacity grant applications. The SF 424a is available in grants.gov and the NIFA grants.gov application guide has been updated with detailed instructions. For more information on the FY 2020 budget pilot, including upcoming webinars for applicants choosing to participate in the pilot, please visit the NIFA website.

- NIFA is providing updated information on the applicability of the 5 percent retirement cap to capacity programs listed in section 251(f)(1) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, 7 USC 6971(f)(1). This information applies to FY 20 awards and forward; it is NOT retroactive. The authority to pay for the retirement of land-grant college employees is found in 7 USC 331. NIFA’s Office of General Counsel has advised that based on the language and legislative history associated with 7 U.S.C. 331, Section 331 applies to Acts supplementary to the First Morrill Act and to programs authorized under authorities that specifically provide for the application of section 331. Therefore, the 5% retirement cap applies to Smith-Lever, Smith Lever special needs, DC PERA, Hatch, 1890 Extension, 1890 Research, and Animal Health grants. This includes these grants in Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Northern Marianas, and Micronesia. The retirement cap does NOT apply to the following programs: McIntire-Stennis, 1890 Facilities, RREA, EFNEP, and Tribal College Endowment.

- NIFA’s Office of Grants and Financial Management, Office of Information Technology, and Data Governance Working Group are working on a pilot initiative to better identify and track institutions and associated departments that receive capacity awards. As part of this pilot, NIFA is providing guidance in the form of additional columns in the capacity RFA appendices. Applicants are required to enter the Legal Name, Organizational Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS), and Department Name fields of the SF-424. The information provided is based on applications received for FY 2018 and is intended to streamline award processing through our ezFedGrants system. If changes have occurred to this information, please contact NIFA as soon as possible to discuss options to minimize potential issues and delays.

- **Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status** - See Part V, Section 4.12. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for instructions regarding mandatory Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status. For Capacity programs, this mandatory information must be included in the Attachment Form.

- **All Standard Form (SF)-425 Federal Financial Reports** for the awards (not the project financial reports that are submitted in REEport), whether annual or final, will be due December 29th each year. Most programs already have this requirement, but it was decided that all programs will follow this practice. This change took effect for the FY 2017 awards.

Annual and final report templates are made available in the ezFedGrants portal on October 1st for all capacity agreements. Recipients will submit the SF-425 directly in the
portal. Detailed instructions on the submission of SF-425s in the ezFedGrants portal can be found under the training tab on the ezFedGrants page.

- **ezFedGrants** - is the USDA solution for grants management. NIFA will publish RFAs on its website and to Grants.gov. You will continue to apply through Grants.gov and your applications will automatically be downloaded into ezFedGrants.

- **Matching Funds** - If matching funds are required as specified under Part III, B. Cost-Sharing or Matching, the matching is an eligibility criteria and grantees must attach a pdf document identifying the non-federal sources of matching funds. We will consider this documentation when ascertaining final matching requirements or in determining if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.
  
  a. If you are participating in the FY 2020 budget pilot, you will be providing source of match information on the SF 424a Section C and in the accompanying budget narrative. You do not need to provide an additional source of match document.
  
  b. The matching documentation must include the non-federal sources (specify whether the source is 3rd party, cash, state or non-state, county or non-tax and the amount for each source) and amount of all matching support including matching from outside the applicant institution and place that information in PDF format (see Part III, Section 3. of the guide for attachment requirements) and include as a separate attachment to the Attachment Form.
  
  c. Establish the value of applicant contributions in accordance with applicable cost principles. Refer to 2 CFR Part 200, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards”, for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

- **FY 16 Appropriations Act Funding under Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements**— Public Law 114-113 prevents the Federal Government from making grants or cooperative agreements to entities requiring employees or contractors to sign nondisclosure agreements or statements prohibiting them from reporting waste, fraud or abuse to an investigative or law enforcement representative of the Federal Government. Information related to the questions on this and other assurances on the SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. See Section 2.18 of the NIFA Application Guide which provides that the applicant’s electronic signature on the SF-424 affirms its agreement with Federal representations and assurances (e.g., Prohibition against FY 16 Appropriations Act Funding under Grants and Cooperative Agreements with Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements…)

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

The Hatch Act of 1887 (Public Law 105-185, June 23, 1998; 24 Stat.440, chapter 314; 7 U.S.C. 361a et seq.) provides the basis for federal funding for agricultural research activities at the State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas. This enabling legislation has been amended several times, most recently and significantly with the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Reorganization Act of 1998 (AREERA), which imposed some specific reporting requirements (see Part VI, D.).

State Agricultural Experiment Stations are eligible for funds appropriated under this Act according to the following formula: The previous year’s base plus the current year increase as follows: three percent for federal administration, 20 percent equally, 26 percent in an amount which bears the same ratio to the total amount to be allotted as the rural population of the State bears to the total rural population of all the states as determined by the last preceding decennial census; 26 percent in an amount which bears the same ratio to the total amount to be allotted as the farm population of the State bears to the total farm population of all the states as determined by the last preceding decennial census; and 25 percent for the Hatch Multistate Research Fund (which is allocated under a separate formula).

B. Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to conduct agricultural research programs at State Agricultural Experiment Stations in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Insular Areas. Hatch activities are broad and includes research on all aspects of agriculture, including soil and water conservation and use; plant and animal production, protection, and health; processing, distribution, safety, marketing, and utilization of food and agricultural products; forestry, including range management and range products; multiple use of forest rangelands, and urban forestry; aquaculture; home economics and family life; human nutrition; rural and community development; sustainable agriculture; molecular biology; and biotechnology. Research may be conducted on problems of local, State, regional, or national concern. The Hatch Act aligns with the following USDA Strategic Goals:

1. Strategic Goal 1: Ensure USDA Programs Are Delivered Efficiently, Effectively, With Integrity and a Focus on Customer Service;
2. Strategic Goal 2: Maximize the Ability of American Agricultural Producers To Prosper by Feeding and Clothing the World;
3. Strategic Goal 3: Promote American Agriculture Products and Exports
4. Strategic Goal 4: Facilitate Rural Prosperity and Economic Development;
5. Strategic Goal 5: Strengthen the Stewardship of Private Lands Through Technology and Research;
6. Strategic Goal 6: Ensure Productive and Sustainable Use of Our National Forest System Lands; and
7. Strategic Goal 7: Provide all Americans Access to a Safe, Nutritious, and Secure Food Supply.
PART II—AWARD INFORMATION
A. Available Funding

Subject to the FY 2020 appropriations or any FY 2019 CR(s), NIFA will distribute funds to the institutions quarterly, and according to the amounts allocated in FY 2019. NIFA will make adjustments to the allocations for FY 2020 once the FY 2020 appropriations are finalized. Interim Appendix A amounts are estimates from last Fiscal Year. The final amounts will be updated during the last quarter. The anticipated amount available for support of this program in FY 2020 is $172,382,319.

The Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury’s Bureau of the Fiscal Service, will be the payment system for all NIFA grant awards. For more information, see https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsservices/gov/pmt/asap/asap_home.htm.

B. Type of Application

In FY 2020, submit applications to the Hatch Act Regular Program as “new” applications. A new application is an application not previously submitted to this program.

C. Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research

In accordance with sections 2, 3, and 8 of 2 CFR Part 422, institutions that conduct USDA-funded extramural research must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to NIFA results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award that the institution will comply with the above requirements. Award recipients shall, upon request, make available to NIFA the policies, procedures, and documentation to support the conduct of the training.

See Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research for further information.
PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Only authorized representatives on behalf of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations located in the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Insular Areas in accordance with the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S. C. 361a) may submit applications. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided the subcontracts are necessary for the conduct of the project. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration, or, even though an application may have been reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Section 3(d)(1) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(1)) states, with regard to institutions in the 50 states, “no allotment shall be made to a State under subsection (b) or (c), and no payments from the allotment shall be made to a State, in excess of the amount that the State makes available out of non-federal funds for agricultural research and for the establishment and maintenance of facilities for the performance of the research.” However, section 3(d)(4) of the Hatch Act of 1887 (7 U.S.C. 361c(d)(4)) provides that “Effective beginning for fiscal year 2003, in lieu of the matching funds requirement of paragraph (1), the insular areas of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Virgin Islands of the United States and the District of Columbia shall provide matching funds from non-federal sources in an amount equal to not less than 50 percent of the formula funds distributed by the Secretary to each of the insular areas, respectively, under this section. ... The Secretary may waive the matching fund requirement [of 50 percent] for any fiscal year if the Secretary determines that the government of the insular area will be unlikely to meet the matching requirement for the fiscal year.” See Part IV, B. 4. for instructions about how to request a waiver.
PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Submit only electronic applications via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For information about the pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle, see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/learn-grants/grants-101/pre-award-phase.html.

New Users of Grants.gov

Prior to preparing an application, we recommend that the project director/principal investigator (PD/PI) first contact an authorized representative (AR, also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative or AOR)\(^1\) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If not (e.g., the institution/organization is new to the electronic grant application process through Grants.gov), you must complete the one-time registration process PRIOR to submitting an application. The registration process can take as long as two weeks to complete. It is, therefore, critical to begin the process as soon as possible. To register, the AR should select “Register” in the top right corner of the Grants.gov web page (or go to http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/register.html).

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials

To receive application materials:
You must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov to access, complete, and submit applications. For basic system requirements and download instructions, see https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your version of Adobe Reader is compatible.

To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/download-application-package.html and enter the funding opportunity number:

Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-10203-HFPXXXXX-20-0002

in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package. A Grant Application Package is tied to a particular funding opportunity. Applications must be submitted ONLY to the particular funding opportunity to which the Grant Application Package is associated. The application package also contains the “NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.” This guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, additional information about the Grants.gov registration process, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

\(1\) The Authorized Representative (AR) must have the authority to represent and bind the organization for any agreement (i.e., the individual who is authorized to commit the awardee’s time and other resources to the project, to commit the awardee to comply with the terms and conditions of the award instrument including those set out herein, and to otherwise act for or on behalf of the awardee institution or organization).
If you require assistance to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating Adobe forms) or submitting the application, refer to resources available on the Grants.gov website (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants.html). Grants.gov assistance is also available at:

Grants.gov customer support
(800) 518-4726 toll-free or (606) 545-5035
Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on federal holidays.
Email: support@grants.gov


Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

- Funding opportunity number (FON)
- Name of agency to which you are applying
- Specific area of concern

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

You should prepare electronic applications following Parts V and VI of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A of this part). The following additional information is needed to prepare an application for this RFA. If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., PDF) in Part III, Section 3 of the guide. ANY PROPOSALS THAT ARE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS (e.g., content format, PDF file format, file name restrictions, and no password protected files) WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW. Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. We will accept subsequent submissions of an application until the established deadline in the RFA (see Part V, 2.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further information).

For any questions related to the preparation of an application, review the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide and the applicable RFA. If you need further assistance, contact:

- Email: electronic@nifa.usda.gov
- Phone: (202)401-5048
- Business hours: Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays.

Each grant application must contain the following:

- “Application for Federal Assistance,” Form SF-424 R&R Cover Sheet
- Key Contacts Form
- NIFA Supplemental Information Form
- Attachment Form

The NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide includes instructions for additional forms that are not needed for an application in response to this RFA. Complete and submit only the forms associated with the funding opportunity package and as instructed below.
1. **SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet**
Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 2 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions.

Please note new instructions are included below for Field 5. The Organizational information NIFA has included in Appendix A is based on FY18 applications received for this program. If your organization intends to submit an application using information other than what appears in Appendix A, please contact us at formulagrantquestions@nifa.usda.gov or (202) 401-6520 prior to submitting your application.

a. **Field 1. Type of Submission** – Check “Application”
b. **Field 5. Applicant Information**
   - Enter Legal Name of the Applicant as registered in the System for Awards Management which appears in the first column of Appendix A to this RFA.
   - Enter Organizational DUNS as it appears in the third column of Appendix A to this RFA.
   - Enter Department Name of Eligible Recipient as it appears in the second column of Appendix A to this RFA.
c. **Field 6. Budget** – For participants in the FY 2020 budget pilot, SF 424a Budget. Detailed information related to the information required on the SF 424a Budget form is available in Part V, 7 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.
d. **Field 8. Type of Application** – Enter “new”
e. **Field 15. Estimated Project Funding** – For item a, enter your institution’s FY 2019 allocation as listed in Appendix A to this announcement
f. **Field 17. Complete Certification** – See Part V, Section 2.18 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for the required certifications and assurances (e.g., Prohibition Against Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements)

2. **Key Contacts Form**
Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI, 4 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

*Hatch Act*

a. **Contact 1 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the Director.
b. **Contact 2 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the Director’s designee, if applicable.
c. **Contact 3 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the Business Office Manager/Administrator for this program.
d. **Contact 4 Project Role**: Enter the contact information for the person responsible for drawdowns.

3. **Supplemental Information Form**
Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI, 1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions.

a. **Field 2. Program to which you are applying**, Enter the program code name (i.e., enter “Hatch Formula Program”) and the program code (i.e., enter “HFP”).

b. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List**. Do not attach a conflict of interest list.
4. Attachment Form
Information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI, 5 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. The following are additional instructions.

a. Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status - See Part V, Section 4.12. of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for instructions regarding mandatory Felony Convictions or Tax Delinquent Status. For Capacity programs, this mandatory information must be included in the Attachment Form.

b. Matching Funds
If matching funds are required as specified under Part III, B. Cost-Sharing or Matching, the matching is an eligibility criteria and you must include the non-federal source documentation with the application. We will consider this documentation when ascertaining final matching requirements or in determining if required matching can be waived. NIFA retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

The matching documentation is to include the non-federal sources (specify whether the third party, cash, in-kind, source is state or non-state, county or non-tax and the amount for each source) and amount of all matching support including matching from outside the applicant institution and place that information in PDF format (see Part III, Section 3. of the guide for attachment requirements) and include as a separate attachment to the Attachment Form.

If you are participating in the FY 2020 budget pilot, non-federal funds information will be included as part of the SF 424a budget and accompanying budget narrative. See the NIFA grants.gov application guide for additional information.

Establish the value of applicant contributions in accordance with applicable cost principles. Refer to 2 CFR Part 200, “Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards”, for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

c. Matching Funds Waiver Request (Optional)
If your institution is applying for a matching funds waiver, prepare a request in PDF format (see Part III, Section 3. of the guide for attachment requirements). Include the following elements in the request:
(a) a request to waive matching requirements under this RFA;
(b) a statement of the fiscal year(s) for which the waiver is requested;
(c) a statement of the exact dollar amount of waiver being requested by fiscal year and how the amount was computed (by matching fund category);
(d) a statement of why the waiver is requested;
(e) documentation supporting the need for a waiver (i.e., newspaper articles/clippings and State budgets); and
(f) the university’s efforts to meet future matching needs.

The documentation should include the university’s approved budget for the program for both the current and previous budget cycles. It may also submit items such as a statement from the State asserting what portion of the required match amount the State contribution to the institution will cover, a schedule of projected cash flows showing what portion of the matching funds the
university will have available or other documents such as letters from State or institution budget personnel or newspaper articles. In requesting the waiver, the institution must consider the availability of all permissible forms of matching in detail.

C. Submission Dates and Times

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by **5 p.m. Eastern Time on September 6, 2019.** Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding.

In case of trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, you should FIRST contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any problems. Keep a record of any such correspondence. See Part IV, A for Grants.gov contact information.


If you are not able to validate that NIFA received your application by **September 6, 2019,** contact the Agency Administrative Contact identified in Part VII of this RFA. Failure to do so may result in the application not being processed and funding being held. You should cite your Grants.gov tracking number on all inquiries until an award number is assigned.

D. Funding Restrictions

(1) Approved NIFA Hatch Projects
Hatch federal funding must be used on approved Hatch projects including Hatch Multistate Research Funds (HMRF) projects and other allowed activities.

(2) Indirect Costs and Tuition Remission
In accordance with section 1473 of NARETPA (7 U.S.C. 3319), indirect costs and tuition remission are unallowable as Hatch formula grant expenditures.

(3) Retirement Contributions
Employer contributions to land-grant college retirement systems are limited to 5 percent of that portion of the salaries paid, under this award, to employees who participate in the system (7 U.S.C. 331) and are subject to the other conditions in 7 U.S.C. 331. Note that the 5 percent limitation does NOT apply to any state or individual contribution. Contributions of funds under this award may not exceed the contributions from non-Federal sources made by or on behalf of the individual concerned. See Section VI.H.1 of the NIFA policy guide for additional information.

(4) Carryover of Funds
Hatch funds are expected to be fully expended in the fiscal year of appropriation; however, funds may be carried over for up to one year after the end of the year for which they were appropriated. No prior approval is required to carry over funds for one additional year; however, no additional carryover requests may be considered or approved, as no legislative authority to do so is provided.
E. Other Submission Requirements

You should follow the submission requirements noted in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

For information about the status of a submitted application, see Part III, Section 6 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

Dun and Bradstreet Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number and System for Award Management (SAM) – each applicant (unless excepted under 2 CFR § 25.110(b) or (c), or has an exception approved by the federal awarding agency under 2 CFR § 25.110(d)) is required to:

(i) be registered in SAM before submitting its application;
(ii) provide a valid DUNS number in its application; and
(iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

If you have not complied with all applicable DUNS and SAM requirements you may be considered unqualified to receive an award.

Your SAM registration information determines your organization ID in the ezFedGrants system and the information must match your ASAP recipient DUNS and EIN.
PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

NIFA will review submitted documents to determine if all program, financial, and administrative requirements have been met and are current.

B. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one-time basis, with updates as-needed. This requirement is part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. We will provide you the forms to fulfill these requirements as part of the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).
PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA awarding official shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants.

B. Award Notice

The notice of federal award is the authorizing document. The award document contains award provisions and other pertinent information. See Notice of Award for further details.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications and the projects outlined in this RFA (some are listed here: Federal Regulations). Unless specifically noted by statute or award-specific requirements, NIFA Policy Guide applies to all NIFA awards.

Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research
Refer to Part II, C for more information.

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

For organizations that receive Hatch Multistate funding, there are four reporting requirements due prior to December 30, 2020:

- Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Plan of Work (POW) update
- FY 2019 Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results
- Additional information filed in the Research, Extension, and Education Project Online Reporting Tool (REEport)


The additional REEport requirements are completed in the NIFA Reporting Portal https://portal.nifa.usda.gov/portal. These include the following:

- Institutions must submit a REEport Project Initiation, which includes the Project Description, Project Classification, Assurance Form, and Project Proposal through the REEport System prior to the initiation of each capacity-funded project. The project must undergo a review process and be approved before it is incorporated into the Program of Research.
- Each institution must submit a REEport Progress Report annually for each eligible project. All Progress Reports are based on the federal fiscal year and must be submitted by March 1, 2020, for the preceding fiscal year.
- A Final Report must be submitted to NIFA through REEport for each completed or
terminated project. Such reports must be submitted at the same time as are progress reports on active projects and should include a summary of accomplishments for the entire life of the project.

- A Project Financial Report must be submitted to NIFA through REEport annually for all eligible projects from the preceding fiscal year. A Project Financial Report is also required for expenditures on all state projects that are to be included in the nonfederal funds and matching funds computation. Reports shall be made on the federal fiscal year basis.

In addition, the financial reporting via the SF-425 for FY 2020 is due to the ezFedGrants portal, on December 29, 2020, for the period October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020. After the initial filing, this report must be completed annually thereafter until the award is closed out. Information on how to access the ezFedGrants portal can be found under Training on the ezFedGrants page https://www.nfc.usda.gov/ezFedGrants.

See https://nifa.usda.gov/program/hatch-act-1887-multistate-research-fund for additional details about annual, final technical, and financial reporting requirements. Instructions for using the REEport system are included on the NIFA web site at https://nifa.usda.gov/rereport-resources-land-grant-partners.
PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS

For questions regarding HFP projects/program, please contact:

Dr. Steven I. Smith, National Program Leader, Division of Animal Systems, NIFA/USDA, Stop 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2240; Telephone: (202) 401-6134; E-mail: steven.i.smith@usda.gov or

Dr. Ann Lichens-Park, National Program Leader, Division of Plant Systems-Protection, Institute of Food Production and Sustainability, NIFA/USDA, Stop 2240, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2240; Telephone: (202) 401 - 6460; E-mail: ann.park@usda.gov.

For administrative questions relating to the completion of the grants.gov forms please contact Brenda Barnett , OGFM, NIFA/USDA, Stop 2271, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2271; Telephone: (202) 401-6520; Fax: (202) 401-1804; Email formulagrantquestions@nifa.usda.gov.

For questions relating to REEport forms and submissions, please contact the Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff; Telephone: (202) 690-0009; Fax: (202) 690-0634; email electronic@nifa.usda.gov or reeport@nifa.usda.gov.

For questions relating to the 5-Year Plan of Work Update or the Annual Report of Accomplishments and Results, contact Planning, Accountability, and Reporting Staff, NIFA/USDA, Stop 2213, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-2213; Telephone: (202) 401-5482; Fax: (202) 720-7714; Email pow@nifa.usda.gov.
PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION
The USDA NIFA home page for the Hatch Act Regular Program (HFP) is:
https://nifa.usda.gov/program/hatch-act-1887

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## APPENDIX A

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

FY 2019 Distribution of Funds to the State Agricultural Experiment Stations Authorized Under the Hatch Act, as Amended August 11, 1955

### Appendix A

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