



United States
Department
of Agriculture

Research,
Education, and
Economics

National Institute
of Food and
Agriculture

1400 Independence
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Washington, DC 20250

October 6, 2014

TO: All NIFA Awardees

FROM: Cynthia Montgomery 
Deputy Director
Office of Grants and Financial Management

SUBJECT: NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide

This is to inform you that the latest version of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture Federal Assistance Policy Guide (hereafter the NIFA Policy Guide) has been posted to the NIFA web site at http://www.nifa.usda.gov/business/managing_grant.html for your use. While we are making the current version available, we will continue to solicit stakeholders' input and make changes to address stakeholder's comments, etc. We need assistance from everyone, stakeholders included, particularly in these early stages of the document.

The NIFA Policy Guide is a single, comprehensive guidance document applicable to NIFA competitive and capacity grants. The guide is based on laws, regulations, USDA and NIFA guidance, NIFA policy, and Administrative Manuals, etc. applicable to NIFA financial assistance.

In July of this year NIFA published the document in the Federal Register with a 30-day comment period ([79 FR 40706; Monday, July 14, 2014](#)). Work has been done to address the comments and NIFA continues to make modifications to improve the document. NIFA views the guide as a "living document." Changes will be necessary on an on-going basis whether the result of legislation, policies and procedures, to improve readability, correct info, etc. While the document will continue to undergo changes, NIFA will include a summary of the changes in the front of the document to assist users in identifying the modifications since the release of the previous version. NIFA also will work to make changes to the document to implement the Agricultural Act of 2014 and USDA's implementation of the Office of Management and Budget "OMB Uniform Guidance: Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards".

NIFA continues to welcome your input to improve the NIFA Policy Guide. You may submit comments via e-mail to: policyguide@nifa.usda.gov. Include "NIFA Policy Guide" in the subject line of the message.